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SOUTHERN NEWS

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University celebrates disability awareness

By Brandon Cortés
News Writer

In honor of Disability Awareness Month, the Center for Academic Sources and Accessibility Services, CASAS, organized a vibrant and informative tabling event at the Engleman Rotunda, running from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event aimed to shed light on the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and to promote inclusivity within the campus community.

Spearheading this initiative was Dexter D. Rodriguez, an accessibility service specialist at CASAS, who dedicated his efforts to raising awareness and fostering a more accessible environment for all.

The Engleman Rotunda buzzed with activity as students, faculty and staff gathered to engage with the various displays and resources offered by CASAS. From informative pamphlets to interactive demonstrations, the tabling event provided valuable insights into the experiences of individuals living with disabilities.

One of the focal points of the event was to debunk common misconceptions



CASAS displays successful Black Deaf Americans and the services they provide.

PHOTO | KAYLEE BLAKE

surrounding disabilities. Rodriguez, a passionate advocate for accessibility, emphasized the importance of understanding and empathy in creating a more inclusive society.

"Disability does not define a person's capabilities," Rodriguez said. "It is our collective responsibility to

dismantle barriers and create opportunities for everyone to thrive."

Throughout the day, attendees engaged in discussions about the challenges individuals with disabilities face when seeking employment opportunities. They explored how factors such as accessibility barriers

and societal misconceptions can hinder the job search process for people with disabilities.

The tabling event also served as a platform for meaningful conversations about accessibility and inclusion. Students shared their experiences and perspectives, fostering a greater understanding

of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.

The tabling event organized by CASAS not only raised awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities but also underscored the university's commitment to fostering a culture

of inclusivity and accessibility.

As the community reflects on the insights gained from this event, it is evident that by embracing diversity and championing accessibility we can create a more equitable society for everyone.

This annual event occurs during Disability Awareness Month, serving as a pivotal moment for students to engage with initiatives aimed at fostering understanding and support for individuals with disabilities.

As a cornerstone of CASAS's commitment to inclusivity, this event offers students a platform to explore the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and learn about available resources.

Throughout Disability Awareness Month, students can anticipate a series of diverse events organized by CASAS, each offering unique opportunities for education, discussion and advocacy. These events are designed to cater to various interests and preferences, ensuring that students have multiple avenues to engage with the important issues surrounding disability awareness.

Concerns grow over TikTok ban

By Brandon Cortés
News Writer

In the wake of growing concerns over national security and data privacy, the potential ban of TikTok in the United States has sparked a flurry of opinions among college students across the nation.

With the popular video-sharing platform facing scrutiny from government officials, students are finding themselves torn between their love for the app's entertainment value and their apprehension about its alleged ties to foreign interference.

For some students at the university, TikTok has become an integral part of daily life, offering a platform for creativity, self-expression and connection with peers. From dance challenges to comedic sketches and educational content, the app has cultivated a diverse community that transcends geographical boundaries.

"TikTok has been my go-to source for entertainment and stress relief," English major Taylor Havrilla, a junior, said. "It's where I discover new trends, share funny moments with friends and express myself through short videos."

However, beneath the surface of TikTok's vibrant user base lies a deep-seated concern regarding privacy and security. The app's Chinese parent company, ByteDance, has come under intense scrutiny over allegations of data mining and potential ties to the Chinese government.

Critics argue that TikTok poses a threat to national security by collecting vast amounts of user data, including personal information and browsing habits. As for the time of writing this article, there is no proof that ByteDance is affiliated to the Chinese Communist Party, nor that they are selling American data to third parties.

"I'm not a big fan of the app, but I'm also wary of the privacy issues surrounding it," English major Jason Merced, a junior, said. "It was fun to use in the beginning, but suddenly it became too dull. I really don't mind nor care if it gets banned right now."

The debate over TikTok's fate has been further fueled by geopolitical tensions between the United States and China. With the Trump administration initiating efforts to ban the app in 2020 followed by ongoing legal battles and executive orders.

As the Biden administration inherits the challenge, college students are closely watching developments and contemplating the broader implications of a potential ban.

"I get the reason why they are banning it, but I will be kind of screwed because it's like my only source of information and entertainment at the moment," Havrilla said.

As of the composition of this article, the House of Representatives has approved the bill aimed at prohibiting TikTok, with its fate now awaiting determination by the Senate.

Professionals stand on business

By Jack Abbot
General Reporter

The University Access Program, in partnership with several other organizations, hosted their annual "Vibe Out-Standing on Business Event" to raise awareness for the mental health decline that occurs after midterms and discuss the importance of professional communication.

"Today's event is 'Vibe Out.' We do it every semester as a mid-semester check in just to see where our students are mentally, physically and emotionally," PASS Program Coordinator Dominique Burell said.

The event consisted of several presentations that focused on various issues of mental health and professionalism. The event opened the discussion with a presentation on how to create a comfortable environment for studying by focusing on the senses.

The next presentation, "Finding Balance When Life is Lifting," was hosted by Wellbeing Coordinator Allyson Regis. Her presentation discussed the struggle many students face to find balance between school and other responsibilities that students have at work, at home, or with friends.

"Money is real. We need that," Regis said. "Sometimes, that can be a challenge too."

Assistant Director of the Office of Career and Professional Development Rachael Cunningham-Exavier then diverted from the other presentations and discussed the importance of professional communication through emails.

According to her,



PHOTO | JACK ABBOT

Assistant Director of the Office of Career and Professional Development Rachael Cunningham-Exavier delivering her presentation on communication.

writing emails in a professional and detailed manner allows students to make sure that they can get the information they need from their professors without creating unintended tones.

"It can also help you advocate for yourself. A lot of people talk about how they told somebody something verbally, but they never followed it up with an email," Cunningham-Exavier said. "You have no proof. You have no receipts of things that you told to people or things that you said to people and things that maybe they said back to you."

The final presentation, delivered by Graduate Intern Zaria Anderson

from the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services, discussed the importance of paying attention to midterm grades and how to improve in the second half of the semester.

Anderson suggested four steps to help improve grades: self-reflect, ask for help, create a plan of action and hold yourself accountable.

"It's OK to ask for help. This is why professional resources like us are here for you guys," Anderson said.

The event concluded with food and a discussion session for students to express and discuss their own concerns.

"I've taken away a lot of things that I didn't even realize coming into

this," Graduate Intern and attendant Shane Lister said. "I think students should take a piece out of every day for self-care."

According to Burell, burnout and mental health levels of students can be partially measured using the rates of students accessing resources such as the CASAS and counselling services. According to her, these resources are utilized much more often after midterms, implying that people are more concerned for their grades and mental health after spring break.

"I know how important it is to have a helping hand be available to you," Anderson said. "I had to navigate my first half of my college year alone."

Nonprofit experts lead 'PEP Talk' event

Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Nonprofits are a staple in the community. According to Donorbox.org, Connecticut has 22,920 nonprofit organizations, with Yale University being the biggest nonprofit in the state. These nonprofits specialize in various fields including social welfare and medicine and are committed to assisting citizens.

Offering a helping hand to the community includes sharing knowledge on what goes on behind the scenes in nonprofit organizations. Guest speakers that direct local nonprofits have decided to share their wealth by leading a "PEP Talk" at the university.

In a cosponsored event with The Alliance: the Voice of CT Community Nonprofit, students gathered in Room 122 in the School of Business on Wednesday, March 20 to learn about how these organizations work overtime to create a difference in the community.

CEO of Clifford Beers Clinic in New Haven Alice Forrester said that her organization's mission aims to provide resources for parents and their children. Their goal to enact social change guides them through all their projects.

"The idea of advocating and directing dollars towards social change is very important to us as an agency," Forrester said.

Co-guest speaker Jackie Downing is the Senior Director at Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Downing revealed that there are two categories of nonprofit organizations: profit driven



Guest speakers share knowledge on nonprofit organizations in the School of Business on March 20.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

companies and mission driven companies. While some companies work to gain a profit in the end, other organizations use their voice to try and change the system.

"The more people that we can get that are using their voice to try and change the system," Downing said. "That's the voice that needs to be raised."

With implementations

of systematic racism corrupting the system, it is important that students use their voice to help undo issues in the industry. Students can use their voice by holding a position in these nonprofit organizations.

Executive Director of Horizon at Foote Rashana Graham promoted working at a nonprofit organization. Graham wears multiple hats at

her small nonprofit, including marketing promoter and accountant. With these roles, she has creative freedom at her job.

"Being a part of a nonprofit gives you the space to be creative in what you do," Graham said.

This freedom is something that students should take advantage of, as it is not offered with

many jobs in the workforce. Another benefit to working under a nonprofit is contributing to the impact they make on society.

"The freedom to do that which is not usually allowed, and that can really have an impact on society," Forrester said.

Fulfilling these duties for the community allows individuals to have a sense of belonging

and joy. Graham said that seeing the effect of her contributions at her nonprofit unfold in front of her is a priceless feeling.

"I think that's the most rewarding part," Graham said, "being able to produce the impact and see smiling faces. Being able to be a part of a community is the biggest bright side."

LGBTQ+ Prism hosts bake sale

Jack Abbot
General Reporter

LGBTQIA+ Prism hosted a bake sale on March 19 to raise funds for their future club activities and events.

This event will help to raise funds for their club but is also intended to raise awareness for their activities as well as the presence of the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

"It's important just to be visible," club president and social work major Melody Massaquoi, a senior said.

Events such as these allow LGBTQ+ students to make their presence on campus known and create a welcoming environment. LGBTQIA+ Prism hosts many different events with this goal in mind.

The "Drag Ball" is the largest event that they host. Drag Queens and Kings from across the state attend to perform. The event helps to raise money for "A Place to Nourish Your Health," which is an organization that provides health services such as testing, birth control and financial aid to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The event will take place on April 1 and occurs annually.

Currently, the organization has 60 registered members, and events such as this help to bring awareness to their group.

"We have, again obviously, our 'Drag Ball,' which is a big event, but then we also have smaller

events. We do Kahoots; we have karaoke; we have arts and crafts" Massaquoi said. "We just try to have nice, fun events for our students."

Massaquoi decided to participate in LGBTQIA+ Prism because she wanted to help promote a safe and comfortable space for LGBTQ+ students on campus.

"Other than Prism, we have SAGE, which is the biggest LGBTQ resource on campus," Massaquoi said. "They also have their own office on campus, and they can connect you to many, many services that are around New Haven."

According to Massaquoi, ensuring that the university's policies are centered around making the campus feel safer should be a priority.

"I just want Southern to be more inclusive," Massaquoi said. "LGBTQ+ is a very broad identity, and it affects so many different walks of life, and I want Southern to be more inclusive of that. And I hope, in the future, Southern becomes better."

Massaquoi expressed that the goal of her organization is to help make the university feel safer but noted their limitations as a club.

"We do what we can, but we're students," Massaquoi said. "I think they're OK, but I think they could be better because we're students. We do what we can, but it really is up to administration."

Staff Q&A: Jay'Mi Vazquez

Role at Southern News:
Managing Editor

Year: Sophomore

Major: Journalism

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: For fun outside of school, I like to paint. I also like to draw. I also like getting dressed. And it's not really a hobby, but I kind of just have a little modeling show in my closet sometimes. I also make music.

Q: How do you express yourself outside of on clothing?

A: Outside of clothing- I mean, by talking. I feel like that's just a way to express myself. Like, I used to be very, not shy, but more reserved and to myself. Like after being part of the Southern News and Crescent, I kind of just now talk to anyone.

Q: What made you join Southern News and Crescent magazine?

A: I wanted to just get experience in the field. Being a journalism major, it wasn't necessarily my original idea to come to school for that. But I kinda was just like, "I'll give it a try and see if I like it. And then, I ended up liking it. So then, I was like, OK, I actually want to get more experienced to see if I actually really do like it and if I want to continue doing it. So, I joined also because some of the people I know that were in the previous year- they said it was like a little family. And I was like, oh, that would be nice to have a little something outside of my normal friend group or outside of the

normal people to hang out with. It's nice to have a little group of people that do the same thing I do and understand the struggles of it and how things work and everything.

Q: What drew you to journalism?

A: Well, I was going to drop out of high school because I used to resell shoes. So, I was already at a financially stable point where I didn't really need school. But I took a journalism course in high school at Naugatuck, and my teacher, he was like, "You're really good at this." I just thought he was just saying whatever. And it wasn't really- I wouldn't say not truthful, but it just didn't seem like genuine at the time. But then, I kind of realized I would always be on top of everything. I think I had 100 in the class. So, when it came time to apply to colleges, I was still on the fence about it, but he took time out of his day to come and help me apply to schools, and we put journalism down as my major.

Q: What were you going to pursue before journalism?

A: My original idea was to come for business, like business marketing, just to maybe learn more of the ins and outs of the sneaker reselling thing I was doing at the time. But after thinking about it for a while, I was like I'm just not going to. It just wasn't something I originally really wanted to do. I am a first gen college student, so it's also a big step, not only for me, but for my family, too, because no one else has done it.

Q: What is your greatest



accomplishment?

A: I feel like my biggest accomplishment was being able to help out my family financially for several years. I feel like that was probably the biggest thing.

Q: What is one thing not many people know about you?

A: I don't have TikTok. I just don't want to waste my time scrolling through 32-second videos.

Q: Who is your role model?

A: She's been through a lot, so it would have to be my mom. Even though she could be going through the worst thing, she always puts a smile on her face and makes sure her children are OK. She's a waitress, so she deals with people all the time. Just like how us journalism majors are going to be dealing with people all the time. So, she's taught

me a bunch of things.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 to 20 years?

A: Well, the goal is to eventually end up on Complex and be like Joe La Puma, who does Complex's "Sneaker Shopping." He's the host who kind of interviews the celebrities as they're shopping for shoes, and I feel like that would be so cool because I love shoes, and I love asking questions. So, that's like the perfect blend. And even if I'm not doing that, per se, even if I just work at Complex.

Q: What are some things on your bucket list?

A: Graduating from Southern, that's probably the biggest one. I just want to make sure I graduate on time. I'm striving to get Dean's List every semester. So far, I've been so good, but I don't know what the future is going to hold.

Zetas have heart: Zumba night in Farnham

By Kaylee Blake
Photographer

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. held a zumba night in Farnham Programming Space on Wednesday, March 20. Students joined together and filled the space with dance moves and good vibes. This event was a celebration of midterm completion. Zumba helps promote heart health and overall wellbeing. Students and sorority members enjoyed themselves. The event was a nice mid-week de-stress.



Sorority members and students in Farnham Programming Space participating in zumba.



Students dancing during zumba night.

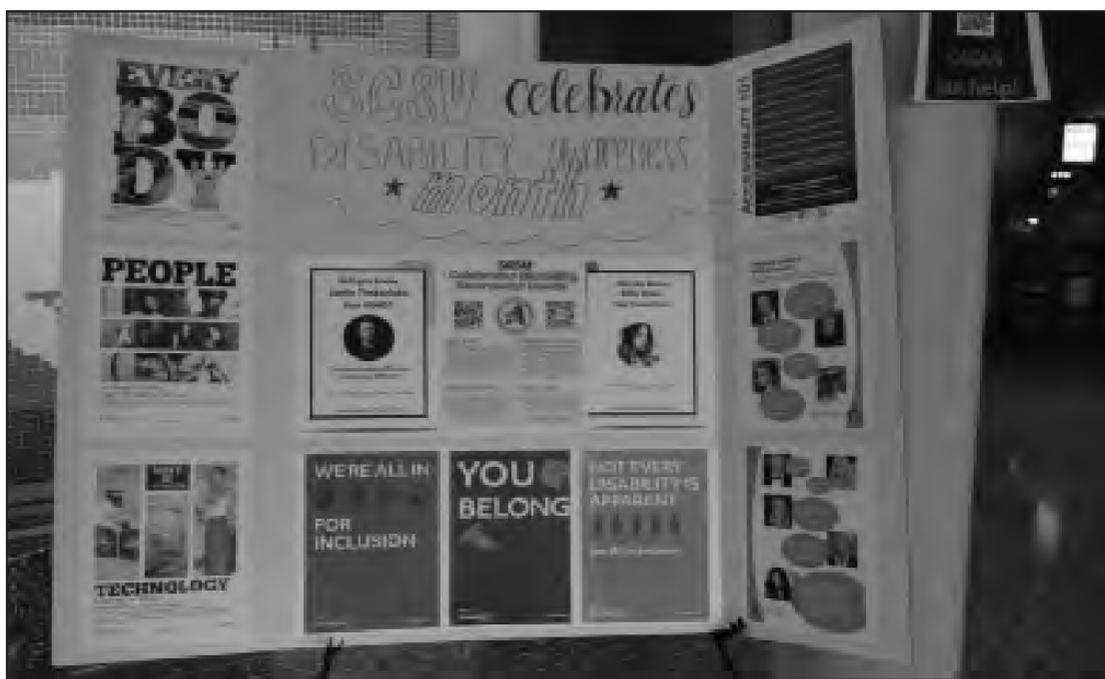


Students engaging in the celebration of movement and mindfulness.



The room was full of dancing students prioritizing their cardiovascular health.

Celebrating Disability Awareness Month

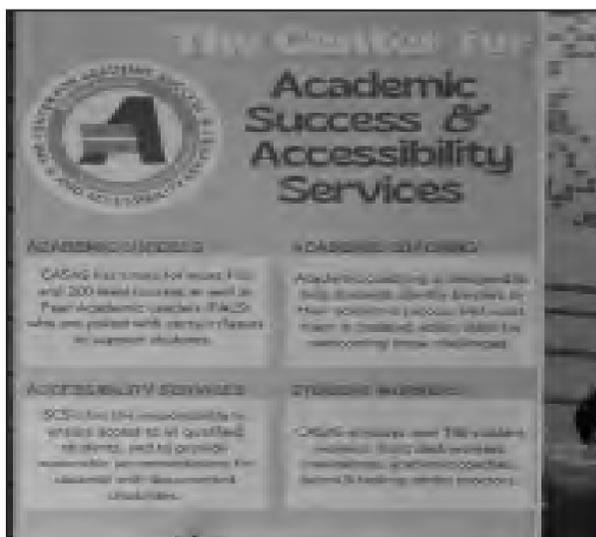


A posterboard displaying disability awareness and showcasing celebrities with disabilities.

The Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services is advocating for Disability Awareness Month. On Wednesdays at Engleman Hall Rotunda, they have a booth with information about Disability Awareness Month and giveaways for students. During March and throughout the semester, CASAS offers free screenings for ADD/ADHD as well as providing students with disabilities accommodations for classes. CASAS lets those students know they are not alone.



A list of Notable Black Deaf Americans.



Poster displaying what the university gives back to students in need.



A table lined with various QR codes to display what CASAS has to offer.

Students reminisce childhood with ‘Hello Kitty’ event

By Lexi White
General Reporter

For Gen Z, participating in reminiscent activities is considered normal.

Current college students love to engage in games that they used to play or watch their favorite shows from when they were kids.

At the university, many students are still infatuated with the elements of their childhood.

That is why the Program’s Council’s “Hello Kitty”-themed event was a full house.

The Program’s Council, also known as ProCon, consists of four committees. There is the daytime

committee, nighttime committee, commuter committee and the weekend committee.

A member of the daytime committee hosting this event was sociology major Rose Mendoza, a freshman. She is the reason this event’s idea came about.

“I wanted to be innovative and bring an idea from a student to students,” Mendoza said. “I am a student who enjoys ‘Hello Kitty’ and wanted others who enjoy her to have a great time.”

Like Mendoza insisted, many students showed up to celebrate their love for “Hello Kitty.”

The room was so full of students that the

line drifted out into the hallway.

“I was not expecting so many people to come because most people think this is childhood stuff or like a kid’s birthday party,” Mendoza said. “I thought that when the event would be over, that we would have so much stuff left over.”

ProCon gave out goodie bags filled with “Hello Kitty”-themed trinkets to the students who attended the event.

Those who came also got the opportunity to pick out plushies, snacks and other “Hello Kitty” merchandised items.

Another member of the daytime ProCon committee was social

work major Tara Malcolm, a sophomore. She was very excited to see how many students attended and to help host this event alongside Mendoza.

“This gives students a place to decompress from coming back to school after break because personally I have a huge paper due soon that has been stressing me out,” Malcolm said. “Being at this event lets me enjoy my childish side.”

Ceramic Hello Kitties were also given out to students who came to the event.

Participants were able to paint and customize their favorite character.

Psychology major

Antonio Gonzalez, a senior, was one of the students who attended this fun-filled event.

He was very excited to paint because he thoroughly enjoys arts and crafts.

“Doing this is really relaxing, especially since we just came back from spring break,” Gonzalez said. “I think it is really nice to just sit down, relax and paint things with my peers.”

Gonzalez is a big fan of Hello Kitty and how valid she is for his generation.

“She does not talk much, but you can feel her immaculate vibes anyway. She is amazing,” Gonzalez said.

Another student who

attended the “Hello Kitty” event was communications major Aliyah Graham, a senior. She was very intrigued by what this event had to offer.

“I am really loving this Hello Kitty plushie that I got,” Graham said. “I love creative outlets, so being able to paint here is something I am happy about.”

Graham also thought that this type of event would be very beneficial for students on campus.

“Events like this is what makes me glad that I chose Southern,” Graham said. “Not many schools actually care about students’ mental health and give them ways to relieve their stress.”



Students waiting in line to receive “Hello Kitty” prizes.

PHOTO | LEXI WHITE



“Hello Kitty” prizes and collectibles students could take with them.

Staff Q&A: Lexi White

Role at Southern News:
General Reporter

Year: Sophomore

Major: Journalism

Hometown: Middlebury,
Connecticut

Q: Why did you join Southern News?

A: Professor Simoneau brought it up to me, and she thought that we really could fit for it. She thought that I should be involved, and I really did want to become involved or more involved on campus during the fall semester of my sophomore year. Once I joined, it felt immediately like home. Everyone was very kind and very supportive, and I’ve met some of my really, really good friends from being there.

Q: What are your goals?

A: My goal is to really become an on air news reporter, something that

I’ve always like seen myself doing. I finally got the courage to do that when I had interviews on Channel 8 and Channel 3, and those anchors like really thought they saw something in me, and they kind of encouraged me to start studying journalism. So, it’s because of them that I had the courage to pursue this career, and I really, really like it. Professor Kent Pierce, who is one of the reporters on Channel 8- I’m taking a class with him right now, and I’m learning so much from it. And every single time I’m in his class and he’s showing us what he did that morning on air- really just want to do exactly what he’s doing.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I sing and act, but for right now, it’s been mostly singing. I have four record deals. Four of my songs are signed to record labels and I and an independent artist. So, I just have my songs signed just so it gets a little bit more of a push,



and they get exposure that they deserve. A lot of my songs are about hardships I’ve had in the past and like normally how I work through them. None of them are really sad songs, more like empowering songs, and like how like there’s always light at the end of the tunnel.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: I hope to be a news anchor at some new station in New York, Boston, or LA, and living the dream, doing what I love, helping people share their stories.

Delta Phi hosts “Movie Night”

By Lexi White
General Reporter

College students love movie nights. What makes these eventful nights even more worthwhile is if they can help raise funds for the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, ANAD.

Delta Phi Epsilon hosted a movie night fundraiser for eating disorder awareness where all the proceeds from snacks and beverages would be donated to the nonprofit organization.

Interdisciplinary studies major Anna Jani, a senior, is the president of the sorority. She oversees managing the entire chapter and booking the rooms for when the sorority is hosting an event.

“We donate our time and money to ANAD every spring semester, and we have been for the past 20 years,” Jani said. “We really believe in justice and helping other people throughout the country overcome their eating disorders.”

Delta Phi Epsilon originally wanted to hold a regular movie night but decided to take it up a notch and host a fundraiser in attempts

to help more individuals who are struggling with eating disorders.

English major Emily Weiner, a junior, is the vice president of recruitment for the sorority. She is in charge of introducing new sisters to the group and getting them interested in Greek life.

One of the main ways Delta Phi Epsilon gets girls interested is by educating them about the philanthropies that they are responsible for, including ANAD.

“It’s really important for us because obviously as women, body image is such a thing that’s like passed on to us,” Weiner said. “We really want to encourage healthy eating habits, self-love and body positivity.”

The sorority picked out the movie “Grown Ups” for everyone to watch because they felt that it would uplift spirits.

“Our main goal with this night was not only to encourage sisterhood amongst ourselves but to encourage others to just take the night off, relax, come enjoy a movie and enjoy spending time with friends,” Weiner said.

The vice president of programming for Delta Phi Epsilon is nursing major Natalie Strout, a sophomore. She oversees

anything that is philanthropy related.

“I feel like sororities can get a bad reputation sometimes, but we are not like the typical book definition of sorority,” Strout said. “We are just a bunch of girls having fun that genuinely felt like they needed a place on campus to build new connections.”

One of the students who came to the ANAD fundraiser was nursing major Lilly Paige, a senior. She brought a bracelet making kit to the event to keep her hands busy as she was watching them.

“I think that it is really amazing that they are donating to that organization to help girls who are struggling,” Paige said. “Even if they have not experienced an eating disorder themselves, maybe they experienced some sort of discomfort with their body.”

Delta Phi Epsilon encourages students to join their sorority and to help them support those in recovery.

“We are looking for new sisters and new members, so to anyone who is interested, feel free to come out,” Jani said. “We would love to see you and see if you are a good fit for our organization.”

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Students gathered watching “Grown Ups.”

PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

ProCon hosts St. Patrick's Day event

By Lexi White
General Reporter

Are you feeling lucky? Those who did attended ProCon's Saint Patrick's Day-themed event. They had four games that students could play, and if they won, they got to pick out a prize from a large variety.

Students had the opportunity to win LED light lamps in various shapes, gift cards for McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts and aesthetically pleasing water bottles.

The first game was a guess the number game. A set of partners had to guess which number the other wrote down on their mini whiteboard.

The second game consisted of guessing the color of cards. Students had to guess if a card was black or red before they flipped it over.

For the third game, students had to pick the golden treasure chests out of four treasure chests.

For the fourth and final game, students had to guess which rubber ducky had a symbol on the bottom of it.

During each game, students got to play until they won. ProCon wanted to make sure that each student was a winner and could pick out what they desired from the prize table.

A member of ProCon who helped to host this event was sports management major Luis Reyes, a sophomore. He said the group wanted to host a giveaway, but they wanted to make it more entertaining instead of students just grabbing things and leaving.

"This event was to give students something to do throughout their day," Reyes said. "If they have a huge gap between classes or wanted to take a break from studying, then they could play a game and win."

Another ProCon member helping to host

this event was nursing major Melanie Gloster, a sophomore.

Gloster said, "Students get to come out, meet other people, interact with other students and play games for a chance to win fun prizes."

Exercise science major Junior LaForest, a sophomore, was one of the students who attended ProCon's event. He played the guessing card game and won a fuzzy blanket.

"We just got back from spring break, and this definitely helped to keep my spirits up," LaForest said. "It is really nice to destress and do something fun."

Another student who participated in the event was business economics major Brittany McCalla, a freshman.

"This makes students more engaged with other people and try new things out," McCalla said.

McCalla won a McDonald's gift card and a Stanley water bottle.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Table of stuffed animals and Stanley cups for students who won the games.



Sports management major Luis Reyes, a sophomore, is setting up a card game.

Owls decide: What are students doing for Easter

By Solé Scott
Features Editor



"For Easter, we are splitting it up this year. On Saturday, we're doing a small dinner, and then the next day we're going to visit my aunts and uncles"

— Psychology major Ariana LeCates, a freshman



"This year, my fraternity brothers are going to help out the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. with an Easter egg hunt"

— Social work major Damon Wooten, a sophomore



"I am just hanging out with my family; we are just doing a big dinner"

— Social work major Ally Pierson, a sophomore



"For Easter, I'm gonna go to church, stay at home with my family and eat a bunch of food"

— Social work major Dana Smith, a freshman



"Easter this year, we're actually doing something small"

— Sociology major Gabriella Santana, a senior



"I am helping my family move my grandmother into an old folks' home"

— Earth science major Molly Scanlon, a freshman

Owls weather the storm; sweep the twin bill

By Avery Martin
Contributor

Despite the rain, the Owls pulled off a win in both games of their home opening doubleheader on Wednesday, March 20.

In the first game, they swept Mercy University with a score of 7-1. The second game was closer, with a score of 6-4.

In game one, pitcher Jessica Perucki, a graduate, dominated, only allowing one unearned run. Perucki struck out seven and only gave up three hits.

"I think it was a great game. We started out a little slow, couldn't string together a bunch of hits. Then, we picked it up as we kept going, and that's all you can ask for. Just keep grinding and keep pushing through," Perucki said.

Head Coach Jillian Rispoli credited the veteran pitcher as being the driving force behind the Owls' success. Rispoli added that when she puts on such a performance, it is a motivation.

"That was a fantastic pitching performance by Jessica Perucki. It was absolutely outstanding," Rispoli said. "Offensively, it took us a while to get into it, but we pulled it together at the end because we had to since Jess was so darn good."

On the offensive side, catcher Gabby Festa, a junior, went 2-3, scoring the Owls' only home run of the game and an RBI single. Perucki followed her standout pitching with a two-run single in the fourth inning.

Runs also came from outfielder Emily Lange, a senior, catcher Karley Austin, a freshman, and utility player Dominique DeLutri, a junior.

The last two innings were where the offense was fired up.

"I think we made a great team effort. I think we really strung them together in that last inning to get that win for Jess. It was a great win overall. We worked together really well," Festa said.

Overall, game one was a much-needed win. The

Owls ended a three-game losing streak. Perucki said that the win gave the team momentum going into the second game of the doubleheader.

"It feels great. We've been playing great games, just kind of coming under the punch with everything," Perucki said. "But just to bring it out on the home field and get a big win is really nice."

Game two would be shorter than the first, with rain halting the game in the fifth inning. Despite that, the Owls would take the 6-4 win.

Festa said it was important to keep the strong momentum of the first game going.

"Just got to stay fired up, stay on the gas. Got to come into the second game strong, knowing that we could win, and pop off with the same energy," Festa said.

Pitcher Ashley Lewis, a sophomore, had the task of following up Perucki's stellar performance. Lewis rose to the occasion, scoring her first win of the season, giving up six



PHOTO | NEIL BAINTON

Designated player Nicole Spinelli, a freshman, singles to right field.

hits and striking out five.

Offensively, second baseman Katrina Roy, a senior, scored a run and stole two bases. Lange

would follow that up with a momentous run in the fourth, which allowed shortstop Nadia Cestari, a sophomore, to give the

Owls the lead.

The Owls are back in action on Tuesday, March 26 against Bloomfield College.

LAX lose the race; win the marathon

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

The women's lacrosse team defeated NEIO's Saint Rose College Golden Knights, 14-6, as the Owls improved to 5-2 on the season.

"A really good team win against a team that we really had to beat this year," Head Coach Kevin Siedlecki said. "The whole defense just stepping up to get the ball for us, and then the offense taking care of it and getting the goals we needed to win."

After falling behind 3-0 in the first period, the Owls called a timeout. There was no new strategy, just the same plan that was practiced over the last week.

"A mantra this week with the team has been Hank Aaron's line, like whatever is happening, you just keep swinging. Just keep swinging, and eventually you hit the ball again," Siedlecki said. "We didn't change anything. We just played it out for 60 minutes, and the way they got their lead, they weren't going to maintain it."

Attack Kirsten McIntire, a senior, scored the first goal for the Owls late

in the first period. The university would score seven more goals in a row and later pad their lead. McIntire finished the night with four goals, one in each period.

Fellow attack Alexandra Ruel, a graduate, also scored four goals, two in each half.

But McIntire and Ruel were not the only ones to carry the scoring. Attack Savannah Feinberg, a senior, scored three goals. Two came in the second and third periods while her final goal capped the scoring in the game with just over three minutes left in the game.

"We've been really working on this trying to tip individual players. We've been using a lot of plays to set people up for success as well as looking for the feeds inside," Feinberg said. "We train to be unselfish. We look for the feed first before we try anything. We never force it, and we always try to move it."

Practicing for every situation is not always a bad thing. Some games rely on everyone to score, but this game relied on mainly three Owls. However, early in the third period, attackers Morgan Reilly, a junior,



PHOTO | NEIL BAINTON

Attack Kirsten McIntire, a senior, fights through traffic.

and Allie Palmer, a sophomore, scored once.

This win over the Golden Knights was the fourth and final victory in Siedlecki's coaching tenure. After this academic season, Saint Rose is closing its doors, citing financial losses and plummeting enrollment according to the local media.

Although it is speculation, the Owls had the luxury of a very deep bench. They played

two-thirds of the 30 players they had, while Saint Rose only had 13.

Siedlecki indicated that he has always seen the Golden Knights as a rival.

He was coaching at the high school level with Kaitlin Gaghan when she took the head coach position at Saint Rose. Hired around the same time, Siedlecki projected as the program grew each year the Owls and Golden Knights would go on to do some great things.

Women's lacrosse erupt for 20 goals; win fifth

By Christian Mansfield
Contributor

The women's lacrosse continued their now five-game winning streak, as they defeated St. Thomas Aquinas College at Jess Dow Field 20-2. With the win, the Owls improved to 6-2 while Aquinas's record became 3-6.

The day began with a celebration for senior athletes in honor of "senior day."

The Owls held the lead from the beginning of the first quarter and did not let it go. Attack Morgan Reilly, a senior, had a very strong game, leading the Owls with six points on three goals and three assists.

"It was a tremendous game and a great success for the whole team," Reilly said. "I am feeling a mix of emotions, as I am so happy for our team but also sad that this is my last season playing with my teammates. It's

been wonderful playing with such a supportive group of people."

Attack Kirstin McIntire, a graduate student, also had a great game, scoring five times.

"It really was a great game. I was happy to see lots of different players score. Every single player contributed and led us to the win," McIntire said. "I am feeling a mix of emotions since it is our senior day, but there is still more playing to do. I am so excited for the rest of the season."

Attack Alexa Alchimio, a senior, had her first hat trick, and attack Alexa Ruel, a graduate, had a goal and two assists, while midfielder Amelia Mansfield, a junior, had a goal and three assists, as well as three draw controls and two ground balls.

Ruel reflected on the game with gratitude.

"I am very happy about today. It is definitely emotional with it

being my last season on the team," Ruel said. "I am so proud of all of my teammates."

Attack Savannah Feinberg, a senior, scored once and assisted on another, while also posting a team-best five draw controls.

Defender Hannah Holmes, a senior, midfielder Alie Welder, a freshman, attack Jordan Fisher, a junior, and attacker-midfielder Anna Meserve, a freshman, also scored for the Owls.

"The energy throughout the game was amazing. Our underclassmen definitely showed up for our seniors today, and everyone truly contributed to this win," Holmes said. "Despite the weather, we persevered. Being a senior, this is my last year playing with my best friends, so it really was a bittersweet day."

Defender-midfielder Sarah Robbins, a senior, and defender Ailis

Wargin, a senior, both had three caused turnovers while Wargin added two ground balls.

Starting goalie Caelen Connors, a sophomore, had two saves on three shots on goal. Backup goalie Hannah Sommer, a sophomore, had a save and scored one goal in the second half.

In the fourth quarter, Alchimio opened the scoring before Ruel and Holmes both sealed the 20-2 victory.

Midfielder Gabriella Smith, a junior, reflected on the Owls' success.

"I am just so proud of all of my teammates," Smith said. "We really wanted to show up for our seniors with it being senior day, and despite the weather not being our friend, we put our best effort forth for our graduating friends."

The Owls will travel to Garden City, New York this week as they take on Adelphi University on Wednesday, March 27.

Baseball loses to UNH

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The Owls lost a wild and grueling game to their cross-town rival, University of New Haven. The Owls would take a 11-9 loss in a windy and rainy game.

The Chargers came into the university ballpark and jumped out to a whooping 11-0 lead through the first seven innings. The Chargers scored seven runs in the seventh, flipping the batting order over.

"We're playing a cross-town rival. We wanna put our best foot forward, and we can't go down seven nothing and be OK," Head Coach Tim Shea said. "To their credit, we got the tying run to the plate. These guys are resilient."

Late in the game, the Owls stormed back, driving in eight runs in the eighth inning and one more run in the ninth to make the score 11-9, with a chance to walk it off.

This loss now puts the Owls at 12-8 on the season and 1-1 at their home ballpark. With the Owls fighting their way back into the game, this has been the norm for their season so far.

The Owls came into this game having won three of their last five, all of which were close games. In this game, New Haven took control on the mound, with starter Vincent Fusco pitching a shut-out.

Pitcher Chad Fedeli, a junior, struggled, giving up six hits in five and two-thirds innings.

"This team has a lot of fight. Everyone believes in that, and we look forward to the next pitch because we know we can compete with anyone," Fedeli said.

After struggling the first five innings on the mound, he kept the game scoreless through the first three. Coach Shea looked towards the bullpen after five innings while Fedeli continued to bat.

Through the first twenty games, Fedeli has a .299 batting average and 19 RBI, which is why he hit second in the order.

Fedeli is also a key piece to the team, as he is a utility player who normally plays the infield. Fedeli was a part of the big rally in the eighth, getting on base.

Catcher Billy Sullivan, a senior, started the rally.

While bases were loaded, third baseman Derick Jagello, a junior, and shortstop Patrick Dillon, a graduate, each scored a run thanks to Sullivan reaching on a Chargers error.

First baseman and cleanup hitter Jack Drewry, a graduate, singled in Fedeli, advancing Sullivan to second.

"There's been times this year where we got off to a slow start in the front-end of the game and build momentum through the back-end of the game," Sullivan said. "We have to build off that and jump out to an early start offensively."

With this loss, the Owls look to take a different approach in their coming games.

Sports Recap: March 18-24

Women's Gymnastics:
March 23 - Gymnastics East Conference Finals - Placed fourth out of eight.

March 20 - vs University of New Haven - L 11-9
March 22 - vs Southern New Hampshire University - G1 L 2-1 F/11 & G2 L 7-0 F/7

Baseball:
Current Record - 12-10
March 19 - vs Assumption University - W 5-4

All information has been provided by SCSUOwls.com



PHOTO | KAHIONA SENIOR

Left fielder Jake Chacho, a freshman, at bat versus Assumption University.