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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Business school construction could begin in 2020

By **Tamonda Griffiths**  
News Writer

The School of Business continues to grow – outside of its own building, said Bob Sheeley, associate vice president for capital budgeting & facilities operations.

"[The School of Business] needs their own facility," said Sheeley. "They still don't have everybody in one building. They're still all over campus."

Sheeley said the new business building is set to begin construction in early 2020 and could be simultaneously built alongside the construction of the School of Health Human Services.

"All of this [is] subject to the new governor coming in and what the new governor decides to do," said Sheeley.

According to Sheeley, the university has approximately \$52 million for construction projects.

"A lot depends on the program," said Sheeley. "The program's going to tell us what we can afford to build."

See **Business School, Page 2**

## Redesigned website may be unveiled in spring

By **Hunter Lyle**  
Sports Writer

In order to improve efficiency, opportunity, and overall user satisfaction, the members of the Information Technology team are creating a brand-new school website.

"We started talking about the concept of completely rebuilding the website from scratch a couple of years ago," said Director of Academic Technology Trever Brolliar. "We knew we wanted to start from scratch and not migrate anything at all."

Brolliar said hopefully, the website is going to be unrolled during the spring semester.

"Everybody has a device in their hands, and if you can serve up your content to them, in an individual basis it's pretty powerful," he said.

After completing surveys and reviewing the statistics, there were some things that needed to be changed in the new website, said Brolliar, including making it more mobile friendly.

See **New Website, Page 3**



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut at the Veterans Day Ceremony.

## 'There's still a lot to be done.'

### Sen. Blumenthal visits campus and highlights veterans' service

By **Hunter Lyle**  
Sports Writer

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said, at the Veterans Day Ceremony, since the country's beginning, only a "fraction of the population" has stepped forward and been willing to serve.

"Veterans are a small part of our population," said Blumenthal. "That's the way it's always been. In this country, very few have always fought and served, and sacrificed for our nation."

Blumenthal, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, spoke about how important it is to care for veterans, and offer them as much help as possible.

"On this Veterans Day, we talk a good talk, but we need better action, and it should be bipartisan," said Blumenthal. "There's still a

lot to be done."

President Joe Bertolino said for decades, the university has offered resources to student veterans.

"Downstairs, if you haven't visited our Veterans Center, there is a warm, welcoming, friendly place, where our veterans can support and be with one another, and receive the support they need," said Bertolino. "Not surprisingly, a number of services we offer, such as the veterans drop in center, have been used as a model by other institutions, both in the state and around the country."

Bertolino said it is the "duty" of the university to ensure student veterans receive all the resources possible. He said their transition back to civilian life and education should be "seamless."

"For much of that



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

A sergeant from the Connecticut National Guard.

time," he said, "Southern was the only institution of higher education in the state and one of only a handful in the entire country, to have a full-time veteran administrator..."

Giacomo "Jack" Mordente is the coordinator of Veterans

Office and has been running the ceremony since 1975.

"It is important that we honor our veterans for their service and their brethren, that's the bottom line," said Mordente. "During the Vietnam War, the veterans were not very

popular at all. They were blamed for the war rather than the government. One of the things we learned from that, as we go on in our current wars, is that it's the government who puts us into these wars, and our military serves. That's a valuable lesson."

See **Veterans Day, Page 2**

## Volleyball clinches



PHOTO COURTESY | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Women's volleyball celebrating after winning the NE10 Conference Championship on Saturday, Nov. 10.

See **Sports, Page 9.**

## Shooting victims mourned

By **Alexandra Scicchitano**  
Contributor

Corinne Blackmer, an English and Judaic Studies professor and organizer of the vigil for the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, said the ceremony brought back a lot of grief.

"I was crying, it brought it all back," said Blackmer.

Martin Laskin, a professor in the sociology department, who also teaches in Judaic Studies, said it was good to see people of different faiths and walks of life going to the vigil to pay their respects.



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Art professor David Levine (left) with philosophy professor David Pettigrew.

See **Shooting Vigil, Page 2**

# Turning Point comes to campus

By Josh LaBella  
Managing Editor

Jenna Dower, senior and media studies major, said her goal for a Turning Point USA chapter on campus would be an organization for both political parties to have civil discussions about U.S. politics.

Dower, the president of the chapter, said when she transferred she did not see an organization on campus for students to come together and have a “nice discussion.”

Turning Point USA is a non-profit organization. Their website stated their mission is “to educate students about the importance of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government.”

“I wanted to start that as something big on campus,” said Dower. “I have recently become very political. I had watched Candace Owens and Charlie Kirk [Turning Point USA’s director of communications and executive director] on Fox News and got really interested in their organization. So I reached

out to them and said ‘this is something I would love to do on campus.’”

Dower said she and her members are in the process of becoming an official club.

She said they still need to get an adviser and meet with the Student Government Association to get approved. Dower said when they had a table event the week before they were well received.

“We were on campus last week and we got 196 signatures from professors, workers, students – we saw a lot of people,” said Dower. “It was such a great experience. I enjoyed every part of it.”

According to Dower, she did not know that the College Democrats or College Republicans existed on campus when she decided to start the chapter.

She said in the process of getting things started she reached out to Sarah O’Connor, the president of College Republicans, for help.



PHOTO COURTESY | JENNA DOWER

Turning Point SCSU members (left to right) Historian Tyler Ortiz, Secretary Aly Montague, President Jenna Dower and Vice President Carly Holding.

SEE TURNING POINT, PAGE 3

## Business School

Continued from Page 1



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

The TE6 building where the new school of business will be constructed.

The program – what goes into the building and what specific accommodations need to be made for individual departments – is still being discussed and finalized, said Sheeley.

The new building – set to be at least three to four stories high – will take the place of the current TE6 building, located on the corner of Farnham and Wintergreen Avenue, he said.

“That’s all a guess on our part,” said Sheeley, “until we start construction.”

Sheeley said like the new School of Health and Human Services building, scheduled for construction for spring 2019, his goal with a new school of business is a consolidation of the business program under one roof.

The current school of business was a \$6.6 million endeavour and the main goal was to relocate the School of Business from Seabury

Hall – a building condemned by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for insufficient air quality and lack of handicap accessibility, said the Dean of School of Business Ellen Durnin.

“When I first came here, I talked to the faculty and staff about priorities for the school and the very first priority was, ‘get us out of this building,’” said Durnin.

Durnin said faculty and staff of the business school “always knew that there was going to be the next step” and the current school of business was merely a temporary fix.

In the years to follow, Durnin said they had worked with campus architects to brainstorm what to do to improve the construction of current the school.

One idea had been to build a two-story addition onto the back of the current building.

“The architects for the master facilities said, ‘this

is not going to reach your long-term future needs. It doesn’t make sense for us to build you a building that’s only going to work for five or ten years,’” said Durnin.

Durnin said she was told by the architects in order to meet the needs of the business school they would need at least an 80,000 square foot building.

Sheeley said a major goal of the new building is for it to be a NetZero building, a structure with no energy consumption.

The current business school does partially produce its own energy through solar panels, but it is not a NetZero building, said Sheeley. Currently, the university does not have a NetZero building on campus.

“Our goal is to produce as much energy for the building as possible so that we don’t have to buy it,” said Sheeley, “whether it be solar, geothermal energy – all those things have to be investigated.”

Both Sheeley and Durnin said a trading or stock market simulation room was one of the ideas they wanted to have in the new building.

Durnin also said she was looking to expand the business success center.

“We’ve found that the business students really seem to like doing things in the business school with a business focus,” said Durnin.

Junior and accounting major, Paulina Lamot, said it is exciting to potentially get a new business school.

Lamot said one of the things she would want to see built into the new school of business building is a study room.

“I think maybe if there was more...study rooms,” said Lamot, “where business students could get together and have tutors, for people who need assistance in different subjects... marketing and accounting and all sorts of things like that.”

## Veterans Day

Continued from Page 1

During the 70’s, Mordente served in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. He said the way people look at soldiers today has improved a lot since his time in the service.

“In this political climate,

our veterans are viewed, and treated, very well,” said Mordente. “When these soldiers, who are returning from their time in Iraq, when they were coming through airports, Vietnam veterans were there, in mass, to welcome that.”

## Shooting Vigil

Continued from Page 1



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Vigil for the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting.

“It was important to us to have all the three Abrahamic faiths represented here today as a show of peace,” said Blackmer. “I thought to have it in the original languages, the prayers, were important and beautiful.”

Sara Helfand, a senior and English education major, took part in the vigil ceremony and said, “of course it doesn’t feel good to have to go [to] something like that.”

“The president wasn’t there, which was sad, [but] we had a good turn out,” said Helfand. “I wonder what it would’ve been like if we did it at a different time or a different day.”

Blackmer said she thinks the university cares about this issue.

“This is a compassionate community,” said Blackmer, “I’m very happy and proud to be a professor here and I’m moved to be a professor of Judaic Studies.”

Laskin said the vigil raised awareness, and “it’s more personal than people just getting information from the media.”

Blackmer said she believes more men will wear their kippahs, a traditional Jewish head covering, out more in everyday life, and that “it’s a desire to show unity and fearlessness in the face of fear.”

Helfand said everyone must go against that hate and help spread love and kindness.

Blackmer said Judaic leaders have told followers to show fearlessness in the face of this tragedy.

“We’re dealing with it by [making] a new course in Judaic Studies developed called Anti-Semitism and Racism which is actually a course I developed. It is going to be a critical thinking class, so a lot of people will take it on campus,” said Blackmer.

# New Website

Continued from Page 1

"[Besides the mobile improvement we are] also providing our homepage with a fresh, newer look," said Director of IT Strategic Initiatives and Special Reports Amanda Mojica.

Another major factor that needed to be changed was the navigation of the website, said Mojica. The department found several users had problems with this, as well, she said.

"I think there's definitely things to be improved," said Vice President of the Student Government Association Mia Forgiore. "I know I, like most students, just go right to the search bar and look for everything there because I don't really want to navigate through it all."

The platform used to create the website, Drupal 8, allows for information to be inserted and called back at any time, said Brolliar. This process should eliminate the struggle of searching through old, possibly outdated, web pages.

"Right now, if we changed a phone number, you would have to go through the whole site and look at every single page

that has the phone number on it to make sure the number has changed," said Brolliar. "This in the future will allow a much easier administration."

The old website also did not allow for customization, said Mojica, it was more of a "cookie-cutter" ordeal.

"With our current website, which runs on our CMS [Content Management System], it's more narrowly defined, some of the things we can do in there," said Mojica, "whereas, with Drupal, being open sourced allows us to do a little more and achieve more."

Brolliar said with this platform the university, at any time, can change, alter, or adjust it.

"I think traditionally here at Southern, and in many institutions in general, when you are in higher education, you look for products that are for higher education," said Mojica. "We looked outside of that. We looked at any and all products that still suite our needs, because we shouldn't be defined because we are in higher education."

When first deliberating about the new website, the IT team reviewed other websites to understand what worked and how to design it, said Mojica.

"We looked at a lot of different pages," said Mojica. "We kind of Frankensteined a lot of different elements from different pages."

# Alumna discusses activism



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Jen Sarja, alumna and teacher at High School in the Community.

By Jacob Waring Reporter

Alumna and current teacher at High School in the Community Jen Sarja, spoke with students about why teachers should be activists.

Senior Kylee Vitka-Lainey, an early childhood education major, said she hoped to be a teacher in the same way as Sarja, as she said her words were inspiring to her.

"[It's] kinda inspiring to see what [she's] done with social justice and see how I could apply it to my own future classroom," said Vitka-Lainey.

She said she felt empowered by Sarja's words.

"...A lot of new teachers get worried about being a new teacher in a new school and advocating for kids is kinda like you're on thin ice," she said. "I love what she said, that she will never apologize for advocating for her kids,

that was really empowering for me."

Sarja said after teaching in Connecticut, she realized she could do a lot of activism within the U.S.,—specifically within New Haven—through literacy and the fact that there are a lot of issues locally that students can take part in.

A recurring example was her fight to save Corlandt V.R. Creed High School in North Haven from closure, and how her own students got involved in the fight to save their schools by walking out.

Andrew Smyth, professor and chair of the English department, said he wanted his department to have every opportunity to promote social justice this month, and Sarja being invited to speak was an example of that.

"She's someone that's been involved in activism on the behalf of students in New Haven, and that's a big question a lot of our future teachers were considering: how can I activate my

students without forcing my own agenda on them," he said.

Sarja said magnet schools have to follow a 75:25 ratio rule, which means a magnet school has to maintain enrollment of students where 75 percent of the school can be black and Hispanic and the other 25 percent must be white students.

She said Superior Court Judge Marshall Berger had made a ruling that Connecticut is not allowed to fill empty seats in the Hartford region's magnet schools with more black and Hispanic students from Hartford.

According to her, that case had detrimental effects to education in magnet schools.

"What that case did is say, 'we're gonna create these magnet schools and the percentage wise, you can't have more 75 percent black or brown [students]," she said.

She also said that case is a problem because if the

schools cannot maintain that split then there is a chance of the magnet schools being shattered.

Senior Kasie Kelly, an English secondary education major, said she was appalled to know such an inherently racist rule existed, and it hit her on a personal level.

"I didn't know that was a rule and it was something the magnet schools had to adhere. A lot of us focused on it because we've never heard of it before. It's a very personal issue for me because my brother is half-black, and half-white," she said.

Sarja said she was glad that everyone robustly participated in the discussion, and that speaking to future teachers in attendance was exciting.

"Having these discussions is invigorating because it's exciting to see other teachers, and soon-to-be teachers that want to incorporate social issues into the classes," said Sarja.

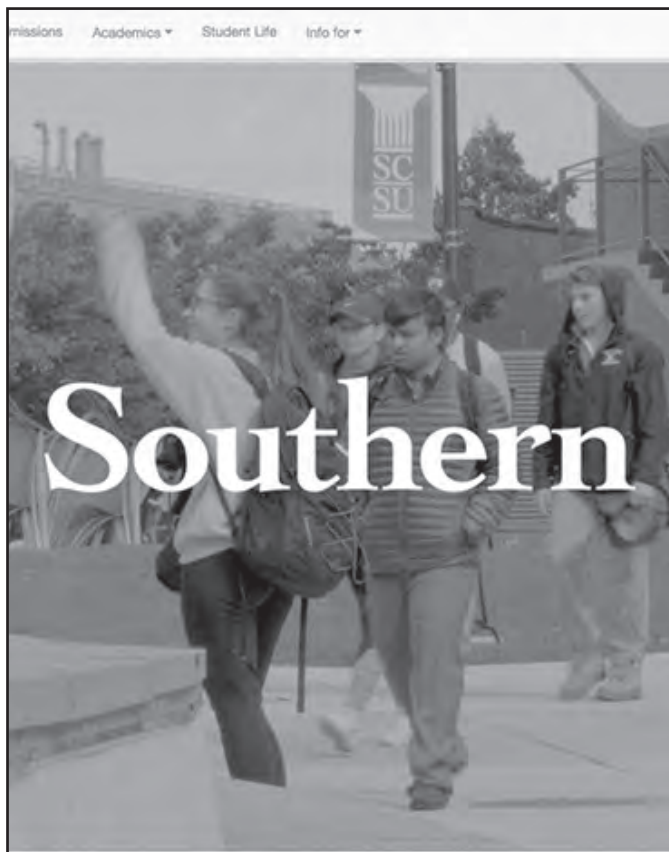


PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

A screenshot of the current home page of the Southern website.

# Turning Point

Continued from Page 2

"She [O'Connor] suggested we not start a TP [Turning Point] chapter," said Dower. "I still wanted to push forward with what I started."

O'Connor said she has been to a few Turning Point events and that the organization has changed since it first started. However, she said they have helped grow the political divide of the country.

O'Connor said Turning Point cannot do the things College Republicans can do—such as endorsing, getting funding from candidates and donating to them, and door knocking—because they are a non-profit. She said she cannot support Turning Point because of how divisive they are.

O'Connor said the message of Turning Point

does not resonate with the message of being a social justice university.

"I don't know these people," said O'Connor. "I don't know where their heads are at but from a national standpoint Turning Point loves to do table events and say really radical things that spread hatred. When we do table events we spread information about local candidates. It's two completely different things."

She said she is not saying that the Southern chapter of Turning Point will do the things that the organization does nationally.

"They say radical things that upset a lot of people," said O'Connor. "Their communications director, Candace Owens, publicly went on Twitter and started bashing victims from the Me Too movement."

O'Connor said the



PHOTO COURTESY | JUSTIN GENDRON

Justin Gendron, president of College Democrats, with U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-CT.

message of Turning Point does not resonate with Southern's message of being a social justice university. She said she is not saying that the Southern chapter of Turning Point will do the things that the organization does nationally.

Justin Gendron, president of College

Democrats, said he did not know much about Turning Point when he was told by O'Connor that students were trying to start a chapter on campus. He said he did know about "the diaper thing."

"So Kent State, their [Turning Point] chapter there, wore adult diapers and sucked on pacifiers to

parody cry baby liberals," said Gendron. "I knew that was a thing but did not know it was a Turning Point thing."

Gendron said as he researched the group more he found out a lot of "interesting" things about them. He said he cannot speak for what a Southern chapter may do - only what other chapters and their leadership have done.

"Tweets from the Charlie Kirk and Candace Owens are just filled with such poison," said Gendron. "Whenever they speak, it's not to inform. It's more to attack. At Southern we don't do that."

Gendron said he does not think Turning Point is conducive to the message of social justice. He said it was hard to imagine that 196 people signed up for Turning Point on campus.

"This means we have to be careful," said Gendron. "We have to remember who's who. We have to remember that there is College Republicans and, if this club becomes an

official club, that there is Turning Point."

Dower said at the end of the day the club gets their talking points from Turning Point national. She said the club is non-partisan but does stand for smaller government and free market values.

"But we aren't judgemental," said Dower. "We want a place on campus for everybody to come together and discuss."

Carly Holding, an early childhood education major and vice president of the prospective club, said their goal is not to attack anyone or make them feel that their views are wrong.

"We're open [to] anyone from any political background," said Holding. "Whether someone is a republican, democrat, independent, conservative, liberal, libertarian - it doesn't matter. Our main mission, as a club and as a unit, is to be able to make a home for people to come and learn and talk freely without feeling judged or discriminated against."

## Social Justice Month could be defined better

By August Pelliccio  
Features and Opinions Editor

Each November, this university holds a variety of events filed under, “Social Justice Month.” The tradition began as a just a week-long celebration, but in the last few years has taken over the whole month. The school is labeled as a social justice university, and while that may be true in many respects, not all events hosted in November directly reflect justice, rather, diversity in general.

In 2018, diversity across race, sexuality, gender and class should be a given. It is important for a public institution to be a community of varied cultures, but the term “justice” implies innovation, which is overkill in some cases.

Many of the events have an impact on guests, representing the way this university is trying to exhibit, promote and fight for justice. For example, David Hogg’s speech on Nov. 27 promoted social justice in a profound way. Hogg is a Parkland survivor, and co-founded the March for Our Lives movement against gun violence. Preventing gun violence is a social justice issue.

Diversity cupcakes are not a display of social justice. At best, it is a demonstration that diversity

exists in our community, which should be expected in this culture and political climate.

Merriam-Webster defines justice as “the maintenance or administration of what is just, especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims.”

The social justice page on the university’s website describes the repeated cupcake decorating event, saying “We are all different without even realizing it. Let’s come together and celebrate these differences in a creative and tasty way!”

The concept is fun, but it has the same label of social justice as the Hogg speech, which is truly an informative and inspirational presentation about a controversial cause.

Another example of an important demonstration of social justice was the Transgender Day of Remembrance. The Williams Institute found that as much as 78 percent of transgender people have faced physical or sexual violence in a school. To bring to light the transgender individuals who lost their lives to violence and suicide, at a public institution, is social justice.

Diversity painting is not a display of justice.

“This event will go to show students how diverse our population is,” the social justice

page stated.

Like the cupcakes, this event does not strive to adjust conflicting claims, unless there are students who have not noticed the cultural richness and variance across this campus. It is not hard-hitting, so to speak.

Diversity painting, and diversity cupcakes alike, both belong on the calendar, but why not celebrate the community at all times of year? Why dedicate a month to promoting change and stirring up controversy, and use it to spread the word that diversity exists?

There are certain things that deserve special attention, especially when the audience is a

public institution. A presentation highlighting the “disability wage gap,” is insightful, and eye-opening. Before Social Justice Month, I did not know that 81 percent of adults with developmental disabilities do not have a paid job in their community. That is a cause that can be worked for. People can fight to change that statistic. Inclusion in the workplace is a social justice issue.

Holiday cuisine is not a display of justice.

The same gripe exists here: a holiday fair serving up traditional foods associated with Hanukkah, Christmas and Three Kings Day does not exhibit a fight for justice.

I will stress again, the holiday fair, diversity painting event and diversity cupcake event do belong here, but maybe they should be categorized differently. Perhaps they should have been part of the 125th anniversary celebration, showing the difference in widespread acceptance as a public institution in this country over the last century.

As a social justice university, this institution could do just a little bit better filling space in the Social Justice Month lineup, or advertising the arguably more important and controversial exhibitions of justice that exist as part of the month-long celebration.



PHOTO | SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Social Justice Month Logo, from its page on the university’s website.

## Students and demonstrators missed the mark on justice

By Jacob Waring  
Reporter

Evangelicals came to visit Southern on Nov. 1, and raised their voices to echo their interpretation



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Don Karns with “evolution is a lie” sign at the Nov. 1 religious demonstration.

of the gospel. They used strong words against students, to “see the error of their ways” or “suffer eternal damnation.” Student engaged in debate with the Evangelicals asking such

questions as why they believe what they believe.

Other students took glee in arguing with them and trolling them with certain responses to elicit older testament anger. The crowd

of students surrounding them near the academic quad had laughed at their religious dogma, making jokes among each other. One student held a sign that said, “I made love to this guy in a Denny’s parking lot” with an arrow pointing at one of the Evangelicals.

The whole demonstration was a waste of everyone’s time. The Evangelicals approach of utilizing their elevated voices to denounce science, and attack the LGBTQ+ community never works. As they say, one attracts more flies with honey than vinegar.

A friendlier approach of educating people of their views and accepting that other may not believe what they believe would have been more effective. Debates should end with “agree to disagree” rather than beating a dead horse, and pushing students away. “This is what may faith is about” is far more productive than “You’ll experience eternal suffering.”

Point blank, some students need to mature and grow up. If you see

they are not going to budge, walk away. “Trolling” to rile them up is a waste of time. It is immature, and frankly, do not fight fire with fire. There are always going to be people sprouting views that, in your eyes, is inconceivable. You will get no where talking to them, and by engaging, you are giving them a platform to speak their mind.

If you are genuinely curious of their views then ask them questions, keep an open mind and know they are likely to either say something you will disagree with. Take this as a moment to engage in your critical thinking and understand a different point of view.

So, to the students, as my favorite poem “Desiderata” says, “speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.”

In the case of these Evangelicals it may be better to follow another line from the same poem that says, “avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.”

As an agnostic Christian

who grew up in a congregational federated church. I know my share of scripture and have multiple Bibles. I treat my faith as a personal matter. I get into healthy debates with people of all faiths, and even those who are Christians that focus on the agnostic aspect of my beliefs. It is conversations where I learn about their faiths and try to understand where they come from. I never go about trying to convert someone and detest proselytizers of any belief.

I will say that Evangelicals whom visited I completely disagree with. I believe in science; evolution and I do not know who is going to hell or not. I do not know how the afterlife would work. The Evangelicals, at some points during their demonstration, said some hateful words that would make God frown. There are atheists who do good and seem to follow the teachings of Christ better than Christians. I tend to believe that God, if he or she exists, would take that into consideration.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Looking back: Fall of 1989



### Brady calls for more gun control

The wife of the former presidential press secretary who was seriously wounded during an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan spoke to Southern about the need for better gun control.

Sarah Brady said she had a desire to end a problem which had blanketed society for decades. In a panel discussion hosted by the Women's Studies Committee, a group of politicians, mayoral candidates, police officers, and Brady tried to generate interest in gun control among the nearly 300 listeners in the audience.

She said the fact that her husband is alive is a testament to the skill and dedication of the medical community but his debilitating injuries are proof of something else.

"That shot at all is also a testament to America's weak gun laws," said Brady. "John Hinkley would have never been able to purchase the Saturday Night Special he used on the president and my husband if the police has been able to run a background check."

Brady said she supported the DeConcini bill which would ban assault weapons and semi-automatic rifles. She said the weapons were turning up in the hands of drug dealers and street gangs. According to Brady, the bill has a lot of support from the public but not from the National Rifle Association.

"Today the NRA has a lot of power," said Brady, "but it's beginning to wane."

### More from Fall of 1989

#### September:

- An engineering firm reports that a July 10 tornado did \$4 million dollars in damage in Pelz Gymnasium.

- The university receives a \$58,000 grant to continue a computer science joint research project under the Collaborative High Technology Program.

#### October:

- Twenty-two faculty members voluntarily take early retirement offered to all eligible state employees due to a \$6.7 million dollar cut in Southern's budget.

- Two students face suspension or expulsion after an alleged kidnapping as part of a pledge process for the banned Phi Alpha Omega fraternity.

#### November

- The two students involved in the alleged kidnapping in October are sentenced to 700 hours of community service.

#### December

- A \$25 million collection of Andy Warhol paintings is displayed in the student center.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Josh LaBella, Managing Editor

## Where is the bronze owl?

By August Pelliccio  
Features and Opinions Editor

Southern News first reported on the upcoming installation of a bronze owl statue in front of Engleman Hall on Oct. 31.

The statue was announced on Oct. 20, to be installed in the week following. Three and a half weeks later, the bronze owl has been on a long journey.

In that time, a walkway

was carved out, a concrete foundation was poured and the statue's base was installed, but no permanent installation of the statue yet.

Michelle Johnston, director of alumni relations said a ceremony to dedicate the statue may not be held until late in the spring semester. She said the 125th Anniversary Committee discussed Giving Day 2019, but nothing is final yet.



Oct. 26: Location decided, foundation poured



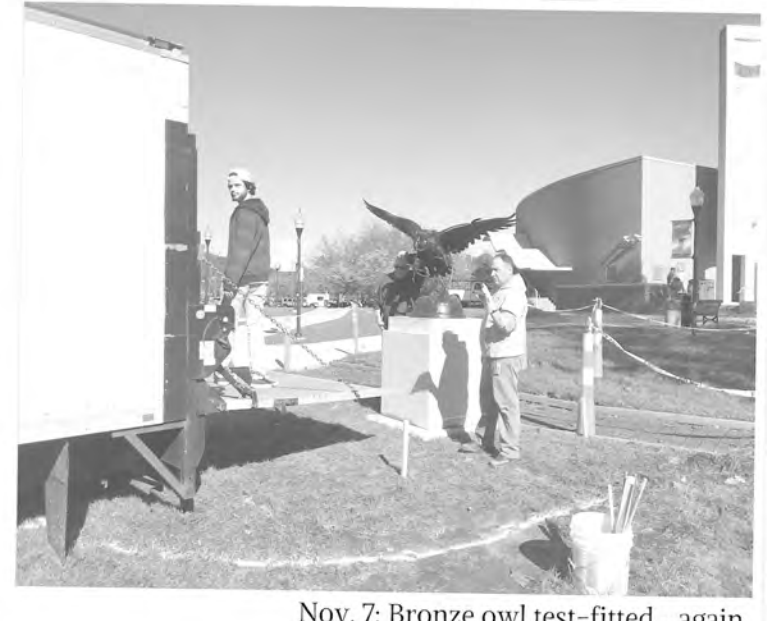
Oct. 30: Stone base delivered, installed



Oct. 31: Bronze owl test-fitted



Nov. 6: No installation yet



Nov. 7: Bronze owl test-fitted... again.

## Tampon dispensers empty, have been for years

By Tamonda Griffiths  
News Writer

Angela Casner, a junior and psychology major said she has noticed a lack of feminine hygiene products in the women's bathroom since the beginning of the semester.

"I come prepared, but I know...sometimes I may forget something or like other people, you know, may not... expect it, so to not have [feminine hygiene products] on you it's... really stressful," said Casner.

Virilinda Billups, psychology department

secretary, said in fall 2017 she collaborated with psychology professors Dawn Biondi and Kelly Stiver to provide female students with the pads and tampons they needed.

"We are women and we do need things," said Billups. "And sometimes actually students aren't able to, you know - they could be in a fix."

According to a 2013 survey conducted on the Free the Tampons website, 86 percent of women between the ages of 18 and 54 years old reported getting their period unexpectedly, and

76 percent said they must "MacGyver" or improvise feminine hygiene products.

Billups said there was a time when there were hygiene dispensers in the bathrooms but that was before the remodeling of Engleman Hall in the early 2000s. She said she had never brought this concern to the head of facilities.

"It was just a good gesture on [professors Biondi and Stiver's] part," said Billups.

Billups said originally, they had put the entire box of either pads or tampons in the bathroom but found it would disappear rather quickly.

Instead, a flyer is posted in the women's bathrooms of the psychology department informing students to go to the department office if they find themselves unprepared.

"And this is totally private," said Billups.

Stiver said she noticed Billups, at one point in time, had been supplying the women's bathrooms with health and beauty aid products, such as deodorants and air fresheners, and had been in conversations with colleagues from

other universities about the lack of "toiletries dispensers."

"We don't actually have any resources for this," said Stiver, "and there are people that... might not be able to afford hygienic items."

In 2016, Connecticut joined the ranks of 13 out of 50 states that do not have taxation on feminine hygiene products, according to a BBC article.

It is estimated that the abolishment of the sales tax on those products will save consumers about \$10 million of the \$3.1 billion Americans spend annually on pads, tampons and other feminine hygiene needs.

Stiver said there had been times when students have had "emergency situations" that forced them to go door-to-door to ask for tampons.

Stiver said she credits Billups for recognizing the overall need for feminine products, and she and Biondi simply expanded to period-specific products as well.

"I think it is a legitimate need," said Stiver.

Emily Rosenthal, the coordinator of the



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO  
Empty tampon dispenser in a unisex bathroom in the Adanti Student Center.

wellness center, said although her office focuses more on the facilitation of public health education and preventative care measures, the wellness center does provide free feminine hygiene products and as well as the health services office in Granoff Hall.

Both Billups and Stiver said they were unaware of this fact, but it was good to know.

Stiver said they were more so focused on the "acute" need for supplies in the psychology wing.

"[We are] doing it out of the goodness of our hearts," said Billups.



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS  
Virilinda Billups, psychology department secretary and Kelly Stiver, psychology professor.

# Life finds a way: Goldblum's jazz album

By August Pelliccio  
Features and Opinions Editor

Twenty-four minutes and 58 seconds into his new album, Jeff Goldblum gets the inevitable "Jurassic Park" reference out of the way.

It was no surprise that this would occur, not even halfway through "The Capitol Studio Sessions." Despite that and a cameo by comedian Sarah Silverman, the record was a fun and intelligent collection of jazz tunes written by a variety of historically acclaimed jazz musicians. Such famous names as Herbie Hancock, Charles Mingus, Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole and even Marvin Gaye wrote many of the tracks.

One might wonder how the actor's name belongs alongside some of the biggest names in jazz. As it turns out, Goldblum is a somewhat accomplished jazz pianist, and plays covers with his band, the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra.

This particular collection of live recordings

begins with Hancock's "Cantaloupe Island," which transports the listener to a 1974 Chicago nightclub. Piano improvisation is inspired, if somewhat elementary. Some understanding of freeform jazz is exhibited, and the accompaniment is spot-on, meaning the opener kept me listening.

Gaye's "Don't Mess with Mister T" follows and introduces featured trumpeter Till Brönner. It is clear the musicians are having fun bouncing licks off one another, improvising together. The way the trumpet and saxophone follow each other, and even play out the song in unison sounds like homage to the legendary Miles Davis and Charlie Parker duo.

The baritone saxophone accompaniment in "My Baby Just Cares for Me" is sure to strike a chord even with the listener who is not particularly fond of jazz. Especially enjoyable on that track is the vocal lead by singer Hailey Reinhart, most famous for winning

"American Idol" and touring with Postmodern Jukebox.

Silverman appears in a duet with Goldblum for Billy Rose's "Me and my Shadow." The cover is satirical, adding commentary on more recent pop culture and political points, such as the Chicago Redskins' name and global warming, oh and of course, "Jurassic Park." It is tastefully humorous that he understands which role he is most widely known for in his 42-year Hollywood career, and jokes about it.

Charles Mingus would be proud of the group's rendition of "Nostalgia in Times Square," which is kept tight and safe in regard to improvisation, but is still stirring.

The latter half of the album consists of mainly downtempo, "easy listening" jazz, so to speak.

High energy is brought back to the performance in the closer, Duke Ellington's "Caravan." Goldblum becomes liberal with his improvisation, showing



PHOTO COURTESY | KENT WILLIAMS

Jeff Goldblum, front-runner of the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra jazz band.

an interest in free jazz. He plays around the melody, in between the notes in an artful fashion.

Goldblum's career as a jazz pianist began at age 15, according to a profile in The Guardian. It was not until the ripe age of

65 that he signed his first record deal, with Decca. It is probably thanks to that 50-year limbo that not many outside the local Los Angeles community knew of Goldblum's live music career.

Notwithstanding, "The

Capitol Studio Sessions" will stay in my library, if not just for novelty, for easy listening in the background of a cocktail party. It is that good, but I will still probably utter, "hey, did you know this is Jeff Goldblum?"

## Students enriched by military service

By Jacob Waring  
Reporter

The Veterans Services on campus serves to welcome and accommodate student veterans, several of which said their experience in the Armed Forces and their studentship has enriched their lives.

"Boot camp was one of the toughest things I've ever done in my life," said Gabriel Maldonado, "It kind of set me up for like 'nothing is hard anymore.'"

Stationed as a marine in Yuma, Arizona, Maldonado worked as a project leader for harrier jump jets, aircrafts marked for their ability to hover like a helicopter. His responsibilities, he said, included keeping logs of the aircraft components, conducting destructions and repairs, and reporting any parts required for

further inspection.

Prior to the military, Maldonado characterized himself as not having much ambition and lacking a sufficient work ethic. He attributed his training at boot camp to breaking him down to his elements and purging himself of these bad habits.

Maldonado's training in mental fortitude was not just limited to bootcamp. During the financial meltdown US families experienced a decade ago, Maldonado said he lost his job. Without notifying anyone, he spent every day shedding the necessary weight needed for proper recruitment and signed up for the marines.

Another student veteran, Bryant Torres, was stationed as a member of the air force for six years. He said he also felt the effects of the economic crisis.

With his parents out of

work, Torres suspended his university studies and was recruited into the air force until he planned to return when the economy stabilized. Although his parents were a bit distressed at his leaving, he said they were nonetheless happy that they would finally be replenished for their financial troubles.

Torres said his main mission was to monitor the ebb and flow of information within the Air Force networks.

From the UK to South Korea, Torres said he was fortunate to have traveled overseas, which was unprecedented for him. He said that exploring South Korea's political climate more intimately gave him a different perspective than he had previously adopted.

"Talking to the people and getting to know them gave me a whole new outlook to their situation," said Torres, "Prior

to the military, I was more anti-war, but now seeing to what was going on overseas, it showed me what the military was doing over there, and I'd say I'm in a more neutral standpoint now."

Reza Noori, a student veteran, spoke about his experience as an American interpreter, working in Afghanistan. He said the history for American interpreters on foreign soil has certainly not been the most welcoming.

Despite the risk involved, Noori said interpreting between high ranking officers of America and Afghanistan provided an outlasting experience of him, and that while he was there, he was granted the opportunity to write upon the internal affairs for the Afghan National Police.

Since then, his services for working for the US government has allowed him to seek refuge and obtain a Special Immigrant Visa, where he is now able to pursue his studies here at SCSU. Bryant Torres, student

veteran, has not only found himself pursuing a bachelor's in computer science but has also acquired a love for traveling. When asked as to what country he saw himself settling in, he answered that Ireland had impressed him the most.

"I loved how beautiful the scenery is. The people are super-friendly," Torres said, "Actually, next semester I'll be trying to study in Cork, the second biggest city in Ireland."

"I plan to graduate this December with an interdisciplinary study in computer science and business management," said Reza Noori, "then planning to find a job then hopefully start my graduate studies."

"I want to graduate and maybe start my own business as an event planner," said Maldonado, "I kind of got the bug for party planning in the military. I was the vice president for the program there on top of doing my job and volunteering for other things on base."



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Bryant Torres, a student in the Air Force for six years.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Reza Noori, a student who served as an interpreter.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Gabriel Maldonado, a student in the US Marine Corps.

## Plan to quit: students exchange tobacco products

By Jacob Waring  
Reporter

As part of Social Justice Month, the wellness center collected students' tobacco products in exchange for flash drives and gift cards.

"We've done about now, at least five or six tobacco exchange programs in about two years, one or two every semester," said Victoria Adams, tobacco program coordinator.

The service, she said, is funded by a grant provided by the Department of Public Health and Tobacco and Health Trust Fund. Students could trade in such items as vaporizers, pipes, cigarettes cigars and more. Most of what was collected on Nov. 5 was cigars, which she said

were disposed of.

The wellness center has saved a few items from previous drives, said Adams, for educational purposes.

Last week's event had a turnout of only 13 students, but Adams said they typically see up to 50 students per exchange.

Adams said a vital piece of information the wellness center shares with students at exchanges is: cigarettes are deadly, and one of the most toxic things you can put into your body.

She said most people do not understand the inherent dangers of not just smoking, but vaping.

"Vaping most likely is less of a harm to your body, however it still causes harm," said Adams. "Vaping still has

carcinogens."

Adams said she does not know exactly how vaping stacks up to smoking, "but we do know that every time someone puts a vape pen in their mouth, inhaling the e-juice, they are hurting their body."

Adams said the wellness center cites sources including the Center for Disease Control. The exchanges are an educational outreach about the harmful effects of such products, Adams said.

Gift cards were an incentive to help motivate people to kick the habit, said Adams. She said anyone can go into the wellness center to exchange their items. Students do not necessarily have to wait

for an exchange booth to be set up. Adams said that students can set up an appointment or just walk into the wellness center, and they can speak with someone about a plan to quit.

"They'll give them tips on how to quit," said Adams. "Through this grant, we have free nicotine replacement therapy."

She said they also give students nicotine gum, or nicotine patches as part of a plan.

Adams said they do not like to push any kind of negative information onto people. When they come to quit, she said, they focus on the positives. It is a judgment free zone, she said.

"We do not judge anyone who comes to



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Tobacco products traded in to the wellness center, for the tobacco program's exchange program.

the booth," said Adams. "We understand that it's an addiction and that they're most likely addicted to nicotine. We

treat it as, 'we're excited that they're here... excited that they're taking that first step towards making themselves healthier.'"

# NSSHHA screens aphasia doc

By Jeff Lamson  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Documentary film "Speechless," was screened Thursday by members of Southern's undergraduate chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association for education and awareness.

The film documented three individuals who suffer from aphasia, a communication disorder affecting over two million Americans with 180,000 new cases expected in 2020 according to the National Aphasia Association website. The disorder which is caused by brain damage, often contributed to strokes, impairs one's ability to process language and communication with others but does not impair cognition.

"I've done one observation with a client with aphasia and it was really interesting," said Annie Prusak, "so I was excited to learn more."

Prusak, a sophomore and communication disorders major said that the film was an eye-opening experience to how aphasia affects more than just conversations, but relationships and day to day life.

"It changes how other people treat you because they don't understand it all," said Ben Anderson,



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

**NSSLHA Vice President, Lexi Negron (left) and President Mariah Eykelhoff (right) at the screening.**

a Norwalk Community College student.

According to Mariah Eykelhoff, bringing awareness to communication disorders in general is important and screenings like this are part of that effort. NSSLHA President Eykelhoff, a senior and Vice President Lexi Negron a junior both communication disorders major said the chapter plans on doing more screenings in the future. They will be around campus and in the Center for Communication Disorders in Davis Hall where clients come in twice a week.

"Just to give them a little insight on other people's stories," Eykelhoff said, "have their care givers and family members connect with the people on the screen, knowing they're

not alone, knowing other people are going through the same exact thing."

She said that it was nice to see people in their own daily lives using different treatment and communication methods. The film showed more than Eykelhoff expected including application of an iPod Touch by the subject, Ed, as a text to speech device. This was a real-life implementation of what Negron said was an augmented alternative communication device, something she and Eykelhoff see used in a more controlled setting in their major.

Eykelhoff said that relationships are not the same after someone gets a disorder like aphasia. She said she liked seeing the family support in "Speechless," specifically one man's support from

his wife.

"She just stood by him and she supported him, and she was there with him every step of the way and that was just amazing to see," Eykelhoff said.

Negron said that the power of documentaries like "Speechless," that portray aphasia well is that it can help you realize how people can take the simple daily task of speaking for granted.

This semester is the undergraduate chapter of NSSLHA's first on campus and this screening was the first big project they were able to put on after the graduate chapter failed to raise the appropriate funds, \$450, for licensing last semester.

Eykelhoff said NSSLHA plans to learn from this screening and future discussions with audiences and in meetings to learn how to better address these topics.

"We have open ears," Eykelhoff said. "We're listening to everyone and we will cater to that."

The new chapter is still establishing themselves, she said, and there are more projects and larger projects on the way.

"We're really just getting started," Eykelhoff said, "we don't have a lot in our fundraising account, so we're working with what we can and trying to spread awareness in any way possible."

# English department taking submissions to explore social justice in literature

By Matt Gad  
Contributor

Meredith Sinclair, an assistant professor of secondary education in the English department, is spearheading an effort, tied into the university wide Social Justice Month, to look for books and other works of literature, with themes of social justice.

"There are powerful texts out there that can help us to understand what social justice means and why there's a need for us to attend to it," Sinclair said. "I'd hope that folks may be introduced to a book that they had not heard of or that they'd possibly see a new meaning for."

In the English wing of Engleman Hall, the department will be creating a bulletin board to showcase this effort, which Sinclair said they plan to keep up through next semester. Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to submit works of social justice literature through a Google Forms document.

"We want to find some voices that are different from the mainstream that's been fed to people through high school and often through college," English department chairperson Andrew Smyth said. "When people talked about the top 100 books of the 20th century, The Great Gatsby came to the top in almost every list and that was a really important book but what about those books from voices who aren't always heard so well?"

Through this effort, as well as possible changes in curriculum reading material, the department hopes to influence students in their reading choices outside of class.

"We make the argument through most of our department courses that reading and discussing and writing and thinking about works of literature that raise these issues activate people to do more in their world for social justice," Smyth said. "How can you read and talk about such things without saying 'I'm going to be more aware of the fact that maybe we shouldn't be living behind gated communities?'"

So far, the department

has gotten several submissions through their Google setup to bring authors and the stories they are telling, which may not be in the mainstream, to light. Smyth said a lot of the great books in American history and literature have all been written by white men.

"It's important for us to remember that stories from authors of color and stories from other marginalized communities are American stories and should be read and celebrated as such," Sinclair said. "Certainly our discipline at the secondary and post-secondary levels has not honored this truth."

English secondary education majors are required to take a cross-cultural literature course that spends a lot of time focusing on the historical context of the works they read.

"It was really enriching for me," senior and English (two majors? -eb) secondary education major Madi Csejka said. "And in my British Literature course we read slave narratives and a lot more modern works by minority authors."

Cresjka said Sinclair is "very outspoken" when it comes to wanting and needing equality in education.

"With the amount of education majors we have it's very important to make people aware of the people and literature that have been marginalized," Cresjka said. "Probably every education major does at least one placement in the inner-city and if you student-teach there it's great to have exposure to such diverse authors in order to represent all different people to your students."

Sinclair said the project is "less about diversity picks" and "more about reminding all of us that we must do better in naming what counts as literature."

"We always talk about how literature applies to human nature but so much of what is taught in schools is white human nature," Csejka said. "Professor Sinclair's efforts are great steps in the right direction of thinking about all people when we approach literature."

# The pulpy Overlord defies expectations

By Haljit Basuljevic  
Contributor

"Overlord," released last week did not invite much hype, but defied the expectations of it.

The audience is dropped in the midst of Allied soldiers scrambling on a plane leading up to D-Day in Europe during World War II. They are to destroy a German radio position perched atop an old church, to prevent the interception of air supplies by enemy troops. Pulsating fear envelops them as they watch neighboring aircrafts crash down in flames. It is truly an intense and dazzling moment. It sets itself as a classic opening scene.

Boyce, our protagonist, plunges into and emerges from the ocean, ripping through wet, suffocating parachute fabric like an enraged baby breaking out of the womb. A symbol, if you will.

This is symbolic,

because the always moral Boyce is forced to confront the contradictory yet terrifyingly justifiable reactions his teammates have towards war, whether it's the wisecracking tough guy, Tibbet, or the duty-or-die Corporal Ford.

As one of the soldier's muses about publishing his experience when he gets home, he steps onto a landmine and all his dreams dissolve into the flesh scented smoke. If there is any commentary, it is that war instills a logic of its own.

Except that the film foregoes any case for nuance in its latter half. This was a little surprising, but not really, because the first half of the movie is pretty damned good.

For a movie that follows a standard formula, there are some beautiful shots here, such as spectral green foliage looming in

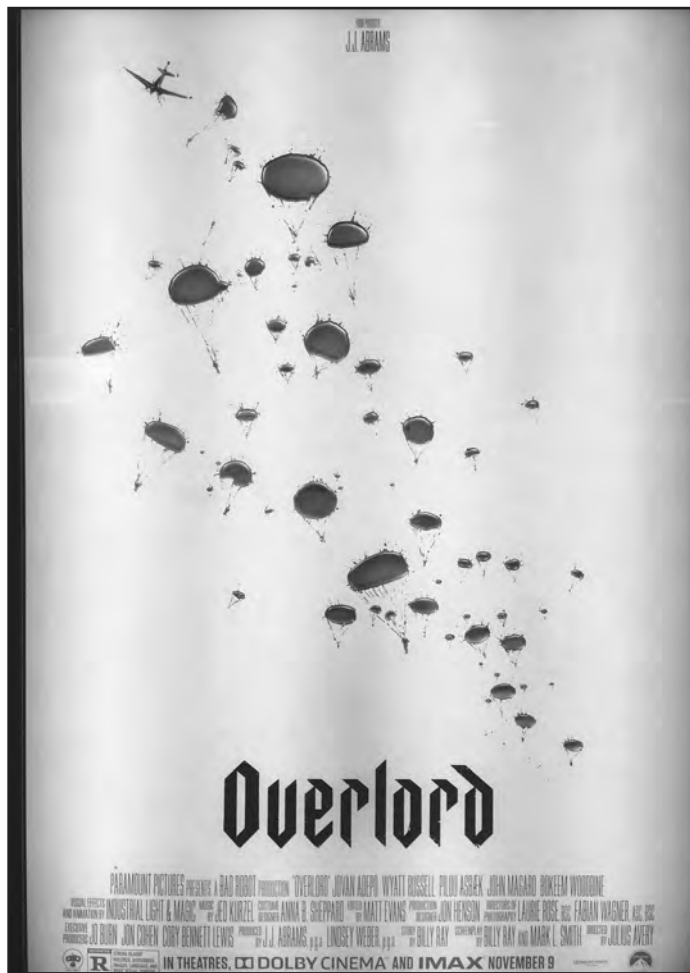


PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

See more on:  
[thesouthernnews.org](http://thesouthernnews.org)

The poster for Overlord.

# Want to become a part of the student media?

*The following positions are open for Spring 2019*

**Southern News:** Managing Editor, Arts & Entertainment Editor, Photo Editor, General Assignment Reporter

**Crescent Magazine:** Features Editor, Online Editor

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Applications for all club positions are due **Nov. 26** and can be found on the Southern News website at [thesouthernnews.org](http://thesouthernnews.org)

## Scholarships awarded to talent show winners

By Alexandra Scicchitano  
Contributor

Winners of the Expressions of Social Justice Talent Show were awarded scholarships, but one student claims her group was cheated out of winning.

"It was a surprise to us that he offered scholarships to the individual winners and for the clubs and organizations. He offered them funds that can go into their fundraising to support the organization," said Dian Brown-Albert, coordinator of cultural affairs.

Brown-Albert said that Bertolino made the winners' year with the offer. The winners were Monique Harriot for first, second place was Fejro Onakponea and third place was Huon Howard for the individual category. In the group and organization category

Steppin' Up Drill Team won first, Caribbean Student Association in second and Organization of Latin American Students in third. First place won \$1000 scholarships, second place won \$500 scholarships and third place won \$250 scholarships, along with the prizes made for the event, said Brown-Albert.

Michelle Langley, a sophomore and social work major, said she really enjoyed the event and bringing awareness to social justice is generally good. Jason Ampah, a junior and computer science major, said it was good to get out and have fun.

Andrea Meyers, mother to talent contestant, Jonathan Meyers, said he asked her and her husband to go and see him in the show.

"I'm very proud of him," she said. "He's been singing since he was in middle school."

Meyers also said she was impressed by all the courage by the performers to get up there and perform their acts.

"The event, all together, was fun. It was like a big family," said Troya Coote, a sophomore and psychology major.

Coote said that her and her organization, African Students Association, felt cheated out, that it felt unfair on the group and organization side. She said that some groups did not portray social issues, part of the judging criteria.

"They shook their a--es in the judges face and then turned around and said Black Lives Matter," said Coote. "If it's social justice, we don't shake our a--es in judges' faces. We got cheated."

Brown-Albert said the decision for third was very close between ASA and OLAS.

The judges look for overall performance and score them on a scale of



PHOTO | ALEXANDRA SCICCHITANO

Jonathan Meyers singing at the Expressions of Social Justice Talent Show.

one to 20, Brown-Albert said. They look for audience response, stage appearance, originality, personality and social justice representation, which Brown-Albert said

can earn performers one to five extra points. The five judges' scores were then added up to decide the winners, she said.

"Everything was done fairly and consistently

according to the rules and judging criteria," said Brown-Albert. "Students are free to come in and look at judging criteria and results, if they like."

## French rap at Lyman

By Jacob Waring  
Reporter

Canadian rapper Webster performed a set completely in French last Wednesday at the Lyman Center for the Performing Arts.

The Québec based artist's performance hosted by the French Club was in celebration of National French Week. Jon Shee and Sandi VanAsudal, present and vice president of the American Association of Teachers of French, said there were French classes from 35 schools in attendance. These teachers also organized the concert.

"We have a big mailing list of a huge percentage of French teachers in the state," said Shee. "We sent it out many times to public schools, private schools and parochial schools and they all responded with interest. It was about 50 percent middle school, and 50 percent high school, and we were very pleased that there was almost 1,470 people."

Shee said they sent their teachers three songs of Webster's ahead of time to teach their students. They projected French lyrics of his songs during the concert for everyone to easily follow along. They both said they thought the Lyman Center was amazing and hope to do more concerts at the venue in the future.

Their goal for this and previous concerts was to advocate for the French language and show it is not relegated to one part of Europe.

"The whole idea is to advocate for French, and having students take French," said VanAsudal. "It's through the whole French speaking world, it's not just France. So, we really wanted to promote that which is why Webster is from Canada."

During the performance, Webster rapped in French but



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Canadian rapper, Webster, performing at Lyman.

encouraged the students to put their hands up in the air and spoke about what his songs were about in between them. He also took questions from students in the audience, ranging from when he started rapping to life advice. During his hour-long performance, he would hop off stage to high five, hug, take selfies and interact with the students.

Afterwards, in his dressing room, Webster said that the crowd was phenomenal and he was happy with the students' participation in his performance.

"It was nice, they were crazy. It gives me a lot of energy," Webster said. "I like that, that people react well, as every entertainer [agrees] I think. I was happy that there was a big crowd. They were noisy and they participated, I'm really happy about that."

Many of his raps were about resilience and perseverance and those themes took on a bigger meaning when performing in front of the middle and high school students he said.

"That's the age where people ask themselves a

lot of questions, and they don't trust in themselves. They make a lot of errors," Webster said. "You make some good and bad choices, and they need to understand that there is life after the teen years, there's life after school too, you know. I'm trying to give them the tools that were lacking around me when I was growing up."

Sophia Whipple, a psychology major and French minor, said that she and other members of French Club for which she is president, put up flyers and went to French classes advertising the event.

Whipple said Webster's performance was great, and that he was the perfect person to have perform because of his life stories and positive messages he shared with students during his performance.

"He's a great role model for these kids," Whipple said. "He's just so well-spoken and he has great vision, and ideas of the world. It was great that he wanted to come and share that with the students who might not have been to a concert like that before or met someone like him before."

## Poet laureate visits SCSU

By Jeff Lamson  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Author and poet laureate representing Old Saybrook Pat O'Brien came to speak to students about life, creativity and a newly published book, according to the OwlConnect event page.

O'Brien was invited by Maile Chaplar, president of Southern's chapter of the international English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta. She read poems from 2012 poetry book, "When Less than Perfect is Enough," and collaborative efforts with fellow poets around the state. There was also a Q&A session in which the members of STD and Bookmarks English Club could ask for advice from the well-versed writer.

"You don't get a chance to talk to someone like that all the time," said Jason Tessier.

The junior and English major said he liked the variety of topics and tones that O'Brien covered in her readings. Poems have a tendency to focus on sad topics, Tessier said, but O'Brien was able to change that up in her pieces. A regular at the club's

meetings, Tessier said that he usually tries to make it to events, especially when there is a seasoned writer coming in.

"I'm in a lot of classes where I write poetry and stories myself," Tessier said, "so it's good to get the voice of someone who's been doing it for a while."

O'Brien discussed her method of inspiration, saying that walking was helpful, but that one must also read other people's work.

"There's no one formula, no one way," O'Brien said. "[It] depends where you are in your life and how much energy you have."

As for revising O'Brien said that one has to, "Just do it." She said that she could relate to the struggle of having to go through the process as a writer.

"Often, what you put down is precious," O'Brien said, "so you can't always come to grips that it could use some help."

She said that she liked working in collaborative groups, like the Connecticut River Poets, a group she helped co-found in 2012. Establishing ground rules within these groups can

be tremendously helpful, she said, and being in a group forces you to write something. The group is working on another collection of poems to be published in a book, she said.

Her new book, "The Laughing Rabbit: A Mother, A Son and the Ties that Bind," was co-written with her son who she said she was forced to put up for adoption in 1962 and reconnected with in 1982. The book also features contributions from her son's birth father's widow, his adoptive aunt and his wife. The two of them wrote the chapters individually, going back and forth throughout the book with poems in select places.

"Poems act as stepping stones throughout the story," O'Brien said.

O'Brien said that the book was originally her son's idea. When she and her son first met he was caught up in his own life, grieving an adoptive mother who had suffered from cancer and getting into a "bad marriage," she said.

"I think that the process was long and hard because of his resistance," O'Brien said, "that he's doubly delighted that it worked out."

Addressing topics involving her grandfather with whom she was close to, her father who she watched drink and then lie to her mother about it, her brother who died in a car accident and her grief about it, the Iraq War and what it meant to her as a mother and her relationship with her son, O'Brien's poetry addressed some less than savory topics, but that writing was a part of the process of it all for her.

"This is a way of looking back at life and coming to grips with it," O'Brien said. "The stories can be difficult, but there can be a way to find forgiveness and understanding."



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Writer Pat O'Brien in the English Common Room.



## Wallace joins elite company in record books



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Linebacker Jhaaron Wallace, a senior, during a game earlier this season.

By Kevin Crompton  
Editor-in-Chief

Playing Division II football was never even a dream for Jhaaron Wallace. In fact, it was more of an after-thought.

Wallace, an All-Conference and All-Area selection out of Glastonbury High School, had much bigger aspirations of playing at the highest level of collegiate competition: Division I.

"Going DI is just the big dream," said Wallace. "As a high school athlete, that's where the big stadiums, the big colleges, and really the big NFL recruiting coaches come. For me, going DI was more of the flashiness and all of the things that come with being a DI athlete, and also the ability to be streamlined directly to the NFL."

Wallace, a senior inside linebacker for the Owls, just concluded his final year of college football eligibility in Southern's last game against Merrimack Saturday. He said he has no regrets about choosing Southern for his college playing days.

"Being where I am today, I think it was a great choice that I went here," said Wallace. "If I went back would I do it again? Absolutely."

When Wallace joined the Southern football program as a freshman in 2015, he made an immediate impact. Wallace played in every game during his rookie season and recorded 61 tackles, which placed him as the second leading tackler for the Owls that season.

Three years later, as a senior and captain on the team, Wallace led the defense in tackles with 80 and currently sit at fifth in all-time career tackles in Southern history with 259.

"[Wallace's 259 career tackles] is a quite accomplishment in some ways," said head coach Tom Godek. "I don't even know if our league recognizes that at times."

Members of the NE10 conference are not the only ones that Wallace's career milestone passed by. Wallace himself said he was incognizant his name was that high on the career tackles list in the Southern record book.

"I was not aware of that," said Wallace. "I knew I was top ten after the UNH game. I did not know I was top five."

SEE WALLACE PAGE 11



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Volleyball celebrates their first ever NE10 Tournament championship.

## Volleyball wins NE10 Tournament for first time in program history

By Matt Gad  
Contributor

For the first time in program history the Owls have secured the Northeast-10 Volleyball Championship with their 3-0 win over American International.

They entered competition last week as the tournament's number four seed, defeating fifth-seeded Southern New Hampshire in three sets in the quarterfinals, their 14th victory inside Pelz Gymnasium. The Owls then traveled to Adelphi University, the host for the semifinals as the highest seed remaining, and defeated No. 8 Saint Anselm in last Friday's semifinals. The conference championship game against the No. 3-seeded Yellow Jackets came in the next night.

"I'm through the moon so proud of this team," head

coach Lisa Barbaro said. "I keep saying that but I don't know what else to say; they just have really, really come together. There was an early point in the season where it was questionable but I always believed. I knew we had the talent."

The Owls went to their first ever NCAA Tournament last year after appearing in the NE10 Championship game, losing in five sets to New Haven. This year, they suffered two separate three-game losing streaks and lost four of their first seven games of the regular-season.

"The biggest thing about this team is that we have a lot of contributors," Barbaro said. "We don't ride on one or two kids. At different moments a lot of people stepped up; Kylie Fisher on serve, Kailyn O'Neal just an unbelievable job -- she's improved so much. I could go through the whole team."

SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE 11



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Jillian Chambers (right), a junior, celebrates with team during the Owls' semifinal win against Saint Anselm on Friday.

## Men's Cross Country wins NE10 Title

By Matt Gad  
Contributor

For the first time in school history, the men's cross country team won the NE10 Championship, defeating Stonehill, American International, Southern New Hampshire and Merrimack in the top five for the team's second straight first place finish and their first of the postseason.

"We knew going in we had a shot to do really well," assistant cross country and track and field coach Brian Nill said. "We kind of thought we were gonna be second or third but guys just never slowed down and we kept passing guys and passing guys."

The Owls had four runners in the top 15 in redshirt freshman Chris Lebeau third overall, sophomore Terrell Patterson

seventh overall, junior Connor Shannahan 10th overall and freshman Jake Mattei in 11th place.

"We were controlled for the first part but then we just picked people off," Lebeau said. "We all ran the best we could and results came with it because our fourth and fifth were a lot closer to our first, second and third, so that's what gave us the edge at the end. Stonehill and AIC have some very good runners but we as a team were the closest packed together and that helped us get the lowest score."

Redshirt senior captain Steven Cugini finished in 19th, sophomore Gavin Woodward was 23rd, junior Dan Perusina was 38th, sophomore Shawn Odei-Nitri finished 41st, senior Tyler Mann hit 87th, freshman Jon Warren was 109th and senior Haroon Chaudhry finished 130th.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Haroon Chaudhry, senior, running during a meet earlier this season.

SEE CROSS COUNTRY PAGE 10

# Basketball expecting a run at NCAA Tournament title



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Guard Ulyen Coleman, a sophomore, during a road game last year against University of New Haven.

By Michael Riccio  
Sports Editor

A season after missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time in five years, sophomore Ulyen Coleman said the expectation for the team is to make it back. "We should be an NCAA Tournament team," Coleman said. "We should make a deep run. We have enough talent to do all of that; the size, the guards, the quickness, the athleticism. I think the sky's the limit this year. I think we can do really well." Coleman said the team must remain focused and stay disciplined everyday while continuing to work hard. "We know if we come out with a lot of desire to win, we can definitely beat anybody in this conference," Coleman said. "I think we have one of the most talented teams. I think we can really do a lot of special things this year."

A year after going 16-12 and 11-9 in conference play, the Owls were picked first in the preseason NE10 coaches' poll. Senior guard Isaiah McLeod said the team must stay humble about being ranked as the preseason favorite.

"People are recognizing our talent, but we still have to produce and play like we are one of the best teams in the conference and don't let anybody beat us," McLeod said.

McLeod said missing the tournament for the first time since he arrived at Southern is going to motivate him and the team.

"I don't like ending my season early," McLeod said. "That just kind of added fuel to the fire. We're just going to be playing a lot more different. A lot more fire and energy that we had last year and just hopefully everybody can stay healthy so we can make a good run at it."

In addition to McLeod, fourth-year

head coach Scott Burrell added two guard transfers from Division I schools, senior Kealen Ives from Rider and sophomore C.J. Seaforth from Iona. Burrell said he expects Ives and Seaforth to bring in leadership and toughness.

"Both of those guys didn't have the opportunity they thought at the Division I level to play," Burrell said. "Hopefully they come here hungry and want to win championships. So far they've done a great job with our team."

Burrell said being from a Division I school and transferring to a Division II school can help and hurt players because some players think it is going to be easier.

"They've played against some of the best competition at any level you could ask for," Burrell said. "They'll hopefully be prepared mentally and physically and when the time comes for them to shine, each one will do their job."

McLeod said because the team did not have many guards last year, Ives and Seaforth also add depth that the team was lacking.

"Them two coming takes a lot more stress off of the guards we had last year because we were playing a lot more," McLeod said. "They're both two talented skilled guards and they both understand the game pretty well. It just brings more intelligence to the game for us."

Burrell said because of the incoming talent as this year, McLeod, who averaged over 20 points per game last year, can have an even better season this year.

"You can't expect more than to get 20 a game," Burrell said. "Twenty is a lot of points per game right there. But he's an unselfish player and he'll be even better because we'll have more help. That'll make his job easier."

In addition to Ives and Seaforth, Burrell also added Issac Grant, a junior forward from Queens College, and Isaiah Boissard, a junior guard from Western Texas College. Burrell said Grant, who averaged 10 points per game and 5.1 rebounds per game as a sophomore, also gives the team more depth in the front court.

"He's big, strong, physical, and a tough guy," Burrell said. "I think we need extra bodies on the front court and I think he gives us that toughness that we might lack at times. We need that rebound, he'll go get it."

Burrell said even though Boissard has battled injuries in the preseason, "he is athletic and has a good IQ."

Four freshmen also join this year's team; guards William Antrum, Mekhi Warren, Michael Mozzicato, and forward Zack Penn, all from high schools in Connecticut. Burrell said he expects all four of them to help the team in some way.

"It might not be scoring but they'll all give us some impact," Burrell said. "In practice they'll get better and they'll make us better. I think all those guys will have an impact one way or another during a game this year."

Coleman, who won the NE10 Rookie of the Year last season, said all of the incoming transfers compliment everyone else on the team and "play off of each other really well."

"I think that's just going to make us all shine brighter," Coleman said. "I think it's just going to be an opportunity for all of us to show how much we can do as a team and as a unit. We have a lot of talent, we

just have to make it all work together, and we will."

Coleman said he is just concerned about winning this year instead of trying to follow focusing on any awards. He said he knew the team was "going to get a lot of pieces this year" and knew he had to be prepared for "a new task at hand."

"I'm just worried about making the NCAA Tournament," Coleman said. "I think we have enough talent to really make a deep run."

Burrell said Coleman "worked on his game all summer" and is "going to get better and better" every year while always adding something different each season.

"He's going to drive to the hole a little bit more, pull up jumpers a little bit more," Burrell said. "I think he's a great player for us. He makes shots."

Joey Wallace, a former All-Rookie selection in the NE10, suffered a season-ending injury last year after playing in just three games. This year, however, Burrell said Wallace "won't be with us for the first semester."

"He has some things he has to take care of," Burrell said. "He'll be back in the second semester."

Burrell said as the Owls as prepared for the season, the team as had a lot of injuries. He said the injuries has kept the team back from "gelling" during practice.

"Couple of sprained ankles, one sprained knee, one sprained wrist, so a couple a thing's that's hurt us with our chemistry," Burrell said. "When those guys get back, we'll be deeper, we'll be tougher, and we'll be even better."

He said the key for college basketball team is health because teams are limited to scholarship players. He said if the team is healthy, "good things will happen" but the team still must find ways to win even with injuries.

In an exhibition game, the Owls scrimmaged UConn at Gampel Pavilion on Nov. 2. The Owls held a 17-11 lead and were tied at 26 during the first half before UConn won 96-64.

McLeod said by playing a Division I school, he learned "you're going to have spurts where you're on and spurts where you're off" but the team that battles more is going to win.

"There were times where we felt like we were in control of that game and there were times where we started to breakdown and there were in control of the game," McLeod said. "We just need to work on making sure we're controlling the game for the whole 40 minutes and playing at our speed and what we want to do."

Burrell said he wants the team to be more consistent this year as compared to last year. Last year, the Owls started off 0-3, eventually got over .500 before falling to 7-9, then won nine of their last 12 games of the year.

"We started off slow last year, hit a good rhythm in the middle of the year, but I want a good rhythm throughout the whole season," Burrell said. "A good rhythm that you build on wins. Even in games if you don't play great, you learn from it and everyday get better."

The Owls opened their regular season playing in the UB Conference Crossover Classic with games on Nov. 10-11. The Owls lost to Post University 103-102 on Saturday and University of the Sciences 69-67 on Sunday.

## Cross Country

Continued from Page 9

"I'm the only person graduating from this squad, Cugini said. "The team's young and they're doing so well. They're going to be doing just as well next year and hopefully the year after that, as well. We're all working together and it's more of a cohesive effort than it was in the past."

The team, aiming to qualify for NCAA Nationals Dec. 2 in Slippery Rock, Pa., will have to finish in the top three at Saturday's East Regional meet for an automatic qualifier, otherwise, they will need to hope their credentials are enough to claim an at-large bid.

"The thing that's nice about the regional meet is you can enter up to 10 guys and then the night before you declare which seven you're gonna run," Nill said.

The Owls are currently ranked first in the East Region in the USTFCCA poll and 21st nationally.

"Being ranked first in the region should give us an automatic bid so we shouldn't have a problem with that," Nill said. "Looking at how we raced in the

conference meet and how the other teams raced it's pretty much just a three team race."

Getting this far in the season with such a high ranking and an eye on the national meet, the squad has deeply relied on team chemistry.

"For cross country we all pretty much train together. We have the top-six guys all doing stuff together and I think there's three [training] groups total out of everyone," Lebeau said. "It's based on the capabilities we have as of that moment and they can change."

The way the team has shaped up has also been in large part to the coaching from the entire staff but specifically with Nill leading the charge on cross country, handed down from head coach John Wallin after Nill was hired.

"He said 'you gotta make a cross country team' and gotta start from nothing and make it a regional contender," Nill said. "John [Wallin] was the cross country coach for a little while and from day one he told me I just had to figure it out but he's helped me along the way. We're just trying to get that national ranking up more. Once you get an established program everyone knows the name."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The men's cross country team after winning the NE10 championship.

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# Women's soccer makes tournament after program worst season



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS  
Midfielder Mikaela Magee, a senior, during a home game against Assumption earlier this year.

**By Hunter Lyle**  
Sports Writer

As the 2018 season comes to an end, the players and coaches of Southern's women's soccer team celebrate their success and look back on previous seasons.

They capped off their 9-10 season, 8-6 in conference games, this year with an NE10 playoff berth. While the ending of the 2018 season may offer a bright look to the future, a chance to make it to the tournament was not always on the relative realm of possibilities.

Head coach Adam Cohen said the team just wanted to move on from last season, statistically the worst season since 1996, the oldest year on record.

"We just wanted to look forward at that point," said Cohen. "You know, 2017 was a challenging year, so we were looking optimistic towards 2018."

Last year, the women's soccer team ended with a record of 2-12-3 and went 2-9-3 in the conference.

Exercise science major, senior and team captain Mikaela Magee said that the team's previous season was tough mentally, physically and emotionally.

"I think that game to game, it was just hard mentally for the most part on people, and also if you look at it physically as well, we went into a lot of overtime," said Magee. "So, I think as the season progressed, a lot of players were getting fatigued and tired and I think that started to take a role as well."

The women were forced into five overtime games, four of them going into double overtime, and three of the double overtimes in a row.

In the offseason between 2017 and 2018, the team reeled in their play and focused on many habitual strategies that could help them progress for next season, said junior Kelly Lamb.

"This offseason everyone did a lot of personal growth together and we did a lot work as team," said

Lamb, "not even on the field but together and we made values as a team."

Magee said the team especially focused on their mental toughness as well as team bonding.

"We actually did a lot of mental training for us. We did mindfulness training, we had one of the people from the school come in and she did a lot of training with us mentally, going in to things with the right mindset," said Magee. "We had Sebastian, a former player from Yale football come in and was working with our mentality and how we should go about things and coming together as a team."

Although the women's soccer team started the 2018 season with two losses, they fired back with a three-game winning streak and improved later in the season with a five-game win streak to push their record to 8-3 and 7-1 in conference play.

"I think the key factor was how close we were as a team. I think that we all came together and once we all bought into the one goal of just doing your absolute best and striving to make the NE10 playoffs, which was our goal at the beginning of the year," said Magee. "Once everyone bought into that and was completely committed to that, we were able to achieve what we wanted to achieve."

At the end of the season, in the NE10 tournament, the Owls traveled to New Hampshire and faced the Penmen from Southern New Hampshire University. Against the number two seed in the conference, Southern was eventually beaten in double overtime by the score of 2-1.

"When I look back on this season, it was probably one of my favorite seasons out of my four years, just because we were so close as a team and every game we went out and fought together and had each other's back," said Magee. "Even in the playoff game, we had a good feeling to know that every person left it out on the field."

## Volleyball

Continued from Page 9

Junior outside hitter Gabriela Vazquez had 13 kills and three blocks while sophomore middle blocker and right side hitter Kirstin Colwell had four kills and four blocks. Senior co-captain and outside hitter Leanna Jadus had eight kills, a block and an ace while senior co-captain, middle blocker Alyssa Gage, named the NE10 Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, finished with a team-high 14 kills.

"We peaked at the right time," Gage said. "We had all the tools the whole time but we just didn't know how to utilize them all. When we finally figured out what to do we started doing really well and we won games that were really tough for us."

The "tools" Gage described included the efforts from freshman Kailyn O'Neal, who had 31 assists in the championship.

"She put a lot of weight on her shoulders and she did carry us as a freshman," Gage said. "I give her props because she did it elegantly and she did really well."

The tournament was slated to be hosted at the University of New Haven, but the No. 1-seeded

Chargers lost in three sets to Saint Anselm. Adelphi, the two-seed, lost in the semifinals to American International.

"We're Northeast-10 champions and this feels great," Barbaro said. "We automatically get an NCAA bid. Next week we'll be in the NCAA Tournament -- we'll see who's gonna host and what seed we get and then whoever we're matched up with we're ready to go. We've been a hot team and we're just gonna keep this thing rolling -- onto the next tournament."

Jadus, who was named First-Team All-Conference for the second straight year, helped the Owls to a first round NCAA Tournament win against NYIT, their first NCAA Tournament appearance ever.

"From my freshman year we were just like bottom of the conference, getting blown out by teams and now it's like all this hard work has paid off," Jadus said. "It feels really great that we're all coming together and it was awesome."

The Owls are seeded seventh and will face No. 2 Adelphi Thursday at 2:30 p.m. on the campus of the University of New Haven, the hosts for the second year in a row. The squad will need to win three games at the East Regional this weekend to advance to the final stage quarterfinals, which begins Nov. 29 in Pittsburgh, Pa and are part of the 11th Division II Championships Festival.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM  
Leanna Jadus, a senior, celebrates during the Owls' semifinal win against Saint Anselm on Saturday.



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS  
Linebacker Jhaaron Wallace, a senior, during a home game against LIU Post earlier this season.

## Wallace

Continued from Page 9

"It means a lot, it means a lot," said Wallace of reaching Southern's fifth place spot in career tackles. "Playing football from high school, I was the second leading tackler with tackles in a season in my school history. I had 143 in a season and the leader was 148. Ever since then, it's been like, everywhere I go I got to leave my mark. I can't just be someone who goes undiscovered in the crowd and just kind of goes away with time. I want to be there and leave my mark and I want to be there forever."

Having never missed a game in his four years at Southern, Wallace has always been at least a top three tackler for the Owl's defense. A season with fewer than 50 tackles in a season for Wallace simply does not exist.

"He'll find a way to get involved in a tackle somehow for us," said Godek.

Inside linebackers coach and former Owls linebacker Nathan Tyler, was added to the Southern coaching staff just after Wallace's freshman season. Tyler has spent the past three seasons watching Wallace develop as a player and as a person.

"He's a very intelligent linebacker first and foremost," said Tyler. "One of the most important things about being a linebacker is being able to understand all the concepts of the defense and that's something that as he's grown, he's really started to understand the concepts and what the defense is trying to accomplish with each play."

Tyler said both Wallace's athleticism and football IQ makes him a versatile player.

He plays both our Mike and W positions," said Tyler. "He can flip back and forth between both inside linebacker positions which is tough to do because there's different jobs, different responsibilities, different assignments. So, to be able to kind of flip your mind one series and then the next series -- hey you're playing a different position."

Tyler said that in addition to both inside linebacker positions, Wallace has even lined up as an outside linebacker and defensive end throughout his career to rush the quarterback in certain defensive packages.

"He's kind of all over the place on the field for us, and just because he does understand football," said Tyler. "He's got a really good football mind."

A deep understanding of the complex X's and O's that come with playing linebacker is just the beginning of Wallace's intellect. In the classroom, Wallace majors in physics.

"He's extremely smarter than I am," said Tyler. "He's a very good student. Physics major and doing football is a tough deal. He'll come into my office sometimes and watch film and then he'll be sitting next to my desk doing some crazy equation that I couldn't figure out."

Godek said Wallace "clearly leads by example," however, during the recruiting process, he saw there was more to Wallace than his ability on the field, making him a desirable player to have on the team.

"When he called me at midnight one night asking a question about Southern Connecticut," said Godek. "I laughed... and I still laugh with him to this day about it because that kind of said to me that he was pretty serious about being a player and getting things right."

Wallace said after his senior year in high school, he put on "15 to 20 pounds of solid muscle" but he was "still a little undersized" for a college linebacker. When Wallace got to Southern, he said his technique and attention to detail was quickly recognized by Southern defensive coordinator Chris Lorenti.

"Coach Lorenti kind of took me under his wing, and he saw something in me from the first day I was here," said Wallace. "The first drill I even did was called bounce-run. I was a little shy freshman and I was near the back of the pack just going through and following all the seniors and upperclassmen in front of me. Coach Lorenti, halfway through the drill, tells everyone to stop and puts me in the front of the line and says 'hey watch

this kid do a bounce-run. This is how you do it right.' From then on, I just trusted and believed everything he said, and he helped me and grew me to be the player I am today."

Wallace was named NE10 defensive player of the week for his 15-tackle game and fumble recovery for a touchdown against Stonehill College in September. The last player before Wallace to record at least 15 tackles in a single game for Southern was Mike Cerisano in 2014.

"Wallace was surrounded by some pretty good linebackers during [his] time," said Godek. Through Southern's history there's been some excellent linebackers and I think you'll find [Wallace's] name up there with a few of those guys once everything's all said and done."

One of the "pretty good" linebackers that Wallace was surrounded by was Cerisano, having played with him in the 2015, '16 and '17 seasons. Cerisano holds the No. 4 spot in Southern's all-time career tackles with 268. Wallace came up just nine tackles shy of tying his former teammate on the list.

"Those two were always very competitive in practices and games," said Tyler. "Who's going to get more tackles, who's going to make more plays-stuff like that, does it really matter? No, but it's fun competitive stuff. You want to try to get to be ranked somewhere. I think it's just fun competitive stuff to talk about and discuss."

Wallace said it has been a "great run" in his four years at Southern, crediting his work ethic and dedication to his historic football career.

"I wanted to be the best that I could be for myself and for the team," said Wallace. "I had to make sure my mentality was focused so that I could do that. The way I worked out, the speed, the intensity at which I worked out, was all important to that. Naturally I'm athletic, but that doesn't mean that you can go on the field to help your team. And being able to work hard so that when I come out in the fall, I could help my team to the best of my ability -- that was just the goal."

# Fall's beauty fades

By Palmer Piana  
Photo Editor



West Rock during peak foliage, Nov. 1.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



Tree outside of Adanti Student Center on Nov. 1.



The same tree outside of Adanti Student Center on Nov. 12.



Landscapers blowing leaves into large piles, Nov. 12.



Landscaper blowing leaves.



Truck used to suck up and dispose of leaves.