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Show helps crowd escape the grind
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Employee arraigned for sexual assault

The accused was charged with two counts fourth-degree sexual assault and two counts second-degree unlawful restraint



PHOTO COURTESY | ISABEL CHENOWETH
Assistant Director of Residence Life Mark Parrott was arraigned last week.

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor
and **August Pelliccio**
Photo Editor

Assistant Director of Residence Life Mark Parrott was arrested and charged with two counts of misdemeanor sexual assault in the fourth-degree and two counts of second-degree unlawful restraint, according to court records.

He was released from custody with the promise to appear in court, according to the Connecticut Judicial

Branch website.

While the university pursues a Title IX investigation, Parrott is on administrative leave, according to Integrated Communications and Marketing Director Patrick Dilger.

Dilger stated in an email that Parrott has been working at the university since 2008. Parrott is also an alumnus.

According to the arrest affidavit, the incident began at about 7 p.m. on April 4, after the graduate open house. Parrott and the victim, a staff member, were

riding an Adanti Student Center elevator down, with three other individuals who exited on the plaza level.

When alone with the victim, Parrott allegedly grabbed them from behind and locked his arms. The victim tried to get out of the elevator, pressing buttons and leaning forward, saying, "What are you doing? Stop, chill, alright, alright," according to the affidavit.

Parrott told police, according to the affidavit, he had a joking relationship with the victim.

Parrott was not under the influence of alcohol, drugs

or prescribed medication at the time of the incident, according to the affidavit. Parrott stated he does not recall the victim saying "no" or "stop."

Parrott let go, and the two exited the elevator, heading toward the Office of Residence Life in Schwartz Hall.

The victim told police Parrott allegedly grabbed them again in the office, held them against the door, and then pulled them down with him to his office chair. The victim said they clearly stated they were being held against their will.

The victim told police they could allegedly feel Parrott's erection against their buttocks area during the incidents, according to the affidavit.

No other physical contact was reported, and after a few minutes of discussing an unrelated subject, the victim told police, they left the office.

Parrott stated to police he believed his behavior was inappropriate and submitted a written statement, according to the records, admitting that in both incidents he hugged the victim.

See Arraigned Page 2

SGA executive board voted on

Old and new members take on board positions for Student Government

By Essence Boyd
Copy Editor
and **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

After being reelected Student Government Association President Alexis Zhitomi, appointed the executive board that would serve beside her during the 2019-2020 academic year last week.

The board is composed of six members which the elected president selects and SGA representatives-at-large then vote in favor of or against.

"E-board was a very difficult decision. This entire week I spent meeting with everybody that [was] interested," said Zhitomi. "I had to take some time for some serious consideration and see what direction I wanted to see SGA to go in and what people would

make that picture happen."

The six who were appointed to the executive board were: Brooke Mercaldi as executive vice president, Samantha Widomski as secretary, Isaiah Yopp as treasurer, Sarah Gossman as vice president of the Board of Academic Experience, Katia Bagwell as vice president of the Board of Student Experience and Madison Miceli as vice president of the Board of Outreach and Communication.

Former Vice President of the Board of Outreach and Communication Ian Bergemann resigned from the association at the end of last week's meeting.

"I am resigning because I think I'm done working within the boundaries of SGA, and I'm ready to kind of advocate for students in a different way," said Bergemann.

See SGA Page 2

Social Justice minor in the works for fall 2020 semester

Sociology department partners with multiple majors

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

By the 2020 fall semester, professor and Graduate Program Coordinator of Sociology Jessica Kenty-Drane said she hopes to see a minor in social justice officially offered at the university.

"As I chase down the last signatures," said Kenty-Drane, "I'm hoping, by the end of this semester, I will send it to the [Undergraduate Curriculum Forum] [and] it'll be on their agenda for the fall."

About two years ago,

Kenty-Drane said she and the former Dean of Arts and Sciences had discussed integrating President Joe Bertolino's strategic plan of social justice into the curriculum.

"We thought the minor looked pretty viable," said Kenty-Drane.

The creation of the minor, she said, was a large undertaking because she wanted to be inclusive to all majors.

"Some of the majors can't include that many," she said, "because they are restricted to the major - the coursework that we would kind of fit."

See Minor Page 3

Lavender Graduation celebrates seniors

The third annual event recognized the achievements of graduating LGBTQ+ students



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Physics and engineering double major Christian Peloso with his cord at the Lavendar Graduation ceremony.

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

As graduation approaches, a ceremony was held to celebrate the achievements of six students in the LGBTQ+ community and their contributions to the university.

The third annual Lavender Graduation was conducted last week. Students were presented with lavender cords to wear at graduation on May 24.

The keynote speaker, Colleen Bielitz, associate vice president for strategic initiatives and outreach, gave them six lessons to take with them.

"Be kind to others, help others, and make memories people have of you that will outlast your mortality. Be courageous, step outside of your comfort zone, and

know that life will take care of you in its own way," said Bielitz.

Lavender Graduation, Bielitz said, was created by Ronni Sanlo, an author, after she was denied the right to attend her children's graduation because of her sexual orientation.

As a result, she created Lavender Graduation in 1995 to honor LGBTQ+ students.

During her speech, Bielitz spoke about her own experiences with her family and the advocacy she has done in the community by speaking at conferences and local schools. Out of all her lessons, she said, "life takes care of you in its own way," was the most important.

One of the graduating seniors, Maui Lopez, an interdisciplinary studies major, cried when hearing Bielitz's speech.

See Graduation Page 2



Peloso receiving his cord from Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Outreach Colleen Bielitz (left) and SAGE Center Coordinator Jenna Retort.

Research projects receive recognition

By **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

What was meant to be a small class project utilizing data has since turned into submissions to both the American Psychological Association and the Eastern Psychological Association.

Using Billboard charts for the music genres of pop, country and rap/R&B, psychology professor Patricia Kahlbaugh said her students in PSY 393: Experimental Methods decided to research how much the content of song lyrics changed from 1989 to 2017.

They also researched whether those lyrical changes reflected or shaped American culture.

“We didn’t do 30 years of music lyrics, it was two data points [1989 and 2017],” said Kahlbaugh, “and [the students] looked at the top 10 best songs of that – in that music genre— and the worst songs, meaning 90 to 100.”

The class, Kahlbaugh said, was compromised of

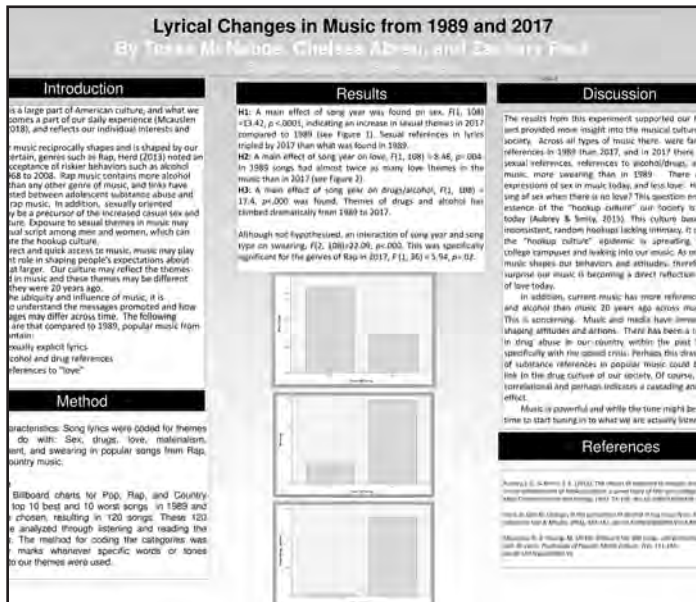


PHOTO COURTESIES | PATRICIA KAHLBAUGH

A poster of the Lyrical Changes in Music from 1989-2017 research project.

seven students who were juniors and seniors.

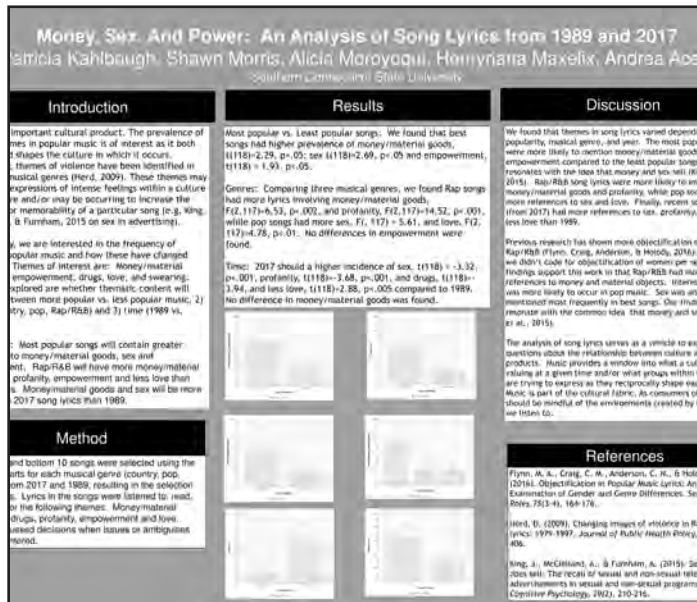
The two studies conducted were titled *Money, Sex, and Power: An Analysis of Song Lyrics from 1989 and 2017* and *Lyrical Changes in Music from 1989 and 2017*.

The data found as a result of the two studies, Kahlbaugh said, was a

significant increase in the percentage of lyrics referencing sex and drugs in rap/R&B and pop music.

A decrease in lyrics pertaining to love between 1989 and 2017 was found as well, she said.

In 2017, the most popular songs of the genres had more mentions of materialism, empowerment



A poster of the Money, Sex, and Power: An Analysis of Song Lyrics from 1989 and 2017 research project.

and sex, as opposed to the least popular songs that did not mention them as much.

“[The students] just did a hatch mark for each time the theme was mentioned,” said Kahlbaugh.

In terms of country music, although little had changed in its references to love and sex, the data

found in the past five to 10 years there was an increase in references to drug and alcohol.

“We chose those genres because we think those are the most popular today and, in the past,” said psychology major and one of the authors of the study titled *Lyrical Changes in*

Music from 1989 and 2017 Tessa McNaboe. “I think everyone can kind of, you know, [generalize] with the fact that we all like, you know, both of those or all of those genres.”

“As I did more and more research in the project, I just became really fascinated with the concept,” said McNaboe, “and, like, what we were actually learning and what we were researching.”

One of the goals of their hypothesis, McNaboe said, was to examine whether the changes in music trends had affected any societal or cultural changes as well.

“We can’t make causation,” said McNaboe. “We’re just kind of connecting the dots, but we can’t say. We can’t say one does cause another.”

According to McNaboe, the results do correlate with the surge in hookup culture and substance abuse that was not as present in 1989.

It cannot be determined whether the changes have influenced one another.

Arraigned

Continued from Page 1

An attempt was made last week to reach Residence Life Director Rob DeMezzo, but he was unavailable for comment.

According to the university’s website, his position “supervises the upper-class residence hall communities, coordinates the educational and student development missions of the department, and assists with the selection, training and development of paraprofessional staff

members.”

An email statement was released by President Joe Bertolino last week about the alleged incidents and the university’s disapproval of such behavior.

“I also want to reinforce that sexual harassment and sexual violence are not acceptable behaviors in our community and are violations of the law, University policies and the Student Code of Conduct,” Bertolino stated in the email.

Parrott is expected to enter a not guilty plea at the end of the month.

Graduation

Continued from Page 1

“It’s just emotional thinking back to seven years of school and my participation in the queer community, how it’s nice to see other people around me, and other allies in the queer community,” said Lopez. “That just got me emotional.”

While attending the university, Lopez said they participated in Prism, as well as other events in the community such as

Pride in the Park and the True Colors Conference. Lopez said they experienced discrimination while advocating, but their experience at Southern has been mostly positive.

“I’ve had my fair share, but Southern overall is pretty engaging, pretty understanding,” said Lopez. “In an ideal or perfect world, no one would be discriminatory against the queer community, but it happens.”

Physics and engineering major Christian Peloso, and one of the seniors, said he enjoyed the Lavender Graduation because it was

a smaller ceremony where his mother could come see him get his certificate.

In addition to helping start the Larping Club, Peloso said he participated in Prism and has been involved in the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

“I went to Prism a couple of times and that wasn’t really my thing, but knowing that support group and the SAGE Center, which I’m now a part of, is really great to have,” said Peloso.

Social work major Rory Dougall, who was also amongst the graduates, said he enjoyed the smaller

graduation ceremony.

Dougall has been part of Prism and an advocate on campus. He has done presentations in classes and advocated for inclusion of material related to sexuality as part of education for people with disabilities and educated public health students on human sexuality.

Jenna Retort, the SAGE Center Coordinator said after working closely with the students, she said it is bittersweet to see them go.

“It’s sad to see them go,” said Retort “but you know they’re going to go off and do really great things.”

SGA

Continued from Page 1

According to Bergemann, the structure of SGA was hindering his access to serving students the way he intended to.

“It’s a structured kind of organization where they have to go through proper channels to do things and I am more of somebody who wants more quicker results and wants discussions to be happening that day,” said Bergemann. “I think I am somebody who could do better for the school outside of the organization rather than in it.”

Although Bergemann is resigning, he said since joining the organization he has learned how the university works and how to get things done on campus.

He said he wishes the remaining members of the SGA organization the best.

According to Representative-at-Large Benson Rodrigues, he was disappointed after hearing who was elected for the future executive board due to its lack of male representation.

“As for e-board, I’m going to be honest I am disappointed with the lack of male representation on the board. For almost the second or third year now, there’s only one guy for seven seats,” said Rodrigues.

Rodrigues said the future executive board not only shows a lack of diversity, but it also does not represent the university or the inclusive values it



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

The newly elected executive board members include Sarah Gossman, vice president of the Board of Academic Experience (top to bottom, left to right), Sam Widomski, secretary, Katia Bagwell, vice president of Board of Student Experience, Isaiah Yopp, treasurer, Madison Miceli, Vice president of Board of Outreach and Communication and Brooke Mercaldi, executive vice president.

prides itself on.

“It doesn’t really match the campus as well as I like, and I think that is something that should be looked on diversity in practice, but also in thought should be respected and you show that respect by surrounding yourself with people who have different opinions than you, not just by yes-men,” said

Rodrigues.

According to Zhitomi, the abundance of female executive board members was due solely to the fact the organization is predominately female, and the group is grateful for the one male that is on the board to represent the gender.

“Unfortunately, we are predominately female, so

it is very tough, especially when I look at the kind of people who are interested,” said Zhitomi. “There were other individuals who were interested, and it’s obviously something I look at because I think it is important, but that was something unfortunately I had to decide on. We are very glad for Isaiah [Yopp] to be representing that

role, but it was a give and take. It’s something that I am aware of and look to improve, but also that just means trying to [diversify the] SGA body as a whole.”

Besides needing a more diverse inclusive board, Zhitomi would also like a more diverse set of opinions for the future of SGA.

“I think, [on] the

e-board, I was able to put together there’s a lot of individuals that have other involvement outside of SGA,” said Zhitomi. “Being able to bring those voices into SGA and hear those concerns from a different lens, rather than someone who is just SGA tunnel vision wouldn’t see, so I am very excited to see how that goes.”

Student profile: Zhitomi's time in SGA

By **Essence Boyd**
Copy Editor

For a second year in the row, Alexis Zhitomi has been elected Student Government Association president after running against representatives-at-large Benson Rodrigues and Isaiah Yopp.

The three candidates were given the opportunity to express to the SGA council why they each felt they were best suited for the job as SGA president for the 2019-2020 academic school year.

During her speech, Zhitomi said she felt she has yet to prove what she can do for the organization, students and the university.

"I am running for president because I believe I'm not done yet," said Zhitomi. "I don't think I'm done serving SGA and advocating for our student body."

According to Zhitomi, although her competition focused on the difference between experience and good leadership, she felt as though her experience is what separated her from the other candidates.



SGA President Alexis Zhitomi.

PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

"I have been part of SGA for three years. I have poured my heart and soul into the organization, and I have honestly tried to be the best leader I can

be," said Zhitomi. "I have learned what to do and what not to do, and I feel like if you elect me as president, I'll be able to hit the ground running."

After candidates stated their cases and the votes were tallied, Zhitomi was named SGA president of the 2019-2020 academic school year.

"SGA in a whole, just being able to lead that group is a great honor, but also just kind of my perfect dream because I am surrounded by student leaders that also have the same mission of advocating," said Zhitomi.

Unlike Zhitomi, during his speech Rodrigues proposed the notion of the board becoming democratic again, thus giving every representative who wants to be on the executive board a fair chance to do so.

"During my time in SGA I noticed there were a lot of problems that weren't necessarily working. People were being appointed to positions based on their time served in student government rather than their merit of the position," said Rodrigues, a sophomore physics and secondary education major.

According to Yopp, he would have liked to make SGA more transparent and geared toward the needs of students if he were elected

president.

"I really feel connected to the student body no matter what size, shape or color, and I want SGA to be about that, but I also want it to be about transparency, honesty and to really focus on student need," said Yopp.

Currently, the person whom is president appoints five representatives into the e-board based on his or her observations of the councils displayed abilities. As president, Zhitomi said, for the future of SGA, she would like to make sure that everyone's voice is heard.

"My hope is that we bring more voices in, different voices from different clubs and organizations as well, and hearing what our reps have to say and what their personal agenda was in SGA because what I want to achieve in SGA is going to be different in what a rep wants to achieve," said Zhitomi.

According to Zhitomi, the biggest lesson she has learned in her past year as president is "that you cannot do it all on your own."

"I am very much an individual and hard-working person, and that sometimes it is hard

for me to reach out for help because I feel like I need to do everything, and it's impossible to do everything. I had to learn had to trust and rely on people around you," said Zhitomi. "I can do great things, but I can't do it alone."

As president, one of Zhitomi's duties is appointing an executive board that will serve with her during her time in the position next academic year. While appointing the board, Alexis said one of the things she was looking for was commitment.

"As student leaders we also are involved in multiple other things, so just being able to set aside SGA time and commit. Commitment is a big thing, we don't want them to overwhelm themselves," said Zhitomi. "Everyone is different, I'm not looking for six others of me."

Although Rodrigues and Yopp were not appointed president, both representatives made it clear that they were not planning on leaving SGA.

"I will continue to stay part of Student Government Association to make this organization the best it can be," said Rodrigues.

Nursing school celebrates 50th anniversary

By **Haljit Basuljevic**
Reporter

In light of their 50th year of educating students, the Nursing Program took a look back on their history of growth and achievement.

The celebratory anniversary will be hosted later this year.

Chairperson of the Nursing Program and professor Lisa Rebesch, through email, stated this is an exciting time for the faculty and students.

Having been dubbed as one of the best programs at Southern, Rebesch said what has remained the same for the nursing program throughout the years is the standard of "excellence in preparing the next generation of students."

What began as one program with 14 students and three faculty members has evolved into one of the largest departments on campus, filled with students whom Rebesch

said are a "force to be reckoned with."

In its current list of accomplishments, lies growth that yielded seven programs and 3,500 alumni.

"The biggest change is in the types of programs that we have," said professor Susan Westrick, who said the Nursing Program has extended beyond traditional lecture rooms and into more innovative methods of teaching to ensure competence in a hypercompetitive field.

The program, according to Westrick uses labs and simulations more frequently.

She said, with these relatively new advancements, students are able to keep up an exciting pace where other schools are also seeing their enrollment numbers increase. She said for even undergraduate programs, the task has become much more complicated and complex for professors as a whole. No longer is it

just preparing notes and lecturing.

She said she has been proud of what students from the program have gone on to do for their careers. Most notably, she said, many of the graduates have ended up prospering in administrative and leadership roles. She also said at least 20 percent of the staff are, or have been, graduates.

"We're lucky in that way because the students really want to do this. It's career focused, so they're motivated," said Westrick.

Rebesch and Westrick both said physical space, which contains clinical placements and labs, remains limited and is a challenge the program faces.

Addressing this issue will be the new School of Health and Human Services building which, according to Westrick, has already broken ground.

The new building would also bridge the split



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Chairperson of the Nursing Program and professor Lisa Rebesch (left) and nursing Professor Susan Westrick (right).

between staff situated in both Jennings and the Nursing Classroom Building. Rebesch added that she is involved in the program planning and building design and

the building should be complete in a couple of years.

Westrick will act as co-chair for the anniversary event, which is prepared to host keynote

speaker and early alumna, Leslie Mancuso.

"I have been privileged to work with some of the best students and faculty colleagues on the campus," said Rebesch.

Minor

Continued from Page 1

Although those departments may not be represented within the over 100 course offerings of the potential minor, Kenty-Drane said that does not mean those majors are not thinking about equity issues as well.

The definition of social justice from which Kenty-Drane said she used as guidance comes from the sociology graduate studies objective.

"Social justice is a social action promoting a just society, where equality and access to liberty, rights and opportunities are essential and where the life and well-being of those most disadvantaged in society



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Professor of Sociology and graduate coordinator, Jessica Kenty-Drane.

are prioritized," said Kenty-Drane.

The social justice minor,

Kenty-Drane said, would explore how to achieve that in society and allow

students to reflect on what social justice means to them in terms of societal norms,

cultural movements or politics.

Political Science Department Chairperson Kevin Buterbaugh said the decision for the political science department to oversee the minor was "an internal discussion" amongst the faculty.

"Sociology had some courses that they thought would fit, and after talking with faculty members," said Buterbaugh, "they said, 'Well maybe a student might think it's about social justice, but there's no clear, like, a section of the course or course objective,' and so several faculty said they did not want their class a part of it because of potential false advertising-type issues, but largely it was an internal discussion: does it really fit, are we going to do the objectives, will they be clear to students that is part of social justice, and how

and why - things like that"

Defining social justice is not easy, Buterbaugh said.

"Generally speaking," said Buterbaugh, "my perspective - and this obviously just mine - would be that each individual is treated equally under the law, each individual has the same opportunities to success in life. Along with those obviously means that you can't have discrimination against people on racial, sexual, whatever kinds of lines."

In order to create that type of equality, Buterbaugh said it is important for students to understand "the mechanisms of politics."

"If you don't know how American government operates," said Buterbaugh, "how are you going to be able to use politics to get social justice?"

Farewell to the graduating seniors

Journalism taught me more than writing



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Kevin Crompton
By Kevin Crompton
Editor-in-Chief

I never thought I would work for a newspaper in any capacity, let alone work my way up to Editor-in-Chief of that very publication. However, it was one of the best decisions and accomplishments during my four years at Southern.

Coming to Southern, fresh out of high school I really wasn't sure what career path I wanted to pursue. I started out as a business marketing major and it was not until junior year that I made the switch to journalism.

I was confident in my writing skills and wanted to develop them even more but it was my passion for sports that led me to my involvement in the campus newspaper.

A couple steps too slow and about 20 pounds too skinny, it was evident I wasn't

getting drafted by the Dallas Cowboys. However, getting paid to watch, write and talk about sports? That just might be the next best thing.

In the past two years, I attended practices, covered countless games and wrote numerous profiles. However, it wasn't being around sports that made the job so rewarding. It was the people.

The coaches, athletes and many other students, faculty and administrators that I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with through my multiple positions at the Southern News is truly remarkable. Everyone has a story, and being able to help tell the stories of others is one of my favorite perks of journalism.

It was not just outside of the newsroom that people impacted my experience at Southern but also inside the newsroom. Through working at the Southern News I have met some of my closest friends. Not only did they have a positive impact on my time at Southern but these lifelong friendships will continue to have an impact on my next steps in life.

I wouldn't be where I am today without the help and guidance from my professors. Southern News advisors Prof. Simoneau and Prof. Harris were mentors to me. They taught me how to be a better writer and reporter but it went beyond that too. They were role models and examples of how to act as a professional and navigate through the field of journalism and the much larger field of life.

The so called enemy of the people



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Victoria Bresnahan
By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor

Words are powerful.

As a journalist, my job is to write the news via the words of other people. I question those words, constantly, to make sure they are truthful. If written well enough, a story can change everything.

I have interviewed rape survivors, students thriving despite having Cerebral Palsy, students who spoke out when professors used the n-word, a mass shooting survivor and many more. In addition, the small handful of administrators and faculty members who have spoken candidly with me about university issues has always been appreciated. Their words transformed me into someone who found their own voice again and felt confident enough to take charge.

I have made mistakes throughout my time here. I am my hardest critic and I spent many nights going over and over again in my head the errors I made. Those mistakes, however, have made me into the hardest working person I know. I thank the Southern News advisors Cindy Simoneau and Frank Harris and the other journalism professors for always holding my feet to the fire whether it be in class or at the newspaper.

Despite all of this, as a journalist who has covered this university intensely, I am concerned by some administrators' words--or lack thereof. I am concerned by the way this university views the Southern News. Almost every week during this semester alone, a news story

in the Southern News experienced backlash or hesitation.

Whether it was disapproval of what we were writing about or concerns that I defamed a professor, or the many people who have questioned my ability to understand something, or when a photographer was told they cannot shoot a public event despite Southern being a public institution, or when professors and administrators were hesitant to give me public records despite Southern being a public institution, or when professors tried to take over an interview by questioning me instead, or the multiple people who asked us to send them an article beforehand so they can make sure we did not get anything wrong.

When people silence, ignore or threaten press rights they are silencing, ignoring and threatening their rights to obtain information.

This should be a concern of everyone. I recently had an interview with President Joe Bertolino about minority retention rates and the efforts the university is making to increase it. He told me that if the university is going to use words like social justice university then they have to roll up their sleeves and make it that way. How powerful.

In our own way, I think the Southern News has also rolled up their sleeves. We are committed to social justice by writing about the issues that affect the student body. I am not the university's enemy. I do not write to promote or dismantle this university. I write about it, constantly, in the hopes that some form of change will happen on this campus. I am a journalist first, but behind the title of news editor lies a student like everyone else. When I was laughed at for asking a question, I did not just remember that as a journalist but also as a student. When my own personal life story was ridiculed, I remembered it not just as a journalist but as a student.

During my time at the Southern News, I have taken great pride in my work. I have greatly enjoyed the moments of laughter and triumphs in the newsroom. Those are the memories that will stay with me the most as I move on to the next chapter of my life. For me, journalism is one of the ultimate ways to provide justice to those who have been silenced. I hope that during my small time at the newspaper, I have done just that.

Roll those sleeves up high. The Southern News will be watching.

Grateful for my time in student media



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Michael Riccio
By Michael Riccio
Managing Editor

Heading into college, I had no clue what I wanted to do. I did not even want to go to college after high school. I did not declare to be a journalism major until November of my sophomore year. However, I learned during my four years at Southern that it is okay to not have everything figured out and planned for you.

I joined the radio station, WSIN, during my first week of freshman year because I wanted a show talking about sports. During my first show, I met Quinn O'Neill, who became one of my closest friends. We did a show together every week for three years and broadcasted numerous football games, men's and women's basketball games and baseball games for four years. Broadcasting games with Quinn and talking about sports with him on air is really what got me more and more interested in journalism.

Before junior year, Prof. Jodie Gil encouraged me to write for the sports section of the newspaper. I was unsure about it at first, but it turned out to be the best decision I made. I was just contributing during junior year, but

Kevin Crompton said to apply for the Sports Editor position for my senior year. Through writing and working with him, Kevin became one of my closest friends as well, and I would not have become good friends with him or Quinn if I did not join either clubs.

One of my favorite stories at Southern came while I was Sports Editor. The football team lost on Senior Day 24-13 to undefeated LIU Post, but were losing by only four points with eight minutes to go. After the game, head coach Tom Godek told me how much he appreciated an article I wrote about running back Eli Parks, how professionally written it was and wished "there was more articles written like that."

I was surprised to hear him say that, especially after losing the final home game of the season to a nationally ranked team, but it meant so much to me. It showed me people on campus were reading some of my articles and cared about them and assured me that maybe I can actually do this after graduating college.

Becoming Managing Editor for the spring semester was my proudest moment during my four years here. It was something else that happened during college that I never had planned out for myself.

I owe a lot to Prof. Simoneau and Prof. Harris as well. They held me to a high standard during my time as a student and editor, and it made me want to put my best work forward and made it feel like the work done in the classroom and newsroom is important.

If in high school, someone told me I would be broadcasting games over the campus radio station, I would be Sports Editor, then Managing Editor, of the campus newspaper or even graduate school in four years, I would not have believed it. I still do not know what I am going to do after graduation. However, being a journalism major and a part of the campus media has taught me it is okay not knowing what is going to happen, and it has given me confidence where I know I am going to figure it out.

I traded my dorm room for a newsroom



PHOTO | LEXI SCICCHITANO

August Pelliccio
By August Pelliccio
Photo Editor

It was five years ago that I decided I would spend my life working as an acoustician. Having been accepted into the only undergraduate acoustical engineering program in the country, I was prepared; eager.

The universe has a complex way of leading those to what they really want. Some force in the ether grabbed me away from ones and zeros, and dropped me into the world of art, language and truth—and it drug me through the dirt along the way.

One year, eight months and nine days ago—I had transferred to Southern already and abandoned math and science to pursue an infatuation for writing and reporting—I wrote my first news article.

Straight into the deep end I went, being scrutinized for a marginal writing mistake.

"This error, in particular, will cause havoc in our office," an administrator wrote.

I knew from then this field is no joke. No other students on campus received so much backlash and disgust for enduring

an educational process. Students who frequent Morrill Hall, floor two, are some of the only whose work is audited publicly with a fine-tooth comb. Just learning, yet still rebuked.

No matter, I decided.

I could take the heat.

Unfazed by the global growing distrust of media. I have spent these three years falling desperately in love with the life of the press. Hard news, feature news, photojournalism, I could not get enough.

Being unafraid to ask the tough questions, un-intimidated to photograph world-famous figures and unencumbered by a lead that required digging has made me the reporter I am.

The effect is clear. Reporters have the opportunity to give a voice to the voiceless. Reporters share the spotlight with individuals who were blind to it prior.

We also tell the whole truth: the truth some do not want told. Quick thinking in those cases meant, at times, this student-run newspaper beat local, professional reporters to statewide stories.

That confidence, that tenacity, did not come free, and it did not come easy.

I studied great journalists before me, trying to achieve at their level of professionalism.

Motivation came at the end of long nights, in Adanti Student Center room 225. That is where I have grown since August 2017. I hold the newsroom close to my heart, and leave it in the kind hands of those to come.

I commute from almost 40 minutes away, and I can confidently say I spend more time in the newsroom, most days, than I do at home. When I walk back into the newsroom after a late event, or when I first arrive here in the mornings, I feel at home. My fellow editors are like roommates.

The summer after high school, I moved into a dorm room. This month, I move out of room 225.

Looking back: Spring of 2003



Women's basketball wins first national championship

Women's basketball won the Division II championship 61-45 over undefeated Florida Gulf Coast. LaShauna Jones scored a career-high 19 points in the win. Kate Lynch, a junior forward, scored 14 points and was named MVP of the tournament. "I can't describe the feeling," Lynch said. "It's a dream come true."

For the season, Lynch set a program record for most points scored with 647, while she and Shamika Jackson were named All-Americans. The team finished with a record of 34-2.

January

- Theatre major Heidi Voight, a senior, competed in the Miss America pageant. Voight won the Miss Connecticut pageant in 2006.
- Women's basketball began the season 20-0, their longest win streak in program history.

February

- The swim team's trip to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. was cancelled because of a hazing incident involving team members. At a party the team hosted, recruits got drunk, passed out and had drawings on their faces when they woke up.
- Men's and women's indoor track and field won the NE10 Championship. It was the men's fifth championship in a row.
- A pizza delivery man from More Than Pizza was assaulted in the North Campus parking lot. For the second time in two weeks.

March

- Five inches of rain caused flooding in Lot 10. Five cars were towed or totaled because of the flood.
- Kate Lynch was named MVP of the NE10 Tournament after scoring a career-high 32 points in the championship game.

April

- The brothers of Beta Mu Sigma partnered with the Southern Police to organize the first ever "Jail 'N' Bail" fundraiser to help raise money for the Special Olympics. The event raised over \$14,000.
- Women's head basketball coach Joe Frager was hired to become the next head coach for the women's team at Fairfield University.
- Sam Diaz III was elected as 2008 Senior Class President, while Mark Parrott was elected as the new Student Trustee on the CSU Board of Trustees.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Michael Riccio, Managing Editor

Science clubs clean Long Wharf Beach

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Members of the Biology Club, Geographic Environment and Marine Sciences Club, Biotechnology Club and more, gathered for the first time on Saturday, May 4 to clean Long Wharf Beach in New Haven.

Long Wharf, located off Exit 91, is home to a theater, cultural food trucks and a historic schooner (a type of boat) called "Quinnipiack." Along the sand, shores and rocky beach students said they found objects from shirts and styrofoam to blunts and heroin needles.

"It's kinda sad that people come out here on the beach and expect it to be clean but are stepping on a whole bunch of different trash," said freshman social work major Jurea McIntosh.

Biology major Syrenitee Kee, a freshman said she and others cleaned up the beach two weeks prior, only for her to return to it looking the same way it had been before. She said there is no real reason to pollute the environment and it is simple enough to throw a piece of garbage where it belongs: in the garbage.

According to The Guardian, climate scientists have warned there are only twelve years left until the Earth's damage is irreversible. Once global warming surpasses its maximum limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius, the article stated, even the slightest increase in temperature will significantly intensify the possibility of droughts, floods and extreme heat.

"[Most people] don't realize that we should've been doing all this stuff a long time ago," said social work major Arabelle Ebnoti, a freshman said. "Now that [those same people] think the world is ending they want



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

The Students who participated in the beach cleanup.

to make a difference, but it's too late."

While it may be "too late," McIntosh said that does not mean people should refrain from doing anything to help. Helping clean the beaches or any polluted area, she said, helps one to feel good about themselves. It does not hurt to come out and clean, and it allows a person to give back to the environment, she said.

Since Kee studies to become a marine biologist, she said she wants to help clean up and reduce pollution for the sake of the animals.

It is nice to know, she said, that she can help prevent them from getting caught in plastic or swallowing something hazardous.

Despite the abundance of food trucks on the beach, there were no places for beach-goers to put their trash, except on the beach.

Kee said if the operators know food will be served, they should have a place to put the trash, or else people will feel obligated to put it wherever they please.

"Find a garbage, it's not that hard," she said. "They need to

realize the consequences that we're facing, and we shouldn't have to come out and clean up after other people. They just shouldn't be [littering] in the first place."

Computer science major Jared Valde, a freshman said people need to start making a change. He said it does not take much to make a difference, and recommended that people recycle, compost and abstain from littering.

"It's the little things that count," said Valdes. "Save the Earth."

Students reveal their summer plans



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Psych major Caitlyn Coster

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

Whether it is a trip to the beach, spending the entire day sleeping in bed or working all week, students are finding ways to fill their summer days, exciting or not.

While some think of summer as a time to relax, psychology major Caitlyn Coster, a junior said she likes to keep busy. Coster said most of her summer will be spent working full-time at People's United Bank in Bridgeport.

"I definitely enjoy working. I

enjoy the money, working in kind of nice environment like People's is—I'm excited about that," said Coster. "I wish I had more time though. Maybe just another day off a week, so I could spend more time with my friends and my boyfriend."

While most days will be spent at work, Coster said she is taking time off at the end of June to take a trip to Maine with her parents, her boyfriend and dog.

"I've never been to Maine," said Coster. "I love the cold weather, I love the kind of, just, environment that it has in general, so that should be really

exciting."

Communication major Brianna Boteler, a senior said her summer plans include spending time with her family in Myrtle Beach. She said she has gone almost every summer for the past seven years.

"We stay in the same timeshare every time, and we spend most of our time on the beach. It's our favorite place to go to," said Boteler. "We also go to Barefoot Landing, Murrells Inlet, and we go to this really good buffet with a lot of seafood."

Summer Plans, page 6

Value found within first year freshmen courses

By Anna De Simone
Contributor

Southern students often complain that required Liberal Education Program (LEP) courses such as Intellectual and Creative Inquiry (INQ 101), which is designed to prepare incoming freshman in their transition to college life, are a waste of time. However, many students like social work major Amber Drobnak, a sophomore said that the course successfully prepared them in their transition to Southern.

"They told me where all the important departments were located such as the student success center, and also where

the counseling department was," Drobnak said.

Bayleigh Takacs, a freshman who completed INQ 101 this past fall, agreed. She said that INQ 101 helped her adjust and feel at-home at Southern, and she wouldn't change a thing about the program.

"It was an awesome learning experience and a great place for me to ask questions," Takacs said. "I think the peer mentors are such an influence to the students by acting as a teacher and friend who is there for the students no matter the need."

A peer mentor is assigned to serve as an experienced guide for students alongside each faculty member. These peer mentors are trained

upperclassmen students who remain in INQ 101 throughout the entire Fall semester.

Freshmen peer mentor Emily McElfresh said she helps her students properly cope with their new-found, overwhelming amount of freedom by dedicating a section of her curriculum to time management.

"I do time management presentations during the semester if I see it is being severely problematic for my students because it is a key skill to have," McElfresh said. "I personally have come across multiple students struggling with balancing homework, jobs, or social events, especially with the new engagement path."

Dyan Robinson, Assistant

Director of the First-Year Experience program, said the most common challenges that Southern freshmen face range from personal or social insecurities to lack of confidence in an academic setting.

Robinson also said "culture shock" that freshmen students leave high school as seniors who are comfortable in their surroundings, and enter college not knowing what to expect.

"We all question if we are 'smart enough' at certain times, and I think first-year students in particular struggle with this" Robinson said.

See Liberal Education, page 6

Art Students worry about post-grad employment

By **Kaynan Conrod**
Contributor

According to Southern art professor Lachelle Workman says that when she was an art student at the University of Connecticut, career plans were rarely discussed and guidance for the future from administration was nonexistent.

"Professors in my undergrad didn't give me any information on how to take my education and go get a job," said Workman. "In terms of job search, everything I've learned, I've learned from other people such as friends who have had just a bit more experience than me."

For art students, life after college can be intimidating, especially in

such a competitive field where only the profound seem to succeed. Like any other successful career, it does not just happen overnight. It takes hard work and dedication.

In 2017, the employment rate was higher for art students who have earned degrees in levels of education above high school, according to the National Center for Education.

"The employment rate was highest for young adults with a bachelor's or higher degree (86%). The employment rate for young adults with some college (80%) was higher than the rate for those who had just completed high school (72%), which was, in turn, higher than the employment rate for those who had not completed

high school (57%)," according to NCEES.

When the graduation process nears, students begin to apply for jobs and internships. It is no mystery that jobs in the corporate world will provide a steady income, whereas for art students who find themselves outside of that world, the story isn't the same.

"I think my professors have prepared me to enter my own world. But the real world as defined by majority of people, no," said Steve Jean-Simon, a senior studio art major with a concentration in photography.

Jean-Simon feels there is a stigma. He said: "There is a stigma definitely, but your starving even when you're in college. Art is a competitive and hard

thing, so it's possible you can be broke for a while. But if you know yourself and your goals, you won't stay at that starving artist stage forever."

Many are distressed over post-graduation plans and securing a job in the tough economy. Lindsey Perkins, a senior who specializes in silk screening at Corcoran College of Art and Design, stated to the Washington Post that she fears "her specialties at the \$27,000-a-year private school -- print- and screen making -- might not position her well in the increasingly survivalist economy."

Receiving a job in the art industry is tough especially trying to manifest your own employment right after college when you want it.

"Believe it or not, there are a ton of people out there that pay a significant amount of money for their kids prom and graduation photos you just need to know how to market that stuff and provide whomever your working for with quality work that's like nothing they've seen before," said Jean-Simon.

There are many opportunities for employment and self-discovery that art students just don't know about. "There are residencies out there that pay for you to travel the world and work on projects. If I had known this in my undergrad, my mind would have been blown," said Workman.

There have been students who have been in the art program but shied away from it in fear of not

being employed or having the ability to make a living out of it. The end result to this is students abandoning their passions and choosing a major that they are minimally interested in studying.

"My current major is sociology which I find to be lackluster. I stopped making pottery because I couldn't see myself making a living out of it," said Christianna Peabody.

"Even making something that I wasn't proud of, still made me happy. I got to create something out of nothing and that just made me over the moon happy."

An artist's whole career is a practice. You keep getting better and better. If you have the facilities and supportive faculty, that is all you need.

Summer Plans

Continued from Page 5

Some students have bigger summer plans, including exercise science major Bernard Brantley, a senior, who said that after he graduates, he plans on touring the world.

"My first stop is the Virgin Islands," said Brantley. "My second stop, after the tour of the islands, I plan on going to New Orleans. So far, those are my two stops."

Brantley said he would like to go to Jamaica and Cancun, but he is most excited to go to New Orleans.

"I want to go to Mardi

Gras, and my favorite team is the New Orleans Saints. I just want to go there and eat some good food," said Brantley.

After working non-stop for five years, Brantley said he wants this summer to be stress-free, while he is not traveling, he is going to take the time to party and hang out with friends.

Nursing major Ariana Oeung, a Sophomore said she is trying to plan a trip to the Dominican Republic with her friends after she was unable to go during spring break. She said if the trip does not happen,

she will be working so she can save money for future vacations.

"If I don't go, I just plan on working because I'm trying to get this money up, but I just got a new job so I'm excited for that: Chili's waitress, so that's something new for me," said Oeung.

While Oeung said she would be mad if she could not go to the Dominican Republic and must work all summer, she said she still wants to make the best of the time by going on smaller trips.

"I want to be spontaneous, like I want to go places," said Oeung. "So, whether that's New Jersey or drive down to Florida, I just want to go somewhere. That's really the plan."

Liberal Education

Continued from Page 5

Associate Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development Eric LaCharity said his students struggle the most with their newfound freedom.

"While it's very much something that can be seen as a positive of university life, students seem to be challenged with not having someone keep them on track" he said.

Freshmen students can also have difficulty with relationship building and finding their place in the Southern

community, according to LaCharity. To promote student involvement on campus, INQ 101 created a new engagement path, which, as McElfresh mentioned, "is designed to push students outside their comfort zones to find something they are interested in joining on campus."

INQ 101 has and will continue to evolve with each new school year. Robinson said the university is "always evaluating our course and our contribution to student success, with hope that our students

will take what they have learned here and find success in whatever they do when they leave us."

She also mentioned that Southern's changes to the program are based off of what the students need, so it is a constant process. Incoming Southern freshmen can expect the course to function differently this Fall 2019 semester.

INQ 101 assists in reducing student self doubt by easing "that uncertainty, and helps students gain confidence by providing guidance, mentoring-by both peers and faculty, and campus engagement which promotes involvement" she said.

Students learn about the Bering Sea biome and Jellyfish



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Mary Decker discussing the jellyfish data.

By **Jacob Waring**
Opinions & Features
Editor

Mary Decker, a research scientist from Yale's department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology gave a lecture on how the Bering Sea's ecosystem is impacted by jellyfish.

Decker started by giving a brief synopsis by making the connection to the jellyfish in the Long Island Sound.

She explained the methodology in gathering the data in jellyfish population fluctuations and how such fluctuations impact the Bering Sea ecosystem. She also said that

such information could indirectly indicate how the same data in other Jellyfish habitats could aid scientists in understanding their respective ecosystem.

Decker said that people tend to demonize jellyfish as if they are science fiction monstrosities invading our bodies of water, and this is due to concern that increase in jellyfish will have a negative impact on the ecosystems.

Decker said such human activity such as overfishing, eutrophication, species introductions and artificial structures could impact the frequency of the fluctuations.

"There was a lot of concern about increases on jellyfish blooms resulting from human activity," said Decker. "My work focuses on fluctuations of jellyfish and I'm very

interested in what happens to the ecosystem when there is a peak in jellyfish [populations]."

She said that the correlation between jellyfish and other species that cohabitate with them in the food chain. She also said that jellyfish are competitors and predators in their given biome, a linchpin in that given ecosystem.

She also said that one of the benefits of jellyfish blooming is that they provide shelter for juvenile fish. This is done by the fish hiding from bigger predators within the area of the jellyfish stingers.

She said that when jellyfish abundance is low, animals such as sablefish have a lower population than some salmon species such as chinook salmon or pink salmon. Yet, that gets

flipped around when the Jellyfish are in abundance.

For Ruthann Paquette, a high schooler taking a couple of classes at Southern this is all new information. She attended the lecture out a desire to learn about animals that she does not have a baseline knowledge about.

"I don't know very much about jellyfish. I kind wanted to know a little more in depth about them and how they are impacting the world."

Others like, environmental systems major Mike Dogolo, a freshmen and sustainability who thought the entire lecture in the end was a fascinating topic.

"It was pretty interesting," he said, "to learn about jellyfishes, their habitat and their ecosystem."

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Visit www.TheSouthernNews.org for more.

Cultural Fest evolves to support more organizations



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

A performer for the festival on the library patio.



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Performers at the Cultural Fest in front of Buley last Wednesday.

**By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter**

Before the semester bade students adieu, an extravaganza of cultural diversity flourished on the academic quad this past Wednesday.

Lines for the free food tents were jam-packed; they began to snake around and obstruct the various clubs and organizations that had tabled alongside the grass. The plentiful, eclectic style of cuisines that the Cultural Fest featured ranged from Latin American to Indian.

Tables were set up and spread for people to mingle and eat their plates. Among the unique features that the fest presented were tables that featured games, calligraphy, water marbling, Jenga and an array of performative dances by both campus and outside acts hosted by SCSU's own DJ Fire. Students gathered for the dance performances OLAS and Chinese Mulan put on.

"It actually shows how diverse Southern can be," said Sharniya Little, an undeclared freshman, who added that it was a big question for her in the

beginning of the year whether the university was as diverse.

One of the most notable things that happened at the event was President Joe Bertolino hopping into the ice cream van and handing out cones to students who had lined up.

"He's done that every year...and the students get a kick out of it," said Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs Dian Albert-Brown.

The Cultural Fest has come a long way. Albert-Brown recalled how the Cultural Fest began as a one-tent festival and has undergone various name changes. With more tents and more creative possibilities of integrating different cultures, the Fest has evolved to live up to its name.

"I feel like Southern does, like, a really good job of making sure all the cultures at the school feel cared for," said Nina Filippone, a junior and marketing major, whose Interservice Christian Fellowship tabled for the first time at the Culture Fest, "and being able to appreciate my own culture, but also those of others. It means so much."

Albert-Brown also said that bringing in more diverse acts is always a basis in which the Cultural Fest can improve. She said that although she has felt that the festival consists of a good amount of various foods and performance, she would also like hear more feedback on what can be improved for the following years.

Albert-Brown added that a common complaint she has heard is from students who get to campus during the evening. She said that to resolve this in the future, perhaps the Cultural Fest would extend into the evening or be split into two separate days.

"We try to appeal to every audience and then if we didn't appeal this year, then next year we try to bring something different," said Albert-Brown, who added that she encourages any cultural group to bring forth their piece of tradition to the multifarious potluck.

However, she added that she was much pleased by the attendance this year.

"I couldn't have asked for a better turnout," said Albert-Brown.

NOTEorious holds second annual showcase

**By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter**

After several months of rehearsing and perfecting performances, 21 voices came together to put on a show that nearly filled Garner Recital Hall.

NOTEorious held their second annual showcase on May 2. The group performed seven songs and featured several soloists. The last song they performed, "I Lived" by One Republic, was a tribute to the four graduating seniors including NOTEorious' president, Emily Velidow.

"It's crazy," said Velidow. "It's especially weird. I mean, I started the group three years ago, so it's very bittersweet leaving it behind, but I know they're going to carry it on and do amazing things with it."

Freshman Ellie Sherry, a journalism major, who was one of the soloists, said she was happy how everything turned out after rehearsing for so long.

"It was really fun. We worked really hard all semester, and we wrote all of our own music and composed it ourselves, so it was really nice to finally see everything put together," said Sherry.

Sophomore Jackson Lamar, a journalism major, who also handles public relations for NOTEorious, said he created flyers and coordinated the fundraising event that allowed audience members to attach notes to roses that were presented to the group at the end of the show.

In comparison to last year's showcase, Lamar said he was expecting a larger crowd than last year, but the only other difference between this year's performance and the last was that there was no intermission performer. Instead, there were several new songs.

"Last year was the first showcase. I was a freshman then, a lot of fun," said Lamar. "It honestly blew our expectations then, so

I'm excited for what this week is going to bring."

The audience was filled with family members and students, and for junior and computer science major Cameron Rho, his taekwondo team came to watch him perform as well.

"It definitely hyped my energy up even more, because I would look out at the audience and see them dancing along, and I would dance even harder. Then they would dance harder, and we were just really rebounding energy off each other," said Rho.

Of the seven songs that were performed, Rho said the "River Mashup" was his favorite because of the way that it was arranged.

"Samantha Foggie, the one who arranged that song, she just did a really amazing job. It just really sounds so beautiful when all of our voices come together," said Rho.

Freshman and psychology major Karina Peña, sang the solo when the group performed "Gravity" by Sara Bareilles.

She said it was emotionally overwhelming because the song has played a big role in her life.

"When I was on stage singing it, it was kind of surreal, and having everyone behind me, like supporting me, was just a huge rush of emotions that came through me at that time, which really got me choked up for the next ten seconds after I sang the song," said Peña.

Despite some minor issues with the microphones in the first half of the show, overall, Velidow said she was happy with how the show came together and was proud of her group because they worked hard all year.

"I never expected to be doing our second showcase and have almost a full house, so it's really, really special," said Velidow. "I mean this was just a group of ten to 15 people a few years ago, and now there's 21 of us, and they all just want to stay and sing. It's just really special."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Jerica Olson performs "Running with the Wolves" last Thursday at the showcase.

'The Act'

Continued from Page 8

Gypsy Rose entered a secret online relationship with a man named Nicholas Godejohn from Big Bend, Wis., portrayed in the series by Calum Worthy. After Blanchard made several futile attempts at rebelling against her suffocating mother, she asked Godejohn to murder Dee Dee, which he agreed to. Godejohn then traveled to Missouri and proceeded to murder her mother, and he and Gypsy Rose escaped back to Wisconsin. The two were arrested after a series of incriminating Facebook posts and are currently incarcerated.

The series has just reached its culmination at its eighth and final episode. Fans are buzzing about the outrageous events dramatized in the show and debating how well "The Act" translates the real-life events onto the screen.

Critics, including the Blanchard family, dislike how the series makes it seem Gypsy Rose had a choice to leave her mother at one point. Though she attempted escape, but was always found and faced unspeakable consequences afterwards, there was no point at which she had the choice to leave her mother's tyranny freely.

There are other inaccuracies abundant in the series that seem to minimize Dee Dee's abusive behaviors.

In one scene she ties her daughter to the bed with a ribbon and is met with resistance; in real life, the family states, she would have never done so and Gypsy Rose was instead chained to the bed. Gypsy Rose, who is now serving a ten year prison sentence and says being incarcerated is the most free she has ever felt, has stated in many interviews that she would never have hurt her mother personally and was deathly afraid of her.

More inaccuracies include a fictionalized

phone call from Godejohn to Dee Dee revealing his relationship with her daughter and Dee Dee's jail time due to check fraud being lengthened in the series from one night to six months. Their relationship itself was also skewed in the series, and according to the family and friends, Dee Dee was normally seen as 'the favorite' out of her mother's children.

The Blanchard family plans to sue the creators of "The Act" because of the inaccuracies in the show as well as their unrightful use of the story and depiction of the Blanchard's image. Gypsy Rose claims she was never asked for permission or consulted about the show whatsoever.

The family has been planning a rival series, "By Proxy," and even the Godejohn family is involved, as they too are displeased with the Hulu series. Godejohn himself was recently interviewed while serving his life sentence, and said he dislikes the series for the same reasons as the others,

but also feels he never got to share his side of the story and how he was manipulated by Gypsy Rose.

Godejohn feels that he was depicted as the villain, and he only ever meant to help get Gypsy Rose out of her abusive situation and into a better one with him. He and his family state that he is highly "suggestible" and susceptible to persuasion. Gypsy Rose may have used this to her advantage to free herself from her situation. However, the Blanchard family argues the opposite, and feels Godejohn was humanized too much, and was more in control of the situation than depicted in the series, which portrayed him as a well-meaning, bumbling fool.

Despite the overarching problem of inaccuracy, the series is absolutely captivating and beautifully filmed. An exact copy of the Blanchard house made by Habitat for Humanity was constructed for the series, and certain scenes are taken directly from

home video shown in the 2017 documentary based around the case, "Mommy Dead and Dearest." The series specifically does an exceptional job at depicting Gypsy Rose and Godejohn's internet BDSM pseudosex, in which Godejohn takes on an evil persona he calls "Victor." The lighting switches to a dark red, creating a sort of dreamscape with the couple completely alone in a sadomasochistic fantasy, and the atmosphere feels just as uncomfortable and haunting as it should.

The actors in the series play their characters with an eerie accuracy. Each character has a very distinctive speech pattern, such as Gypsy Rose's high pitched, babyish voice, and the actors evidently did their homework on perfecting them. The Hulu series, while ripe for shock value entertainment, is a well-made piece of media based on a magnetizingly bizarre and disturbing case—but not a case file or a documentary. It is nearly impossible to develop

a full understanding of the case from the series, and new viewers' eyes may be clouded by the enrapturing qualities of the dramatization and fail to see this. More information on the facts, though presented in a manner less entertaining in nature, can be found in the documentary, which explains the family history, the Blanchard's life and the court case.

Watching the series after watching the documentary or reading about the case feels akin to reading a book before watching the movie adaptation, and nitpicking every scene. Though the acting and production value shines, the series is brimming with downfalls in its inaccuracies and failure to consider the real people involved. While it is acceptable to take creative liberties with an author's permission, this is not a fictional narrative. The dramatization works to deceive viewers in regards to the real story, and in the process hurts the people closely involved.

‘The Act’: Hulu’s controversial hit

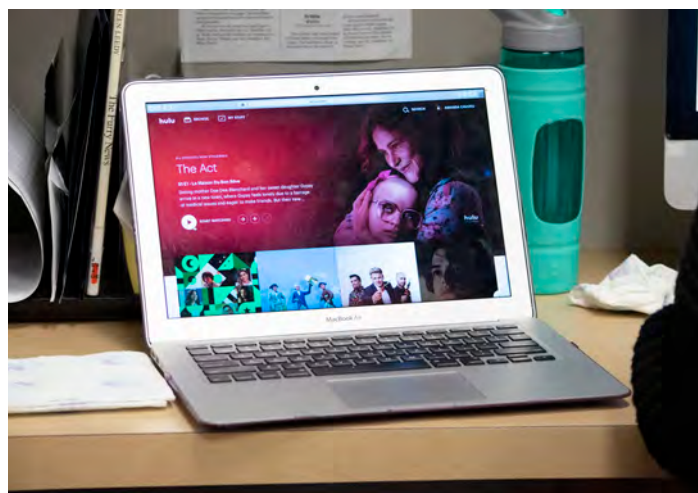


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | AUGUST PELLICCI

The opening screen of ‘The Act’ on Hulu displayed on a MacBook Air.

By Nina Bartłomiejczyk
Copy Editor

Upon accessing the Hulu site, an automatic preview video began, showing a bald and bespectacled Gypsy Rose Blanchard, portrayed by Joey King, smiling broadly as she is wheeled through a hospital hall. Pushing her along in the wheelchair was her frizzy haired and conservatively dressed mother, Claudine “Dee Dee” Blanchard, portrayed by Patricia Arquette. However, this mother-daughter duo’s life was far from as lighthearted as they may want you—and everyone else who was shocked to find out about the truth behind their lifelong con, which ended in murder—to think.

“The Act,” a Hulu exclusive series based on real-life events, follows the infamous and shocking story of Gypsy Rose and

Dee Dee Blanchard through the events leading to Dee Dee’s murder in Green County, Mo. in 2015.

The Blanchard case is just about the most well-known case of Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a condition characterized by a situation in which someone creates the appearance of health problems in another without clear motive.

In the Blanchard’s case, Dee Dee asserted that her daughter had a slew of health problems, ranging from severe allergies and sleep apnea to muscular dystrophy and cancer.

Dee Dee fooled everyone, including doctors, and her daughter was subsequently confined to a wheelchair, consumed food with a feeding tube, and underwent numerous surgeries. All were unnecessary and forced upon her along with extreme emotional, and sometimes physical abuse.

See ‘The Act’ Page 7

The week of one-acts

By J’Mari Hughes
Reporter

Theater major Jason Carubia, a senior said one-acts are short plays typically confined to a short period or location. Last Wednesday through Saturday, theater department students and Crescent Players presented “Jack of all Trades Master of One-Acts” in the Kendall Drama Lab of the Lyman Center.

One-act plays presented featured “HR,” “Lilies in the Valley,” “The Sausage Eaters,” “The Door” and “English Made Simple.” All plays were directed and performed by students to showcase the talent, skill

and abilities of all Southern students in the theater department, Carubia said.

“The student directors were tasked with finding plays outside of their knowledge or plays that were not known to the Southern community,” said Carubia. “Those five different plays that showcase different themes and ideas play a good collection of different works to represent one-act form.”

The student directors were all part of a class in directing. Carubia said they were assigned to design concepts for the show, as well as coordinate publicity, design posters, hold auditions and find rehearsal space. The entire production, from lights

and sound to makeup and costumes, he said, was student-driven.

Carubia directed the show “The Sausage Eaters” by Stephen Starosta. It told the story of an “obtuse” couple and their unlucky neighbors, suspected of a stealing a missing sausage. Carubia wanted to display “a truly unique piece that audiences would rarely get to experience,” according to his Director’s Note.

Another student director was sophomore and theater major Nomblé Tanner, who directed her first Southern show, “HR,” a play by Eric Coble about people in the workplace panicking over the possibility of Human Resources showing up. Tanner said she and the performers rehearsed twice

a week for two to three hours over the course of two months.

“I like being in control, I feel like it’s where I naturally fit,” she said. “People should come see the [shows] because they’re done by the students. It’s very student based, and we need more student based things on campus, so I think everyone should come and support.”

Rachel Ellis, a junior and social work major, played the female protagonist in “Lilies in the Valley,” a play that focused on two different-raced characters being put on trial for falling in love.

“It was a lot of fun to bring the character to life,” said Ellis. “It had moments of comedy, and we had some really ridiculous moments, but I think that brings the audience into listening to what we have to say, so I think it got a message across.”

“Lilies in the Valley,” a play by Gavin Lawrence, was directed by senior and theater major Francie Ortiz, who said she wanted to feature a person of color in the main role to further the diversity in Southern’s theater program. She said the message she hoped the play got across was that people should not be judged by the things they cannot control.

“It’s taking everything we’re leaning in the classrooms into an actual production because this is what we end up doing when we get paid to do this job,” she said. “We worked really hard on this, and we’ve literally put everything we have had into it.”



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Kyle Kleinschmidt, John Murphy and Taylor Tenenbaum during the show.

Saxophone show helps audience ‘escape the grind’

By J’Mari Hughes
Reporter

On Saturday, May 4, the Lyman Center hosted “Sax to the Max,” an event featuring three saxophone players, Michael Lington, Paul Taylor and Vincent Ingala, as well as a backup band of guitars, drums and keyboards.

“This was one of the best shows I’ve attended

all year long,” said Estela Taylor Green of Syracuse, N.Y. “I loved all the energy, it was just amazing.”

Lington, from Copenhagen, has performed for the Denmark royal family, released ten albums and has had 23 singles on contemporary jazz radio charts, according to Southern’s website. He invited the viewers to

sign up to receive updates on whenever he releases a new music video, and also spent parts of the show in the audience, whether it was playing a ballad in front of the stage or marching around the theater playing jazz funk. The three players also initiated a “ladie’s choice” where all the women stood at the foot of the stage dancing and taking

pictures of the musicians.

“I liked that they were able to get everybody up to enjoy it,” said Nydia Hancock, a Hartford resident, “because a lot of times people just sit and that’s okay, but music is to be enjoyed.”

Taylor is from Prospect, Conn. and has been a solo artist for over thirty years. The different styles he plays include funk,

soul and EDM, while Ingala has made three Billboard number ones in contemporary jazz.

There were moments when the musicians told the audience to stand up and clap along, and sometimes the audience did so without being told. The night included never-ending applause and multiple standing ovations.

“We’ve been to the other concerts this year here and never have we seen a standing [ovation] like we did tonight,” Sirjohn Papageorge of Trumbull said. “They were so energetic tonight and you could see that they were comfortable here in New Haven and in this venue.”

Papageorge said he thinks all three players have a bright future ahead of them and that it was “too bad” they did not play any longer.

“There was so much talent on one stage, it’s crazy,” said Irene Papageorge. “I wouldn’t change a thing.”

The Papageorges both said they were surprised by the lack of students in the crowd, as the audience was made up mostly of adults. J. Dobbins of Orange said more students should have come to see what their aspirations

could be and that one day, they could be onstage performing.

“The energy they bring, the feel of the music, the crowd interaction—it’s an escape from the day to day grind,” Dobbins said. “You come here and you feel like you’ve left the planet. It’s great.”

The show ended with an extensive upbeat piece, where the three players entered the crowd and played throughout the entire theater as audience members screamed, high-fived and took pictures of them.

“The way they interacted with the audience—awesome,” Irene Papageorge said. “It was a super-concert.”

After the show, the saxophonists left the stage to sign autographs and take pictures in the lobby where the line reached down the hall of the building. Southern promoted the show beforehand saying it was “sure to get you groovin’ in your seat,” which audience members lived up to.

“You can’t even say one thing over another was better or worse. The whole show was fantastic,” Dobbins said. “If the tickets were \$85, I’d pay it.”



PHOTOS | IZZY MANZO

Paul Taylor, Michael Lington and Vincent Ingala playing their saxophones last Saturday.

Baseball claims playoff ticket Tooth and nail season-long fight concludes three-year playoff drought

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

The Owls, who battled all season long for a 19-26 overall record—including an 8-10 divisional mark and 10-15 conference tally—have reached the postseason for the first time in three seasons.

They played Adelphi, the top team in the Southwest Division, on Wednesday in the Southwest Division's Play-In Game,

one of several opening round matchups on the afternoon.

They defeated Saint Rose last week, as head coach Tim Shea picked up his 467th win, a program record, but came up short Thursday afternoon to the Pace Setters.

"We lost some games early on in the year that we shouldn't have, and when you do that it tends to come back and bite you, but I do feel that we're better than our record

indicates," Shea said. "We battled to the end and got another opportunity."

To keep pace in the Southwest, the Owls picked up a crucial 3-1 win over Saint Rose on May 1 as senior starting pitcher Ronnie Rossomando battled it out over seven innings, with eight strikeouts, and redshirt senior left fielder Nick Lamberti brought home a 2-for-3 day at the plate, raising his average up to .326.

"Ronnie pitched great. Other than the two-out hit in the first inning, he gave us eight strong," said Shea, "and he's been doing that for us but we just haven't given him a ton of run support so I'm glad we were able to get him a win on Senior Day."

Rossomando, who came to the Owls after three years with UConn, has been up-and-down with a 2-5 record and 4.27 ERA, but he has struck out 73 batters while only walking 32 this season.

However, he was able to get enough offense from his teammates for the two-run victory last week, with sophomore first baseman John Spoto scoring off a two-run double in the fifth and redshirt senior shortstop Jimmy Palmer following that up with an RBI to left field.

"It was an emotional day for all of us seniors having our parents come out and everybody came out, and played hard to get a big win and keep us alive for the playoffs," Palmer said. "and Coach Shea's a great coach and I'm glad we could be a part of history and get that win for him."

However even with reaching the milestone and going one win ahead of his former boss in Owls hall of famer Joe Bandiera, Shea was selfless.

"When you think about it, current players, former players, current coaches, former coaches...they're just as much a part of this as anybody, and it is what it is," he said.

See Baseball Page 10



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Utility player Cam O'Toole, a sophomore, at bat during a home game against Adelphi University last Wednesday.

Club sports athletes take home honors

Second annual Club Sports banquet bring players and coaches together for awards



PHOTO | JUSTING LAING

Students eating at the Club Sports Banquet.

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

At the second annual club sports awards, which was hosted by the Office of Campus Recreation and headed by assistant director Andrew Marullo on April 23, several individuals were recognized from a variety of campus' different club sports.

Jesse Komaromi, who runs the dance program and won Coach of the Year, said it was "beautiful" to be recognized and that winning was a true honor.

"The girls were chanting 'Jesse, Jesse, Jesse,' and then they announced that I won," she said, "and it was just so great."

Everyone could nominate who they would like for a chance at receiving for each award. Then Marullo and his graduate interns voted on all the categories to decide who the recipients would be.

This year, in addition to Komaromi's Coach of the Year win, men's ice hockey's Jason Pierce won Volunteer of The Year, Taekwondo's Delano Wood won Club Sportsman of the Year and Elanna Sanon from women's rugby won Club Sportswoman of the Year. The ceremony also took time to mention the efforts of men's rugby's Palmer Piana, who, at a separate event, was named Club Sports Leader of the Year.

"When I started in my position, there was no banquet for club sports, so we decided that it would be a good idea to have something at the end of the year to bring the teams together and celebrate their accomplishments," Marullo said. "So spring 2018 was the first one we did, and we did dinner, awards and team speeches—pretty basic, but [the ceremony was] something to celebrate the year."

See Club Page 10

Track and Field prepare for NE10 Championship

Team feels confidently optimistic about chances to bring home a championship banner for third straight year

By Sam Tapper
Contributor

The month of May is a busy time for students with finals quickly approaching, but for the Track & Field team, it gets even busier as they prepare for the NE10 Conference Championships.

The Owls' men's team entered the NE10 Championships seeking their third straight and 17th conference title overall.

The Owls finished the season ranked first in the East Region, according to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association's regional rankings.

"I don't know if the team pays attention to it. I do," said Head Coach John Wallin regarding the rankings, "because sometimes it's a good indication of where everyone else is in our region and so for us, I think we look at it like if we're number one in the region then we're performing at the level we're supposed to be."

In addition, the Owls were also selected first in the conference's pre-championship poll. Picked

by the coaches in the NE10, of the eleven teams, nine of them picked Southern to win.

American International College, picked to finish second, and Merrimack, picked to finish fifth, each

got one of the remaining two votes.

"Track is pretty cut-and-dry with a lot of things," said Wallin. "If you're the top seed, typically you should win, but anything can happen."

This is certainly a big time of year for the Owls, as all the hard work and dedication that has been put in shows in the postseason.

For senior pole vaulter Jack Brown, this time of

year is all about taking care of business.

"It just gets more and more exciting for me," Brown said, "because this is a championship that we take very seriously and we're always just so

motivated and driven to do well and with that passion we carry into this competition, it just makes it more fun."

For Brown, who is a multi-time all-region pole vault selection, this is routine for him at this point. However, for some of the younger guys on the team, this is a completely new experience for them.

The Owls will look to Brown and his fellow seniors to serve as mentors for young talent during the postseason.

"We really just want to show them that, when it comes to these kinds of meets, to really just be as competitive as can be," said Brown. "And to really carry that on for these next four years, because when you come into these kinds of championships there's going to be a lot of tough competition and a lot of great athletes at this meet who want to do better than you. The other athletes from other schools, they're not going to let up."

The Owls' women's team will join the men on their trip to Southern New Hampshire University, the site of the NE10 Championship.

See Track Page 11



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The Track and Field team posing and celebrating in Manchester, N.H. after winning the NE10 Championships again on Saturday.

History made by Coach Tim Shea



By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

With a win last week against Saint Rose, Owls head baseball coach Tim Shea reached career win number 467, passing former coach Joe Bandiera. Say what you will about how Division II coaches have longer tenures because they are not fired for poor team performance like in Division I, but you still cannot discount 467 wins in one place.

Even if you spend years and years in the same role, this milestone is not always reached. With the amount of work Shea has put into Owls Baseball, he is definitely well-deserving of this incredible milestone.

I have known him for several years now—I covered a 27-win season and a playoff game early on in my tenure with the Southern News, and I have seen baseball battle through some tough stretches, but through it all, he has always looked for the positives. Coach Shea always gives a good postgame interview—win, lose or draw—and can become a reporter's best friend because he is not someone who will give you one-word answers and really puts you in a tough spot.

He's been an Owl for life: Shea went to school here, worked in the special education department and has really carved out his life around the Southern community, which makes this, even more special.

When I spoke with him after the Saint Rose game, he deflected the praise, focusing more on the teams he has had and the moment at the time where he was really concentrating on the important win and keeping the Owls alive in the playoff hunt.

You can add one more wrinkle to the Bandiera-Shea saga: "Coach B" was Shea's head coach during his time as a student-athlete on campus, from 1984 to 1987.

In Shea's senior year, he batted .326 and scored 39 runs, had 48 hits and collected 25 RBI, while junior year he scored 30 runs, had 45 hits and 21 RBI, with a .379 average.

In 2008, Bandiera was inducted into the Hall of Fame after finishing with a career record of 496-426-5.

With this most recent 3-1 win against the College of Saint Rose on Thursday, solidifying a fourth seed in the Southwest Division of the NE10, Shea and the Owls once again made it to the NE10 Conference playoffs, chasing down a chance to bring home a banner to Moore Field House.

The double life: Cundiff competes in two sports



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Reciever Jaylyn Cundiff, a freshman, blocking for defensive back David Cambell, a senior, during a home game on Sept. 29.

By Sam Tapper
Contributor

For most young aspiring athletes, their dream is to one day play sports in college. Some make it while others seem to fall into the cracks, but for Jaylyn Cundiff, he made his dream come true twice.

A five-foot-eight, 150-pound freshman out of Brockton, Mass, Cundiff is a member of both the football team and the track and field team. In football, he is a slot receiver who returns kicks and punts and in track and field, he is a long jumper.

Cundiff said his choice to compete in two sports was inspired by his father in order to better his college odds.

"My junior year of high school my dad told me I had to do two sports," said

Cundiff on his decision. "He said that was going to push me to get into college."

Cundiff did not see much action as a wide receiver last season. However, he was one of his team's top returners in the special teams unit. He had a standout performance on Sept. 29 against Saint Anselm, where he returned four punts for 98 yards including a 50-yard touchdown return. The Owls went on to blow-out the Hawks and win the game 43-7.

Cundiff said football has always been his top sport, but he would not have gotten to where he is now without becoming a track athlete as well.

"Senior year, after football, I wasn't getting the looks that I wanted," he said. "So, I did track in high school seriously. It pushed

me to get here."

In high school, Cundiff was an all-scholastic honoree, athlete of the year for track and field, and currently holds his high school's long jump record.

As a college freshman, Cundiff earned his first career rookie of the week honors after placing first in the long jump at the UConn Northeast Challenge out of 21 participants, 17 of which were Division I athletes.

For Cundiff, the decision he made as a high school junior to play two sports was an easy one, as he knew it was his best chance of achieving his dream of becoming a collegiate athlete.

"Not really," he said when asked if the decision gave him any doubts or concerns. "I'm already an athlete, I like running, so I looked to track to help me out with football a lot."

Head track and field coach John Wallin is no stranger to coaching dual athletes. Wallin, though he does not know the exact number of athletes, has coached plenty in his days during his time at Southern alone.

"We've had a couple," said Wallin. "We had a kid on the soccer team, some football players, right now we have like, four dual sport athletes between soccer and track and then football and track."

With dual sport athletes, there is a lot of extra communication between each of the team's coaching

staffs, Wallin said he and football head coach Tom Godek will talk on a regular basis.

"We talk a lot about what we both expect moving forward from our athlete," Wallin said. "We probably talk everyday about our mutual athlete. It's important that all the coaches are on the same page; we want to make sure we're doing what's in the best interest of the athlete."

For Wallin, coaching an athlete like Cundiff is a privilege. Wallin sees Cundiff is motivated to do well in everything he does, not just athletics. However, as an athlete, Wallin believes Cundiff is a special talent.

"Jaylyn's the perfect example of a guy that can do two sports," said Wallin.

"He takes himself serious. He acts like a professional even though he's a freshman which is great because I would think that most freshman coming in would struggle with being a two-sport athlete."

Cundiff has high praise for all his coaches, as they have all helped shape him as the athlete he is and push him to be the athlete he can become. Cundiff gives credit to Wallin for helping him get to Southern.

"He was the biggest help here," Cundiff said. "He actually got me to this school, I had never even heard of Southern Connecticut until after I started doing track. He helped me out a lot with the scholarship of the year, so he made everything affordable."



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Reciever Jaylyn Cundiff, a freshman, carrying the ball during a game against Saint Anselm on Sept. 29.

Club

Continued from Page 9

In addition to the awards, there was an academic excellence recognition award given to the team with the highest collective GPA. This year's award was awarded to the dance team, which held the highest marks out of every club sports team affiliated with the office.

Komaromi said that was impressive because the team, like cheerleading, is one of the only sports that goes for the full school year.

"We're together from August to May, so we need to have strong team chemistry," she said. "We dance at all the football games and men's and women's basketball and then have our competition season, and they're all very committed. I think it helps

because I danced here myself, so I know what it's like with school, the team and working."

However, to be in that type of time commitment, one must have to be willing to put all the work hardwork in, and Marullo said that Komaromi is one of the most committed coaches they have.

"I've known her for the last two years and she's fully committed. Most coaches are, but she's, like, above and beyond, and it's nice to see from a club coach," he said.

However, she is not the only one going the extra mile.

Pierce, who said he has special needs and was unable to attend college, was asked by the men's ice hockey team to handle their equipment and wash their jerseys, and it is a job he takes with a lot of pride.

"One of the players called me up and asked me if I would be interested in

washing their uniforms," he said, "and he went to the high school where I work at in East Haven, so he knew the quality of work that I did and asked me if I would be interested, and I said I would."

Pierce said he has been washing the jerseys for two years and has been putting his own money and extra time into the operation by going to the laundromat and buying materials to transport them in.

He said he is more than happy to do what he does for the team and that when he commits to something, he always sticks with it.

"I'm pretty much a behind-the-scenes guy, so when I get recognition like I did, I didn't expect it," he said. "I had no idea there were awards, but I heard that my name was presented, and for me to get it was an accomplishment because it shows to me that what I did didn't go unnoticed."



PHOTO | JUSTIN LAING

Students at the Club Sports Banquet on April 23 wait to receive food.



PHOTO | JUSTIN LAING

Members of the Taekwondo Club pose for a team photo during the Club Sports Banquet on April 23.

Baseball

Continued from Page 9

However, the Owls still had work to do. They came into Thursday's contest with Pace with a few scenarios to try to make the playoffs, including winning the game and

having the Setters take two of three this past weekend over American International or having Adelphi sweep Le Moyne. They ended up getting shut out but getting some luck from the Setters' sweep of the Yellow Jackets.

"We stubbed our toes a little bit; we lost a New Haven game 2-1, the Adelphi game 2-1, and it

put us in a situation where we didn't control our own destiny," Shea said.

But ultimately, despite an up-and-down season and being under the .500 mark, this year the Owls are playoff bound.

"We've played hard all year," Palmer said. "We tried to battle but [the Pace pitcher] just had his stuff today."



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Outfielder Nick Lamberti, a redshirt senior, at bat during a home game against Adelphi University last Wednesday.



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Outfielder Mac Finnegan, a redshirt senior, on base during a home game against Adelphi University.

Lamberti breaks records, leads team to playoffs

**By Matt Gad
Sports Writer**

In his redshirt senior season, Nick Lamberti has been thriving. He recently broke the school record for stolen bases with 77 swiped bags, passing Marc Potocsky and moving to fifth on the all-time hit list. This puts him ahead of former Owl and current Hamden head coach Chris Borelli with 218 hits.

“Chris Borelli was a great hitter and a great coach now and Marc, I mean, it’s an honor,” Lamberti said. “I go out and just do my thing and have some fun and whatever happens, happens— but, at the end of the day, it’s a great achievement for me.”

Lamberti has batted .326 through the regular season, playing in 43 of the team’s 45 games. He registered 145 at-bats, where he was able to score 32 runs and gather 57 hits and 35 RBI. He also finished with an impressive percentage of successful steals, 83%, 19 bases in 22 tries.

“Nick’s had a great four-year career. [He’s an] All-Conference performer every year, and no doubt he’ll get it again this year. He’s always hit and hit, but really where he’s improved is his outfield play; he’s helped tremendously and he’s an aggressive guy—he likes to steal bases and really do whatever it takes to help his team win,” coach Tim Shea said.

Potocsky stole 76 bases from 2000–2002 with Mike Diaz, who played from

2006–2008, trailing behind him with 73. Glen Maxwell, who played from 1995–1998, finished his career with 66, Shane Russell wrapped things up in 1997 with 64 stolen bags, and Kevin Bowerman, an Owl from 2006–2009, went out with 63.

“He’s a guy we’ll really miss and he’ll be difficult to replace,” Shea said. “[Lamberti] always batted at the top of our lineup -- the first couple years he was a two-hitter, this year he’s our three-hitter, but he’s gonna be very difficult to replace.”

Lamberti came out of East Haven High School with a record-setting .600 batting average, 42 hits and 25 steals. In his final high school season he swung to a .460 clip to push his team to the playoffs.

He was recruited by UConn and spent a brief time there, but ultimately transferred to the Owls after just one season playing base the Huskies.

Lamberti said Southern became a good fit partially because of the relationships he had with the players already on the team.

“In life, you have obstacles and you have to overcome them, and Coach Shea gave me an opportunity four years ago and told me right off the get-go to do me...[there are] guys on this team I played with in high school; New Haven guys, Milford...you play these guys in high school and you create a bond with them,” he said. But since Lamberti

committed pretty quickly to the Huskies when he was finishing up his time at East Haven, Shea did not really spend too much time recruiting him.

“We knew he was a great player, so once he gave us a call we knew he’d be a great fit for us. And he hasn’t disappointed; each and every year he’s done it offensively, he’s done it defensively and he’s done it on the bases and, like I said, he’s gonna be a tough guy to replace.” Shea said. “So once his redshirt year [at UConn] was over and he wanted to get more opportunities, I was pleasantly surprised that we were at the top of his list.”

Since the transfer duo of Lamberti and redshirt senior infielder Jim Palmer, who transferred the University of Rhode Island teamed up, the Owls have made one playoff appearance and finished with a combined record of 83–90–2.

While he has been a member of the baseball program for the past three years, he said he has prided himself in setting goals and going out there to accomplish them, like steals.

“Before a season starts you set goals for yourself, and those are two things I can live by when I get older and stuff,” he said. “Everybody has an obstacle in their life and God had a different plan for me, but when I came here I had the opportunity to showcase my skills.”



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Outfielder Nick Lamberti, a redshirt senior, and firstbasemen Tyler Criscuolo, a senior, watching the batter at a home game on Wednesday.



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Outfielder Nick Lamberti, a redshirt senior, during a game against Adelphi University on Wednesday.

Athletes travel for improved chemistry



**By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor**

There is no bigger factor in a team’s success than chemistry. Teams can live and die by the attitude and atmosphere in a locker room, and every coach should know that. Also, they should encourage beneficial team chemistry and do everything in their power to create a cohesive team.

After hearing about, and reporting on, Southern’s field hockey team’s upcoming summer trip to Bermuda, the question arised about why more teams do not do the same.

The field hockey team’s main goal of the trip is to foster a team bonding experience not only with the active and returning players, but with the incoming freshman who may not have enough time to meet their fellow teammates while also jumping into school, said head coach Kelley Frassinelli.

The NCAA allows for teams to go on trips once every four years, so every athlete could be able to have this experience. With that being said, every program at Southern should embark on a trip across the globe.

A summer trip would not only help team bonding, but also allow students and coaches to experience a brand-new culture far from home. From the food they eat to the people they meet, seeing the world from a different perspective could translate to broader love for their team and possibly, the game itself.

This is to mention that the rest of the world has sports too. Imagine the soccer teams at Southern going to a Premiere league game in August or taking the basketball teams to a European league game during the winter.

Coaches and players would not only get to bond while traveling through a foreign city, but they would also potentially be able to watch and study the game at a professional level.

Travel costs would not be an issue, as the field hockey team was able to fundraise enough money to cover the expenses.

There is no better time to get to know your teammates than when you all are in a new place, taking in and trying new things.

More programs within the athletic department should venture to different parts of the world. There is some genius behind this idea, as the benefits from these experiences would holistically help and guide the team to success.

Track

Continued from Page 9

The women finished the season ranked third in the East Region, according to the USTFCCA rankings.

In addition to their ranking, they were also picked to finish third in the NE10 pre-championship poll behind Stonehill and Assumption, who received eight and three first-place votes, respectively. The Owls received one of the 12 first place votes.

“I have high expectations for all of them because they’ve been working hard since indoor season,” said sophomore sprinter Begotty Laroche.

Laroche claimed the NE10 title for the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.80 seconds

last year as a freshman. Unfortunately for the Owls, Laroche will not be competing in the NE10 Championship this year due to a hamstring injury.

Early in the season, Coach Wallin expressed his belief that his team can win the conference. Now going into the NE10 Championship, those beliefs hold true.

“Nothing has changed in my mind,” Wallin said. “I’m very confident we can win.”

Entering the competition with a head full of steam, the men’s track and field team was able to capture their third championship in a row. The team scored 207 points, over 80 points more than Merrimack College.

The women’s team took home third place, scoring 83 points and finishing behind Stonehill and Assumption.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Elaina DiSalvo, a junior, competing in the outdoor pole vault during a meet earlier this season.

Field Hockey has summer plans to go to Bermuda

**By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor**

While many student-athletes across the country spend their summer soaking in the sun and relaxing during the off-season, Southern’s field hockey team is venturing to the small island nation of Bermuda for team bonding.

Head coach Kelley Frassinelli said the team had been planning an excursion for a long time, and that it happening was long overdue.

“We had actually taken a trip to Barbados in 2003, so that was the last international tour— as we call it— that we took,” said Frassinelli. “NCAA regulations allow us one every four years, so technically every student athlete should be able to get that experience. [It’s] been something we’ve been

trying to figure out how to get on the books for the past couple years, and it just kind of came about in conversation this past fall with, ‘Let’s figure out how this is going to work.’”

Junior goal keeper Brianna Craft said the team was given a selection of places and was able to vote on which country they wanted to visit.

“We had three options. I think we had Ireland, Bermuda and— I want to say— Scotland,” said Craft. “Honestly, it was probably the most cost-efficient place, just because it was maybe, like, half the price, and there’s, I think, nine players [and] three coaches going. So, fundraising wise, it was the easiest to fundraise for.”

Partnered up with an organization called Zag, which boosts the motto of “Travel, Play, Give Back” on their official website,

the team will be taking part in a community service effort while also enjoying the warm sun and white beaches.

“We do our trips through Zag, and it is not only promoting field hockey but it’s promoting community service outreach, the stuff that we do,” said Frassinelli. “On this trip, we are going to be helping clean up some of the beaches to help, certainly, with the wildlife.”

Throughout the year, the team has been raising money for their trip, which is estimated to cost around \$3,000 per person, by hosting events and reaching out online.

“We got a GoFundMe, we’ve been doing, like, restaurant nights, Chipotle nights. We are doing a children’s book [for Zag],” said Craft. “I mean, we are really trying to get a dodgeball game or some sort of tournament that

people could enter and pay money for a team and the proceeds go to us. The GoFundMe has been a really big fundraiser for us though, a lot of people have been donating.”

Along with the community service, the team also created a children’s book featuring Zag mascot Zag the Zonkey. Frassinelli said part of the goal of the trip is to help welcome freshmen and new players to the team in a stress-free atmosphere where they can adjust.

“As a fall sport, coming in it’s very difficult, especially for our incoming class— the freshmen class— because they’re jumping into everything. It’s meeting new people, it’s being in a new place, it’s starting classes. They don’t have as much of an adjustment period,” said Frassinelli, “so, this will actually be a great bonding experience for them. A

great cultural learning experience that will give them the opportunity to get to know each other as people, and not just as necessarily players and athletes.”

Craft said that having this much time together will help form bonds between the players and coaches on a more personal level.

“I think it’ll benefit us a lot for the team bonding aspect. You’re in a different country, you’re with each other 24/7, but I think we’ll also work on seeing each other off the field,” said Craft. “Seeing each other like swimming, just us vulnerable. Just being ourselves and getting comfortable with each other. Hopefully that’ll translate to the field when we come back.”

The team is set to fly into Bermuda on Aug. 10 and will spend six days on the island, returning on Aug. 15.

PHOTO

Behind the scenes: print production

Staff works like well oiled machine, creating relationships

By August Pelliccio
Photo Editor

These photos highlight the innerworkings of a newspaper staff. Reporting happens in the field, each interview is a unique setting, but the remainder of the process takes place in the

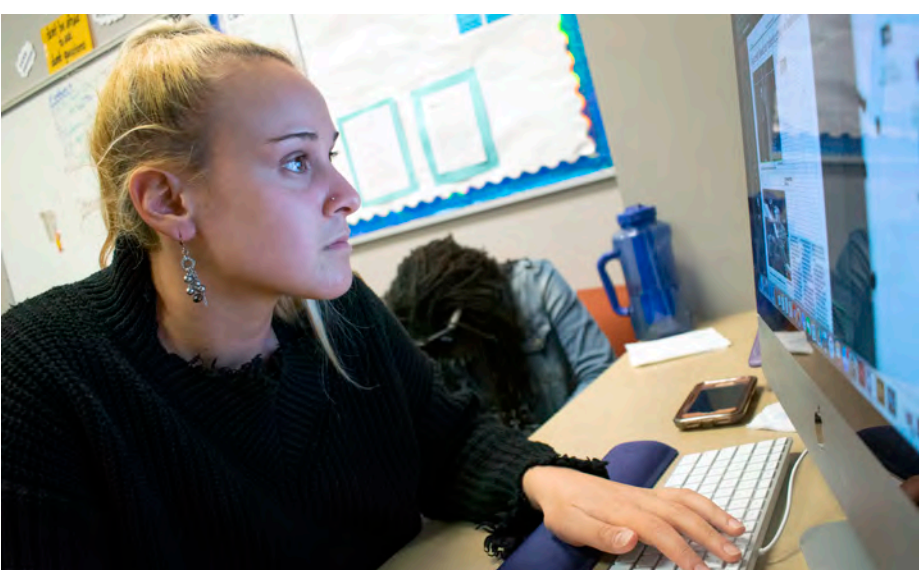
Adanti Student Center room 225.

Copyediting, design layout, story research — the newsroom is where student journalists learn the ropes.

The joy of this experience cannot be captured in a thousand pictures with every staff member, but these

are a few to highlight the interpersonal nature of the job.

These are the individuals that helped make my experience unique. Without them, I would not be the journalist I am. This paper would not be the quality it is. Thank you all.



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Newspaper staff from the 2018-19 academic year copyediting and creating graphic layouts during a Monday production session in the Adanti Student Center newsroom.