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Smith addresses plans to combat deficit

By Jaylen Carr
Editor-in-Chief
Ali Fernand
Managing Editor

The university is facing a deficit in the budget, threatening the institution to make tough decisions. However, Interim President Dwayne Smith assured that a solution is possible.

"With a 1% increase in our enrollment, it will generate 1 million dollars in revenue," Smith said.

At the current rate, Smith reported that the university will be in a \$13 million deficit by 2025. Due to the pandemic, enrollment numbers have decreased, but the university has slowly tried to recover.

"Enrollment, retention, persistence and degree completion success is the number one priority," Smith said. "The goal is to increase overall student enrollment by 25% by 2028."

The university announced a five-year plan is in place. The goal of that plan is to create a larger student body that is successful in earning their degrees.

The goal is to have over 10,000 students enrolled, increasing transfer scholars by 25% and the graduation rate by 60%.

"We were in the upward trajectory with our cohort graduation rate, we were up to 53. Now we're at 47,

and we can attribute that to COVID," Smith said.

Another significant aspect of Smith's plan is trying to help with diversity in the community. According to the six-year graduation rate by race and ethnicity — Fall 2017 cohort, students who are Black, Hispanic and two or more races were below 50%.

"People are leaving states because of the political atmosphere, and they want a place like Southern," Smith said.

Coming from a large family and having a mother born when Blacks could not receive an education, Smith believes that having a college degree still holds value.

"For the first time in the history of our country, most Americans are saying that college is not a good option," Smith said, according to a New York Times article. "College is a good option for our scholars."

The inflated costs of attending university are the reason that fewer students are deciding to pursue a higher education. Offering scholarships in ways that encourage students to stay in school may be a solution to that problem.

Smith offers solutions he believes will encourage students to remain enrolled. The falling of retention and graduation rates is not unique to this



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

At the end of the address, Interim President Smith and the Academic Affairs staff answer questions from the audience about budgeting, retention, diversity and equity and staffing on Sept. 26.

university, but still raises issues.

"It's not perplexing, but we understand that, that and research says if you live on campus, you're more likely to persist," Smith said. "One solution is that we offer scholarships for those who live on campus."

Smith reported that his

goal is to increase external grants and support to \$14 million every year. He is confident that he will be able to find people willing to invest in the university.

One piece of good news is that the university has received a \$3.2 million grant to encourage growth of the STEM department.

"We are looking at

the numbers for the first time," Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, the Director and Professor of the Women's Studies Program, said. "Personally, I am excited about a lot of things that I am hearing."

Robert Prezant, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, said generating funding and

retention will be the central focus. With a 13 million deficit currently, the worry is among faculty because there may be cuts.

"Everything is possible, and I want you to remember that everything is possible when we talk about these big goals," Smith said.

Soto shares his journey, celebrates Latinx Hispanic Heritage Month

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
News Editor

The 15th annual empowering lives event about Latinos driving prosperity, power and progress in America had Chris Soto, senior adviser to the U.S. Secretary of Education, sharing his life story to students in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

Soto started his speech by relating to students, sharing his undergraduate experiences.

"For me not too long ago my undergraduate journey started at the coast guard academy. For me it was a time of

exploration, a time of doubt, searching for the answers to the questions we have. But ultimately it was a time for growth," Soto said.

Soto reflecting on some of the racial differences he had to overcome during his undergraduate experience.

"I was too Latino for some classmates. But not Latino enough for others. My Spanglish was offensive to some of my white classmates, but my Spanglish was also offensive to my Latino classmates," Soto said.

Joining organizations while attending university provided Soto with

the comfort of being himself, gaining wisdom from upper class students and creating lifelong friendships. Soto encouraged students to join organizations for these purposes.

Soto said there are three things every student should be left to think about history, opportunity and paying it forward.

Soto explained his family history, starting with the impact his grandmother had on his life.

"For me it took my abuelita passing away to realize that she herself was a trailblazer. She was

a part of the first wave of Puerto Ricans who came in the 1930s," Soto said.

"We read about all these people who make impacts in our world. And little did I know my grandma was one of them," Soto said.

Soto's grandmother left Puerto Rico for a better life, not finishing third grade. She came to America and opened her own restaurant and became loved by her community, Soto explained.

Part of the work Soto does in Washington D.C. is with the Puerto Rico education system.

"We're trying to ensure that students on the island get the education that they deserve because the situation in Puerto Rico would not be tolerated if it was any other state in the United States," Soto said.

Soto defined opportunity as taking advantage of anything that can create a difference.

"The urgency of now is too great not to be prepared," Soto said.

"Making a difference is just planting a seed. It does not mean you have to be the one to water and nature it. You did your part by planting the seed. Now somebody else is going to come and nature and water it so that plant can grow," Soto said.

Student Arts League protest new building

By Jaylen Carr
Editor-in-Chief

The Students Arts League protested the new School of Business building because of the lack of updates to older buildings on campus.

"I have don't anything against the new School of Business," Leader of the Students Arts League and studio arts major Elisedd McGinley, a senior, said. "I also think that there is strong sense of frustration among students who live and work in facilities that are old and outdated."

McGinley said for example, Earl Hall has been marched for demolition three times since 1993.

"The installation lasted that Thursday," McGinley said. "We are planning on doing a continuing series, the working title is 'Facial Awareness' where we will be reaching out and putting more art on campus and try to start more conversations about what our campus looks like and why it looks like that."

McGinley said it is important to voice the opinion of the club because others on campus may be more willing to speak on this topic.

Full story available next week

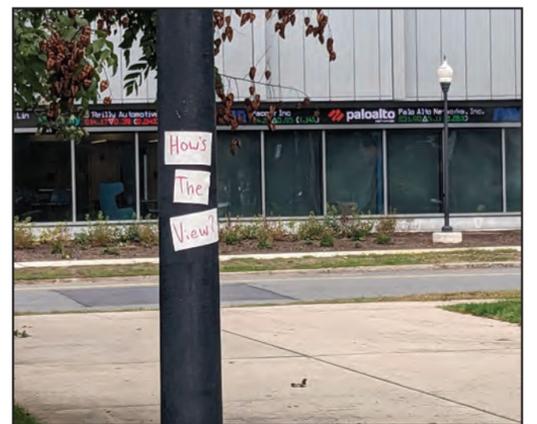


PHOTO | ELISEDD MCGINLEY

'How's the View?' sign posted by the Student Arts League located across the School of Business Building.



PHOTO | JAYMI VAZQUEZ

Chris Soto, the senior adviser of the U.S. Secretary of Education tells his story.

See Soto on Page 2

Students voice opinions on college tuition

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
News Editor

The average cost of college in Conn. is \$14,549 dollars for in-state tuition and fees. At Southern, the average cost after aid is \$18,231. Students and faculty have different opinions based upon the expenses of college.

Sports management major Matthew Showalter, a sophomore, is a resident on campus. Showalter currently pays \$12,000 dollars per semester to stay on campus.

"College should be more lenient on the different fees that they enforce on students," Showalter said.

"People are mostly paying for their living situation and the price of classes is close to nothing compared to where they're living," Showalter said.

Physics major Nickolas Charles, a sophomore, thinks college should be free because of the debt it leaves students in.

"If it's free anyone would be able to go to college" and not have to worry about potential debt acquired from attending a university Charles said.

"I am not trying

to go in debt over an education that is needed by most employers to be successful in life. I would rather save money while I am here instead of graduating and having to owe thousands of dollars," Charles said.

Journalism major Hanna Graham, a freshman, feels a college education should be free.

"College should be free because with the way things are going it's becoming more of a for profit industry instead of just being for education," Graham said.

Graham feels that the quality of education certain schools offer does not correlate with the price.

Students could get the same level of education anywhere, but some people are infatuated with the name attached to the school, Graham explained.

Business economics major Oscar Magana, a sophomore, said college should be free because not everyone's family income is the same.

"Not many people have much money. Not everyone receives the same amount from financial aid based upon their family's income

which makes the costs of college different for people. It's unfair if some pay close to nothing and some struggle to just get books," Magana said.

Studio arts major Aedy VanHouten, a sophomore, also thinks college should be free.

"Education should be accessible for everyone. Unfortunately, with the way it is set up in this country it is not very likely it could be free," VanHouten said.

VanHouten explained how public and private institutions both rely on the money from students.

Sociology major Catherine Tancreti, a junior, feels college should not be free but should be less expensive.

"I think it should be a lot cheaper than what it is. The university has to pay for all the buildings, professors and food. It should not be free, but way more affordable," Tancreti said.

"So many people want a good education to get a good career in life, but they cannot afford it. So, then they cannot jumpstart that career without having a degree attached to their name," Tancreti said.

Lew DeLuca, Director



PHOTO | JAY'MI VAZQUEZ

Financial Aid office located in the Wintegreen building.

of Student Financial Literacy & Advising, believes college should not be free. Evaluating that college should have a cost from a financial and ethical standpoint.

DeLuca compared college to running a business. For a business to thrive, it would need a stream of income, DeLuca said.

"If college were free for students, then somebody is paying for it, most likely taxpayers would," DeLuca said.

"It is not realistic for that to be free or our taxes would likely go way up, or the university may close due to insufficient funding. Oftentimes, costs rise annually as the cost to run the business/organization increases," DeLuca said.

The university needs to "depend on the revenue from tuitions, fees, room and board to pay the bills such as faculty and staff salaries and all the maintenance needed to run a 172-acre campus with

nearly 10,000 students," DeLuca said.

DeLuca encourages students to use the financial resources provided to Southern students to help pay for college.

"The FAFSA application with grants and student loans as well as our Foundation providing hundreds of scholarship opportunities for Southern students. Payment plan options are available as well for those not wishing to borrow loans," DeLuca said.

Soto explains the importance behind his three principals

Continued from Page 1

Soto reflected on how his grandmother was the person in his family who planted that seed for his family.

"Those opportunities will arise. Seize them," Soto said.

Soto explained paying it forward means that someone paved the path for us.

"Our journey is no walk in the park. We all have challenges. But we could always be thankful for those who made it just a little bit easier for us," Soto said.

Soto does not want students to forget who we are and how we made it.

"We need to lift others up as we rise. It takes time and effort, but I promise that it is worth it. Because our journey goes beyond our own hopes and dreams. But for the next generation," Soto said.

President of Student Government Kyle Mashia-Thaxton, offered greetings to students and faculty who attended.

Thaxton explained how important it is for students, especially in the Latin community, to get the opportunity to hear Soto's story.

"I think it is important to be able to recognize the

contributions that Hispanic culture has given to the United States and especially to Connecticut over the years," Thaxton said.

Some of the topics Soto discussed resonated with Thaxton. He feels that everything shared was important, but these were some of his main take-aways.

"Opportunity and preparedness and paying it forward for future generations. It is all super important. It is important to recognize that, celebrate that and also encourage more development of that," Thaxton said.



PHOTO | JAY'MI VAZQUEZ

Students, faculty and staff attend the 15th annual empowering lives event.



PHOTO | JAY'MI VAZQUEZ

Chris Soto and Interim President Dwayne Smith stand together in support for Latinx Hispanic heritage month.

University Recognized in Latest College Rankings

These are the university's standings:

- #64 in Regional Universities North (tie)
- #21 in Top Public Schools North (tie)
- #35 in Best Value Schools North (tie)
- #263 in Nursing (tie)
- #28 in Best Colleges for Veterans North (tie)
- #83 in Top Performers on Social Mobility North (tie)

By Braden Saint-Val
Contributor

In the U.S. News and World Report's 2022-2023 Best Colleges Rankings, the university has been acknowledged for its performance as a leading public institution in the Northeast.

This year's Best Colleges Rankings was created using data collected from surveys submitted by nearly 1,500 schools and the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Schools are then scored on factors that determine their rankings, such as first-generation graduation rates, student-faculty ratio, and financial resources.

Given its popularity, the rankings can influence a person's decision on where to pursue their post-secondary education.

"The U.S. News and World Report brings credibility, especially

here in the United States, so to be recognized in so many different categories, I think it's a great thing. I think it's a testament to our students and to the staff and faculty who are supporting students through," said Nilvio Perez, Director of First Year Admissions.

"And from a promotional, marketing, or recruitment standpoint, it's something that as students are looking into which institutions to enroll in, I think it gives them some confidence," Perez said.

The university's Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Prezant, has mixed opinions on the university's standings, but is overall pleased to see the advancements that have been made.

"This year, interestingly enough, they've expanded what they're looking at. Which is good for us because as an institution that strives to be a social justice institution, they've incorporated some things that help represent who we are

and that's in part why we've come up in rankings like social mobility," Prezant said. "We are an exceptional university in so many different ways. But no university is gonna be perfect, and we're always striving to make sure we have the curriculum that's best for the students who are emerging today."

In terms of improving the university, Prezant says additional resources would allow for more opportunities to help students succeed, one of them being to ensure that they have everything they need when they begin their studies regardless of their background, along with continuous support.

Interim President Dr. Dwayne Smith says the university's rankings are something we should all be proud of, and he is focused on improving student outcomes during his time here, so that more students can complete their degree and be supremely prepared to succeed in the workforce or in graduate studies.



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Students walking around the newly ranked college campus.

Student leaders discuss campus involvement

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

The university strives for student leaders to get active on campus and make changes that will be for the betterment of future classes.

The discussion panel was held in the resource room on the second floor of the Adanti Student Center on Tuesday Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. The panel of leaders were six students that are currently involved in clubs or organizations.

International business major Catalina Espinosa, a freshman, attended the event with a friend.

"I wanted to learn more about leadership," said Espinosa.

The purpose of the event is to encourage more students to join different organizations and answer any lingering questions audience members have about the life of a student leader.

Nursing major Jesus Jordan, a freshman, attended the event in support of his peer mentor that was on the panel.

"I wanted to know a lot more of what was going on in our society," said Jordan. "Basically, I feel like I would see myself being part of a leadership group."

Some students are already part of clubs and organizations and just wanted to hear fellow students share their jobs.

"I'm part of O-las as a body member," said Espinosa.

However, there are students that feel they need more time.

"I feel like I'm not ready yet, but in the future I will," said Jordan.

Denise Bentley-Drobish is the director of student involvement and leadership development.

"The purpose as part of leadership week celebration was to put a panel of seasoned student leaders in front of new students to talk about ways to engage in leadership," said Drobish.

It is important to get involved on campus now because of experiences students can add to their resumes.

"It is supremely important," said Drobish. "To really do college not only do you have to be in the classroom, but you need to be active in the community."

The event had multiple different Pizzas, drinks and snacks available for students to have while panelists conversed about their roles.

Student leadership



Atticus Johnson, Jesus Jordan and Catalina Espinosa attending the leadership panel.

life is possible for those who want to lend their voice for impactful causes whether on or off campus.

"I definitely want to take on a higher leadership position because the skills will help me, and it will make me a better person," said Espinosa.

Prospective student leaders that joined the conversation asked inquisitive questions and wrote notes down in order

to store advice that was given.

The panelists displayed the various clubs and organizations they are a part of.

For instance, one panelist is a peer mentor and is a research assistant on campus.

Another panelist is a peer mentor, CASAS, Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services, tutor for MATH

100P and Secretary of Student Government Association.

"I would just encourage all students to find ways to connect with leadership opportunities to help prepare them for their future," said Drobish. "Academics help them prepare for their career and leadership skills help them to accelerate within that career."

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Boygenius performs in New Haven

By Ali Fernand
Managing Editor

Supergroup "Boygenius" performed at the Westville Music Bowl in New Haven on Sept. 28th. The group is comprised of singer-songwriters Phoebe Bridgers, Julien Baker and Lucy Dacus. Each of them has successful solo careers but comes together as best friends to make fantastic music.

"Boygenius" first released a self-titled EP in 2018 and returned together with a full-length album this year called "The Record." Bridgers has made a name for herself from the release of her second solo album "Punisher" and opening for stars like Taylor Swift. However, her star power never overshines the talent of Baker and Dacus.

"Boygenius" made the live debut of a song set to be on their new EP, "The Rest," coming out Oct. 13th. The song was called "Voyager" and featured mostly Bridgers's vocals with their usual melancholic instrumentals.

All three of these artists are known for their sense of humor and they opened the show by playing "The Boys are Back in Town." This was both a silly gag but also a nod to their band, which is an all-girl group. They then showed them backstage on the side televisions singing the track "Without You Without Them."

Each artist also got to perform one of their own solo songs. Dacus played "Please Stay," Baker's "Favor" and Bridgers' "Graceland Too." Bridgers' song was particularly exciting because despite it being a solo release, it features vocals by Baker and Dacus. It is also rumored to be a song about the deep friendship that Bridgers and Baker have.

"Boygenius" performed their entire discography including the new song and the three solo songs. "\$20" was an exciting song because it was the first of their energetic songs to be played. This was followed by "Satanist," allowing the crowd one more song to have a bit of energy.

The next songs played brought a more emotional energy to the show. "Emily I'm Sorry," "True Blue" and "Cool About It" sounded beautiful in the outdoor venue as the crowd sang along. "Boygenius" nailed these songs live as the nature of a concert brought a new life to these songs.

Another standout moment was when they played "Letter to an Old Poet." Before playing this song, Bridgers asked the audience to put their phones away just for this one song.

They then ended the show with the popular single, "Not Strong Enough." As "Boygenius" left the stage, the audience screamed for them to come back to play a few more songs. After about three minutes, they entered the stage once more.

To end the show, they played two fan favorites "Ketchum, ID" and "Salt in the Wound." Both songs made for a perfect ending to the show.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff

'In the Heights' played for students in quad

By Brianna Wallen
Contributer

Sounds of laughter, crunching of popcorn, and singing filled the atmosphere at Residence Life Quad.

On Tuesday, Sept. 26th, at 8:30 p.m., students had the opportunity to experience an outdoor movie night. Hosted by Multicultural Center, MCC Residence Life, and Resident Hall Association RHA, the 2021 movie, "In the Heights" was available for viewing along with complimentary popcorn and cushions.

"I liked the vibe of the event," said exercise science major Jeffrey Burke, a sophomore, who attended the movie night. "It was a calm environment, where I got to hang out with my friends and eat free snacks."

Each departments' mission was carried out, as the event's purpose was to expose students to Latinx culture and to have fun.

Associate Director of the Intercultural Center, Jay Henderson, said that the event, "gives students a chance to be familiar with the Latinx culture and engage with their peers."

Intertwined with Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month, the film is a Broadway musical adaptation that exhibits the hardships that first-generation college students face and challenges inner city Latinx youth endure while highlighting culture and higher education.

Henderson said that the departments have been coordinating this event since the summer, as it is a semi-annual tradition.

During the planning phase, the option of what movie to play was particularly important to each group.

Healthcare studies major Cristal Rivas, a senior, is currently the president of Residence Hall Association. Rivas said the film was initially selected to be screened last year, but due to multiple

rain dates, the movie night never occurred.

When a movie night was set in stone this year, they decided to keep the same movie.

"We know that a lot of students resonate with this movie, so we wanted to play it," said Rivas.

The movie choice was successful, as Burke said he enjoyed the screening.

"I think the movie brought good representation to Hispanic heritage," said Burke. "It was refreshing to see them be shown in that perspective, where they star in movies and be the majority of the cast."

The long-term objective of the event was to promote resources to students. With the recent rebranding of MCC to Intercultural Center, more departments such as the Multicultural Center, Sexuality and Gender Equality, SAGE Center, and the Interfaith Office are included.

"Now under this new umbrella I can promote

these areas exist to help students," said Henderson.

Henderson, who is an alumnus of the university, is passionate about working in multicultural affairs. He said that after working at a predominating white institution, PWI, he recognized that the smaller population of students needed a lot of support. This inspired him to make an effort to create a positive environment at the university.

"Here at Southern I am here to work with minorities and marginalized populations and help to offer them that support,"

said Henderson.

With more outreach to specific student populations, students have the opportunity to engage in events and access resources that can help them.

Each department plans to have more events in the future, especially throughout Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month. Rivas, who is also an RA of Schwartz Hall, shares the same aspiration for students.

"I just hope that they're able to come out and learn more about the Latinx culture and embrace it," said Rivas.



Cristal Rivas getting popcorn at the movie night.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

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"In the Heights" being played in the residence quad.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Volleyball wins two straight

By Luke Gadson
Sports Editor

The Owls fought hard for a 3-1 victory over Felician University at Pelz gymnasium Thursday evening.

With the university losing a set, the momentum was shifting back and forth throughout this match.

The Owls led in almost every category, topping the Golden Falcons in points 62-38, kills 51-27, blocks 4-2, assists 46-24 and digs 69-58.

Outside hitter Sara Enright, a senior, was all over the stat sheet once again, leading her team to victory with 14 kills, 13 digs, and two aces.

Setter Taylor Jones, a senior, had an amazing game offensively, racking up 31 assists and was also making plays on the defensive side finishing with 9 digs.

Libero Dylan Marney, a sophomore, also had a

great all-around game leading her team in digs with 16 while also having four assists and two aces.

"It was a lot of positive energy, and it was really exciting coming in from Tuesday's win and coming out tonight with a win, it's just more positive energy," said Enright.

This energy was visible from the Owls all game and they look for it to continue as they begin conference games. "I'm just excited to start conference, we had a good preseason and we're ready to get going," said Enright.

Thursday's win improves the Owls' winning record to 10-7.

The team has been playing well as they increase their winning streak to two and look to improve it to three as they take on American International College in NE10 conference play on Oct. 3.



The Owls celebrate after scoring a point.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON



Setter Taylor Jones sets up her teammates' kill.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON



Outside hitter Sara Enright (left) and middle blocker Sarah Stark (right) execute a block.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Football secures its first conference win against St. Anslem

By Jaylen Carr
Editor-in-Chief

The Owls snap their four-game losing streak with the help from wide receiver, Tylon Papallo, a senior, catching a late touchdown pass from quarterback Keith Ridley, a graduate student to win the game in the final 90 seconds.

"It feels great," Papallo said. "My mindset was to catch anything that was thrown to me."

Papallo major contributions for the offense as he had six catches for 82 yards.

Running back E'lijah Gray, a junior, rushing for 142 yards to help propel the team to a 6-3 win.

Gray, the starting running back, would get 22 carries in the game and burst for a 32-yard gain in the second half. Ridley threw for an efficient 161 yards while completing over 50% of his passes.

After missing the previous matchup versus Bentley University, linebacker Joe DiGello, a junior, would lead the Owls with 10 tackles. Linebacker, Hasan Dominick Jr. had another huge game as he had nine tackles.

"This is huge for us," DiGello said. "We knew we had a tough half of the schedule, after this one I think we can start ringing them off."

Head Coach Tom Godek said he was thrilled to get the first win of the season and team always tried to get better each week.

"I am so incredibly happy for our players, staff, support staff," Godek said. "It's been a dog fight for four weeks."



Wide receiver Tylon Papallo, a senior, scores the game-winning touchdown for the Owls.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM



Outside hitter Ahunna James, a freshman, dives on the floor for the dig.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Upcoming events

Footloose

Crescent players are performing the popular musical "Footloose" Oct. 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m., Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. and Oct. 14 at 2 p.m.

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2023

Packed with activities and events, Homecoming and Family Weekend is Oct. 12-14, where the university celebrates its past, present, and future.

Student Health Center Update

Flu Vaccine Clinics available on Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Morrill Hall Breezeway. Also available on Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Engleman Hall.

Pre-Columbian Ceramic Art from the Permanent Collection

The exhibit displays artifacts from the regions of modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Peru. The display is located on the Buley Art Gallery ground floor Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (to Dec. 7)

"Beyond the Binary: A Journey to Self-Love and Acceptance"

Trans Youth Advocate, and Author Tony Ferraiolo comes to the Adanti Student Center Theater on Oct. 10 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

If you are looking to promote events on campus, please email Editor-in-Chief Jaylen Carr (carrj14@southernct.edu) or Managing Editor Ali Fernand (fernanda2@southernct.edu).

Burr continues her impressive play

By Avery Martin
Contributor

On Sept. 18, Kelsey Burr was named the NE10 Women's Soccer player of the week. Burr, a graduate student who plays forward, led the conference with three goals and an assist that week.

Burr was able to score her goals in a variety of ways. "It is amazing to score in such different ways," said Burr. "I've had penalty kicks. I've had dribbling in a run of play. I've had balls across to me to score. So all those different moments are really exciting."

Before playing for the Owls, Burr played at Sheehan High School in Wallingford.

There, she was a three time All-State, All-Area and All-Conference athlete. She was also named to the

All-Hartford Currant team.

Burr says choosing to attend the university was an easy decision. "I choose Southern for soccer, that was the big thing. But also because it was really close to home for me and it had my education major and it is a really good program," said Burr.

In 2022, Burr scored a career high of five goals during the 17 games she played in the season. She also had three assists. In 2021, she made the NCAA Division II New England Women's Intercollegiate Soccer Association All-New England Team and scored three game winning goals. In 2019, her freshman year, she was named to the NE10 honor roll and scored three goals and two assists during the season.

Burr's coach, Adam



Forward Kelsey Burr, a graduate student, moves the ball downfield.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM



Kelsey Burr dribbles past a defender against Holy Family.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Cohen, says that she is a special player. "She is just so motivated. She's got a really strong growth mindset. She has had adversity in her career but she has really improved every step of the way," said Cohen.

Burr's teammate Amanda Dustin, a graduate student who plays back, said, "She is so creative and talented, she reads the game really well. She just has a different perspective on things, so playing with her for six years now I've learned so much about her and she has such a big impact on our team."

Dustin has played with Burr since they were both freshmen. "She is super knowledgeable, super easy to talk to, and super nice. She's a competitive spirit and she really helps our team," Dustin said.

Burr's recent highlights include a goal against Holy Family, and scoring two goals and one assist

against Saint Michael's.

Her goals for this season including winning the NE10 championship and continuing to go as far as possible with the team she describes as "really special".

"This year our team is just shinning together. Something is just clicking, it's different. We are really paying attention to the little things that we want to work on. Our preparation is so much better so that is helping us be more successful," said Burr.

Cohen also believes this season's team is special and has the chance to advance further than they have before.

Cohen said, "I think that we have the potential. It's about the people, and it's about how they have the will and desire to work for each other and with each other. This group seems to be doing that."