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New Strong School coming 2019



PHOTO | DAVID TYSON

Billboard for the new Strong 21st Century Communications Magnet & Lab School.

Theater department undergoes renovation

By August Pelliccio

Changes sparked by a safety violation from several years ago make for an expensive upgrade to the theatre department, according to Mike Skinner.

Skinner, assistant professor of theatre, said that the move into a new facility coincided with the update of certain safety regulations for their scene shop. What was once extra storage for the Lyman Center, according to Skinner, is now the facility where sets are built for school productions and Stagecraft and Technical Theatre classes are taught.

According to Skinner, the department has been asking for a renovation like this at least since 1987. He said what sparked the fire was when the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) was called over a mold issue in the basement during the 2015 school year. During their inspection, Skinner said they found a total of five OSHA violations: the mold, three outdated tools and a lack of a dust collection system. Skinner said the total penalty was not detrimental—it was somewhere close to \$400—but creating a dust collection system was a must.

"I'm in here sometimes eight hours a day cutting wood," Skinner said, "and inhaling all of this dust can be detrimental to the rest of my life."

The department had to implement their own dust collection initiative, according to Skinner.

"We swept up every day and cleaned our tools out," Skinner said. "A shop-vac was our dust collection system."

The move into a new facility allowed Michael Tucker, university architect, to design a state of the art dust management system. Skinner said this plus the replacement of the electric saws that no longer met code meant the renovation was more than a million dollar project.

"This is such a new and high tech dust collection system that not too many people in the country know how to service it," said Skinner, "which makes me nervous."

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SEE THEATER RENOVATIONS PAGE 2

By August Pelliccio

All Southern students received word from Patrick Dilger via email that to commuter students, parking lot eight would no longer be available.

In place of the parking facility, JCI Architecture and New Haven Public Schools are working toward the construction of a three-story elementary school. New Haven Public Schools will be leasing the land for a relocation of Strong Magnet School.

Plans have been in the works for a few years, according to the dean of the school of education, Stephen

Hegedus. He said the prospect of such a project was one of the many reasons he decided to come to Southern in the first place.

"If it is done right," said Hegedus, "it will be awesome."

Any resident of the city of New Haven can apply to a New Haven Public School of Choice magnet school, and according to online literature available from their website, students are placed through a lottery system.

Strong School has been relocated several times already since its original opening in 1808, and more information about the school's history and the new plans can be found from JCI. Brochures and artists

renderings of the architectural designs can be found at their Hartford office, or online at JCI.com.

Hegedus said that because the university is controlled by the state and the magnet schools by the city, a partnership had to be agreed upon to take on this project.

"The two components of this partnership," Hegedus said, "are the land and the academic opportunity."

He said an elementary school would serve as quite the resource for a school of education, especially considering the opportunities for internship. Strong School already employs six Southern graduate students at their

present location, according to Hegedus.

For an environment where college students are learning to be educators, Hegedus said, "the idea of having children on a university campus is really awesome."

The time frame is not set in stone, but Hegedus said we are pretty well on the way as far as planning goes. When the idea was proposed in 2012, Hegedus said a feasibility report was run to determine whether such a feat was possible, and what section of land could be leased.

That feasibility study yielded four possible options, of which, Hegedus said parking lot eight was the most sustainable.

Meet the Greeks showcases Greek life at Southern

By Victoria Bresnahan

Michael Archer, member of Alpha Phi Delta, said the bond he has with his fraternity is for a lifetime.

"This is, like, something that I know that 20 years from now, if I really need one of these guys," said Archer, "and I reach out to them, I know one of them—no matter where I am—will jump on a plane, get in their car, come to my side if I need it."

During the Meet the Greeks event on Tuesday, Jan. 23 in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom sororities and fraternities set up tables and spoke to students interested in rushing for their organization. The event featured video presentations displaying what each organization offers and breakout sessions for students considering Greek life, according to the event's schedule.

Archer, a sophomore and biology major, said he had rushed a few other fraternities

in his freshman year but did not commit to them.

"Knowing there is someone out there who really has my back and that really cares for me—and I generally know that—there is no greater feeling," said Archer.

Steph Soete, junior and recruitment chair for Omega Zeta Pi, said her sorority is a local organization and is only found on Southern's campus. It is cool to know this sorority is the only one who wears the letters Omega Zeta Pi, said Soete.

"All of our sisters went to Southern at some point," said Soete. "So, it really makes us different from all the other organizations."

Several of the organizations discussed their philanthropies, which Soete said is an organization a sorority fundraises for. Make-a-Wish Foundation is Omega Zeta Pi's philanthropy said Soete.

"This past semester we were able to write a check for \$2,500 to Make-a-Wish Foundation,"

said Soete. "In the past we've been able to help and grant a couple of wishes, so it has been awesome."

According to a 2014 Gallup Poll, of more than the 30,000 college graduates, those who were a part of Greek life are more likely to be 'thriving in their well-being' and engaged in their job than those who did not belong to a fraternity or sorority.

Sivan Tepper, junior and social chair for Omega Zeta Pi, said she has met the greatest people in the world by being a part of her sorority.

"It is interesting, because a lot of people have their thoughts of what [a] sorority is like," said Tepper, "but I think we break every stereotype that there is. We are not a run of the mill sorority. We like to be unique and different. We appreciate everyone for being different."

Nina Kestenbaum, senior and member of Delta Phi Epsilon, said each sorority is different but they are all working towards the same goal.



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Omega Zeta Pi table at meet the Greeks event.

"[Such as] bettering our community, shaping individuals in the Southern community to be the best they can be, honing leadership skills [and] keeping academics up is really important," said Kestenbaum.

Be yourself and find people you can click with, Kestenbaum

said for those considering joining Greek life.

"Look for what matters to [you], not necessarily what each and every organization is looking for," said Kestenbaum. "So just be [yourself] and find where [you] feel comfortable being."

Solarize CT talks benefits of a solar-powered home

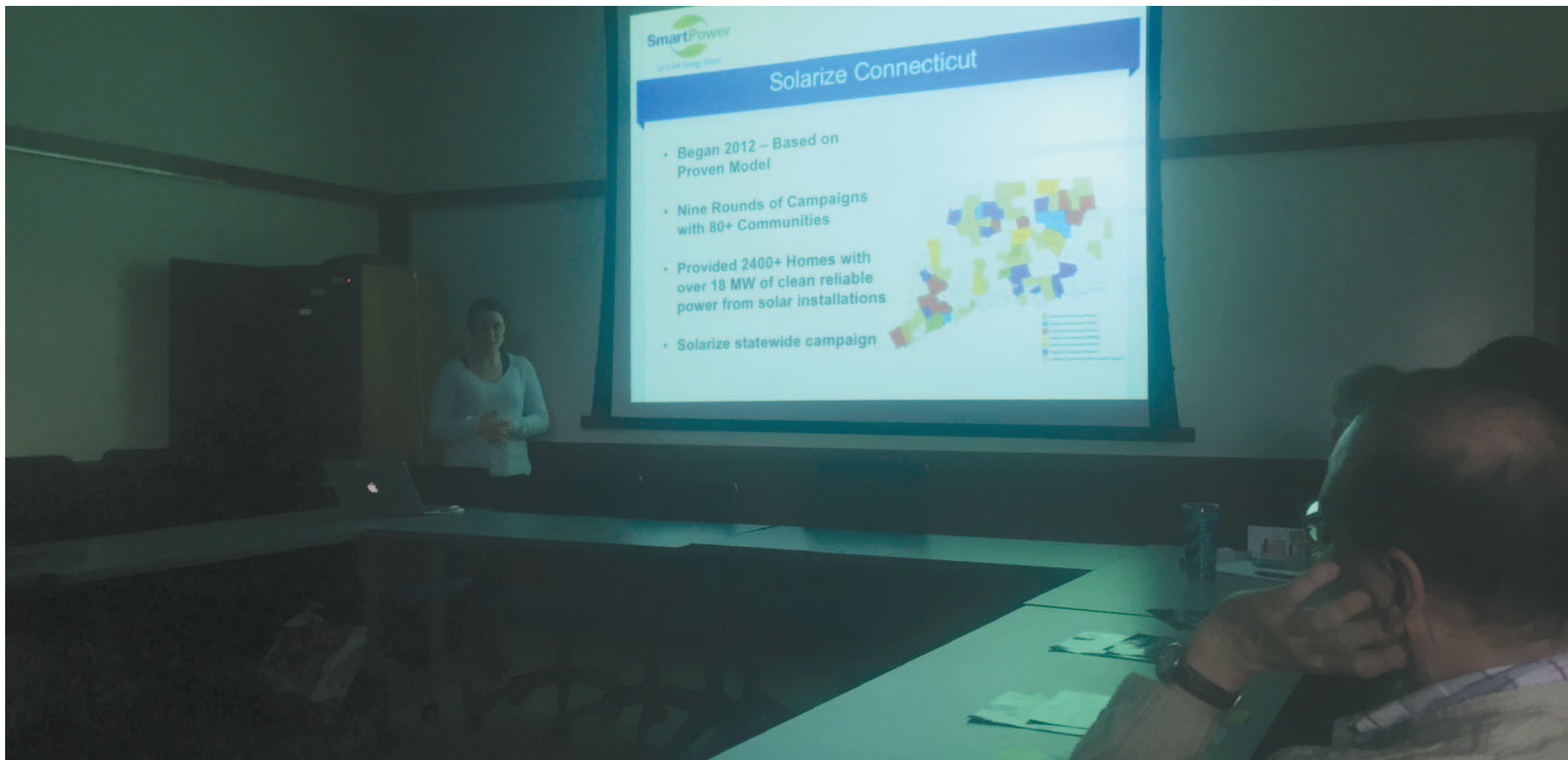


PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Chamae Mejias presents information on solar powered homes to faculty, staff and members of the community.

Josh LaBella

On the same week the Trump administration imposed tariffs on imported solar panels, Southern Connecticut State University hosted Solarize New Haven – a community discount program for installing solar panels in homes.

Chamae Mejias, a representative from Solarize Connecticut, said she came to Southern to do education and outreach with the community. The Solarize New Haven campaign runs through Mar. 7. During that time, participants can have their house inspected for its solar capacity for free. She said Solarize CT had been working with the New Haven Energy Task Force and the chairperson told her Southern was a good community to make aware the program was going on.

“We’re doing programming in Hamden as well,” said Mejias. “We figured its right at the confluence of a couple different programs that we’re doing. So, regardless, if people live in New Haven, North Haven or Hamden,

or even outside of there – there would be an opportunity to participate in the program.”

Mejias said they were looking to target faculty, staff and people in the community who own a home, care about saving money and are interested in reducing their carbon footprint. According to a Feb. 2017 report by CNBC, there are over 1.3 million solar installations in the United States generating 40 gigawatts of electricity – enough to power 6.56 million U.S. households. Mejias said the implementation of tariffs on imported solar panels would have no effect on the programs pricing.

“The great thing about the Solarize Programs is that we have installers submit their pricing for the duration of the campaign at the beginning,” said Mejias. “So because they submitted what their price was per watt, and the community chose the installers in part based on their pricing, they have agreed to honor that pricing through the end of their town campaigns.”

Mejias said solar panel pricing has been dropping steadily over the last

decade but the trend is going to reverse and prices will rise. She said anyone who is thinking about installing solar panels in their home should do it while the installers still have the panels they bought at the lower price. She said going solar is an easy and simple way to make a positive impact.

“If you look at how many trees you would have to plant to have the same environmental impact as putting up solar panels, its like six acres – so hundreds, if not thousands, of trees,” said Mejias. “When I think about what’s easier for me to do, you know, take a day or two off of work and have them come and put the panels on my house. It doesn’t have to cost me anything now, more than I am paying for my electricity now, because you’re investing in something that’s offsetting the cost for somethings that’s already built into your budget. So if you have an electricity bill you can probably afford solar.”

Suzie Huminski, Southern’s sustainability coordinator, said she helped bring the program to the university because they have done it in the past

and it was very successful. She said Southern is also installing a large scale solar project on campus.

“The array will be in three locations,” said Huminski. “There will be parking canopy solar in lot nine – you’ll be able to park underneath those spaces so it won’t reduce any parking. Then there’s an extension of that parking lot behind Brownell Hall and that will be ground mount solar so you won’t be able to park there. Then the third location will be on Wintergreen garage. That will be a roof installation on the roof of the ramp. Those three locations will add up to 1.2 megawatts. That’ll be about a million kilowatt hours and per year Southern uses about 30 million kilowatt hours. It’s about 4 percent of our electricity usage but its fantastic and it won’t cost the university any money.”

Magnet school



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Lot eight, the site of the forthcoming magnet school.

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“We looked at lot nine, a much more wide open space,” said Hegedus, “but that part of campus exists on a floodplain.”

He insisted that even though lot eight does not have as much square-footage, JCJ has designed the building with efficiency, and the utilization of space is quite unique.

“The design was a very thoughtful and involved process,” said Hegedus.

President Joe Bertolino was asked to review the designs as well, and he told the school of education that he is excited for the project to break ground.

The goal of the New Haven Public School system, according to Hegedus, is to break ground at some point this semester and near completion in between 18 months and two years.

JCJ estimates that the project will be completed at some point within 2019.

Theater renovations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, he said that the department’s scene shop will be well ahead of the curve in terms of changing OSHA regulations.

The concern for student safety is greater than ever now; environmental health and safety coordinator Lisa Kortfelt said she has played a role as well.

“I came to SCSU in September 2016,” said Kortfelt, “and what I have done is safety training.”

Since Kortfelt has been at Southern, she said she implemented a 10 hour training program for students to be OSHA certified.

Skinner said between that program and training students to use the “genie lift” system, the department has a great relationship with Kortfelt, their OSHA officer.

Skinner said the move has meant a lot of shifting around; Crescent Players no longer meet in their office above the Kendall Drama Lab, and classes no longer conflict with ongoing productions.

“I don’t have to close my shop and cancel my classes anymore when a show is going on,” Skinner said.

So not only will less compromise be made to have available facilities, but Skinner said the class experience should be better in a more advanced workshop.

Skinner said, “The students are very excited.”

As for the Crescent Players, president Steve Belli said the move was not too bad.

“We didn’t use the old facility as much as we could have,” said Belli, “but it was nice to have a community space where we could get away and do work together.”

Belli said Crescent Players will have regular meeting in the student center now, which may benefit the club’s exposure.

“This gives us the opportunity to



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Table Saw and dust collection system in theater scen shop.

show the university we have real club meetings,” Belli said, “and it gives us more exposure to students.”

New PEACE organization aims to address sexual misconduct

By August Pelliccio

The Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment executive board explained to new members the goals and advantages of peer education.

According to literature distributed by PEACE members, the organization describes itself as one that makes positive change by reminding students how to handle sexual misconduct.

Peer educator Jessica Holman said this is done by educating students about the different forms of sexual misconduct that can be experienced on campus. Additionally, Holman said the club reminds students of the prevalence of sexual misconduct and of the resources available for victims.

“There are a lot of topics that we hear about, where people say, ‘I don’t know who to talk to about this,’” said faculty advisor Mary Xatse, “but this is a great way to be with people and talk about these topics and learn something along the way.”

Listed clearly on the back of the trifold PEACE distributes to students are the few resources available to

victims of sexual misconduct on campus 24 hours a day. The first is university police, followed by university victim advocates Cathy Christy and Melissa Kissi.

Students from all majors are welcome and encouraged to become a member of PEACE, and Holman said there are two distinct ways to contribute. First of all, students can join as a general member, pending a brief background check.

“In order to maintain the member status,” Holman said, “we ask that students go to four hours worth of programs during the semester.”

The other way to be active in the club, according to Holman, is to complete an 18-hour training through the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center. This deems the student a peer educator.

“As a peer educator you facilitate conversations, programs and events,” said Holman. “You would be visiting inquiry classes, visiting sports teams and talking to them about bystander intervention and affirmative consent.”

Peer educator Samantha Grosritz said the training session was a jump-start into



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Executive board members Kristina Filomena (left to right), Mary Xatse, Sabrina St. Juste and Jessica Holman.

student victim advocacy.

“It’s a good way to meet people,” said Grosritz, “because you’re thrown into this environment where you’re talking about really deep stuff, so you understand people a little bit better.”

Sabrina St. Juste, peer educator, likewise commented on the nature of studying a subject such as sexual misconduct.

“I’m a social butterfly,” St. Juste said, “so it’s nice having

the opportunity to talk about sensitive things an interesting way”

The club also boasts the ability to teach members skills useful for the remainder of their professional lives. Holman said that some of the training focused on educating members about time management skills, professionalism and other skills that students will bring to the workplace.

“When I was just starting at Southern, I was terrified of

public speaking,” she said, for example. “Now it is something I really enjoy doing.”

Each of the peer educators continued to tell stories from previous academic years, assuring incoming members that the experience will be positive, educational and generally enjoyable.

“It makes school a little bit more fun,” said St. Juste, “when you’re going after something you’re passionate about.”

Southern students respond to a number of flu deaths in Conn.

By Kayleigh Paskiewicz

The recent cold snap in New England has kept everyone bundled up. It has also kept them sniffing, sneezing and attempting to avoid the flu.

It is halfway through flu season, but it is not too late to get the flu shot. Brigitte Stiles, associate director of Southern’s Health Service, urged all students—especially those who are high risk—to get the flu shot.

“We run several flu clinics on campus,” said Stiles. “In fact, we asked for an additional one this year.”

According to the Center for Disease Control, there are still “likely weeks of flu activity” during the current season. The center says that getting the flu vaccine is still “a good idea.”

Michael Archer, a Southern student, falls under the ‘high risk’ category, but has not received a flu vaccine. High risk individuals are those who are older than 65, young children, or have chronic illnesses or asthma.

“I have asthma [medicine], which I use day to day, as well as allergy medicine,” said Archer about flu prevention.

Archer says he did not know how much of a problem

the flu was this year. In Connecticut, 32 people have died from the flu and flu related complications since August 2017.

“We certainly encourage our students to get flu shots. We strongly encourage our high risk students to get flu shots as well,” said Stiles. “If they get the flu, we encourage them, if at all possible, to go home, to rest. Getting the flu is different than getting a regular cold.”

Michael Archer said he used to be on top of getting his flu shot until he started college; college has kept him busy and has made it hard for him to get vaccinated.

Megan Casey, a student at Southern, has also not received her flu vaccine. She never has.

“I’ve never gotten it,” Casey said, “and I don’t want to start injecting the virus into me now.”

Some people believe that if they get the flu shot they will get sick with the flu. Brigitte Stiles said that is not the case.

“The vaccine takes about a week or so to get through your body. If you get sick two days after getting the flu shot, you could have already been exposed to other germs.” Said Stiles.

Stiles said that college students are likely to get sick and spread illness quicker because of how close living

quarters and facilities are. This raised some concerns in students like Megan Casey.

“The severity of the flu concerns me because I know some of my friends or my co-workers have had it. It makes me scared that I can get infected too.” Casey said.

While the idea of getting the flu and missing classes is a scary thought, there are preventive measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of contracting the flu. Michael Archer uses his inhaler and ensures he washes his hands as frequently as he can. Megan Casey takes vitamins and makes sure that if she is not feeling well, she stays away from others so illness cannot spread.

The Center for Disease Control website has a page dedicated to the flu and preventative actions. Washing your hands is on the list as well as avoiding touching the face, especially eyes and the mouth.

Stiles recommended the use of Tami-Flu if one is experiencing flu like symptoms.

“You can take Tami-Flu if you have the flu already or as a preventative. If you take it within two days of the onset of the flu, you can reduce your symptoms as well as the duration of the illness.”

Involvement fair gives students opportunity to join

By J’Mari Hughes

Incoming freshmen, transfer students and those who simply have not had the chance to get involved on campus were able to look no further when it came to Southern’s Involvement Fair.

Assistant Director of Clubs and Organizations, Daphney Alston called it “an opportunity for our students on campus to see all the clubs and organizations we have.”

Dance teams, Greek organizations, religious activities — a whole plethora of hobbies on campus set up tables and eagerly anticipated new members. Southern is home to over a hundred clubs, most of which were represented in the Adanti Student Center for the school’s Involvement Fair, which took place Monday, Jan. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Explore all of SCSU’s different engagement opportunities and find out what it means to be involved,” Southern’s Owl Connect page said, encouraging students to attend the event, as well as the preceding Involvement activities throughout the rest of the week.

Numerous club members shared the purpose of the fair, such as Amy Karlberg, a senior and member of SCSU’s Best Buddies, a group where students have the chance to create friendships with those with disabilities.

“This is a club fair where you can see all the different organizations and things that Southern has to offer. Students can get a look at everything and see what its all about,” she said.

Megan Olszewski sat among members of the club she is a part of, SCSU TV, the on-campus television studio for students, by students.

“This whole fair is for clubs to come and represent what they like doing. We open up our clubs to let all new people come to see if they wanna join anything new and get involved on campus and form a sense of community,” said Olszewski.

Every semester, the Office of Student Involvement organizes the fair as part of Involvement Week, which included events such as Meet the Greeks and an involvement open house.



PHOTO | JMARI HUGHES

Students manning tables at the Involvement Fair.

Joining an activity gives students the opportunity to become part of the school outside of the curriculum, all with the enjoyment of making friends and having fun.

Within the wide range of extracurriculars, every club has a reason students should sign up; they shared their opinions. Club members, like sophomore Delano Wood of Club Taekwondo, shared why they think students should join their group.

“Taekwondo is amazing,” he said. “It’s a great way to build exercise and relieve stress.”

Another campus club is the Intervarsity Southern Christian Fellowship of which 2014 alumni Sam Hollings is a member.

Noting that many students have spiritual interests,

Hollings said, “Our club is a place for people to come ask questions to learn more about Christian faith and see how that is relevant to college life. They can explore for themselves and get a better understanding of it.”

A popular trait among clubs was the “no experience necessary” idea. While few do require previous understanding, many clubs, such as Taekwondo, welcome newcomers.

“It doesn’t matter,” said Wood, “if you don’t have a background in martial arts or taekwondo. You can just come in. We’ll teach you and start from the beginning, we’ll do competitions and so on.”

The biannual Involvement Fair is set to return Fall of 2018.

Republicans on campus

By Victoria Bresnahan

Although Southern is supposed to be accepting of all, it does not seem to be accepting of Republican students, said Austin Pica, a freshman business management major.

"I am just myself," said Pica. "I do not really care what people think of me, but I do feel like if I say something that is a bit more Republican or conservative then I will kind of get brought down for it."

Nick Datre, a sophomore business management major, said President Donald Trump's actions are causing people to view Republicans as "sexist, fascist pigs."

"I had a Republican sticker on my laptop," said Datre, a registered Republican, "and I had some social justice warrior—if you want to call them that—start reaming me out in the middle of my class."

Datre said the student questioned whether he supported the president, to which he replied the sticker meant he follows a conservative lifestyle.

"To me it is my way of life: the conservative ideology," said Datre. "I may not agree with all of what our current president is doing, but I do not look at him and then negatively think of the Republican Party."

Sarah O'Connor, a sophomore and president of College Republicans—a club designed to inform students about Republican principles—said it is unfair for conservatives to have their professor's political opinions "shoved down their throats."

"It is extremely annoying," said O'Connor, a political science major. "I do not sit there and shove my opinions down people's throats. That is just stupid. It is unfair for me. I didn't ask for [their] opinion."

O'Connor said she finds it ridiculous when, for example, a mathematics professor begins talking about topics such as the president during class.

"I am paying [them] to do [their] job," said O'Connor. "Clearly, [they] are not doing [their] job. [They] should be fired. That is my opinion. If you do not do your job, you should not have that job."

O'Connor said has adjusted to students and professors treating her differently due to her political affiliation.

"I don't really care, it is my opinion," said O'Connor. "If you are going to be ignorant and ignore my opinions then you are just an ignorant person."

Overall, O'Connor said most are uneducated in the differences between the two political parties. Someone should not be talking about politics if they do not know the basics of the parties, such as small government versus big government, said O'Connor.

"[It is ridiculous] when you hear Republican, you think Trump," said O'Connor. "That's ridiculous. When I think Democrats, I don't think of the alt-left. I don't think that way."

To help educate others, O'Connor said College Republicans has hosted table events and debates. O'Connor said the group is willing to explain to students what it means to be a true conservative. The group also focuses on political spheres of all levels, especially local politics since it affects residents the most, she said.

"Just on a local level, I have done a table event that explains there are 14 people running for the Republican ticket for the governor's race," said O'Connor. "I sat at a table and talked about each candidate and what their stances are on."

Overall, O'Connor said people do not take advantage of what her club offers yet continue to have biases against republicans.

"I do not judge people if they are Democrat or Republican," said O'Connor. "I judge them on their character."

Unsung Hero: Megan Rudne Hoffecker



PHOTO | JEFFREY LAMSON

Megan Rudne Hoffecker is an assistant director of academic advising in the First-Year Experience Program.

By Jeffrey Lamson

Megan Rudne Hoffecker, an assistant director of academic advising in the First-Year Experience Program, has deep roots in being involved at Southern since her experience here as an undergraduate student.

As an undergraduate, Hoffecker had been a resident advisor at both Hickerson Hall and North Campus Townhouses for a total of three years. There, while getting her bachelor's degree in art education, Hoffecker was able to learn more about leadership and responsibility as she helped students in their resident experience.

"I had a cross-section of experiences working with students," Hoffecker said, "living alongside them as a sort of peer."

She was also responsible for managing behavior and enforcing policy. She was later inspired to get her master's degree in science of special education with a concentration in autism after nannying a young boy.

"He had classical autism, so he was nonverbal, and he taught me so much about the world," Hoffecker said.

She went on to say that she was captivated "by that particular, exceptional mind that he had, and I wanted to learn about it from an academic lens."

During this period, Hoffecker was also working in the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility as a graduate intern.

She then became the hall director for Hickerson Hall, where she was the leader of 10 resident advisors and all of the students who lived there.

Hoffecker said it was "the best job I'll ever have."

It allowed her to further explore leadership and responsibility while also being able to increase the scope of her "educational reach."

Now, in her position in Academic Advising, Hoffecker has brought all of her experiences along to help students in their first year at Southern and beyond if they ask for it. She says she loves when she is able to help students get back from the bottom to get back in good academic standing, sometimes through the Fresh-Start Program.

"That's really rewarding work," Hoffecker said.

A member of the Sexual Assault Resource Team, Hoffecker helps in making sure that the organization is prepared for incidents of sexual assault. Also, being a member of the SCSU Sustainability Committee, Hoffecker does service days working in the SCSU Community Garden and meets with the committee every semester in the name of sustainability.

"To come here," Hoffecker said, "and to be immersed in this vibrant community has been an absolute pleasure for me." She also said about the New Haven area, "It's just a wonderful place to be home."

Currently in the second year of working on a doctorate in educational leadership, Hoffecker said, "I think my ultimate goal is to change the world."

Hoffecker plans to change the world by increasing the scope of her educational reach even further.

Describing her approach to her goal, Hoffecker, who is also a vegan, said, "I arrive every day of my life, everywhere I go, thinking about social justice, thinking about inequity [and] thinking about the ways in which humans and non-human animals in our natural world are impacted by our individual and collective decisions."

Studying abroad offers 'Real World Education'

By Jeffrey Lamson

Studying abroad may seem to be more affordable for Southern students as the Office of International Education works with President Bertolino to fund more scholarships for study abroad programs.

Director of OIE, Erin Heidkamp said that affordability is "the ever-present problem" when it comes to helping students study abroad. Heidkamp said that President Bertolino is committed to funding scholarships for students looking to study abroad. She could not say how much funding these scholarships might be, but that they might be available by Fall 2018 for students studying abroad at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU).

The OIE is also keeping costs for students down with their even exchange partnerships with other

institutions. With these partnerships, Southern and another school can make an exchange of the same number of students, which means they can pay Southern tuition and just pay for the cost of room and board and travel. According to Assistant Director Michael Schindel, the majority of students choose to study abroad this way.

Schindel often says that the cost of housing is, "about the same (as Southern), if not, a little bit cheaper than living on campus here."

Regarding expanding partnerships, Heidkamp said, "I think that it's important to not be Euro-centric, but to encourage students to go wherever they want to go."

According to Heidkamp, the focus is to now make more partnerships in Asia and Central and South America.

New partnerships in

Asia include the University of Seoul in South Korea and Tokyo International University in Japan. Heidkamp will be taking students on a trip to Japan as part of the many faculty led programs.

In South America, the nursing department has two faculty led trips to both Peru and Nicaragua.

"Our students want skills that make them employable," said Heidkamp and these trips give nursing students experience working with people that may not speak the same language as them.

Regarding expanding partnerships, Heidkamp said, "I think that it's important to not be Euro-centric, but to encourage students to go wherever they want to go."

According to Heidkamp, the focus is to now make more partnerships in Asia and Central and South America.

Southern's motto of "Real World Education."

In building these new relationships, Heidkamp said, "We also believe in quality over quantity," and finding that in academic synergy regarding health and human services, STEM.

The OIE also looks for institutions where there is what Heidkamp called a "faculty to faculty connection," and for things that they share in common.

The connection to LJMU is growing stronger according to Schindel. He referred to it as "our signature program."

Heidkamp said, "This partnership is really our flagship."

Schindel also said some exchange of faculty through virtual lectures has begun.

"We are very closely aligned academically to Liverpool John Moores," Schindel said. "Liverpool and New Haven are very similar cities."



PHOTO | JEFFREY LAMSON

The Office of International Education is located in Engleman Hall.

According to Heidkamp, many students who try a study abroad program become "repeat offenders," and that she has seen some students go through 3 to 4 of these programs before they graduate.

One such repeat offender is Grace Gothers. "I would say that the experience definitely

pushed me out of my comfort zone in the best ways possible," said Gothers. She went on to describe the experience as teaching her "so many valuable lessons that only travel can show you."

Heidkamp said, "It is in that really uncomfortable place where we find personal growth."

Humans of SCSU: Fabian White

By Victoria Bresnahan

In the furthest corner of the Adanti Student Center (ASC), there is a room tucked away from the rest; it is always filled with loud laughter, friendship and an intense game of pool.

Fabian White, a junior graphic design major, said he is one of the SCSU students who can be seen frequently in the game room, located on the main floor of the ASC, competing against friends.

“Last semester, I did [come to the game room a lot and play],” said White, with a cue stick in hand. “I am trying to cut it down to maybe a few hours a day, just to keep up the grades.”

White, who has enjoyed the game room since his freshman year at SCSU, said it is a place for him to relieve stress from school.

“It is just a great place to talk with your friends,” said White. “[We] talk about everything else other than school [and] beat [each other] in games.”

No one group of people comes into the game room specifically—anyone is welcome, said White.

Although some of the friends he met there have

since left SCSU, White said he still knows most of the students that come in there.

“You know,” said White, “if you wanna be a part of this, just come in!”

White said Southern was not his first choice when he was applying to colleges, but it was his closest choice.

“Even though I am a graphic designer—or, that is my major—I kind of want to make games or more animation,” said White. “Southern did not really offer much of that.”

White said he is working on a lot of logo designs and website building through the graphic design program.

“It is a little bit of what I want to do,” said White, “but not fully.”

Not only does White love to play a game of pool; he said he also enjoys video games.

White said when he graduates from SCSU, he will most likely pursue a career in video game designing or another major after he receives his master’s in graphic design.

Currently, due to his off-campus job at Target, he does not have the time to be a part of any school clubs or projects concerning his major.

White said he is playing a PlayStation 4 game called



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Fabian White at a pool table in the ASC game room.

“Fortnite,” but he enjoys occupying himself with all types of video games. He said he has been playing video games for a very long time—since the days the Super Nintendo.

“I would say the storyline [is what attracts me to a video

game],” said White. “I mostly go for the multiplayer games.”

White said one of the pros of SCSU is the game room, though he wishes the room would be updated.

Additionally, White said parking at SCSU is one of parts he does not like about

the school.

“I wish there was a lot more though [in the room],” said White. “Maybe a game station somewhere.”

Best Buddies club brings people together

By Victoria Bresnahan

Margaret Johnson, a senior serving her second year as president of Best Buddies, said that those who are part of the club benefit one another in many ways regardless of their abilities.

“Sure, your outward appearance might be different, or [your] physical abilities,” said Johnson, a elementary/special education major, “but, on the inside everyone likes movies, everyone likes to play games. There are many commonalities between people.”

According to the Best Buddies OwlConnect page, the organization strives to create friendships for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Southern’s chapter works to pair students with community members and students at Chapel Haven, a school for peoples with intellectual disabilities.

Johnson, who has been a member of Best Buddies for 11 years, said she heard of the program through her middle school best friend who has Down syndrome. The Best Buddies program is a place where students can relax and enjoy an inclusive environment, she said.

“You get friendship out of it,” said Johnson. “Interacting with people that in society who tend to be overlooked and just seeing you do have a lot of things in common with different people.”

Johnson said students looking to join the club should come to a meeting and

“jump right in.” Johnson said the club has about 120 members.

“[The meetings] are overwhelming, but once you are here you do tend to have fun and you come back,” said Johnson. “First-hand experience is the best.”

Synthia Saulnier, a freshman special education major, said some of the responsibilities club members hold are to come to meetings and interact with everyone.

“If I am having a bad day, they always seem to be able to cheer you up no matter what,” said Saulnier, who was also a member of Best Buddies in high school. “Everyone that I have met, they love telling jokes. Even if it is not funny, it still is.”

Saulnier said the students find it fun to hang out with their buddy and some members often bring them out to do activities.

“We have a lot of fun here,” said Saulnier, “and it’s a lot of personality.”

Julianne Hancock, a sophomore communication disorders major, said she has been a part of the group for one year.

“I joined because I heard it was a lot of fun,” said Hancock, “[you can] meet new people and it is really eye opening to have a buddy.”

Madison Lawley, a sophomore exercise science major, said she is really close with her buddy and enjoys hanging out with her. Hancock is not as close with her buddy, but she said she occasionally talks to her or sends her a text.

“It is just nice to know that she is there,” said Hancock, “[and to let her know] if she has any questions or needs anything that I am here too.”



PHOTO | BEST BUDDIES

Synthia Saulnier (left to right), Halley Shambra and Dylan Kuhnnehn, members of Best Buddies.

Hancock said students who are hesitant in joining should know they do not necessarily have to have a buddy to be a part of the group.

“If you are on the fence, I would say try it no matter what,” said Hancock. “You do not necessarily have to have a best buddy, you can just come here and do what you want.”

Halley Shambra, a sophomore special education major, said even if she is having a bad day, she always leaves the meetings with a smile on her face.

“There are so many people that care about you and remember your name from last year,” said Shambra. “It is just nice to see someone smiling at you and ready to give you a hug.”

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Review: Breakdown of the Grammys



PHOTO COURTESY | ERIN CAZES

SZA performing on her CTRL Tour in Toronto for The Come Up Show in 2017.

By Mary Rudzis

The 2018 Grammys was politically charged, both on stage and behind the scenes. Considering Kendrick Lamar opened up the show with a performance centered around gun violence, police brutality and black identity, it was clear how the night was going to go.

Lamar won five of the seven awards he was nominated for and that was aligned with how critically acclaimed "DAMN." was. However, there were many artists who were oddly overlooked.

Solána Imani Rowe, known as her stage name SZA, was the woman with the most nominations (five) this year. She even performed her song "Broken Clocks" and was complemented by artists many times throughout the evening. However, she did not win even one of the five awards she was nominated for, including Best R&B song for "Supermodel" which was a smash hit in 2017. The music video has over 6 million views on YouTube. It is a shame that she was overlooked in a way that is nearly impossible to play off as just chance.

SZA lost Best New Artist to Alessia Cara, who, unlike SZA, did not have her freshman album in 2017, but in 2015 making her an odd nominee in the category seeing as she is not a new artist by

any means.

Kesha was another woman who was snubbed this year. At a time when the #MeToo and Time's Up movements have taken center stage, her story is powerful and timely. She even performed her song "Praying" which is about her struggle and overcoming experiencing abuse. However, she did not take home a Grammy.

Seventeen of the 86 total Grammy awards last night went to women or female-fronted bands. That is less than 20 percent.

Rap veteran Jay-Z was also robbed. He was the most nominated artist this year with eight nominations total. He did not win a single one. His album, "4:44" was a commercial success but somehow didn't bring home any awards.

Whatever happened at the Grammys this year, something went wrong. Seeing as all award shows are a way to celebrate popular, relevant and worthy artists there were far too many mistakes seeing as the most nominated woman and most nominated artist in general both went home empty-handed.

Bruno Mars won the three biggest awards of the night: Album of the Year, Record of the Year and Song of the Year. He also won Best R&B Song, Best R&B Album and Best R&B Performance.

Lamar won Best Rap Song, Best Rap Performance, Best Music Video, Best Rap/

Sung Performance and Best Rap Album.

While it is some sign of progress that the two artists who won the most awards are non-white there is still work to be done. Women in the music industry, and entertainment industry in general, are speaking up on how they deserve more recognition

now more than ever. Unfortunately, the 2018 Grammys did not do that for them.

Regardless, times are changing and that is heartening. Hopefully this is one of many turning points that will lead the entertainment industry to be more inclusive and give credit where it is due.



PHOTO COURTESY | COLBY SHARP

A blank Grammy award.

Album Review: SiR's smooth 'November'



SiR's "November" album cover and tracklist.

By Lynandro Simmons

R&B in 2017 left the genre wide open. The diverse genre ranged from newcomers like Daniel Caesar breathing life into the genre, to artists like Ty Dolla Sign entering veteran status. One of the biggest standouts in the genre last year was Top Dog Entertainment's lead woman SZA. In the shadow of her dominant year, her label-mate SiR released two acclaimed EPs titled "HER" and "Her Too." Now, SiR has started off the year with his debut album "November."

The album comes in short with only 11 tracks. However, throughout the album SiR takes listeners on a trip deep into his thoughts. The 31-year-old R&B singer sings both endearing and arrogant lyrics simultaneously over the atmospheric production. On the first real song on the album he sings, "All her lil' friends can't stand me, because

they know I would trade her love for a Grammy." The lyrics show a more selfish side to a singer who has made his mark for his songs focused on women.

Throughout the album, SiR is accompanied on his journey by "K," a female AI. Their conversations throughout the album provide a constant check in on SiR's journey, through the destination is never revealed. In an every way, it appears the conversation between K and SiR represents his own personal artistic journey. As he leaves a life of obscurity into stardom, K seems to give a constant update on his journey.

The previously released track "Something New," featuring British singer and songwriter Etta Bond is one of the album's best tracks. SiR sings over the jazzy track about finding love in new places. He also expresses his feelings about finding comfort knowing that he'll always have his love. Etta Bond's voice is a perfect addition to the

track and she provides a much needed woman's perspective. As the track ends K interrupts to let SiR know he is 33 percent through his journey. Even though this is the halfway mark of the album, K calmly states SiR still has 33 trillion kilometers to go.

The conversation between K and SiR smoothly transition into another album standout "I Know." This track has more a trap tempo and shows SiR ability to be flexible with genres. His cadence slips between a rapper and singer, much like many of the current R&B acts today.

On "Never Home," SiR sings like a selfish man still learning from past transgressions. While a voicemail from an angry woman plays, SiR calmly sings about a past relationship and how he has changed from it. "The money locomotive don't stop because she lose her top," SiR sings showing his indifference to how he viewed this past relationship.

The switch in the tone of the al-

bum really shows on the track "Better." SiR goes from being dismissive to the woman he loved, to suddenly wanting her back. SiR sings his regrets about the woman who showered him with love despite his own lack of maturity. The arc of the album and how it represents an intense relationship makes the conversation between K and SiR more revealing. The journey and destination could represent both SiR's individual growth and the course of a relationship. As the track "Better" ends SiR asks K to delete the previous transmission.

The album "November" rounds out with two smooth R&B tracks "Dreaming of Me" and "Summer in November." Both show SiR ins his comfort singing about his love for a woman. Though SiR's mysterious journey on "November" is left open for interpretation, the music makes it easy for listeners to forget the journey and just enjoy the ride.



PHOTOS COURTESY | TWITTER

Editor's Pick: Netflix shows to watch this winter



PHOTO COURTESY | MARK BONICA

Photo of a Netflix envelope.

By **Melanie Espinal**

For the first half of the spring semester, students may be cooped in due to snow storms, temperatures dropping to single digits and frequent rain. Here is a list of five nail-biting and feel-good Netflix originals available this spring to keep New England viewers entertained while their cars gets buried in the snow.

1. "Ozark"

This story follows a successful broker who moves his family to the Ozarks of Missouri to comply with a dangerous drug boss in the Mexican drug cartel. This suspenseful show follows Marty, a financial adviser who must launder \$500 million in five

years or be killed. This spring is a perfect time to catch up on this season before the second season is released sometime this year.

2. "Black Mirror"

If you have not already begun watching the Netflix original, "Black Mirror," you are missing out. The show is a twisted, dark conversation about technology and human nature. It explores the possibilities of certain inventions like memory trackers and relationship expiration dates. This show will make viewers rethink the growing rate of new technologies and ask what would happen if they were put in the same situation.

3. "Cable Girls"

"Las Chicas de Cable" are back

with their second season. This Netflix original follows the story of four women who become best friends after working at the National Telephone Company in Madrid in 1928. After a first season filled with murder, romantic scandals and failed good intentions, these women partner up once more to support each other against repressive society. This season covers domestic abuse, LGBTQ identity, love, loss and sisterhood. It is an underrated Netflix original that will have viewers glued to the screen.

4. "Sense 8"

It is back. When the cancellation of this Netflix original was announced, it was controversial with its fan base, especially

on social media networks like Twitter. After popular demand, the show has been scheduled for a final season which will be coming out this year. The show follows the lives of eight telepaths being targeted by a powerful malicious telepath named Whispers. It is a story that will make viewers cry, laugh and mentally draw story boards trying to connect the dots in the complicated science fiction story line. The plot follows the eight "sensates" from Nairobi, to Seoul, San Francisco, Chicago, Mumbai, Berlin, México City and even Iceland. The cinematography in this show is impactful and deliberate, somehow encompassing the beauty of these locations through the eyes of these complicated characters.

5. "Grace and Frankie"

Season four of this unconventional friendship is out now this spring. The show follows two women who become best friends after both of their husbands leave them for each other. Season four talks dating, aging and of course friendship. The show, although centered on characters played by Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin in their retirement years, is just as relatable and enjoyable as "The Golden Girls." The show reminds viewers that there's always more life to live and new chapters to open.

Multicultural Center shows 'Our Friend Martin'



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Students watching "Our Friend Martin."

By **Jeff Lamson**

Martin Luther King Jr. is recognized by the Multicultural Center with a showing of the film, "Our Friend Martin," last Friday, Jan. 26.

The animated direct-to-video film from 1999 focuses on two sixth grade boys who go to King's boyhood home and travel back through time via King's wristwatch to meet him at different points in his life. Stops made along the way are to King's adolescence and his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, the March on Washington and more. Late in the second act, the boys bring their classmates, Kyle and Maria, along with them and even meet their teacher in the March on Washington. Through this journey, they learn to appreciate King's message and influence.

A student worker in the Multicultural Center brought this film to Dian

Brown-Albert, Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs, last year when they had a showing of what according to her had between 10 and 15 students in attendance. The discussion last year followed the lines of both King's history and ideology, Brown-Albert said.

"A lot of our students seem to gravitate to 'Our Friend Martin,'" Brown-Albert said. As to why this is Brown-Albert said, "it's inspirational, it's not offensive in any way, but it helps get his message through that (is) really about working together with all people."

"We don't just want students of color," said graduate intern, Joscelyn Fernandez, "we want everyone to come out for our programs and things like that."

Fernandez also said that this film fits into the mission of the Multicultural Center and that they were "recognizing Martin Luther King because of his passion for social justice and diversity and inclusion."

Brown-Albert also said she liked the film due to some of her own personal philosophy. "I also believe that in order to know where you're going, you gotta know where you're coming from," Brown-Albert said once and said again.

The film can be very emotional and come "close to home," Brown-Albert said. She also said that she appreciated the educational opportunity that it provides, provoking discussion and reflection among students.

The film began showing just after 1 p.m., but there were no students in attendance. There was a handful of students that came in and out of the Multicultural Center while "Our Friend Martin," was airing but were there for unrelated reasons.

Because there was no one in attendance besides Brown-Albert and Fernandez, no discussion was held.

According to Fernandez, the Multicultural Center had promoted the event by posting it on OwlConnect, the SCSU Events

Calendar, having flyers around campus and even passing out smaller flyers.

"If we get 10 (people), that's good," said Fernandez, "if we get 15, that's even better." Regarding how the discussion is carried out, Fernandez said, "Discussion is typically depending on the feedback of the students." With no one in attendance, the Multicultural Center had to cancel the discussion portion of the event after the film had ended and Brown-Albert had said she considered cutting the film short as well.

On Jan. 31 the Multicultural Center will host the event, "My March with Dr. King," in which the keynote speaker, Yan Searcy, of the School of Health and Human Services, "recounts his own personal journey with Dr. King," according to the event page on Southern's website. This event will be the beginning of the Multicultural Center's programs over the course of Black History Month.

Symphonic Band tunes up for semester



PHOTO | TYLER KORPONAI

The band runs through new material, led by Craig Hlavac.

By Tyler Korponai

Garner Hall erupts with a constellation of sounds and textures as the Southern Symphonic Band tunes up. Woodwind and brass instruments begin to blend with one another and create music in unison. Conductor Craig Hlavac takes his position at the helm and stands poised to lead this ensemble.

Now in their second week, the Symphonic Band has a great deal of material to polish up. Their first concert will not be until April, which will be held inside Garner Hall. But they also have a unique performance scheduled in May to remember and honor the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The Sandy Hook performance will come hand in hand with a large ceremony in the evening. Moreover, the band will perform an original piece.

"It's a three movement work commem-

orating the five years since Sandy Hook," said Hlavac. "That should be a powerful event. The idea was actually to collaborate with Newtown High School and have some of their players sit in with us for the premier. I think some of them may have had siblings at Sandy Hook. We're hoping that we can have a great connection with that community."

However, the band will not see that music until March, so for now they are focusing on other arrangements.

"We're just kind of reading through our new material," said Hlavac.

A unique feature of the Symphonic Band is the diversity of its members, which is reflected in the material selected for performance.

"We have a mix of different players," said Hlavac, "faculty, staff, certainly music majors, music minors, people who are majors in many different other areas who just want to come and play. But we also

have a different mix of repertoire. Some of the pieces are not too difficult and then some are a stretch."

Looking forward to the April performance themed around the American Revolution, Hlavac said that there will be a mixture of British and American composers. In particular he is thinking about The Crown Imperial March, which he knows is quite challenging. A famous commencement piece, Hlavac hopes to play it for commencement at Southern later this term.

Sitting with the woodwinds, saxophone in hand, Mathematics professor Joe Fields represents a small fraction of the diversity of players in the band. He has been playing with them for about 14 years now since he first joined and the band was in serious need of help. He jokes that he is not as accomplished as the student musicians but he keeps sitting in with the ensemble for the fun.

With a big smile, he laughs and said, "I'm here for comic relief."

In all seriousness though, Fields is impressed by the musicians attracted to this ensemble. He feels that there are some very talented players joining the band's ranks, enriching their sound, something the band has done in the past.

"There was a time that we went over to that junior high school that's across the swamp from Southern's campus," said Fields, "and we did a sit down with the kids and their band. Together we played stuff and it was a really cool chance to teach them a little bit and see where they were."

Responding to a question about what he would say to someone on the fence about joining the ensemble Fields said, "It's a little bit of work but if you're willing to put in some practice time, what musicians call woodshedding, you can do it!"

Student challenges himself through learning music

By Jeff Lamson

For the love of music, Kaige Barnabei, a sophomore business administration major with a music minor, plays guitar, piano, ukulele and harmonica with a blues-based style.

Now 20, Barnabei has been playing guitar since age 16 and, on his style, said, "I gravitate towards a lot of blues-based music," noting rock, folk and blues itself. He is currently enrolled in MUS 206 - Blues Ensemble. Barnabei also said his taste varies, "anything from maybe Bob Dylan to like, Metallica and everything in between them."

Through his minor in music and through the music department, Barnabei said he is able to meet, "a lot of people who share the same musical interests as me."

According to Barnabei, he prefers playing in groups and is in the beginning stages of getting a few people together to start playing open mics and maybe getting into the local music scene.

Barnabei said this group will have a diverse range in their style, having said that he does not like the way that a lot of bands limit themselves stylistically. He used The Beatles as a group who diversified their style over the course of their career to explain what he meant.

"Music," said Barnabei, "is just a lot of vibes, a lot of energy being transferred and shared." That and the connection with the self and others is what makes him prefer playing music in groups.

When listening to music, Barnabei said, "I like to hear something different," in terms of melodies and new ideas. Barnabei also said that it is important to not try so hard at being different as it is not being afraid of being different.

On influences, Barnabei said, "I don't necessarily listen to someone and try to emulate or mimic, but the whole idea that goes behind it that I really notice and admire is thinking outside the box, thinking of something new."

He mentioned Beethoven as someone who was able to do this, "Just his overall style was just amazing," Barnabei said.



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Kaige Barnabei practicing on his guitar.

In the future, Barnabei plans to incorporate his business administration major and music minor into doing something to with both. One of his plans, he said, is to open a music store. Barnabei said that being a professional musician is a definite dream of his but also that he is not afraid of that not happening.

According to Barnabei, it is good to aim high and have, "big goals," but that if you expect it, you are opening the door to disappointment. He said, "I know I definitely want to do something with music." He chose business administration as his major because he said, "I think I'm pretty

business savvy, I've got a good feel for how it works and I feel I'd be pretty good at it."

When it comes to developing skill and technique, Barnabei said that it comes with consistent practice and that he practices every day. He said that you gain the ability to play what you want to hear and that he is still working on the development of that skill.

Barnabei said that to develop, you should be constantly pushing and challenging yourself. He then said, "You can push the limits a lot more than you maybe originally thought."



Abby Hurlbert looks to pass the ball during a road game this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Southern hosts annual Girls and Women in Sport Day



PHOTO | MATT GAD

Two participants during Girls and Women in Sport Day inside of Moore Field House.

By Matt Gad

The annual Girls and Women in Sport Day was hosted inside Moore Field House this past Saturday, an annual event held early on in the spring semester by the athletic department. Many student-athletes volunteered their time to help the young girls partake in various activities specific to each school sport. There were rotating stations in which everyone had a chance to try all the different sports on display.

"It's a consistent number [of attendees] each year and I think kids look forward to coming back," women's field hockey coach Kelley Frassinelli said. "The athletes are amazing and it's an event that even my girls look forward to coming to every year."

And in addition to her role with the field hockey team, Frassinelli serves as the athletic department's senior woman administrator, a position she has held since last spring. The position is designated for the highest ranking female in an NCAA athletic department and it is used as a way to encourage female leadership for collegiate athletics. The National Girls and Women in Sport Day is held during the beginning of February each year to promote accomplishments from female athletes and Southern has echoed that by hosting their own event around the same time. Associate Athletic Director of Athletics and Communications Michael Kobylanski said the event had another good turnout and there were a lot of smiles on the faces of the girls and on the student-athletes that were helping them out.

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10

SEE SPORT DAY PAGE 11

Overtime thriller

The women's basketball team won at the buzzer against Saint Michael's College last Saturday

By Matt Gad

Women's basketball improved to 15-7 this past Saturday with a back and-forth 64-63 overtime win over Saint Michael's College. For the Owls, it was also their ninth win in conference play for the season.

"I think both teams had trouble scoring in the first half and then the lids seemed to come off the baskets [in the second half]," head coach Kate Lynch said. "It just felt like every time we went up by five or six points they made a basket, and that's what

good basketball teams do. I'm just proud that we were able to get it done."

The Owls held a 10-6 lead after the first quarter and were then outscored 12-8 before halftime Sophomore Kiana Steinauer

"Abby's just been fantastic."

— Kate Lynch, head coach

chipped in with 14 points and Abby Hurlbert, who scored the game-tying three to force overtime and then the game-winning layup, had 20.

"We were down the whole game and then we came back, then when I hit that shot their was only one second left and we were hoping that was it but then they hit that shot and we had to do five more minutes," Hurlbert said.

And that shot she was referring to was the one the Purple Knights had to tie the game up at 55 as the fourth quarter buzzer sounded. And then in overtime the Owls out-fought Saint Michael's, 9-8.

"We were going back-and-forth in overtime too and then I was able to get the post-up at the end," Hurlbert said. "We only

have a few more games left so it's really important to get in a good place for the tournament. We're starting to come together; there's some things we have to fix, but I think we're in a good position."

The Owls are currently 9-5 in Northeast-10 play, best for a .643 winning percentage. They have a record of 6-3 at home and 9-3 on the road and are 0-1 on the neutral floor. Last season, the team went 12-17 and were eliminated off the backs of Adelphi in the second round of the Division II NCAA Tournament by a final score of 69-52.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Isaiah McLeod putting a move on a defender during a home game this season.

Basketball dominates for third straight win

By Kevin Crompton

With their third consecutive victory, the SCSU Men's Basketball team defeated Saint Michael's College with a final score of 84-74 on Saturday afternoon, putting the Owls just above the .500 mark on the season.

Southern, sporting their all white uniforms on their home court, came out with their foot on the gas pedal, going on a 19-1 run to start the contest. Senior Jerry Luckett Jr. got himself going early on and was scoring at ease. The 6-foot-7 forward from Milwaukee led his team

in scoring for the day with 20 points, but only managed to pull down four rebounds which he felt to be a disappointing performance on the glass.

"I was aggressive attacking the glass," said Luckett Jr. "I know I need to rebound more and attack the offensive glass, to get more rebounds for the team. I feel like that was an area that I could have done better today."

After what looked to be an entirely one sided matchup with the Owls dominating in all facets of the game, Saint Michael's College made their half time adjustments and looked like a completely

different team after the break, cutting the Southern lead down to as little as four points.

"Focus," said head coach Scott Burrell, explaining the mid-game collapse that his team faced. "Focus and not having the killer instinct to go for the throat and to dominate. You got to dominate and you got to play for 40 minutes, and we had a little let down but we regained it. We made some shots and we got to stop you. When teams make a run, it has to come on the defensive end."

Southern was outscored in the second half with Saint Michael's posting 43 points to the Owls' 36.

"Coming out in the half,

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11

Pro Bowl changes

By Matt Gad

They changed the time. They changed the location. Heck, they gave ESPN the rights. This year's Pro Bowl, a 24-23 come-from-behind win for the AFC, was held in Orlando, Florida and broadcasted on ABC in the Florida afternoon.

In many ways, this one was different: the Pro Bowl has been the subject of many changes over the years in an effort to make the game more appealing. Previously, they scrapped the conference

format, they moved the game to before the Super Bowl and they even toyed between the traditional location of Honolulu. Oh, and there was also a time when they game was played on a Saturday night. Has the NFL finally figured it out? We are back to conference teams, the game is played in the late afternoon and it has been branded on a weekend that now features—get this—a competitive kickball game among various Pro Bowlers. For this year's game, it was the first ESPN NFL broadcast without long-time commentator Jon Gruden, who

recently signed a massive contract to head back to the coaching ranks for the Oakland Raiders. And speaking of Oakland, the AFC's late comeback was largely built on the shoulders of quarterback Derek Carr. The Raiders had a disappointing season but Carr is most certainly still the real deal.

Oh, and also coming out this week was the news that Jemele Hill will leave her nightly post at SportsCenter for the ESPN website The Undeclared. She has come under fire of late for speaking out against social issues

in the country and intertwined into the sporting world, specifically stemming back to her suspension after her pointed attack calling President Donald J. Trump a "white supremacist." And Fox News headline reads, "Anti-Trump ESPN host will no longer host SportsCenter." However, company executives are pointing out that this decision came from Hill alone, and also involved her displeasure in planned format changes for the show.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

Softball captains Ceballos, Conklin confident in 2018



Jaime Conklin (left) and Victoria Ceballos (right) will serve as the 2018 captains for the softball team.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

By Mike Riccio

Southern Connecticut State University softball coach Jillian Rispoli has named seniors Victoria Ceballos and Jaime Conklin as the captains for the 2018 season.

Rispoli said that for her and the other coaches and players who vote on who should be the captains, Ceballos and Conklin were unanimous sections.

"They are loyal, passionate, phenomenal students, wonderful athletes; they do everything that we ask for; they go above and beyond," Rispoli said. "We have a saying here if you throw your heart over the wall your body will follow. Those two are ideal examples of what that means."

After joining the team as a

walk-on in 2016, Ceballos said she was "shocked" to be named captain. Conklin said she was surprised as well because Rispoli has not had a captain during her first three years as coach.

"I just thought it was time," Rispoli said. "We have a lot of young kids who needed some direction and Tori and Jaime are exemplary people and do a great job of leading, so it seemed to make sense this year."

The softball team had 13 seniors on the team last season and brought in seven new freshmen to begin this year. With a total of 11 underclassmen, Ceballos said she wants to hold everyone accountable, and the younger players already listen to her and Conklin.

"I feel like I'm the mom," Ceballos said. "I kind of lay

down the law for everybody's well being. I just look out for everyone, not just athletically but academically too so I make sure they're doing the right things."

Conklin, a redshirt senior outfielder who stole 10 bases in 33 games last season, said she is more responsible than when she was a younger player, but there is still some pressure being a leader of the team.

"Knowing that younger kids like to look up to me, I know that I have to make the right step every time," Conklin said. "It's easier being with Tori anyways so there's two people to take charge instead of just one."

Rispoli said her team's youth will be the biggest challenge for them. The Owls last made the NE-10 Tournament in 2015, Rispoli's first season as

coach, and the only players from that team still with the Owls in 2018 are Conklin, infielder BryAnna McIntosh and catcher Heather Jackson.

"The teams prior to this have had a lot of experience in big game scenarios," Rispoli said. "Our young ladies are going to learn what it means to play in the NE-10, which is one of the best conferences in the country. Youth is a good thing though. They're going to learn quickly, they're going to be enthusiastic, I'm not worried about them, we've got some great kids."

Ceballos and Conklin are confident in their team as well; both have the same goal as their coach.

"I would love to win a championship," Conklin said. "I've never won anything ever in

my life. If we do everything we need to do, I think we have a good shot."

Ceballos said the team is "really promising" but has to start small first and take it one game at a time. Rispoli said it is important for her team to hit their stride early if they want to stay consistent for the entire year.

"We've got the pitching to do it, we've got the offensive fire power to do it. We're very capable," Rispoli said. "I'm really thrilled about the squad that we've got this year and I'm excited to see what they can do."

Women's basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"Abby's just been fantastic. We got it done, we executed at the end and that's what we need to do," Lynch said. "There's a lot of different things we can change to get better at but in the end we executed really well."

The Purple Knights dropped to 7-12 overall and 4-10 in-conference with the loss. They had efforts from Samantha Delaney with 12 points, Leah Spencer and Nicole Anderson with 11 and Brianna Purcell with 10 of her own. Other contributors for the Owls included 11 points from Imani Wheeler and seven from both Miranda Crenshaw and Chandler Williams. As a team they shot 25-57 and were 7-20 from three-point range. The team's next contest comes tonight against the University of New Haven at 5:30 p.m. On the season, the Chargers are 8-11 and 4-10 in NE-10 play. They will seek their fourth road win of the season when they come into Moore Field House.

Said Lynch:

"Every game in the NE-10 is difficult regardless of people's record. We always have that goal [to be successful] and it's been a fun ride. There's always things we can get better at and we work on that in practice and hope it carries over to the games, and one of those things we've been proud of. Every team always wants to win a championship so we've always had high hopes for this team and we're just happy they're being confident in themselves."



Kiana Steinauer high fiving teammates prior to a game this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Can Philly stop Touchdown Tom?

By Kevin Crompton

Vegas has the Philadelphia Eagles as the biggest Super Bowl underdogs since 2009, but do not let that fool you. Super Bowl LII will be far from a walk in the park for Tom Brady and company. The Patriots will be favored by 5.5 points on Sunday which is the largest margin since the Pittsburgh Steelers were seven point favorites in Super Bowl XLIII against the Arizona Cardinals. And let's not forget how memorable of a Super Bowl that one was, as Antonio Holmes capped off a Pittsburgh comeback drive with one of the greatest touchdown catches of all time.

Would the Eagles be favorites had their MVP caliber quarterback not torn his ACL?

Probably not. However, the betting spread would certainly be closer and Eagles fans across the nation would feel more confident in their chances of preventing the greatest quarterback/coach combination in the history of the league from winning their sixth Lombardi Trophy.

That being said, Nick Foles is not a man I would suggest sleeping on. In the NFC championship game, just over a week ago, Foles proved that he is more than capable of a substantial performance when the stakes are high. In what was expected to be a close

contest, the Eagles steamrolled the Vikings and Foles was absolutely locked in as he threw for 352 yards and three touchdowns.

Okay, so let's say Foles plays as well as, or even better than he did against Minnesota. That means Philly will finally be able to call themselves Super Bowl champions, right?

False. There's this guy named Tom Brady on the other side - you might have heard of him.

But how does Philly stop Touchdown Tom? Well that's a job for defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz to figure out, but having what might be the best front four in the NFL undoubtedly makes it easier. This will allow Philly to put pressure on

Brady without sending an extra man on a blitz. Pressuring the quarterback by only rushing four allows for more pass coverage help. Tightening up the windows available for Brady and having your 300-pound defensive linemen make his day miserable, has proved to be a successful approach that the New York Giants took in each of their Super Bowl victories over New England.

Can the Eagles follow suit and keep arguably the greatest American sports athlete of all time from adding yet another ring to his collection?



Kevin Crompton - Sports Editor

Sport Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO | MATT GAD

Southern athletes during Girls and Women In Sport Day last Saturday.

Said Kobylanski: "It's a feel good day and one of the days I look forward to each and every year. The national program has been in existence for almost 40 years now and we've been conducting this program at Southern for almost 20. We certainly make it part of the program every year and it rings an annual tradition."

The official observance takes place this year on Feb. 7 and has the theme "Play Fair, Play IX." Title IX is a federal United States law that prevents exclusion on the basis of sex. The United States' Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, withdrew campus sexual assault guidance that was put in place from the Obama Administration this past September. On campus, Paula Rice is the Title IX Coordinator and she is available, in her office, weekdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and by phone at 203-392-5568. In the athletic department, Matthew Letkowski serves as an associate athletic director of compliance. Delany Turner, a pitcher on the softball team, expressed the importance of teaching the young girls who attended the event the various sports out there. As part of the softball clinic, the girls were run through various pitching, hitting and footwork techniques.

"It's just so cute teaching them the sports so many of them don't know about," she said. "They just need to know all the sports that there are for girls; there are so many options and they have so many capabilities." Turner also said it was a great experience to have every women's athletic program together because their schedules usually don't all match up at once. She said everyone appreciates each other and it shows how student-athletes are one big family.

Kate Aberger excelling in senior season



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Kate Aberger during a routine this season.

By Matt Gad

Kate Aberger has been impressive for Southern Gymnastics this year. The senior is just one of four for head coach Jerry Nelson's squad that is dominated by underclassmen.

"The first two meets I think was just about getting used to competing," Aberger said. "People who don't have as much experience can just get used to what college gymnastics is all about. We're in a really good place to move forward." Personally, she said she has broken some of her career-highs. From Plano, Texas, Aberger was a CoSIDA Academic All-American last season in addition to being All-District and on USA Gymnastics' First-Team All-America. Recently she finished seventh in floor exercise in a team win over SUNY-Brockport, Brown and Springfield College.

"Kate's last two meets out were just outstanding. She has been hitting floor, beam and bars quite well but she's really torn it up lately. She's also a First Team All-American on the balance beam and she showed that last week," Nelson said. "She is argu-

ably the most talented dancer that I've ever coached here and not only does she do her own choreography but she's helped with some of her team members."

Junior Kylyn Dawkins and Alexandra Avendano led the way for the Owls on floor over the weekend, tied for second in the meet. After Aberger, sophomore Keylea Brothers finished eighth to complete Southern having four in the top eight for floor exercise over the other three teams. The Owls opened this year's campaign Jan. 6 with a loss at Bridgeport, scoring 186.15 points. They then came in last, out of four teams, in a meet in Piscataway, N.J. with Rutgers, Illinois and Yale on Jan. 13 before their win last Saturday in Springfield, Mass. Coming up, the Owls are home, inside Moore Field House, which is historically known as a gymnastics facility, for a meet with Rhode Island College Feb. 3. They will also be in New Haven the following weekend for a meet at Yale with the Bulldogs, Bridgeport and Springfield.

"I think we're going to land up being more successful this year," Nelson said, reflecting on last

year. "We're on the right track with a young team and seven new freshmen. Everyone's starting to gel as a team and people know what to expect."

This year's team is comprised of 20 student-athletes, six of which compete at each meet. Nelson said this is the largest team of his Southern tenure and that it helps create depth. And despite the large roster size, he said everyone has worked hard to develop good team chemistry.

The goal of the Owls' will be for athletes to reach this year's USAG Collegiate Nationals, which will occur from April 12-15 in Denton, Texas. But before that, the team will be competing in the ECAC Championships, along with West Chester and the University of Bridgeport, March 24, at 1 p.m. meet at Moore Field House. Last year, in the ECAC Championship hosted by West Chester, Nelson's squad placed last out of the three schools, only scoring 190.05 points. The team also sent 11 of their student-athletes to Seattle's championships.

Men's Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

we let them get on us right away," said Luckett Jr. "We were talking about it during half time, talking about how we wanted to come out and be aggressive and we didn't do that, so in return [Saint Michael's] came out and started hitting shots and getting a run going, but luckily we were able to battle back and get the win."

Junior forward Luke Beesley recorded a double-double on the afternoon with 12 rebounds and 12 points, accompanied by a pair of steals. Junior guard Isaiah McLeod had an impressive performance as well, getting it done in all categories despite taking a slight blow to the eye in the second half which partially restricted his vision.

"I got to try to get my teammates going," said McLeod of his thoughts after sustaining the injury. "I had a lot of problems seeing out of my right eye."

According to southernctowls.com, McLeod finished with 17 points, eight rebounds, three assists, three steals and a pair of blocks.

"I was just trying to be aggressive on offense because that's what the team wants of me," said McLeod. "And defensively, I just tried to focus on our defensive schemes and our rotations throughout the game."

The Owls will be home again Wednesday night at 7:30 pm to take on conference rival UNH.

"We got to be on top of our defensive game plan, take good shots and be as tough as they're going to be," said Burrell on the upcoming rivalry game. "They're going to be tough, we got to be tough too."

Southern will look to advance their winning streak to four and move above .500 in the conference standings with another victory on Wednesday.



Junior forward Luke Beesley recorded a double-double against Saint Michael's College on Saturday.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Girls and Women in Sport Day



Participants and Southern athletes gathering before start of event.

PHOTO | MATT GAD



PHOTO | MATT GAD

Participants dribbling basketballs during Girls and Women in Sport Day.



PHOTO | MATT GAD

Southern cheerleaders teaching young participants routines.



PHOTO | MATT GAD

Southern athletes leading a stretch prior to the start of Girls and Women in Sport day.

Northeast-10 Standings

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NORTHEAST DIVISON						
SAINT ANSELM	14	11-3	0.786	20	16-4	0.800
MERRIMACK	14	10-4	0.714	21	14-7	0.667
BENTLEY	14	8-6	0.571	19	11-8	0.579
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	14	7-7	0.500	19	11-8	0.579
STONEHILL	14	7-7	0.500	20	11-9	0.550
FRANKLIN PIERCE	14	5-9	0.357	19	10-9	0.526
ASSUMPTION	14	2-12	0.143	20	6-14	0.300
SAINT MICHAEL'S	14	2-12	0.143	19	5-14	0.263
SOUTHWEST DIVISON						
LE MOYNE	14	13-1	0.929	21	16-5	0.762
SAINT ROSE	13	11-2	0.846	21	16-5	0.762
NEW HAVEN	14	9-5	0.643	19	12-7	0.632
SO. CONNECTICUT	14	7-7	0.500	19	10-9	0.526
AMERICAN INT'L	13	6-7	0.462	21	11-10	0.524
ADELPHI	14	4-10	0.286	22	8-14	0.364
PACE	14	2-12	0.143	22	6-16	0.273

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NORTHEAST DIVISON						
BENTLEY	14	13-1	0.929	20	19-1	0.950
STONEHILL	14	13-1	0.929	19	17-2	0.895
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	14	9-5	0.643	20	13-7	0.650
SAINT ANSELM	14	8-6	0.571	21	12-9	0.571
MERRIMACK	14	7-7	0.500	19	11-8	0.579
SAINT MICHAEL'S	14	4-10	0.286	19	7-12	0.368
ASSUMPTION	14	4-10	0.286	19	7-12	0.368
FRANKLIN PIERCE	14	1-13	0.071	19	4-15	0.211
SOUTHWEST DIVISON						
SO. CONNECTICUT	14	9-5	0.643	22	15-7	0.682
LE MOYNE	14	9-5	0.643	20	13-7	0.650
ADELPHI	14	7-7	0.500	22	11-11	0.500
PACE	14	7-7	0.500	21	10-11	0.476
SAINT ROSE	14	7-7	0.500	20	9-11	0.450
NEW HAVEN	14	4-10	0.286	19	8-11	0.421
AMERICAN INT'L	14	3-11	0.214	22	9-13	0.409

Politicizing awards shows

Lynandro Simmons

The 2018 Grammys was a successful night for both Kendrick Lamar and Bruno Mars. The Grammys was also unique this year, having no white men nominated for Album of the Year, Record of the Year or Best New Artist.

The awards show also managed to get political through both performances and some skits. Hillary Clinton appeared in a prerecorded skit with celebrities ranging from Snoop Dogg to Cher reading from Michael Wolf's new book "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House." The overt political messages in this awards show had some people, namely Nikki Haley, asking politics to be removed from awards shows.

Often awards shows and other pastimes such as sports are a way for people to get away from political matters. The difficulty in asking artists to remove politics from their work lies in asking them to change their art. Rappers like Kendrick Lamar, who opened the awards show, have included political subject matter in their work long before this administration.

Dave Chapelle, a guest during Lamar's performance, has also been known to be political in his commentary. The two started the Grammys off to a night that weaved between non-political performances and entertainers taking direct shots at our current administration. Presenter Trevor Noah took a dig at the president after Bruno Mars performed his remix to "Finesse" with Cardi B.

"Bruno Mars and Cardi B, that was amazing, wow. I love that song, man. Like, I love that song. It takes me back, you know, like way back to when Trump wasn't president," said Noah.

However, the skit showing celebrities reading from "Fire and Fury" was more than over the top. It quickly went from being funny to almost feeling like a political campaign ad. It is true politics are a part of life, no matter what people may think. But to have politicians directly involved in awards shows can make the award show overtly political. The political references in an artist performance is their free expression. There doesn't need to be a politician in these award shows.

For now, people who oppose Trump may find this awards show to be pleasurable. The problem to think about is what happens when every politician uses an awards show to push their platform. Clinton's short skit was over the top, but not unbearable.

However, imagine having to see politicians trying their hands at skits in multiple awards shows. It is probably best to leave awards shows to the artists, let them have their moment to make their stands. Awards shows of late have already been jam packed with political statements. From the #MeToo movement to the promotion of racial and gender equality, a lot is being pushed.

Should political statements be banned from awards shows? No, but the public must be careful with the line society is tip-toeing on. Allowing artists their freedom of expression is the right thing to do. However, let us be careful and keep politicians from using awards show as vehicles for their own platform.

Nassar's sentencing a victory



PHOTO | THE DDCMS

The Olympic rings.

By Mary Rudzis

At long last, a victory for survivors of sexual abuse. Larry Nassar, former doctor for the American gymnastics team, was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison in addition to the 60 years he was already serving for possessing child pornography.

Nassar pleaded guilty to seven counts of criminal sexual misconduct, but 156 women testified against him in court during a seven day trial.

The judge who sentenced him, Rosemarie Aquilina said, "I just signed your death warrant."

While this statement was controversial to some, with those opposed saying she crossed a line, this was the most powerful thing that she could say in that moment. It was incredible to witness such a strong woman stand up for the more than 150 women and girls that Nassar abused.

What Nassar did was despicable, reprehensible and absolutely monstrous. His crocodile tears in court and the fact that he claimed hearing his victims testify caused him emotional distress was disgusting. Luckily, he will spend the rest of his days in prison. That is true justice.

Many victims are not so lucky. The National Crime Victimization Surveys indicated that due to such low reporting of sexual assaults (310 out of 1,000 are reported), more than 90 percent of offenders have never been charged for their crime. And, for those who do choose to file a case against the assailant, 6 out of every 310 will be incarcerated, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN).

Statistically, out of every 1,000 rapes, 994 perpetrators walk free (RAINN). The miracle is that Nassar is not one of those 994, though it seems like he nearly was.

At least 14 Michigan State University representatives received reports of sexual misconduct by Nassar as far back as 20 years ago according to a Detroit News investigation. MSU was complicit in this abuse, and as their position as an institution with great power, they chose to let Nassar continue. The fact that he also was allowed to examine and treat athletes in private rooms is also disturbing considering that is in violation of the USA Gymnastics' standards of conduct.

MSU and USA Gymnastics are just as guilty as Nassar and USAG has shown that they recognize this fact because the remaining directors of their governing body have since resigned. They are also responsible for the abuse that these women and girls suffered for years.

Ultimately, while all of those women were incredibly brave to testify and face their abuser and describe what he did to them, it is important to remember that there does not always have to be such a grand display to achieve justice. This case shows that there is immense strength in numbers but that should not discourage victims from coming forward on their own.

Those 156 women included Donna Markham, whose daughter Chelsea was abused by Nassar; Chelsea could not testify in court because she took her own life at the age of 23. It is the gravity of a moment like this that makes the final sentencing even that more bittersweet.

Nassar dying in prison will not undo what he did. It will not bring Chelsea Markham back to life, it will not save the over 150 women and girls the emotional trauma of abuse; but what is has done is set a precedent and made history. Along with the #MeToo and Time's Up movements, abusers are being called out and taken down now more than ever. This serves as a beacon of hope.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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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.



Props set up at the College Republican booth.

Clubs seek out new recruits

By Palmer Piana



Omega Zeta Pi sorority posing for a photo at their booth.



William Velazquez (left to right) and Anthony Deleon, both finance majors, sitting at the OLAS booth.



Ty Seymour (left to right), John Coniglio and Sarah O'Connor running the College Republicans table.



The crowd of students attending the club fair.