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Survivors and allies take back the night



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Over 100 students march for Take Back the Night in Southern's Academic Quad.

By August Pelliccio

Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center student workers Kristina Filomena and Sabrina St. Juste said, respectively, supporters of Take Back the Night are tired of being silenced, and years of silence will not make an assault survivor forget.

Filomena, a senior, said her investment in the evening's event was support for fellow survivors.

"I try to use my role as an advocate and an ally," Filomena said, "to not share my story, but instead empower other people to share their stories."

Filomena said about a year ago someone close to her took

advantage of her body; she was groped inappropriately, she said, while standing in line with friends at a water park.

"When I finally processed what had happened, and confronted him on it," Filomena said, "the comments that he made were, 'It's not like I raped you,' or 'You're making it seem like I raped you.'"

She said she thinks about the exchange to this day, and even despite her work in the VPAS Center, she said she is still working on being comfortable with talking about it.

"I feel this night is special because you really see not only the unity in Southern," said Filomena, "but the people who might have been terrified to share still come up and know

that their voice makes a difference."

Filomena said it is very empowering to know that there are people out there who are tired of being silenced.

The VPAS Center's description of the event, as written on Southern's organizational calendar webpage, is a dedication to providing an empowering space, for survivors of sexual violence. This year, according to the page, marked 21 years observing the event at Southern.

The evening began with the collection of students and faculty, survivors and sufferers, supporters and allies joining together to march across campus, from the Student Center, to the Academic Quad.

"Join together, free our lives," the crowd chanted, "we will not be victimized!"

When students settled into the academic quad, several students from the VPAS Center spoke about the event's nature, before inviting students to speak up with their stories.

Three minutes and 25 seconds of complete silence followed, before anyone took the microphone. One of the hosts, David Varian spoke up as an ally, to encourage students to approach the microphone.

Varian, a senior, said he attended Take Back the Night to stand with fellow resident advisers in support of students sharing their stories. When he was asked to help host this year, Varian said, his experience with

Community college merger does not go through

By August Pelliccio

The recent decision by the state's accrediting agency for education to not merge community colleges statewide is one President Joe Bertolino called both unexpected, and concerning.

Bertolino explained that the plan to consolidate the 12 Connecticut community colleges would have impacted the Connecticut State College and University system as a whole, by freeing funding to reallocate throughout the system.

"In the long term, this has the potential to be very devastating to our financial situation," said Bertolino, "during a time when we are already facing burdens."

The plan to consolidate was first publicly announced by President of the CSCU system, Mark Ojakian, on April 3. He explained in a statement the reasoning behind the proposed plan to consolidate.

"Cutting costs has helped the system to address immediate budget shortfalls," said Ojakian, "but these strategies will not lead to long-term sustainability."

Therefore, he said, a larger initiative was necessary to reallocate funding throughout the system. Consolidating the 12 community colleges was one of the steps he proposed in order to better serve students by easing budget cuts as time moves forward. Ojakian predicted in his statement that the consolidation would have saved the system nearly \$28 million, which could then be dispersed back to the different institutions.

"The overall guiding principle in our deliberations has been keeping students first," said Ojakian.

When the New England Association of Schools and Colleges put a stop to that consolidation last

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SEE MERGER SEE PAGE 3

Connections, cost cited as reasons students choose Southern

Special Report

First choice. Second choice. Third choice.

For some students the decision was simple: Southern Connecticut State University.

More than half of prospective students familiar with the university are "likely to consider" Southern, according to a 2016 SimpsonScarborough survey commissioned by Southern to refine the university's brand strategy.

University enrollment trends, however, tell a different story of which students choose to stay or leave from semester to semester. While the university's headcount increased by 4 percent from spring to fall 2016, it fell by 6 percent — a loss of 601 students — from fall 2016 to spring 2017, according to the Southern Factbook. The preceding fall 2015 to spring 2016 year showed a recurring loss of 6 percent.

To fully understand students' reasoning for choosing to attend, and then remain, at the university, the Journalism Department's News Writing class created a survey and distributed it to Southern students. The



Students who were interviewed: Kasie-Lynne Kelly (left to right), Nicole Fischer, Jared Rhodes, Natasha Fitzpatrick, Alexis Negron, Madison Jones, Andrew Hans, Emily Zurzola

non-scientific random survey was conducted over a two-week period and reached a total of 430 native, transfer and exchange students of varying years, and

majors. Administration and faculty from various departments were interviewed to garner what attracts prospective students to

the university and efforts made toward retention. Students were selected from their individual surveys to be interviewed about their decisions to enroll.

The journalism students also analyzed a 2016 SimpsonScarborough study as basis for data. For some students, such as Christina Costa, a sophomore, education major, deciding to come to Southern was difficult due to the stigma of attending a public university.

"My high school was very biased toward state schools because everyone goes to those big name private schools and what not," said Costa. "So, coming to a state school, it was just kind of like, 'Oh you're going to Southern, ew.' That type of thing."

President Joe Bertolino said, from his perspective, Southern has a reputation problem. Since his presidency began almost two years ago, he said he has been surprised by the amount of people who have either never heard of Southern, or considered it a "safety school."

"I also think students are enamored by name recognition," said Bertolino. "Students will go to UConn in Stamford just to say that they go to UConn. But, I can guarantee you they would have a far better experience here."

SEE CHOOSE SOUTHERN PAGE 2

Choose Southern

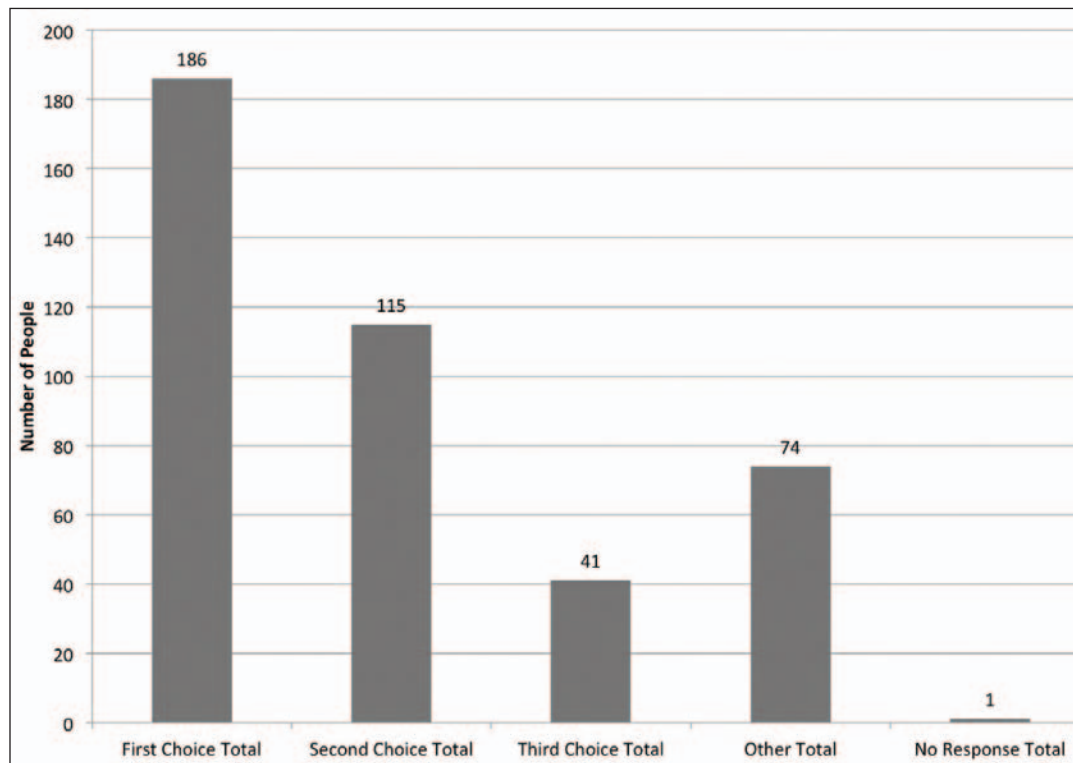


CHART | CHLOE GORMAN

Students surveyed were asked to rank Southern when looking at schools.

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Location and cost

Financial aid, location and transportation, personal choice, majors and programs were the options posed to students in the survey to distinguish why they enrolled in or transferred to Southern.

The SimpsonScarborough study stated prospective students mentioned Southern's diversity as an "appealing attribute," but discerned location and cost as both "appealing and unappealing."

Bertolino said for many students, Southern is an affordable option. The university provides a high-quality education, but saves them the money they would have spent at a private institution.

"Even with some financial aid, we give you a few thousand dollars," said Bertolino. "You'll still be spending a lot less and I think you'll get just as good — if not better — of an education."

Nicole Fischer, a junior, communication disorders major, said she was able to get a quality education without paying a high price, like at other state schools, by going to Southern.

"I wanted to go to [University of Rhode Island], actually, and it's always financial," Fischer said. "You have to be realistic with yourself and just understand that you're going to get your education either way for four years so it is kind of nice to be close and just know that it is going to be affordable."

The university's location can influence how a prospective student ranks Southern among other choices. Southern "is the college in the backyard," said Bertolino.

After leaving UConn, Kasie-Lynne Kelly, a senior, English secondary education major, transferred to Southern to pursue her teaching degree.

Growing up in the New Haven area, Kelly said there is stigma attached to Southern because "it is in our backyard."

"Hearing the name growing up and that stigma," said Kelly, "I think, is what feeds into the negative idea."

According to Southern's 2017 Top 20 Connecticut Towns and Top 20 Feeder High Schools survey, which examined where in the state the 2017 freshman class primarily came from, 832 undergraduate and graduate students at Southern are New Haven residents. The top three Connect-

icut high schools with students accepted to Southern are Shelton, Hamden and West Haven.

"We actually do well recruiting from the bulk of the state," said Bertolino. "Where we do not do well is recruiting in the city of New Haven."

Relationships and involvement

Michael Ben-Avie, the director of the Office of Planning and Assessment, said relationships with other students, professors and organizations help students graduate from Southern.

"One of the most wonderful parts about the college experience," Ben-Avie said, "is that students interact with people who are very different than themselves and come from different backgrounds and had different educational experiences."

Typically, students will form more relationships when involved in various on-campus clubs and organizations. According to the Predicting On-Time Graduation executive summary, both the number of earned credits in combination with participation in campus contribute to graduating on time.

Ben-Avie said commuter students who only come to campus to attend class and immediately leave have a more difficult time creating relationships with both students and faculty.

According to data gathered by the News Writing students involved in clubs, sports and other organizations, 49.5 percent of commuter students are involved and 50.5 percent are not. That is opposed to 71 percent of residents being involved and 29 percent of residents not involved.

"For many students their connection with Southern is so tenuous," said Ben-Avie. "If they're only here when they have class, they come in for the class and then they leave campus."

Through the help of her adviser and English Prof. Andrew Smyth, Kasey-Lynne Kelly said she was put "on track to find her passion" at Southern. In addition, Kelly has met several Southern professors who she said "went out of their way to support and help" students. The staff helped Kelly find a "home" in the English Department, she said.

Even in lower-level English courses, Kelly said students will receive attention from their professors. In the secondary

education department, she said a select group of students are always together due to the program. At UConn, Kelly said it was easy to disappear in larger classrooms and let attendance fall by the wayside.

"I think, definitely, that helps," said Kelly, "because not only am I finding staff who are really receptive and open and amazing, but I find students that I connect with and I am always with to support and help [me], to talk to because of the program's smaller classes."

Lack of connections

One group that is difficult to reach are the students who never intended to graduate from Southern, said Ben-Avie. These students enroll to the university to complete general education courses and then transfer out.

Despite the opportunities Southern has to offer, Ben-Avie said it may not influence their decision to stay or remain at the university.

"We like to say 'we prepare students for other universities,'" said Ben-Avie.

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Robert Prezant said he hopes once a student enrolls into the university they will change their minds about possibly transferring later on.

"What I am hopeful is once students get here, if they come with the mindset that, 'I am going to go to Southern and then transfer to X, Y and Z,' for whatever reason," said Prezant. "Once they get here, all of the things we've already talked about, take hold and they realize, 'I may

not get that somewhere else. I may not get that personal attention. I may not get that mentorship or experiential opportunity. I better stay here."

Nicole Fischer's father attended Southern and reminisces on the ways the university has transformed over the years.

"My dad went here," said Fischer. "So, he had ties to the school. Everytime he comes he says it is never the same — all the buildings are different, everything is different so that was a personal kind of thing."

Ben-Avie said several students are second-generation or legacies — these students in particular "tend to thrive here."

"They come here, they know exactly what kind of experience they want," said Ben-Avie. "Even though Southern is drastically different than when mom attended Southern, still there is a knowledge about the institution. The students know exactly what a Southern education offers them."

Students from the Journalism News Writing course under the direction of Prof. Cindy Simoneau surveyed students on choosing Southern. Project editors: Victoria Bresnahan, Tyler Ferrara, Chloe Gorman and Christopher Rzasz. Student reporters: Mike Apotria, Ryan Conchado, Melanie Espinal, Matthew Gad, Greg Gagliardi, Matthew Johnson, Courtney Luciana, Meagan McAdams, Abigail O'Keefe, Quinn O'Neill, Emily Plavcan and Mary Rudzisz.

Study abroad students find home at Southern

This semester, Southern is home to 71 exchange and study abroad students, according to Student Adviser at the Office of International Education Michael Schindel.

Many of Southern's exchange students come from the partnership programs with the study abroad office, such as their partnership with Liverpool John Moores University. The programs operate in a one-to-one exchange, where every Southern student who studies abroad opens up a spot for a student from partner universities.

"You know, it really allows true student mobility," Schindel said of the program.

Schindel said Southern is appealing to international students because it is well situated regionally, halfway between New York and Boston.

But, Schindel said Southern also offers a unique experience. He said it is like a community that is a small city itself.

"They look for kind of the traditional American college experience," he said of international students, "and I think Southern offers that, which is cool."

Schindel said a lot of international students, especially in European cities, come from university campuses that are similar to Yale, which are integrated in a downtown setting.

"So, to have like a dorm experience and to have homecoming rallies and football games is something very typically American," Schindel said.

This small community vibe allows an authentic experience, Schindel said, and is amplified with their Living Learning Community program, which pairs international students with domestic students in a room. This, he said, encourages more involvement from international students.

"We're not a school where you'll find that the international students kind of just go off on their own and have their own community," Schindel said, "but, rather, are very integrated."

Another reason why international students chose Southern is for sports. Schindel said a lot of international student are student athletes who receive degrees from Southern, particularly in the men's and women's soccer teams.

Australian Women's Track team member Natasha Fitzpatrick is a prime example of that. Fitzpatrick, a senior public health major, came to the U.S. to study with a drive to run track.

Fitzpatrick said she did not like her first semester because she did not know many people. She said at first she felt she did not know what she was getting herself into, moving to a different country, but since then feels different.

"I've loved it," said Fitzpatrick, who came here after attending a year and a half of college in Australia. "It's a really small community and once you get to know people it just turns out that everyone knows everybody. It just becomes a very friendly campus."

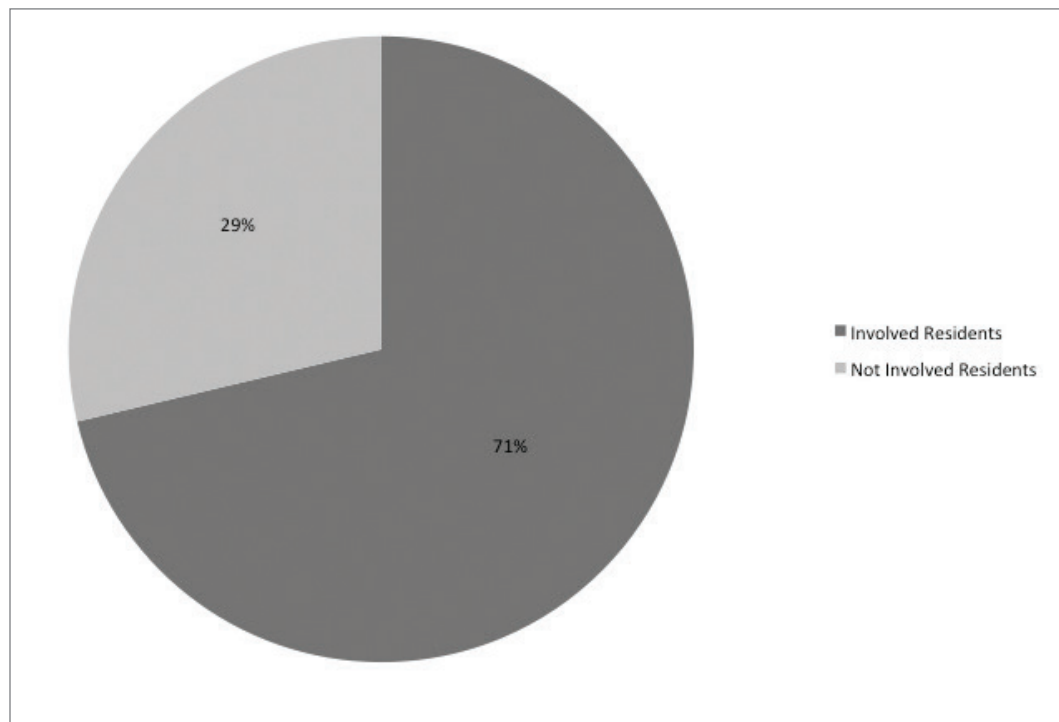


CHART | CHLOE GORMAN

The percentage of residents at Southern that are involved and are not involved.

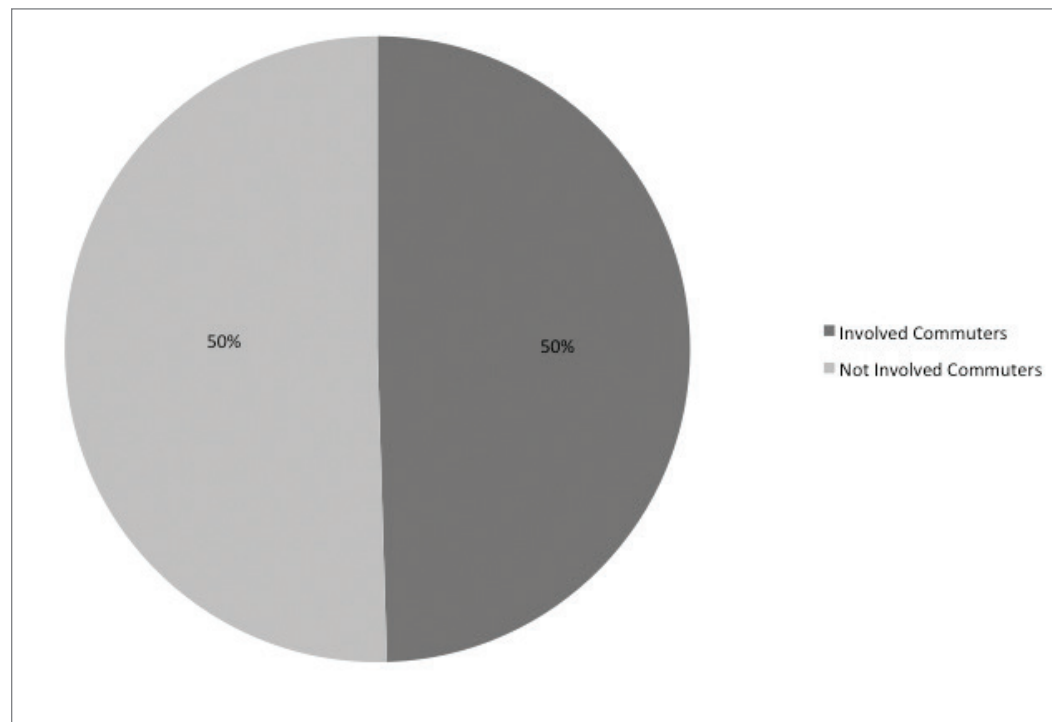


CHART | CHLOE GORMAN

The percentage of commuters at Southern that are involved and are not involved.

Take back the night

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

survivors inspired him to take action.

"As someone who knows a lot of people who have been through it," said Varian, "I thought it was a really great opportunity to be an ally and empower other people to be allies."

Varian said Take Back the Night is important not just to this campus, but everywhere. An event of its nature, he said, should take place at as many institutions as possible.

The official website for the Take Back the Night organization lists every official event holder. The total number of institutions that observe the event, according to the website, is 306 worldwide.

This was the third year Varian said he has been a part of the event at Southern. He said he felt, during the first time he attended as an audience member, the same way he felt about this year's survivor and ally stories — empowered and inspired.

"I think I can have a big voice and be an ally," said Varian. "If I step up, then other people can say, 'if he can do it, I can do it.'"

Secretary for Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment, St. Juste is a senior now, but said she got involved planning Take Back the Night in the fall semester of her sophomore year.



Students marching in the Take Back the Night rally.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

"What inspires me to be a part of the event the most," said St. Juste, "is the fact that I myself am a survivor."

Being a voice for the people who chose not to speak and being a voice of encouragement are the goals St. Juste said she had, in respect

to sharing her story as the night's keynote speaker.

She also said she wanted to advocate for the resources available to victims of sexual misconduct on the campus.

"I'm not saying that I'm a success

story, because I'm still in the healing process," said St. Juste. "I have gotten better."

St. Juste said her experience with assault began when she was 8 years old. She said she spoke about nothing regarding the assaults even through high school.

"I felt like I lacked a lot of identity," said St. Juste, "which is why I went back and forth with my self esteem."

The silence she maintained built a depression, St. Juste said, and at one point in high school, she began having suicidal thoughts, with increasing frequency.

"I didn't even think that I would make it to 16," St. Juste said.

Now, St. Juste said, she wants to students to know that it does get better.

She said when she came to college at Southern, the resources available such as the VPAS Center and Counseling Services offered her the help she needed. According to St. Juste, April 18, 2017, at Southern's Take Back the Night event was the first time she ever broke the silence about her assaults from the age of 8.

"Being silent didn't make me forget," said St. Juste. "It does hurt as if it was yesterday, but with time it gets better."

Merger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

week, Bertolino said university officials were shocked. He said some expected that NEASC would poke holes where they could, or point out flaws to be fixed in the fine print of the consolidation before they would allow it to go through, but that nobody expected the initiative to be stopped in its tracks.

"NEASC is a complex organization, and their job is to ensure quality; I understand what their concerns were," said Bertolino. "I respectfully disagree with those concerns — this is something the system could have done and done well."

Bertolino said there needs to be a complete reconsideration of how funding will reflect the 81 vacancies in Southern's staff moving forward. He said without this consolidation, funding would make it virtually impossible to fill the voids.

In addition, he said he worries about an upcoming bonus negotiated by the collective bargaining unit regarding longevity pay. The \$2,000 bonus

to be given to each of these staff members is going to take up several million dollars of the budget, Bertolino said.

"Our personnel pay will increase by 26 percent," said Bertolino.

Bertolino said the most important concern right now must be enrollment and fundraising. He said he did not earnestly expect a huge increase in numbers, but seeing more students enroll would certainly help the financial situation — an initiative he said Terricita Sass, associate vice president for enrollment management, has been hard at work for.

"This is just going to make things for Southern a little more challenging," said Bertolino, "but we will roll up our sleeves, and do what we need to do."

Helping women become leaders

By August Pelliccio

Heidi Lockwood said Opportunities for Women's Leadership offers guidance to young women.

Lockwood, acting director of the women's studies program, said the program would not have been possible without the help of student volunteers and student workers from the department.

Student McKenzie Katz said the intention is for O.W.L.s to be a day of empowerment for young women who are students at West Haven High, Wilbur Cross, and Hillhouse. Students are invited in to engage in conversations that connect women's studies with social justice, she said, and anything that involves young women's lives.

"We talked about gun violence, we talked about institutional racism, we talked about stigma against people of color," said Katz. "It was a really great conversation where people from a lot of different

backgrounds got to talk about what they understand what they don't understand, and what change they would like to make."

Katz said they also arranged arts and crafts for the students to work on, and they got the opportunity to express themselves. One example, Katz said, was an exercise called, "put your stuff on the paper," where students wrote letters to their future selves, and collectively constructed poetry out of excerpts from those letters.

"I would say that they're all interested in empowering themselves," Katz said, "and when they go to college they're interested in taking classes that are geared toward a community they're involved in."

Graduate Assistant for the Women's Studies Department, Jess Bachinski said the event has been repeated for years, but the format this time was different.

"They're sort of leading it," said Bachinski. "We're here to guide, but it's what they're expressing."

Two Wilbur Cross students, Jacqueline Torres and Neisha Rivera said they most enjoyed the talk on gun violence. Rivera said she accredited this to the maturity and calm nature that the people in the room maintained as they discussed the important issue.

"I was really excited to come here today," said Rivera. "I'm going to come here in the fall, and every time I come here I get happy."

Rivera explained that she plans on enrolling at Southern for the fall semester. She said she already takes an English course at Southern for advanced credits at Wilbur Cross.

Torres said the most expressive portion of the afternoon was the bookmaking workshop with librarian Tina Re, where she was able to express the values that brought her to the program that day.

She said the words "love yourself" were featured because, "A woman is always supposed to love herself."

David Senesh says his Aunt Hannah was a hero for Jewish people

By August Pelliccio

David Senesh said his aunt was put on trial and killed at gunpoint for being a traitor to the country of Hungary, but remains a hero to this day because of the person she was.

Deborah Weiss, co-director of the Judaic studies program said the lecture was not only an opportunity to share the important story of a Holocaust survivor, but to raise awareness of the Judaic Studies Program.

"We are offering a scholarship for students who complete the minor in Judaic studies," said Weiss.

Weiss also introduced a study abroad program that the department will be offering a scholarship to fund, before introducing the speaker for the day, David Senesh.

Martin Laskin, professor in the sociology department, and the Judaic studies department, spoke about Senesh's history and background.

"In keeping with Southern's ongoing mission of social justice, we are very pleased to have a speaker today," said Laskin, "who has dedicated his work to the mental health consequences of human rights violations."

Laskin said David Senesh is a student adviser of psychotherapy, and a lecturer at the Levinsky College of Education in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Senesh spoke about his own place in history, between World War II and the Yom Kippur War of 1973, but mainly about the trials of his aunt Hannah's early life.

Senesh said Hannah Senesh is known for her heroism helping to rescue Hungarian Jews about to go to Auschwitz, but before she was able to do such a thing, he said his aunt had to conduct some "soul searching," early in life.

"She went on, a very solitary way," said Senesh, "learning from the Bible, and other books what it means to be Jewish, and what it means to be a person."

He said he could tell in his aunt's writing, that the conclusions she came to after this learning experience was to leave Hungary, where she grew up, and get to somewhere where being Jewish didn't matter.

"There," said Senesh, "she can be a person."

He explained that this is the way many Jewish people have felt through history, including himself. David Senesh said when he lectures in New York

or in Canada, for example, he feels constantly aware that he is Jewish, but back home in Israel, there is no need to feel that way.

What his aunt ended up doing with her life, after discovering herself, became an important part of history according to Senesh. Her impact on the Jewish community, and her effect on the Holocaust was powerful, if short-lived. This effect is something David Senesh described with a metaphor.

"One of the most famous poems she wrote," Senesh said, "she equated herself to a match."

The connection is that a match can give a lot of light, but only for a brief period of time. David Senesh said in an area of complete darkness, something as small as a match can light a whole room, but that light burns out quickly.

Senesh continued to say that his aunt's work liberating Jews from the Holocaust made her a hero because of the intentions she is remembered by Senesh said his aunt is remembered as a bridge between the Jewish people and Israel, but that he thinks it goes deeper than that.

"She was a bridge," said David Senesh, "between being Israeli or Jewish, and being a human being."



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

David Senesh speaking to students and faculty about his Aunt Hannah, who he said was like a bridge to the Jewish people.

FEATURES

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Farewell to the graduating seniors of the Southern News My calling: a reflection Ready for the real world



PHOTO | ALEXANDRA SCICCHITANO

Melanie Espinal

By Melanie Espinal,
arts and entertainment editor

Every time I feel super average and belittle my accomplishments, I remember that in two weeks I will be the only woman in my family to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

In my mind, I was never a good student; I was mediocre at best. Although I always had an insatiable hunger to learn and read more, I was never able to sit still. I daydreamed too much, doodled too much. My sixth grade teacher called me an astronaut, my mind was always somewhere in space instead of class. But, here I am.

Plainly, I'll say I have big dreams. I know I may be an underdog, or maybe my self-consciousness leads me to believe I am. Throughout my academic career, I looked for validation from the wrong people. The truth is, not everyone will rally for you. There are many people in life that don't think you have what it takes.

Another truth is you also need to surround yourself with people who challenge you and won't accept your mediocrity. There are many opportunities in life that take more than just intention. For this reason, I want to thank the professor's in the journalism and political science departments. You all have inspired me to match my enthusiasm and good intentions with action.

I am not sure how long it is going to take me, but I will be doing the work I consider to be important. I will be like the people I admire, some of which are the staff members who always keep their doors open in the humble building of Morrill.

Although it's difficult, at age 21, to say what your calling in life is, through courses and conversations with peers and professors I have learned where I want to start. I think being a student at Southern, as well as being an editor at the Southern News and editor at Crescent Magazine has prepared me for the challenges in this next chapter.

In this newsroom, where I live part-time, I have learned and taught different perspectives on timely issues and classic questions with like-minded individuals who are generally just nice to have around. Thanks to the SNews staff who shows me support everytime I yell, "I'M GARBAGE, WHAT IS HAPPENING," while fiddling with InDesign every Monday.

Hopefully we're all pretty cool people ten years from now at Alumni Night. If I end up in PR please don't give me any grief.

Love, Mel

By Chloe Gorman, managing editor

High school teachers make a point of scaring their students about how challenging the college experience is. So, when I came to Southern, I was admittedly scared and did not know what to expect. Not to mention, I did not know a thing about journalism, and somehow I was supposed to major in it.

While it took me a little while to get my bearings and find what direction was best for me, one of the best decisions I have made at Southern was joining the Southern News. Although there have been ups and downs, I would not change the experience for the world.

I want to thank everyone I have met that has helped me through my four years here, especially the professors in the Journalism Department who have helped me grow into the person I am today.

Every class I have taken has challenged me, and, at times, made me question whether this major was right for me. However, I am glad I was able to stick it out and become a better writer and a stronger person.

There are many valuable lessons I have learned during my time at Southern. I am more independent, I am definitely a better writer and I am happier.



PHOTO | KATHERINE KRAJCIK

Chloe Gorman

It is hard to believe that four years have seemed like four minutes and my educational career is finally coming to a close. But, college is not nearly as frightening as the real world.

Nevertheless, some of the most meaningful experiences I have encountered have been my internships where I got the opportunity to see a glimpse into the "real world."

After hundreds of interviews, assignments and, of course, tears shed, my time here at Southern is done. I am definitely not the same person that stepped onto campus four years ago, and I could not be more grateful.

And on to the next



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Tyler Korponai

By Tyler Korponai, online editor

Southern was a really good experience, though I feel that it left me with an individual sense of responsibility for my own education. My biggest take away from Southern is to read with a curious eye and a pen in my hand to take notes. However, this may ignore the many incredible opportunities Southern has allowed me.

During my time, I have studied abroad in Liverpool, England, which I couldn't say enough nice things about in this short time. I have worked for Southern News and lived out the practice of storytelling that is journalistic practices. I interned for the Connecticut General Assembly, which seemed far beyond my position. Southern has always opened doors that I had never

expected to have access to, and these experiences exemplify that good fortune.

Though, as I have said, I believe it's time for the next step. Southern has provided me with a very valuable foundation that should serve my interests for the years to come. Now, I feel that my confidence to follow my own senses has blossomed. Really, after several years of school I feel that I can focus myself to balancing my life and selecting its best qualities. A great example of this is my desire to participate in National Novel Writing Month, which is a writing challenge of completing a novel every November. I hope that the future yields the time to explore more experiences and perform new things regularly.

I would really like to highlight fantastic peers and agreeable professors. At almost every level of my Southern experience I have been surrounded by passionate students with professors to match. My peers have inspired me and helped me understand my own character more. My professors have supported my intellectual exploration and has encouraged a love of learning that is so pivotal.

Tomorrow, I firmly believe, shall provide a brighter future. I am excited for the coming weeks, months and years. I hope that other students can find their own place at Southern and their own avenues of success and participation. Whatever you do, do something and share it with others.

Where this flower blooms



PHOTO | MARY RUDZIS

Mary Rudzis

By Mary Rudzis, opinions and features editor

I was already a declared journalism major when I came to Southern. While I knew from the start that this was what I wanted to do, I had no idea how much it would come to mean to me.

As an empathetic and socially conscious person, I knew that I wanted to have a career that would allow me to expose injustices and provide a voice for the voiceless. My ultimate goal is to do advocacy journalism and bring awareness to issues that mean a lot to me such as racial and gender equality and animal rights.

Going to college was an easy choice, but choosing where to spend four significant years of my life was a matter of what the journalism program was like and if it was a welcoming community.

I have been encouraged to take agency and be in control of my education at Southern, and within the Journalism Department. I have been inspired to push myself because I knew I had a support

system here.

Through working at the Southern News, I have discovered a love for copy editing and storytelling that shows the human experience. Journalism is a vital service to the public and to be able to be a part of campus media is a step toward bigger and better things.

I have also been constantly inspired by my peers. Being a part of such a diverse, hard-working and jolly newsroom, I feel blessed to be able to call my coworkers here my friends. We have grown together, answered each other's questions and supported one another when we needed it most.

Ultimately, it is bittersweet to be leaving both Southern and the Southern News. I feel as though I have found who I truly am here. Sitting out in front of the library, in the residence quad and walking around campus felt like home. Then after becoming a commuter, places such as the newsroom felt like home.

I could have never anticipated that I would come out of my shell and feel confident in my abilities at the end of my college career, and be motivated to develop and reach for goals I never dreamed of. I can dream big because even if I don't get what I wanted, I know in my heart that I won't regret the decision to at least try.

At long last, I feel ready to move on from spending my whole life in the education system. I feel well-equipped for my future.

Thank you to all the professors who have pushed me, and my parents and friends for listening to me complain and cheering me on. I know I will miss this place. I planted myself here and grew into a person I am proud to be.

Aw, my whole heart.

How Southern prepared me for my career



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Lynandro Simmons

By Lynandro Simmons, editor-in-chief

My short time at Southern has been both memorable and encouraging. When I came to this school I was still unsure if journalism was what I wanted to pursue. However, the professors in the journalism department reassured me this was the career to choose. When I first chose this profession I didn't realize the endless possibilities attached to it. The range of topics I can cover are endless thanks to my time at Southern. From understanding photography to learning about multimedia journalism, the things the department has prepared me for have made me confident.

What I learned in my minor political

science was as important as my time in journalism. The diverse range of professors in the political science department taught me that this world and the problems in it are not black and white.

Through my politics classes, I learned the importance of discourse with people I didn't agree with. As a journalist this strengthened my ability to communicate with people who don't view the world like me. Now more than ever I think these tools have prepared me for the current climate today.

In addition to what I learned in class, my time at the Southern News showed me how life would be as a professional. In my short time as a reporter for the Southern News I've tackled both controversial topics and ones where the

opinions expressed are unanimous. As an editor, I've dealt with criticism from faculty and students alike and learned the challenge my profession will face. However, none of this deterred me from the path and I am proud of all my work and the news staff.

While working with the Southern News, I met some of my closest friends. Joining the staff helped a boy from Columbia, South Carolina adapt to life in Connecticut. When I moved here two years ago I could not have imagined how things would turn out. I am forever grateful for the opportunity I was given to be a part of the Southern News' legacy. Though my time at this school and with the news staff has come to an end, the memories will stay with me forever.

Free thought and social media

By Gerald Isaac

William Ryuputra, a sophomore computer science major, said he believes Kanye West's recent endorsement of Trump on Twitter is saddening.

"When Kanye first got into mainstream music, he seemed to be very defensive of everyday people and realistic issues," said Ryuputra. "Now he's really just being an insensitive jerk on Twitter in order to have people talking about him."

Ryuputra said he does see where Kanye is allowed to voice his opinions online.

"We all have that first amendment right to be online," said Ryuputra. "I think that he should be holding himself to higher standard."

Kanye West recently lost over 10 million Twitter followers after supporting both Candace Owens and Donald Trump.

"He was not this guy 10 years ago," said Ryuputra. "I think that's where we have to take some accountability on idolization and putting people on a pedestal."

Ryuputra said he believes that apart of the recent shock of West's behavior is because people strip away celebrities' free thought.

"It's like people sit there and act like these people are supposed to raise their kids," Ryuputra. "I was never raised to feel any stranger's opinion is that important."

However, Ryuputra said he can see where some people may look up to celebrities.

"You may not have parents you can look up to and the most responsible person you see growing up is someone on a TV screen," said Ryuputra.

Steven Chan, a sophomore, agrees with Ryuputra's comments.

Ryuputra said he can see why some people can idolize celebrities; Chan does not.

"People care too much and make famous people more important," said Chan. "It ends up being almost as if you made that person less of a human."

Chan believes that celebrity free thought should be allowed without criticism from others.

"I really don't agree with Kanye, but I can say that he isn't wrong for voicing his opinion," said Chan. "Imagine the whole world having an opinion on your every thought."

However, Chan said that celebrity opinion is important from a business perspective.

"Without celebrities, endorsements would be an open market," said Chan. "That entire marketing field is based on people's idolization of other people that

they feel can make better decisions for them."

According to polling site Statista, people aged 16-34 buy products based on celebrity endorsement more than any other age.

"There's kids that watch their parents idolize celebrities' opinion," said Chan. "My parents never did that."

Quinnell Johnson runs his own PR music company, "Starlight."

"I tell artists all the time how crucial and important their opinions really are," said Johnson. "Sometimes, and typically more often with younger people, people tend to think because you are talented in your field that got you famous, that that means that you are smarter than them in all areas of life."

Johnson gave a modern example to relate to.

"Take the Justin Bieber stuff when that kid was messing up," said Johnson. "Everyone was upset with him because that was supposed to be their kid's role model or something."

Johnson said that this type of behavior is a lack of good parenting.

"You should be your kid's role model, not some other kid your kid's age," said Johnson.

Johnson has worked with young musicians on shaping their public image in order to be a marketable brand.

"At the end of the day, you have to say something," said Johnson. "You have to pick some kind of side."

Johnson said he believes that picking a side means that an artist is either aware of what's going on in the world and want to use their talent to help change it, or is just going to ignore it.

"Once you pick a side you need to stick with it because you are only going to be as valuable as your word," said Johnson. "People never forget how you make them feel and that determines what endorsements you get or what audience you attract."

Eli Myles, an independent artist from New Haven, said he refrains from posting personal things on social media because he wants to keep his feelings private until the time is right.

"In today's society you can tweet something in like 2011 and someone can pull it up still," said Myles. "So I feel like if I mess up and say the wrong thing now it may really cost me in the future."

Johnson likes to tweet his opinion online in order to declare his stance on political issues; Myles chooses to put it in the music.

"I can say how I feel perfectly in my music," said Myles. "Especially because I write my own lyrics, a lot of times that is a major issue with understanding who

an artist is."

Myles said that artists who have people write introspective lyrics for them should let the listeners know that that is not their actual perspective.

"Let's say I am a huge Republican racist behind closed doors and I make a song about social justice, I am misleading so many people at that point," said Myles. "People end up idolizing someone because they think they can relate to that person."

Free thought to Myles means that other people are able to respond to an opinion as well as give one.

"Even if that means I stop being a fan I can choose whatever my response is," said Myles.

Myles said he is prepared to be faced with the free thought of social media.

"You need to approach everything you say with sensitivity towards other people," said Myles. "There is a right and wrong way to give your free thought."



PHOTO | GERALD ISAAC

Eli Myles, an independent artist from New Haven.

Students, finals and time illusions

By Jenna Stepleman

Time illusions can affect everyone differently and at different times, said Patricia Kahlbaugh, who teaches many fields of psychology at SCSU.

"The main reason we can delineate time is because of the markings of change around us," said Kahlbaugh. "We can tell time is passing because of the changing hands on a clock, or the movement of the sun across the sky signaling night and day."

Kahlbaugh also said there are times where people do not perceive time, like sleeping, and those are equally as important.

"A common example is when we're sleeping, you don't perceive the passing of time," said Kahlbaugh. "That's because you can't observe change."

There are, however, opposite examples where perception makes time move more quickly or slowly.

"Another common example is traveling to a friends house when you've never been there before," said Kahlbaugh. "You may think it's taking a long time, but that's because on the way to this new place you're noticing more change. You kind of have an idea in your head how much change should be happening in an objective period of time but your brain notices this is not the case, so it explains this as more time is passing."

According to Psychology Today, questionnaires by psychologists have shown that almost everyone — including college students — feels that time is passing faster now compared to when they were half or a quarter as old as now.

Katie Clini, a first year graduate student in secondary education, said she felt similarly that the semester seems to speed up as she approaches finals week.

"Long term assignments that were just concepts at the beginning of the year are now coming due all at once," said Clini. "Initially, the pile up of work stresses me out but then I adapt to the new normal workload and I'm fine."

Kahlbaugh also said certain people, when allowed time, can come back to equilibrium.

"Think about when you're coming home from that friend's [house] — now things are more automatic cause you've seen them before," said Kahlbaugh. "That's why the trip seems shorter on the way home, because you're noticing less change. Some have argued that's what time illusions are, perception of change."

Being a graduate student, Clini said that could only mean this: she has come up with some ways to avoid the speed-up of the semester.

"I think it's a good idea to write things down," said Clini. "That makes the assignments into tangible things you can plan and organize for."

Clini also said there are ways to avoid the feeling of having no time and de-stress with distractions.

"I go to the gym or decide to read a book that isn't for a school class," said Clini. "I also still have a full-on sense of relief and celebrate when my last final is over."

Kristen Feige, also a first year graduate student in



PHOTO COURTESY | PXHERE

A picture of a clock face.

secondary education, said she also feels the unusual time speed up that others mentioned.

"I think it's the pressure of the deadlines," said Feige. "Everything comes up all at once and so you feel like there's not enough time in the day to do it all."

Kahlbaugh said there may be a similar reason as to why students have the feeling time is no longer on their side.

"Some people may feel like they're running out of time," said Kahlbaugh. "The argument that things speed up comes from there being too much due in that same objective period of time and that's a change from the normal course load."

Feige also said since she has gone through many years of finals, she has found this to be the same from year to year and not a one time phenomenon.

"Some things don't change," said Feige. "Finals are still finals and no matter how many you do they still stress you out because there are new circumstances everytime."

Coping was also a topic that Feige said was important to her.

"I don't have the healthiest habits to distract myself, but they are classics," said Feige. "I mostly default to sleeping and comfort foods, specifically chocolate."

Feige also said that she thought after many finals she had some helpful tips from keeping time from slipping away from students.

"Keep breathing," said Feige. "Remind yourself that somehow you'll get through it because you always have before. "Everything eventually gets done in the end, and you probably did your best if you're stressing this hard, so just wait for the end."

Ryan Higgins, a senior, history major, said he is only taking one class, so to him finals week seems to be just like any other week.

"I only take my one history class," said Higgins. "It's focused on post World War II conflicts. So for me, the one class doesn't get too overwhelming this time of year."

Higgins said he dislikes having to write a final paper instead of a sit down final and freezes up.

"I don't love writing in general," said Higgins. "So for me, papers are much more challenging than a sit-down exam."

Higgin said he has learned something about the end-of-semester grade panic, that it may be associated with the time illusion.

"It's honestly too late to change much," said Higgins. "If you have known what you're talking about all semester chances are you are going to be fine on the final with some prep. The final isn't gonna be the thing that derails you. However, if nothing made sense to you all semester, the final can't save you either."

Pottery



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Graduate student Joe Defilippo getting ready to smash pottery.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Kaleigh Albert, a freshman anthropology major and secretary of the club, said that it was the club's first time doing this kind of event and that Ashley Dyer, a junior anthropology major and publicist of the club, and Buckley, that came up with the idea.

The Anthropology Club was inactive for five years and was recently revamped late last semester, said Corbett-Baril.

"We haven't done too much this year but next year we want to have more events," said Albert.

"There was a gap between having presidents and not," said Corbett-Baril about why the club was inactive for five years.

According to the Student Organization Manual 2016-2017, there is a long process to reactivating an inactive club on campus, including attending a new club recognition workshop and submitting a new club proposal and meeting with a Board of

Constitution Review Representative and submitting a constitution and submitting the Advisor Agreement Form and holding a student Interest Meeting and official proposal to Board of Constitutional Review and receiving official recognition from the Office of Student Involvement and receiving Provisional Status. William Farley, assistant professor of anthropology at Southern said that this is his first year at Southern and first-time advisor of the Archaeology Club and that this event was one of their first. His parents went to Southern and were excited for him to get a job here.

The Anthropology Club of Southern Connecticut State University is an academic group of students determined to learn and discuss anthropology. We value all anthropological sub-fields, including: biology, culture, language, and archaeology. Through guest speakers, journal discussion and exciting field trips we venture into the world of academia. A place where everyone is welcome, stated OwlConnect.

"The students did this event entirely on their own," stated Farley.

Healey said that her support system; her friends, her boyfriend and her therapist encouraged her to get rid of her anger in a positive way and that the Annual Final Exam Pottery Smash helped her. Buckley said that if the event goes well, they want to do it every year.

According to The Factbook of Southern, there were 37 anthropology majors at Southern Spring 2017 semester.

"There is a certain intimacy you get from a small department," said Farley.

"We have a lot of fantastic students," said Farley. "We have about 20 active members. About one of the largest active memberships at the university for a club."

Farley said that the club visited museums at Yale and had a movie night, where they watched Indiana Jones and talked about everything in the movie, about the accuracy of the movie and the problematic themes in it.

"We have some members who aren't anthropology majors," said Farley.

Albert knew that once she started looking into it, that this is what she wanted to do. She's going to Ethiopia next year during January and February.

Corbett-Basil said she is going to England for a field study during the summer and wants to go to graduate school.

Farley said that with only five full-time professors they offer all four subfields, archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology and linguistic anthropology and encourage students to choose a concentration, or just do general anthropology. The Anthropology Department has many field studies offered with most of the world covered by the field studies.

Biological anthropology is their biggest concentration for anthropology majors, and linguistic anthropology is their smallest concentration for anthropology majors on campus, said Farley.

Defilippo said, "It's nice to support clubs anyway on campus."

Movie review: 'Six Balloons' discusses addiction

By Victoria Bresnahan

Dave Franco portrays the highs and lows of addiction in the new Netflix film "Six Balloons." The film debuted on the video streaming service at the beginning of the month has received many positive reviews.

"Six Balloons" is a drama and features other major actors in addition to Franco such as Abbi Jackson of the television show "Broad City."

Despite the shortness of this film, it successfully focuses on the miniscule details of addiction. Seth (Dave Franco) suffers from a heroin addiction and relies on his sister Katie (Abbi Jackson) to help him detox. At the beginning of the film, Katie is setting up a surprise party for her boyfriend's birthday. When she leaves to go pick up Seth and his 4-year old daughter, Ella she discovers that he has relapsed and is high on heroin again.

After agreeing to go to detox, Katie drives him to a center only to discover

it does not accept Seth's insurance and would cost \$5,000 for out of pocket for the 10-day treatment. Seth then begins to experience withdrawal symptoms as Katie drives around the outskirts of Pasadena, California. To highlight the reality of addiction, Ella is screaming and frightened in the back seat of the car watching her father experience withdrawal.

The symptoms become so heightened Katie is forced to purchase heroin for Seth. Throughout "Six Balloons" an audio narrative of some type self-help book plays different chapters as the characters progress throughout the film. The audio uses the analogy of a boat capsizing to distinguish how easy it is to metaphorically drown if people attempt to fix others of their issues.

Overall, "Six Balloons" highlights the hidden struggles of addiction—such as the ways in which it affects familial relationships. It is eye-opening film for anyone interested in learning about the struggles of addiction or are already familiar with it.



PHOTO COURTESY | DOMINICK D

Dave Franco at the San Diego 2016 Comic Con.

Album review: 'Dirty Computer,' personal and fearless

By Lynandro Simmons

To say it has been a long time coming for Janelle Monae's moment in the spotlight would be an understatement. After bursting onto the scene with her debut EP "Metropolis: The Chase Suite," the Kansas City born, Atlanta based singer and actress has slowly ascended to pop icon status. Her debut EP introduced the fictional character Cindi Mayweather, an android being hunted because of its pursuit for love. After dropping two critically acclaimed albums "The Archandroid" and "The Electric Lady," Monae has decided to pivot from her android alter-ego on her latest album "Dirty Computer."

With the departure from the story she outlined in her previous albums, Monae has shed her android alter-ego to release a more personal album. The genre bending artist, known for her ability to blend a variety of musical styles, continues to show her diverse range of skills. From splitting bars with Pharrell Williams on "Juice" to displaying her talent as a rapper on "Django Jane," Monae's full talents are on display. The track "Make Me Feel," which she was reported to have worked on with Prince, is great rendition of the iconic purple one's style.

While her previous albums tactfully handled controversial material under the guise of Monae's alter-ego, shedding the Cindi Mayweather moniker has seemingly freed Monae. While she remains tactful with her message, the finely crafted album gives some autobiographical details on

the young pop star's upbringings. From her rapping about being judged in classes for her hair and dress style, to celebrating sexual freedom and womanhood, Monae gracefully tackles it all.

Even with what many can consider such heavy-handed material, the young artist never forgets what is important: fun. Even with the introspective lyrics, the musicality of the album allows listeners to consume the powerful messages while still enjoying themselves. The most overtly political track "Americans" is also heavily influenced by her longtime mentor Prince. Inspired by the current political climate, Monae sings her fears and also reminds listeners of the country's collective resilience. While singing her passion for a more inclusive and loving America, she asserts she, and the communities she stands for, will be loved.

Monae's third album, and first outside of her android alter-ego, keeps the feature list short. Pharrell Williams, Brian Wilson and Zoe Kravitz are featured on three tracks and Stevie Wonder has his own interlude on the interlude "Stevie's Dream." With a burgeoning profile due to performances in the films "Moonlight" and "Hidden Figures," Monae has delivered a potentially classic album on her biggest stage yet.

While longtime fans of Monae may miss the Afrofuturist world she created on her first two albums, they will be more than pleased with Monae's introspection on this album. New fans will be more than satisfied with Monae's talents on full display. While some Americans feel the country



PHOTO COURTESY | TWITTER

"Dirty Computer" album debuted on April 27.

has become more divisive than ever and feel silenced, Monae has chosen to release her most personal album. Her honesty has

made an album about fearlessness and raging against conformity inspiring.

Personal libraries and mental capital

By **Melanie Espinal**

My bookshelves are modest. They're botched Ikea experiments that hold books I have been given or bought since middle school. I can remember how every book made its way to my shelves.

I am the person who breaks their neck to see the titles of a stranger's book, and I encourage everyone to be. Be the person that snoops in personal libraries, not medicine cabinets.

Personal libraries are intimate and are physical manifestations of reading accomplishments and interests. They allow us to look smarter than we are by having quasi ownership over the quality of the books through power of curation.

Besides ego boosters, personal libraries are great for research references. How many books have you rented for classes you actually enjoyed and wanted to refer back to it but no longer had the book? Spend the extra fifteen or twenty and have unlimited access, and the ability to

mark it up as you pleased.

Which leads me to the one of the greatest reasons to create a personal library: unlimited marking up. Marking up books is a very intimate process. You can make your notes strategic for memory purposes or artistic. Reading notes people leave in their books is a small guilty pleasure of mine, where I feel like I am taking a leap into someone's mind. They allow you to gauge your understanding and maturity as a reader and creative. Holding onto them of course, is the most important bit in your new library.

My favorite thing to do when going through my books is finding the ones I read when I was a pretentious person and seeing all the nonsensical or shallow commentary that often missed so much. Worse, when I was highlighter happy and just marked up entire pages without a word why.

Cleaning my bookshelves takes hours, mainly because I am rereading and reminiscing about people or circumstances like these or the circumstances of when I bought the

book. I have a habit of using anything on hand as bookmarks, this too adds a layer to reminiscing.

Arranging one's books is dramatically different from household to household, especially in the houses of writers. Some arrange books by alphabetically by author, book, genre. My book shelves are categorized by subject and size -- which may sound strange to some but has worked for me for some time. Alphabetically organized and color categorized shelves make woozy, how could books from Richard Wright and Virginia Woolf be next to each other?

Libraries also have a habit of making you feel guilty because they are filled with books that you should read or never finished. This reader's guilt is important and necessary. You should always feel like you have to read more.

Having a personal library, whether you are dedicated to designing and categorizing it, will encourage you to read more and makes you seem cooler. Unless you do not have fire safety precautions.



Melanie Espinal

PHOTO | VERN WILLIAMS

Student director's collaborate at theatre festival



PHOTO COURTESY | ISABEL CHENOWETH

Christian Gunzenhauser (left), as Theo and Nick Bottone (right) as Ted in "Time to Change."



PHOTO COURTESY | ISABEL CHENOWETH

Nicole Woosley as Tessie Hutchison in "The Lottery."

By **Tyler Korponai**

From the struggle of survival under Nazi rule to time traveling family therapy, the Theatre Department and the Crescent Players presented "Societatem Malorum," a student directed one acts festival throughout the week.

The festival was comprised of four different productions including, "Time to Change," "The Lottery," "The Flyer" and "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." Moreover, two of the plays, "Time to Change" and "The Flyer," are original plays written by students.

Maeve Cunningham, is a theatre major and direction of "The Lottery," which is a play about a community's dark tradition, highlighted some of the unique challenges of preparing for the festival. According to Cunningham, all the directors had to work around each other and with the same pool of talent.

"I had 11 actors in my cast and everyone was sharing all those same actors," Cunningham said.

According to Cunningham, "staying in constant communication to make sure we were all getting what we needed from each other, and what we needed from our

actors," was essential to making the festival happen.

Brenna Ross, a Theatre major who directed "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," a play about the hardships of a Jewish women from Prague living under the Nazi regime, likewise noted the adversities of bringing her production and the festival to life.

"A lot of days," said Ross, "we would make our schedules and send them out and we had scheduled the same room, with the same people, on the same night. So that was hard to work out."

The challenge helps students participate in numerous roles both on stage and off according to Kevin Redline, who is an interdisciplinary studies major and wrote and directed "Time to Change" for his honors thesis.

"Each show had a different set and designer," said Redline. "Everything was student designed. So a couple people double dipped. Some people were lighting designers for one show and then sound designers for the other. We had four different production teams for four different show, all going on at the same time. That's what makes the festival a good thing."

However, for Redline, everything including the play itself was a collaborative effort.

"It's actually a crowd sourced play," explained Redline. "So I gathered information from people through a survey and then used about 16 different concepts. I chose what was going to be included in the play, and I tried to put in much in it as I could."

The director's notes of the playbill, states that these concepts were drawn from categories of improvisational theater ranging from "a bartender who is sad", as opposed to the sad customer trope, to one character being the other's time traveling relative.

Molly Flanagan, an Interdisciplinary Studies major who wrote and directed "The Flyer," was happy to see the performance play out before a crowd and evolve over the week.

"It's rewarding to see how the actors respond to the audience" said Flanagan, "and how the audience responded to the actors every night."

Flanagan's play is about characters in a diner who try to avoid their problems.

"The real world can't exist if you can't hear it," Flanagan said. "But, it does exist. Listen to those around you."

Artist of the Week: drummer, Sean Connelly

By **Victoria Bresnahan**

Three things matter the most for Sean Connelly: drumming, performing, and making fans happy.

"I'm more of the entertainment factor," said Connelly, a junior advertising promotion major, "where I am there for the people, people are there for me. I am there for the music and I want to show people how much I love playing music. I want to show how much I love my band mates."

Connelly has been the drummer for the local band Mandala for the past year and a half. Prior to joining the band, Connelly became invested in their sound after his good friend became their new bass player.

"I became obsessed with the band's first record," said Connelly, who has been playing percussion since the fifth grade. "I was like, 'This is ridiculous, I could be a better drummer.' Not to sound ridiculous but I could drum better than this guy—make the songs more interesting."

It was not until two or three years ago Connelly said fans came to his shows and appreciated the music. Performing in front of a live audience is Connelly's "favorite thing in the whole world." On the day of the

show, Connelly tries to forget everything else and focus on the anticipation of the show.

Mandala's music is a mixture of indie rock and alternative and follows in line with other Connecticut bands, Connelly said. Of all the bands he been a part of, none of have produced music like Mandala's, he said.

"[The sound isn't] an emo type of thing," said Connelly. "It was really like Connecticut sad music, but, like,



Sean Connelly

rockin'—it was really rockin'. I was like, 'Oh my god, this is everything I loved about Connecticut music.'"

Sitting on his back porch, Connelly created pages of notes discussing how Mandala could improve their sound. After his friend returned from touring with Mandala, Connelly said he pushed him to audition to be their new drummer.

"They never had a great drummer," said Connelly. "They had good drummers, but I wouldn't say they were great drummers. I just became obsessed. I was like, 'There should be this hit here and we should, like, stop there.'"

After playing with the members one time, Connelly joined the band. Of all the groups he has performed, Mandala is his favorite, he said. Since joining, he has produced one album with the band.

Connelly has been playing in different hard rock, pop-rock, jazz and funk fusion, latin and reggae bands since he was 14. His first band formed when he was in the eighth grade. Connelly said his previous band members were like "blood brother friends" to him and would get together and play for six hours at time some days.

Through all their practicing they developed their skills as musicians, but their overall sound wasn't "good," said Connelly. Despite this, the band performed in shows when they were together.

"I went through that for years," said Connelly, "where you play some shows and you get some really good ones and you get some really bad ones, or you wouldn't play shows for a long time."

Students relieve finals stress with pottery smash



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Students take a wooden mallet to pottery.

By Alexandra Scicchitano

All members of the Anthropology club shouted at passersby for them to come smash some pottery to help relieve stress before finals.

"Pottery smash! Come get some pre-final stress out," said Megan Corbett-Baril, a senior anthropology major and president of the Anthropology Club.

"De-stress before finals," said Taylor Tenenbaum, a senior biological anthropology major and vice president of the Anthropology Club, as she advertised for the event, Annual Final Exam Pottery Smash, held near Connecticut Hall last Thursday on April 26.

Angela Buckley, a senior

archaeology major and the event coordinator of the Archaeology Club said that she hoped for twenty people to show up to the event.

Buckley, who was not initially on the E-board but was elected events coordinator, said that she booked the place and that the club did not have to pay for the space.

Corbett-Baril said she has seen fraternities do events like the one her club is doing. She brought croque mallets from home to help with the smashing and was able to get a hand axe that was "2.5 million years old."

With the money, they hope to get from the event they are planning for a trip to the Museum of Natural History next semester, said Buckley.

The funds will cover majority of the museum costs, but it will not

cover everything, said Buckley.

"I think this might be a really cool stress relief," said Corbett-Baril.

According to the National College Health Assessment, 86 percent of college students have felt overwhelmed by all that they had to do.

"I would definitely try this again. I really appreciate the concept of this event. I'm not the only one that needs to externalize my anger," said Melissa Healey, a freshman English major.

"I like to break things. I like demo. it's very therapeutic for me," said Joe Defilippo, a graduate student studying for certification for foreign language.

Corbett-Baril said she bought the pottery from Goodwill and that it cost about \$80.

PLEASE SEE POTTERY PAGE 6

Senior studio art students reflect on their inspirations

Senior art students present their thesis projects

By Melanie Espinal

Studio art senior Brian Moringiello, said photography allows him to manipulate the "weird."

Moringiello's photography is on display in the Hilton C Buley Library as part of the Studio Art Thesis Exhibition. His thesis provides his interpretations of 17th century style paintings and pairs them with the absurdity and dark humor of "Alice In Wonderland."

There are some parallels in his photography between the large masks and characters of the famous tale like the Cheshire Cat.

Among the several art theses on display is also a wall of brightly colored squares, which matched the bright pink and blue ponytails of its artist's Diana Cortavarria, a senior studio art major.

Cortavarria said her main for the project was to "transition painting and sculpture."

The mixed media artwork centers around a motif called la chakana, a geometrical symbol rooted in the ancient culture of the Empire of Inca, a native tribe of South America.

The cross-like symbol is repeated in many of her bright small painted canvases and metal sculptures. Cortavarria said her inspiration for the project was heavily influenced by Peruvian and Pre-Columbian culture and ancestors.

She said she took these symbols and recontextualized them in intuitive forms and shapes. The journey of her art project, involved creating nearly 35 paintings and over 100 metal casting sculptures.

One of her pieces on display is specifically inspired by Pre-Columbian ancient forms of medicine. The piece is her interpretation of an oil press, which is fully functional and intended to be used for medicinal purposes. The oil press can be used to crush seeds like hemp seeds through a process of grinding through sand.

Cortavarria, who has been in the United States since she was 11, said through this project she has connected with her culture in a different way. Through her research she learned about early alchemy and applications of early chemistry, this too connected her with her culture, she said.

"Although I am fluent in Spanish, I lost that connection," she said, but has revived it through the project.

Cortavarria said some of her pieces and color palettes were inspired by people, like one of her red and silver square canvases inspired by another art student, Joseph Schairer, whose art thesis was also on display.

Schairer, whose focus is sculpture, said he loves to work with steel. His work consists of large abstract metal rectangular structures with red cushion like material emerging through the openings. Despite these striking contrasts in metals and soft fabric he said his inspiration is scattered.

"It's easy to correct your mistakes," he said, "you can just cut it out and try something new."



PHOTO | MELANIE ESPINAL

Brian Moringiello, a senior studio art major, and his photographic interpretation of "Alice In Wonderland."



PHOTO | MELANIE ESPINAL

Diana Cortavarria (left), a senior studio art major pictured with her oil press, canvases and metal castings (right) in her senior art thesis project "La Chakana Alquimica," a tribute to her Peruvian ancestry.



PHOTO | MELANIE ESPINAL

A deconstructed abstract octopus (left), part of "Ocean" project by senior studio art major, Emily Allen (right).

Quarterback battle

Junior Matt Sanzaro is one of three signal callers looking to take over for former quarterback Ray Catapano who will be graduating this spring

By Kevin Crompton

Former Owls quarterback Ray Catapano has left head coach Tom Godek and the rest of the Southern football program with a season impacting decision.

With Catapano having taken his final snap last fall, spring practice for 2018 has offensive coordinator Chris Bergeski's attention on the ongoing quarterback battle between three potential signal callers.

"Right now it's been fun," said Bergeski. "We've been carouseling all three of those guys around — Matt Sanzaro, Brian McNeill, and Matt Sapere.

Bergeski said that he was impressed with all three quarterbacks throughout the spring and has seen significant growth and improvement from each candidate. McNeill, however, has suffered a recent shoulder injury in practice that has put an end to his spring season.

Sapere is the youngest of the three quarterbacks. Last fall he came in as a true freshman and will be

a sophomore for the 2018 season. While Bergeski said Sapere has "come a long way" from spring practice number one to practice 15, he also said he believes the two older guys have a slight leg up on the competition due to greater experience.

"The two older guys have done a really nice job of stepping in and filling some really big shoes that Ray [Catapano] left," said Bergeski.

Despite the new talent that will be under center this season, both Godek and Bergeski said that the offense will remain similar to last season. The Owls will continue to run a variety of read option and designed quarterback run

plays that Catapano often turned into six points for Southern in 2017.

"We're going to continue to do all that stuff," said

"I think the guys realize we got something special"

— Quarterback Matt Sanzaro

Bergeski. "With [Sanzaro's] legs and reading all different types of guys, what we've been doing for the past couple years here. Nothing has changed. We're expecting big things from the quarterback's arms and legs and just staying as multiple as possible, that's

our number one goal."

Catapano said that on a number of occasions, people have asked him what the difference between he and Sanzaro is. However, there is more in common among the two athletes than there are differences.

"We're both very athletic, we both have good arms, we both know what to do with the ball, we're both smaller — I think he might be a little better at taking care of the ball than I was," said Catapano.

In 2017, Catapano led the team in rushing touchdowns and was second to running back Eli Parks in rushing yards with a total of 653.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIIO

Quarterback Matt Sanzaro drops back for a pass during the 2018 spring game.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Former SCSU head football coach Rich Cavanaugh

Cavanaugh inducted into SCSU Hall of Fame

By Matt Gad

After spending 29 years on the Southern sideline through 2013, former head football coach Rich Cavanaugh will be recognized in this year's Southern Athletic Hall of Fame in June.

"I'm very honored to be selected," Cavanaugh said. "I feel very privileged to be inducted with some outstanding men and women. I'm deeply honored and overjoyed."

Cavanaugh spent a total of 32 years working at Jess Dow Field and he said he met "a lot of outstanding people" that he has maintained friendships with.

"29 years as the head coach; it's quite an incredible number. It's a job that's very difficult," current head football coach Tom Godek said. "For him to do that for that many years, and at the winning pace he did it at, is remarkable."

Godek said him and Cavanaugh speak about once a week during the season and he has a lot of respect for his former head coach.

"I appreciate what I learn from him. As a coach it's great but it's good to know that he's a friend, too," Godek said. "It's not always about football."

In the 80s, Godek played for Cavanaugh as a student-athlete here and then spent time as the team's offensive coordinator.

"I'm really happy that Jay [Moran] had the foresight to bring [the Hall of Fame] back. There's certainly a lot of people out there and it's important," Cavanaugh said. "There's a number of quality candidates that'll hopefully get in one day."

This year's inductees also include women's basketball head coach Kate Lynch, Jeff Stoutland and the 1990 men's soccer team that was coached by present-day UConn head coach Ray Reid.

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 11

SEE HALL OF FAME PAGE 11



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Madison Feshler, a junior, pitching during a game this season.

Softball closes season with double header split

By Matt Gad

This year's Owls softball team, which went 11-31, featured four graduating seniors in catcher Heather Jackson, outfielder Jaime Conklin, infielder BryAnna McIntosh and first baseman and pitcher Victoria Ceballos.

This past Sunday they had their final two collegiate games. Game one of a doubleheader with American International College featured a 5-1 win off a strong outing from freshman Jazmyn Martinez, who threw a complete seven inning game allowing five hits, a walk, an earned run and seven strike-

outs, and game two was a 4-3 extra inning loss.

"There's a lot of emotions: Sadness, happiness, excitement," McIntosh said. "There was just a mixture of emotions throughout the whole game."

McIntosh batted .286 this season with 36 hits and 19 RBI. April 9 she was named to the NE-10 Conference Weekly Honor Roll after a string of games gave her a .444 batting average with a .611 slugging percentage.

Jackson came up 2-3 and scored two runs in the first game and Ceballos recorded two RBI. In the second game, Conklin had an RBI of her own.

"This was one of our smallest

[graduating] classes, so far," head coach Jill Rispoli said, who took over the program in 2014. "Last year we graduated 12 kids. This year we're down to four so it's significantly less but it's just as emotional as it always is."

Despite the team finishing 20 games under .500 and missing out on giving Rispoli her first playoff season, she said it is not about the record right now.

"You've got to go through these ups and downs emotionally and always think about next year," she said. "You want to build and build and build, but it's always hard to see these guys go."

SEE SOFTBALL PAGE 10

Sam Darnold is the future of the Jets

By Matt Gad

Did the Jets finally get it right with a quarterback during last week's NFL Draft? Well, who knows. Baker Mayfield went number one overall to the Cleveland Browns, who are also a franchise in limbo, and then the Giants took a potential star running back in former Penn State tailback Saquon Barkley. At three the Green and White picked up Sam Darnold, out of USC, who was projected to

be the first pick of the entire draft. All year Jets fans wanted them to tank for Sam, or "suck for Sam," but once they picked up a few wins the possibility seemed slim. However, when the draft came and the Browns took Mayfield, a fairytale started to be written.

Fans were a bit unsure when they heard some of their new gunslinger's comments, predicting that he was unhappy becoming a Jet, but others said that was just his personality. And it is funny because now both New

York quarterbacks are not much for the antics Eli Manning is pretty calmly spoken. The Big Apple is supposed to be a place of glitz and glamour but for No. 10 and No. 14, or whatever Darnold picks, they are pretty even-keel.

The rest of the Jets draft was pretty solid. They took someone out of Miami who fell through the cracks and then they took Tulane's Patty Nickerson. General Manager Mike Maccagnan chose not to go Hollywood and take one-handed wonderkid Shaquon

Griffin because the Jets already have pretty strong defensive depth at the linebacker position but he does present a remarkable story and he has not used any of his setbacks to make people feel sorry for him: Griffin was lights out in college. Lights out. He easily out-did tons of linebackers who had the use of both hands. And when the Seahawks selected him a few days ago he got to reunite with his brother.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

Golf Club eyeing bright future

By Michael Riccio

Zac Parente won two golf tournaments in April, but the president of the Southern Golf Club said the goal for members is focused more on having fun and having a team atmosphere.

"Tournaments are there but they're not meant to be taken that serious," Parente said. "It's just about making friends and after college we all know each other so we can play golf with each other. It's building a community."

During the first regional tournament of the semester in Bloomfield on April 7, Parente had a score of 70-75-145, winning the tournament by five strokes. The next week, Parente followed that up with a tournament win in Oxford with a score of 72-74-146. He said competing in tournaments has added to his college experience.

"It's just a fun way to play golf during college," Parente said. "You get to play competitively but not too competitively. It definitely has a more positive impact than negative. We joke around and it's all in good fun."

As president of the club, Parente said there are more responsibilities for him than there may seem. He said he has to keep track of the club's money for tournaments, coordinate meetings, make sure the team gets to courses on time, get team apparel and represent the university well.

The club plays in the Metro Region of the National Collegiate Club Golf Association. During tournaments, the club competes against local schools such as Fairfield University, Central Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University and Sacred Heart University.

The team practices on Friday at Tradition Golf Club in Wallingford. The practices consist of groups playing 18 holes of golf. Two tournaments are held during the school year, usually in October and April.

Parente said the club does not interfere with school; they are lenient with practices and tournaments only last a weekend. He said compared to many other sports on campus, golf is much more manageable when it comes to balancing school work and competing.

"We practice when we can, so it's up to each individual to manage their own work," Parente said. "The tournaments take time out of your lives but you're only at the course five or six hours, so it's not like you have to push everything off."

Jonathan Wharton, advisor to the club, said he lends a hand in setting up tee times for practices and helps organizes meetings.



SCSU club golf team at the club sports end of year banquet.

PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

"Whatever I can do to help the club president is pretty much what I do," Wharton said. "If they have tournaments and need somebody to go along with them, I'll do that as well."

The club is still looking to improve; however, as Parente and Wharton both said they would like to try to get more students to join. Parente said the club averages about two or three new members each semester and about five for the whole year, but with many players graduating, more members are currently needed. Parente said the president prior to him did a good job recruiting, but would like to advertise the team more.

"The easiest way is putting up posters and putting stuff up on Owl Connect, but it doesn't always get people to join," Parente said. "That's the biggest problem for our club. Other clubs probably have the same problem and it's hard."

Wharton said this season was a difficult transition year for the team as many seniors graduated last year and many are graduating this year. Previous clubs have qualified for national tournaments in the past and were Metro Region Champions

in 2016 and 2017. Wharton said this year's club is feeling the impact of the departed players.

"I'm hopeful we can recruit some more people," Wharton said. "I helped recruit a couple people this semester and heard interest from other people. I realize helping recruit is going to be my chief responsibility now."

In-coming co-presidents Dominick Rello and Matt Zampano said they are looking to bring in new members next season as well. They said they also want to improve the team's scoring by practicing more.

"Our scoring this semester wasn't too hot other than Zac," Rello said. "We would also like to definitely get it known around campus that we have a golf team. Definitely try and fundraise and make it more team oriented."

Wharton said the team enjoys itself more when it is winning rather than losing and he and Zampano said they are looking to improve the team chemistry as well for next season.

"The goal is to have a good time golfing and getting everyone involved and

engaged in it," Wharton said. "I think it's a good reason to just relax and enjoy the times and the moments out there on the course. Make it a team sport again and we have a good time."

Since joining the team in in 2015, Parente said he has seen the club grow and improve throughout the years. He said the club had almost 20 members at one point during his time at Southern, and some female members have joined in recent years as well.

Zampano and Rello also said the club has positively impacted their time at Southern because of the competition of the tournaments. The club has also allowed them to maintain friendships while meeting and connecting with new people involving golf.

Junior John Zoppi said the club allowed him to play a sport while at Southern, and is grateful he was encouraged by a friend to join.

"I've made a lot of good friends from the team and friends that I can see having for a long time," Zoppi said. "It's made my time here so much more enjoyable."

Softball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

She felt confident in the performance of her seniors this spring, two of whom were recruited by Barbaro.

"I think they did a phenomenal job. They stepped up into big defensive roles and big offensive roles. Bri did a hell of a job fielding everything out at shortstop," Rispoli said. "Jaime Conklin, too. Heather Jackson was calling phenomenal games and Tori Ceballos was throwing lights out until she got hurt."

McIntosh said she cannot believe that her playing career is actually over and that every year she would just tell herself that she had another one coming.

"I'm always like, 'oh, I have an extra year, I have another year' but now it's actually over. I don't have another year," McIntosh said.

She has had Rispoli the entire time she has been an Owl and said "everyone kept saying how lucky I was to have her. It's been nice to see those guys perform so well in this big year," Rispoli said.

In 2019, the program will see seven freshmen, four sophomores, two juniors and four seniors return. The freshmen class was led this year by starting pitcher Jazmyn Martinez, who came out of Middletown, N.Y. Sophomore infielder Sara Buscetto, who mainly caught, had 29 runs, 39 hits and 20 RBI and held a .285 batting average.

Next year's senior class will be just two deep in pitcher and outfielder Delany Turner and pitcher Madison Feshler.



Jayden Delaporta, a freshman, in the field during a game this season .

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Cavanaugh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Former SCSU head football coach Rich Cavanaugh on the sideline in 2013.

"[Cavanaugh] has good relationships with guys from the 80s, 90s and 2000s and there's people that he's just as close to as myself," Godek said.

As for next year's team that's currently training and held their spring game last week, Godek said they are "trying to create competition in all areas."

"We broke the team into four different groups and we had four different teams within the team," he said. "Now that spring practice has ended we move into the summer phase."

Former Owl John Moscatel appeared in The Spring League this year, the same league which featured former NFL quarterback Johnny Manziel.

"It's another opportunity to showcase yourself in an actual football setting," Godek said. "You never want to give up on that football dream."

Next year's squad will be without stars in quarterback Ray Catapano, wide receivers Shaquan Hall and Isaiah Dockett and linebacker Michael Cerisano. They return 21 juniors, 12 sophomores and 36 freshmen and lose 12 seniors to graduation.

The 2018 campaign will begin Aug. 30 with Gannon and a new athlete under center in either Matt Sanzaro, Brian McNeill or Matt Sapere.

And going into the new year, Godek believes there's been a bit of a culture change behind the program.

He said "kids have brought up grades left and right" and have spent their time wisely in the weight room, classroom and in community service efforts.

Team Chemistry driving success for Southern sports



Southern softball team huddling together during a game this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

By Matt Gad

Team chemistry is a vital part of what keeps you going as an athlete, both in and out of your athletic practices and competitions. It is what keeps you motivated and looking forward to what's next.

"Communication is vital," sport management professor Kevin McGinniss, who directs the program, said. "It's all about being able to understand each other."

McGinniss received a bachelor's in health education from Southern in 1978 and a master's in athletics administration, also from Southern, in 1985. He later went on to receive his doctorate in education, sport administration and physical education and sport pedagogy from Columbia University, graduating in 1998.

"The buzz word is synergy," he said. "The whole is much greater than any single part and it's important to understand your role [on a team or within an organization.]"

Luke Velez, a senior track and field sprinter, said "being close and connected with each other is extremely important."

"Every weekend that we compete we're going into war and we need to feel like we can count on one another to do their job," he said. "This starts in practice, being able to count on one another, especially in hard workouts."

Velez said, while track is an individual sport, "everyone needs to pull their weight" for the team to be successful.

"Knowing you can count on one another is essential. When you have that close bond with teammates, you know you cannot let them down because everyone knows how much it means to everyone else," he said.

McGinniss has coached boys and men's basketball and has run athletic departments at various colleges and universities. He was also the president and chief executive officer of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference for three years, where Jerry Nelson's women's gymnastics squad competes out of.

"The last basketball team I coached was very unselfish and off the court no one got in trouble," he said. "They really cared for each other."

He said that the skills learned

through being a part of a team can be taken into other aspects in life.

"I really believe it's about how you treat people. People want to be felt that they're a valued member," McGinniss said.

But team chemistry exceeds just the team environment. Velez said that members of the track and field team are around each other all the time.

"A lot of the guys on the team live with one another so everyone's always around each other," he said. "We'll go out to eat after practice and spend a lot of time traveling with one another. Teammates are like siblings; they're built-in friends that you spend all your time with."

He said him and his teammates also stay on campus during school breaks and "since there are no classes, when we're not at practice we're hanging out with one another playing games and eating."

"It's really a wonderful thing coming in freshman year and having friends immediately," he said. "You do everything together exploring new things."

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Godek said that despite the unsolidified QB position, a two-quarterback system is not something that they want to implement this season.

Sanzaro, a junior for the 2018 season, saw time as a holder last year but said he believes he is more than capable of taking over as the starting quarterback come week one.

"I've been here for a couple years now," said Sanzaro. "I'm pretty good with the system, I got the playbook down pat and I'm just hungry and eager to play."

Sanzaro also commented on the similarities that he shares with Catapano.

"I learned a lot from Ray [Catapano] from his time here," said Sanzaro. "In comparison to Ray we're kind of similar players, we're both pretty good athletes. We can throw the ball pretty well in the pocket, we can get outside of the pocket so like I said, I learned a lot from him and I'm just trying to have fun out here and try to do what I can do."

Sanzaro said he has been around football his whole life and growing up in a "football household" you come to love the game.

"My dad played in college. All three of my uncles played in college," said Sanzaro. "My dad was an All-American in Providence when they still had a program, so I've just been surrounded by it since I came out of the womb."

Sanzaro, however, is the first quarterback in his family.

"Everybody else, they played linebacker [or] tight end," he said. "They're all big boys so they were in the trenches and I'm the first quarterback. I don't know really where it came from; I just decided at a young age that I wanted to play quarterback."

Sanzaro said that playing football at the collegiate level is like a full-time job.

"Really to play any sport it's pretty taxing on your body mentally and physically," he said. "You really got to love it, you have to have a drive for it every day. [I love] the feeling walking out of that tunnel and hearing all the people screaming and stuff and just being a team player and helping your team succeed. Ultimately that's any team's goal to win a championship or a conference championship."

Bergeski said that the main thing the three young quarterbacks



Matthew Sapere, a sophomore, throwing the football during the 2018 spring game.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

need to learn and work on is remaining comfortable in the pocket.

"When that pass rush is coming here you can get some hot feet," said Bergeski. "Just staying consistent with our technique and fundamentals inside the pocket and just getting the ball out as fast as we can. That's something I've preached since day one: How fast you can get the ball out of your hands."

Sanzaro said he thinks the Southern football team has a good chance at winning a championship this upcoming season.

"[The team chemistry] is unbelievable. It's something I haven't felt since being here," said Sanzaro. "I think the guys realize we got something special."

2018 spring football game



Linebacker Vance Upham, a sophomore, during the spring game.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO



Receiver Ayinde Briggs, a sophomore, fielding a punt.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO



Linebacker Kobe Wiggins, a junior, engaging a blocker.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO



Defensive back Miles Thomas, a junior, preparing to tackle the ball carrier.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Northeast-10 Standings

BASEBALL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	21	15-6-0	0.714	42	29-13-0	0.690
FRANKLIN PIERCE	22	16-6-0	0.727	40	27-12-1	0.688
MERRIMACK	24	14-10-0	0.583	39	22-17-0	0.564
STONEHILL	21	9-12-0	0.429	34	16-18-0	0.471
ASSUMPTION	25	11-13-1	0.460	43	17-25-1	0.407
BENTLEY	21	11-10-0	0.524	36	17-19-0	0.472
SAINT ANSELM	19	4-15-0	0.211	33	10-23-0	0.303
SAINT MICHAEL'S	18	4-14-0	0.222	36	9-27-0	0.250
SOUTHWEST DIVISION						
LE MOYNE	19	14-4-1	0.763	41	29-11-1	0.720
NEW HAVEN	20	14-6-0	0.700	38	32-6-0	0.842
ADELPHI	19	11-8-0	0.579	40	23-16-1	0.588
PACE	22	10-12-0	0.455	33	16-16-1	0.500
AMERICAN INT'L	23	9-14-0	0.391	41	18-23-0	0.439
SAINT ROSE	20	8-12-0	0.400	35	15-20-0	0.429
SO. CONNECTICUT	18	5-13-0	0.278	40	18-22-0	0.450

SOFTBALL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
SAINT ANSELM	27	23-3-1	0.870	46	36-9-1	0.793
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	27	19-8-0	0.704	47	36-11-0	0.766
MERRIMACK	27	17-10-0	0.630	43	30-13-0	0.698
ASSUMPTION	24	14-10-0	0.583	34	19-15-0	0.559
BENTLEY	29	12-17-0	0.414	42	15-27-0	0.357
SAINT MICHAEL'S	25	7-18-0	0.280	35	10-25-0	0.286
FRANKLIN PIERCE	25	8-17-0	0.320	35	11-24-0	0.314
STONEHILL	29	7-22-0	0.241	39	8-31-0	0.205
SOUTHWEST DIVISION						
ADELPHI	25	17-7-1	0.700	48	28-19-1	0.594
PACE	26	17-9-0	0.654	44	25-19-0	0.568
LE MOYNE	24	15-9-0	0.625	44	32-12-0	0.727
NEW HAVEN	26	14-12-0	0.538	44	24-20-0	0.545
SO. CONNECTICUT	27	9-18-0	0.333	42	11-31-0	0.262
SAINT ROSE	23	8-15-0	0.348	39	13-26-0	0.333
AMERICAN INT'L	22	5-17-0	0.227	39	8-31-0	0.205

OPINIONS

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SNews views IS HIGHER EDUCATION WORTH THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS STRUGGLE?

Southern News staff editorial

College is not for everyone. Although it is a courageous effort by educators to continuously push us towards college and make us feel like any one of us can be the next Barack Obama, the truth is only a very small percentage will come close. Most of us are average Americans who are probably better off economically and mentally without college debt.

Those of us who did not wake up one morning as children and decide we wanted to be teachers or doctors are susceptible to the advice of our peers and educators. Educators and parents want what is best for us, and in our culture, especially those of immigrants who were never given the opportunity to go to college, receiving a bachelor's is the definition of success.

What students don't expect is to feel so insignificant in college culture. They are told by high school teachers they are special and can do anything, and get burned out or drop out freshman year. College is not for everyone.

Also, college should be accessible for those who seek a career that requires a degree. But, this culture of going to college right at 18, where you have no idea what you want to do only encourages students to change their majors four times and sign up for more loans that they can manage post-graduation. It is worth it for those who love to learn and want

to be in the higher education environment.

There are a lot more pros than cons. College is worth the effort. But it may not be worth the time or money for those who are here to meet the demands of everyone but themselves. They will not reap the same benefits, the networking and personal development, because they are less likely to take things seriously. People make more money learning trades, and actually enjoy it.

Whether college is "worth it" or not depends on each individual and their aspirations. For example, if you plan to work in a blue-collar field, then financially I would contest that college is not the right choice. If you have a desire to learn a trade, then going to trade school after college or going to a trade school from high school is the best bet for your wallet.

College buries students in debt so before you decide to enroll in college you should be sure that you wish to pursue a career with the degree you are working towards.

Networking is often more important than skill or knowledge, and college is one of the best places to meet people that may impact your future career. However, college has always been a place that represents more than just gaining a degree. Even if a student does not end up getting a job using their degree, college may still be worth it from a social standpoint. The connections students make are worth just as



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

The outside of Ralph Earl Hall.

much as their degree. Through networking, they are able to find their way in their careers. Higher education without a plan is not worth the amount of debt that will be incurred. Higher education in addition to a plan is priceless.

The question of whether or not college is worth it also poses another question being what does "worth it" mean. Financially, it is only worth it if the career one ends up in was only achievable through a college degree and/or skills and knowledge acquired in college. In addition to this, one's salary must allow them to pay off debt within a reasonable

time frame. Someone may say that regardless of their career and future, that college is worth it because of the experience, growth and character development that they received.

Students should not discredit the opportunities extracurricular activities offer. Some students make their school work chief, but others learn more by participating in their field outside of classes. Ask the astute journalism student, for example, where they learned more-- on the second floor of Morrill Hall or in the field, interviewing administrators for a Southern News or Crescent Magazine article. Ask them for which they spent more of their time and effort, passion and skill.

Saying college is what you make it seems obvious, but with the increasing costs it should be stated. College is absolutely not for everyone. "4 Essential Steps to Decide if College is Worth It," a 2017 article by Shannon Insler, said 44 million people have had to use student loans to get degrees. Placing yourself in tremendous debt to get a degree you may never use is unwise. Higher education without a plan is not worth the amount of debt that will be incurred. However, higher education in addition to a plan is priceless.

College is only as valuable as what you expect to get out of it. If you have an aim to land a specific job from a specific degree, then go for it. However, it seems that too often people get degrees and then find a career

path that does not use their degree for its intended purpose, which is certainly not a bad thing if landing a career path no matter what is your ultimate goal. However, college can help to enrich one's intellectual experience--that's been my own greatest benefit from college. I have been able to explore a lot of different disciplines, and do more beyond my degree. I think college really is dependent on the individual and what they want to do and if they have a specific aim for their post-college plans.

The college experience, especially at Southern, has another benefit. College forces students to face people of different backgrounds, cultures and views. If it were not for college many students would be stuck in the bubble that they grew up in. College allows students to face the many different perspectives in the world that do not match their own. Understanding that their world view is not the absolute view is one of the most important things that college teacher their students.

Ultimately, most only find out whether college is worth it or not after it is too late. Either by the time a student is already enrolled or has already made the decision to not attend, they know if they have made the right choice. While they can always choose to drop out or go to school later and make a commitment to continuing their education, the decision to go or to not go to college is significant.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Hilton C. Buley library.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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

To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Opinion Columns are 500 to 800 words and Letters to the Editor are a maximum of 400 words. They must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, content and length.



Flowers to be planted sitting next to the memorial.

Reflection Garden breaks ground

By Palmer Piana



The SCSU Sandy Hook Alumni Remembrance Garden undergoing construction on Monday April 30.



Plaque stand at the Sandy Hook memorial site.



Temporary construction fence circling the perimeter of the garden.



The unfinished memorial when viewed from below.



A pile of mulch for use in the Reflection Garden.