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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Move in day stirs up mixed emotions



PHOTOS | IZZY MANZO

Nursing major Sarah Cintron, a freshman (left) and psychology major Sarah Carroll, a junior move into Chase Hall. Freshmen display both nerves and excitement as they start off the semester.

**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
Managing Editor

For several freshmen, their college journey began on New Student Move-in Day, on Saturday, Aug. 24. The campus was filled with students, their families and staff to ensure that the move in process went smoothly.

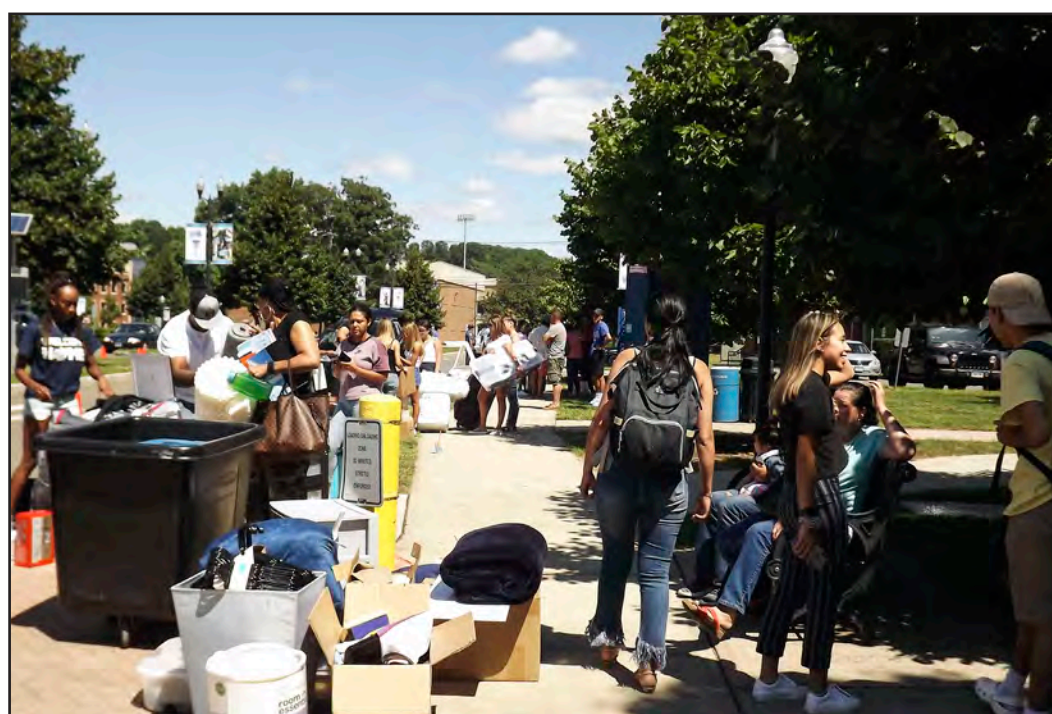
Emotions about the day were mixed. Undecided student Roan Moran, a freshman, who moved from Wethersfield, Conn., said the process was exciting, but living on campus will get some getting used to.

"It's definitely weird," said Moran. "I woke up this morning leaving the house and it's still weird. It felt super weird."

Moran, said he will be playing baseball at Southern and is most excited for the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Nursing major Cori Richardson, a freshman, who moved to campus from Windsor, Conn., said the process was both exciting and nerve-racking, but she was ready for it. She said she was looking forward to becoming an independent person and getting to hang out with her friends without her parents being around, but that was also what made her nervous.

"Them not being here, my parents—I'm so used to them being there all the time, with problems and stuff like that," said Richardson.



New students moving into Chase Hall on Saturday, Aug. 24.

According to President Joe Bertolino in his convocation speech, 95% of the new students are from Connecticut, so several of the freshman did not move far from home. Exercise science major Shane Bresnahan, a freshman, who moved from Wethersfield, Conn., said he likes that Southern is somewhat close home.

"It's nice because if I ever need anything I can just ask my parents and go visit frequently if I wanted to," said Bresnahan.

Compared to living at home, Bresnahan said the dorms would take some getting used to but he did not think the transition from living at home to campus would be too bad.

Though the dorms are not quite home, communication disorders major Emily Sosnovich, a freshman, who moved from Beacon Falls, Conn., said college is a chance to start over and find a new place.

"Just because it's so new I think, it's going to take some getting used to," said Sosnovich. "But it will be fun."

While many freshmen said they were both excited and nervous to move in, graduate intern Kiana Smith, who was assisting with the process, said she thought the hardest part for them was asking for help.

"They're kind of scared to come out of their shell and ask themselves and self-advocate, even like 'Is there

a bin?' or 'How do I get a bin?' It's mostly parents that are coming up to us rather than them," said Smith. "So, I think they're kind of shy, and I think that's normal and they're going to break it."

While Smith said many of the freshmen appeared to be nervous throughout the process, she also saw a lot of excitement from the class of 2023.

"They're so full of hope and inspiration and they're our future, so I like watching them and how excited they are and their family are, especially [the students]," said Smith. "I don't know, just something about them, like they have this light in their eyes that not every class has."

Florczak, said he thinks this could lead to a better functioning workplace even if it is not apparent to students.

"It's very exciting for us, it'll help us do the work we have to do every day," said Florczak. "Even though no one will see direct results from it, but the end results of the product [are] important to us."

## Convocation welcomes class of 2023

**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
Managing Editor

With the values of the university in mind and a newfound knowledge of what it means to be a part of Southern's community, the class of 2023 left New Student Convocation ready to begin their collegiate journey.

The 1,545 registered freshmen that make up the class of 2023 walked through Founder's Gate on Monday, Aug. 26, marking the beginning of their undergraduate experience. Convocation was a formal welcome for the new students and offered them advice on how to make the best of their college experience, including remarks from President Joe Bertolino.

"You are not alone. We are all here to support you, to help you, to ensure that you leave here successful, with a degree in hand and ready to take on the world," said Bertolino.

Additional advice Bertolino gave to new students in his speech was to take the time to get involved in Southern's community, as well as reminded them about the university's commitment to social justice.

"Show up," said

Bertolino. "Get involved, meet new friends, connect with your faculty and staff and peers, and if you pay attention, you'll learn how to interact with people whose ideas and values may be completely opposite to yours and to see the world from their point of view."

Psychology major Esmeldy Hernandez, a freshman, said the advice that stuck with her the most after going through convocation was to try new things.

"I think coming into college, I was kind of afraid of trying and going for sports or anything like that," said Hernandez. "So, that kind of, like, prepped me up to try out for, like, cheer and just try out new things."

After walking through the gate, Hernandez said it made the fact that she is now in college seem more real. She said she is ready to build her future and already feels like she is part of Southern's community.

"I hope that I can stay true to myself, and I work hard every single day," said Hernandez. "I know I'm going to make mistakes, but I just hope I'm able to pick myself up and rely on other people here and all the peer mentors."

**See Convocation Page 2**

## North campus repairs disrupt student move in

**By Tamonda Griffiths**  
Editor-in-Chief

Mere days before incoming and returning residential students were set to move into their dormitories in the North Campus Residence Complex, leaks were discovered inside of the walls, said Associate Vice President for Capital Budgeting & Facilities Operations Robert Sheeley.

"But there's no way of knowing that," Sheeley said, "because they're on the interior [of the walls.]"

According to Sheeley, North Campus - built in 1986 - is over 30 years old, so the heating and ventilation units in the building are "old and starting to fail."

The leaks, Sheeley said, were caused by the condensation created when hot air is transformed into cold air. The water is collected into the condensate pans; however, those pans were not draining properly, and the water was beginning to "bleed through."

"North Campus has over 120 apartments and it was maybe ten that had an issue," said Residence Life Director Rob DeMezzo. "It

wasn't the entire building. Less than ten percent of the building for certain."

According to Sheeley after taking one wall apart, the team of contractors realized the leak was coming from above and tracked up six levels until the source that had caused all of the moisture to develop inside of the walls was found.

"And when that happens you have mold develop," said Sheeley.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, most molds are harmless, but some may produce toxins or allergens which affect the respiratory system resulting in runny nose, cough, and congestion.

"There are no federal standards or recommendations for airborne concentrations of mold or mold spores," said OSHA. "Scientific research on the relationship between mold exposures and health effects is ongoing."

Sheeley said, because this issue was not discovered earlier in the summer when students were out of the dorms, he had to act quickly.

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## Connecticut Hall renovations lead to new dining experience

**By Jackson LaMar**  
Contributor

Big changes happened over the summer for Connecticut hall ranging from architectural to visual and even eco-friendly changes.

Conn. Hall received a renovation over the 2019 summer break which changed the first floor. The walls were painted several shades of blue, the carpet

was replaced with new flooring and there is now a new front desk for workers to greet students.

The dining hall's plans started this past spring, when the director of Residence Life, Robert DeMezzo, knew a change was needed.

"We looked at the first floor and realized we've never painted the walls," DeMezzo said, "and it still had its original floor

coverings from when the building was built."

Southern hired an interior designer and worked with Facilities Operations to paint the walls and put in ceramic tile floor in place of the carpet that was there for sanitary reasons.

The kitchen also had a bit of remodeling, including a new dishwasher and a walk-in freezer. Resident dining manager, Edward

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# Convocation

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After going through convocation, healthcare science major Katerina Corbeil, a freshman, said convocation made her feel like she was a part of Southern's family and that "it felt more inclusive." She said her expectations are to get a degree, meet new people and have fun experiences.

"Definitely get involved and meet the faculty and just make relationships with as many people as possible," said Corbeil.

Sociology major Jalen Elliot, a freshman, said convocation was both an informative and eye-opening experience. He

said what he took away from convocation was to complete assignments on time.

"Yeah, like hopping on your work early so you don't get left behind, because, like, every aspect of life is always going to be like that," said Elliot. "Like, you'd rather be on it now than settle. Wait it out."

As for his expectations for his time at Southern, Elliot said he wants to earn his degree and have a great college experience that he can brag about.

"This is the day that you wait for when you're younger," said Elliot. "Then when you're actually there, and it's like, wow."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

The class of 2023 in front of Hilton C. Buley library.

# Conn

Continued from Page 1

The new dishwasher allows the building to use less soap and water to clean dishes and silverware. The new walk-in freezer is not only larger than the old freezer, but the more modern motors and cooling systems will allow it to run more efficiently than before. Overall, Florczak said that with the up-to-date equipment, it will be "beneficial to the electricity cost and running operations cost."

The changes in Conn. Hall are generally well-accepted by students, especially the eco-friendly portion. However, this does not change the question of food quality.

"I'm hyped about how eco-friendly the university is and how great it will be long term, but again, nothing is perfect out of the gate," said education major Angela Tesky, a junior.

Multiple students at the university say they hope the food quality will continue

to rise. To hopefully appease the students, the university decided to bring in some new staff.

"We are bringing in a new manager as well," DeMezzo said. "He used to own a restaurant, so he has a huge culinary background as a chef."

DeMezzo also said that the hours at Conn. Hall will be pushed to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Food quality and the hours of operation at Conn. Hall came up as top priorities during a survey that was conducted by Residential Life last year.

"If you live on campus for some time, you'll hopefully see food service get better," DeMezzo said. "The infrastructure and quality of food is very important to us this year."

Students continue to have questions and concerns when it comes to Conn. Hall, but it is clear the university is trying to answer those questions and produce quality food service.

# North

Continued from Page 1

"We decided that the best thing to do is take out the sheet rock that was water damaged and, in some cases, had mold develop and have mold remediation done by an outside contractor," said Sheeley.

DeMezzo said complete removal of the walls created 100% certainty "there was no mold."

Associate Director of Housing Operations Marvin Wilson said had the mold reached the carpet or more than a dime size had formed on any furniture they would have to be discarded.

"It was a very last-minute issue that popped up," said DeMezzo.

According to DeMezzo, he and Wilson became aware of the issue the Friday before move-in day.

"Our summer really is spent really going through every room in every building to prepare for the academic year," said Wilson. "So, it's as a result of constantly going through where we just discover some issues."

While Wilson worked on assessing every room for possible damages, DeMezzo said he worked closely with Sheeley's office to do whatever was necessary to get students moved in.

"This was a case where we need to get the work done so the students could

move in and we figured - we'll deal with the costs after," said DeMezzo.

"I don't think it will be significant because it was two days' worth of work. It's just more important to take care of the students first and we'll worry about how much it costs later."

Sheeley said he plans on bringing in an engineer to look at the A/C units and their rusted, obsolete brackets to avoid the problem in the future. Once the engineer is done, he said he should receive an estimate for the potential work; he also is waiting on a bill from the outside mold remediation contractor.

DeMezzo said he admits the walls need more work, and, more than likely, that work will take place over the winter break since most students do not want their rooms painted now.

Several more coats of tape compound or plaster must be applied to the resheeted walls as well as sanded between coats, Sheeley said, before the official painting of the walls can begin.

"But all that process takes time," said Sheeley, "because you have to let the compound dry."

According to Sheeley, the average drying time between coats is 24 hours.

Psychology major Serena Johnstone, a freshman, said she had signed up for her room in late July and was housed in Schwartz Hall, but then decided to move to North.

"Most of my friends live



PHOTO COURTESY | SERENA JOHNSTONE

Repairs done in Serena Johnstone's room after water damage and mold were found within the wall.

in [North]," said Johnstone, "so I just kind of figured that would be helpful for just having people to study with."

Johnstone said she was not made aware of the damage to her room until she arrived to move-in at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24.

"I was told that I was not gonna be allowed to move into my room because of the damage from the air conditioning leaking," said Johnstone, "and, it had leaked from the top floor, like 606, all the way down the entire building and every sixth room and I'm 506."

She said the wall was ripped up by her window on one side of the room and by her suitemate's bedroom as well.

A dehumidifier was put into the room temporarily, Johnstone said, but ended

up leaking too.

Johnstone said she then requested to room with her friends but was told "there's technically no vacancy in the room." Instead, she said, she was put in a suite with an athlete, who at the time was out to practice with her team.

"My mom got someone who is the supervisor, I guess, or the hall director, and he came and looked at the room and kind of gave the okay that I could move in," said Johnstone, "because I really did not feel comfortable just being put in this space with these people that I didn't know, and I would've had to stay there 'til Monday [Sept. 26] cause that's supposedly when they were gonna fix the room by."

## Reducing Southern's carbon footprint one solar panel at a time

By J'Mari Hughes  
Copy Editor

In Southern's continuous effort to reduce the university's carbon footprint, solar panels have been added to the Fitch Street Garage.

The Sustainability Coordinator Suzanne Huminski said the panels, which are built over the garages, allow students and faculty to continue to occupy spaces and will produce electricity that does not create any adverse impact on climate.

Huminski said how the panels grant energy to the closest spots on campus that need it, but could also generate an overabundance which would be accessible elsewhere.

"We use so much electricity. We'll always be using the electricity that the panels make," said Huminski.

In a campus wide statement sent out by Associate Vice President for Capital Budgeting and Facilities Operations, Robert

Sheeley, said Southern has been working for years to help reduce its carbon footprint and the panels, along with composting and food recovery, to improve energy efficiency and tree planting programs, are one of its many ways.

According to Sheeley, Southern has installed over 3,000 panels that reduce carbon emissions and provide clean energy.

In the statement it was stated that General Electric, a world energy company, will provide maintenance to Southern for the next 20 years. Due to there not being any cost to the university, Huminski said they will save Southern \$60,000 a year.

Vice President of the Geography, Environmental, and Marine Sciences Club, Shayla Peterson, said she believes the panels are a huge step in the right direction. Peterson said it brings her great peace of mind that, as a community, Southern realizes the climate is changing and is

taking action to mitigate their collective impact.

"Solar panels are a sustainable replacement for non-renewable energy sources, like the burning of fossil fuels and crude oils," Peterson said. "Solar energy is captured by the panels and is converted to electricity, with no harm done."

GEMS President Alina Tucker, said installing the panels is a great example of sustainable option and movement the club fully supports.

"Solar panels on campus establish Southern as a school not only concerned with making more sustainable choices, but actually taking action to provide a cleaner and greener environment for the community and future communities," said Tucker.

Using pure sunlight to power peoples' lives is a zero-emission alternative to atmosphere-degrading fuels, according to Peterson. The money they save, she said, could go towards

further sustainability projects or be donated to departments across Southern.

"This is the most effective way to combat climate change, especially for a larger institution like SCSU," said Peterson. "The solar panel project shows that Southern recognizes the climate crisis and is prepared to work hard towards a better future."

The success of the panels, Sheeley said, has motivated the Office of Sustainability to pursue additional projects of similar nature.

"They save money, they're clean, they're reliable," Huminski said.

"This is an important part of Southern's sustainability commitment and it's something that the university has worked on for the last five years to be able to build."



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Newly installed solar panels on top of Fitch Street Garage.

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## Looking back: Fall of 1996



## Police involved in melees

An incident between a Southern student and an unknown University of New Haven Student resulted in arrests and hospitalizations. The incident occurred during the Black Student Union's Comedy Jam, but Chief of Southern Police, John A. Prokop said "the event did not cause this unfortunate incident." The two students were arrested outside of Farnham Hall after Southern student, Tedla Brock, was charged with assault on a police officer. Sherema Sheppard, also a Southern student was charged with breach of peace and interfering with a police officer.

### September

- Students complained of nausea after eating the food served to them at Conn. Hall. Most came from younger students leading claims that students have not adjusted to university food, but Conn. Hall worker, Gladys McGee said conditions of the kitchen have not changed in her 20 years at the university.

- Plans were proposed to add additional parking on campus. The Tilcon plan was to create a lot directly across from North Campus Residence Complex and the Prescott plan entailed the purchase of the former Prescott apartments. Both plans were intended to end parking problems.

### October

- The Women's Studies program hosted its sixth annual conference at Southern, with the theme of "Change the Politics: Women Make the Difference."

- Southern appointed a new dean to the Department of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education, Laura J. Evans.

- Police caught a would-be car thief in parking lot 7 after adding two full-time officers for Buildings and Grounds detail after a car was stolen earlier that semester.

### November

- An ex-Editor-in-Chief of the Southern News was caught publishing a false letter from "Kevin George Brown" concerning how students dress. The media board said the students judgement had jeopardized Southern News' integrity.

- Phase one of a 15-year master plan to renovate Engleman and Jennings began that would not be completed until the class of 1997 returns for its 20-year reunion.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Jessica Guerrucci, Managing Editor

# Dessert social a success despite threat of inclement weather

By Jacob Waring  
Online Editor

President Joe Bertolino's administrative team was seen handing out delights such as kettle corn, Insomnia cookies, cinnamon buns and more. At the end, Bertolino himself handed out ice cream from the ice cream truck. This event, the Dessert Social on Wednesday at the Academic Quad, was part of the Week of Welcome.

"Everyone seems to be happy. Everybody got kettle corn, Insomnia cookies, cinnamon [buns], and people are out here, which is a good thing. [I] appreciate the team filling in while I had other things that I needed to deal with," said Bertolino, who was absent from his event until the last 45 minutes.

Originally, the event was supposed to occur between 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., but inclement weather would have forced the university to shut down the original time.

Theatre major Kat Duffner, sophomore who said she thought the Dessert Social was awesome, and that you

cannot go wrong with free food. She said that this was an ideal event for incoming freshmen to interact with faculty and learn about the services the university provides.

"I've seen a lot of people with blue name tags around. A lot of people [are] here to welcome students," she said.

Duffner said she thought the president's team did a good job in Bertolino's initial absence during the

event. She also said she thought his presence would have been awesome, but realizes that he maintains a busy schedule, which she said is understandable.

Many students thought this was an ideal event for freshmen to become familiarized with Southern even more. Science major Isabel Lopez, a sophomore, said she was one of those students.

"It's good for the freshmen to get involved

and get familiar with the school and what we do," she said.

Health Science major, Isaiah Young, a freshman, thought the Dessert Social was lively and that everyone was having a good time. He said the administrative staff was very informative.

"They just let us know what they're here for, how they run stuff," he said.

Young said he was appreciative of the fact that

they were not just sitting in their offices, but out at the event interacting with the students instead. He said it cultivated an atmosphere of interaction from all levels of the Southern community.

The associate director of student involvement and leadership involvement Eric LaCharity said the social was one of the events his office is helping run and said it was an office of the president event. He also said that this year was the first year they've done the event in this way, and in past years it was simply scooping ice cream for students.

LaCharity confirmed the event's time was changed due to the possibility of inclement weather but wanted to attempt to get ahead of it. He also said that the change in time may have factored into Bertolino's initial absence, but was aware that the president had a last minute scheduling conflict that he had to attend to.

"We got a few moments of drizzle, but everyone seems unaffected by that," said LaCharity, "and seems to be having a good enough time out here."



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Students waited in line to receive free ice cream, one of many food truck options, to celebrate Week of Welcome.

# Southern goes to Salamanca, Spain

By Alexandra Scicchitano  
Opinions & Features Editor

Fifteen Southern students took part in a month-long Study Abroad to Salamanca, Spain, which took place from June 29 until July 31, said communications disorders major Danielle Ott, a junior.

"It was an awesome experience, I really enjoyed it," said Spanish and secondary education major Miguel Diaz, a senior. Diaz said that it really broadens one's perspective and it is good to see how other people from around the world live.

Both Diaz and Ott said they heard about the Spain Study Abroad when they first got to Southern, and wanted to go ever since. This past summer, they were finally able to go. A biology major, Shannon Barrett, a senior, said she has gone to Spain before in high school, and she loved the country and wanted to visit again.

"It was amazing. It was the longest time I've ever been away from home," said Ott.

The retired Spanish professor who went on the trip, Carlos Arboleda, said that when he came into the program in 1988, they had a Study Abroad program, but no one utilized it for four to five years. But in 1990, it was revived, and he has run and gone on every trip for the past 29 years. Arboleda said he has

retired and handed over the position to Raphael Hernández.

"Many, many students have been connected through this program over the years," said Arboleda.

In Spain, the group went to school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays. They had weekends off to go on excursions around the cities of Spain or just go exploring independently, said Ott.

The group even took a four-hour long bus ride to Portugal, and enjoyed the ocean there, said Diaz.

"My professor made sure we were about to hold our own in a bar," Ott said about her experience with speaking with the locals in Spain.

Ott said that she really improved her Spanish because she acted as a translator to her friends who were at a lower level of the language when the group went on tours. But they had some tours in English too.

"By the end of the month, we didn't really feel like we were tourists anymore, it was like, we knew the country well enough [to not be tourists]," said Barrett.

One reason for students to go to visit another country, is "first of all, to improve their language skills, if they are taking that language course there," said Barrett. She also said it can expose people to different ways of living and they can adapt their own lives to that culture however they want.



PHOTOS COURTESY | CARLOS ARBOLEDA

The group that went to Salamanca, Spain over the summer.

Arboleda said he believes that this study abroad program has played a critical role in the growth of local students who participated in the program.

"I think the most important thing is that it changes your view," said Ott. "Not only in your own real life because you get the chance to step outside of that and really appreciate life back home."



## Glow in the Dark Block Party shines a light on new semester

By Jacob Waring  
Online Editor



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Students gather for the block party on the quad on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

The Residence Life Quad was filled with students with pizza in one hand with glowsticks in the other and singing along to “Pop Out” by Polo G.

The Glow in the Dark Block Party was part of Southern’s annual Week of Welcome, and was primarily hosted by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, but had support from other Greek life groups on campus and from neighboring schools. Pizza and snow cones were provided and students wore glow sticks on their wrists and necks or held them in their hands.

Katia Bagwell, president of her chapter of Zeta Phi Beta, said her sorority got together and decided they wanted to do something for first-year students. Bagwell said she estimated roughly 200 to 350 students attended.

Jurea McIntosh, the Zeta Phi Beta secretary, said they decided to go with a glowstick themed block party because they thought it would be cool to do.

“We were like, ‘Oh, let’s have a little party,’ and thought it’d be cool to be

glow in the dark theme,” said McIntosh.

She said that they thought the glow-in-the-dark theme was cool and would help to “make it lit.”

Some of the students said they were “not really digging” the block party, while others said they were having an incredible time.

One of the students at the block party was biology major Joseph Vimaria, a freshman, who was decked out in glowsticks. He said he was trying to “make it lit” by attempting to be the one with the most glowsticks.

“I like the music,” Vimaria said, then added, “I just wish there was more stuff to do.”

Other students, like psychology major Brianna Jones, a sophomore, were a bit more critical of the block party.

“When I got here at first it was a little slow,” said Jones. “It’s better now, but it depends on who you’re friends with.”

Jones said that she felt that it was too soon to hold this type of event because not a lot of freshmen know each other yet and have not reached the comfort level to interact with others.

Others, like social work major Arianna Rivera, a sophomore, thought the block party was nice, but the DJ could have been better. She said the line for pizza was confusing and the quad’s streetlights made it more challenging to use the glowsticks.

“I think they should have turned off some of the lights since it is glow in the dark [theme],” Rivera said.

She said aside from those complaints, she felt that the Zeta Phi Beta sorority did an awesome job with the block party.

## DIY skin and hair self-care

By Essence Boyd  
News Editor

Students were encouraged to begin the new semester with a fresh start and some fresh ingredients with Curlfriendz in the Adanti Student Center.

On August 27 Curlfriendz held their first event of the semester. The organization, which is going on its second year, was created to promote, encourage and embrace natural hair while addressing the stigmas surrounding it. The Week of Welcome event called DIY Skin and Hair Care, along with Curlfriendz, focused on how to create natural and nutritional body products with accessible items that can be found in the kitchen. Amongst the ingredients distributed to participants were coconut oil, brown sugar, lemons, bananas and avocados. Students were taught how to use ingredients to create their own self-care products to add into their day-to-day routine.

According to Curlfriendz

Vice President Karina Aviles, the goal of the event was to show students inexpensive ways to support their natural way of living.

“There are natural ways to have your own skin care and hair care products,” said Aviles. “We know that it is expensive, especially for college students. Especially when you are trying to start your natural hair journey, a jar of leave-in conditioner can go up to \$15.”

Participants were sat five to a table and provided with to-go jars, coconut oil, brown sugar, smashed bananas and essential oils. Biology major, Unique Parks, a freshman, was among the group of attendees who used the opportunity to meet new people while making a fresh avocado face mask.

“[I attended the event] to meet new people and try to create a new bond with other people while creating a face mask, I thought it would be fun,” said Parks.

According to Aviles, although the main goal of putting on the event was

to educate students, it was also to get more students acquainted with the club, in hopes of them becoming regular attendees.

“We are a club and an organization that wants to be well known. Being able to promote these certain events can help us bring in members and educate a lot more Southern students on hair care and skin care,” said Aviles.

Psychology major Janee Johnson, a freshman, said Curlfriendz’ plan worked. She plans to continue to attend the clubs programs and even had some ideas of future programs they should put on.

“I would like to have a talk on how to take care of your hair. I like how they are giving us products, like ways to show us what you can use but I would definitely want something that helps us and teaches us how to take care of naturally curly hair,” said Johnson.

Not only is the organization teaching students new ways to care for their hair, but it is also

teaching them how to embrace it.

“This club is great, and I love that they have curly hair empowerment because I know for a while it was kind of like not something that was excepted,” Johnson said. “Girls had to hide it. Personally, when I was younger, I would always straighten my hair because I felt my curly hair was not good enough.”

Although Curlfriendz may be a new organization on campus, students are already wishing there was more organizations similar to it.

“I feel like there are so many different clubs,” said psychology major Kayla Duarte, a freshman, “but I feel like there is never stuff for everybody, but as soon as I saw this I was like there is.”

For students like Kellyann McPhoy, attending the event and being shown these techniques was a learning experience.

“I learned that you can do something that’s beneficial for you, while having fun,” said McPhoy.



PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

Students at the Curlfriendz event last Tuesday making DIY skin and hair products.



PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

Psychology major Janee Johnson, a freshman, at the DIY Skin and Hair Care along with Curlfriendz event.

## Songs of the summer offer nostalgia and empowerment

By Amanda Cavoto  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Music has an interesting way of leaving a mental watermark on each of the four seasons here in Connecticut. Songs seem to have a lasting impact that can transport people to the time period in which they

first heard it. Let us take a look at the songs that will be a staple to the memory of summer 2019.

Despite being released on April 5, Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus’ “Old Town Road,” remained at number one on The Billboard Hot 100 chart for a record-breaking 19 weeks.

Children, teens and adults alike have allowed this song to continue sweeping the nation all summer long.

Ariana Grande’s attempt to knock out Lil Nas X and Cyrus’ number one hit on Billboard was unsuccessful after being released on Aug. 2. Her single “Boyfriend,” featuring Social House, as

well as its music video, was far away from number one on the charts and landed them in the eighth spot upon its release.

While the song’s message is about commitment issues, the music video shows Grande violently attacking another woman, who is portrayed to be pursuing Grande’s “boyfriend.” Impressionable young girls and women have now been validated by Grande that attacking other women for a man is okay. Yikes.

Miley Cyrus traded in her famous blonde wig for a purple one with her new alter-ego, Ashley O. On June 14, the Netflix show “Black Mirror” starred Cyrus in one of their episodes as a pop sensation. To promote the episode, they released two songs, “On a Roll” and “Right Where I Belong,” under the name Ashley O. The songs picked up popularity throughout the summer. Cyrus additionally dropped a single under her real name called “My Mother’s Daughter,” with a powerful lyrical and visual message about modern feminism and access to women’s healthcare. Cyrus continues

to be unapologetically open about her views in today’s political climate, and it is reflected in her art.

“Señorita,” by Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello has remained a contender for the most played summer hit this year and has taken over the number one spot on Billboard these past two weeks. Mendes and Cabello’s voices complement one another and, despite lyrically making no ground-breaking impact, the quality of their voices and their eloquent harmony helped bring their duet to the top.

After a meme came out saying this next song, “has done more for women’s empowerment than the U.S. government ever has,” with its lyrics focusing on women recognizing their worth and leaving toxic men behind, Lizzo’s “Truth Hurts,” has left women stronger than ever. This tougher-than-nails pop song with an R&B accent delivered a message that women should carry with them well after this summer.

The reunited 90’s babies’ classic, The JoBros, aka The Jonas Brothers, released

a song back in March that carried them through the summer. “Sucker” has been a pool party hit since summer began. Their album “Happiness Begins” has been touring since early Aug., leaving their single still up on the charts as they will continue their tour throughout the fall. The beat and lyrics is are perfect for a feel-good summer song.

“Hot Girl Summer”: The phrase that coined the summer of 2019. The highly anticipated Megan Thee Stallion song featuring Ty Dolla \$ign and Nicki Minaj was released on Aug. 9. However, the phrase did not start with the release of this song. Stallion fans started a movement with the first lyric of her song “Cash S\*\*t” that read “real hot girl s\*\*t,” in collaboration with her album art that reads “She’s thee HOT GIRL and she’s bringing THEE HEAT.” Fans then created the “Hot Girl Summer” movement, inspired by women and men alike living their lives unapologetically authentic—a message the whole human race could really use right now.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | IZZY MANZO

An iPhone XR displaying the remix of “Old Town Road” remix by Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus, the number one Billboard Hot 100 song for 19 weeks in a row.

## Trading tradition for travel Field hockey spends a summer in Bermuda to bond

By Hunter O. Lyle  
Sports Editor

In collegiate athletics, teams meet before the start of the regular season in order to forge bonds and build team chemistry. For Southern's field hockey team, they chose to take an alternative method to the traditional training camp.

While most teams congregate on the same field they play their entire season on, the Owls chose to venture to an entirely different country: Bermuda.

"[The trip] was excellent. It was just a great opportunity, not just for [the athletes] to be able to play in an international setting, in a sense, with other players and meet other people," said head coach Kelley Frassinelli, "but it was the culture, it was the experience of being there and learning what the culture of that island is."

Partnered with a group called Zag Tours, which boasts their motto "Travel, Play, Give Back," on their

website, the field hockey team spent four days traveling around the island. From cliff-jumping at Cathedral Cave to swimming with dolphins, the team enjoyed relaxing while simultaneously getting to know each other better.

"It was such a cool experience to have with a team, and it was such a great bonding experience for us," said senior goalkeeper Brianna Craft. "It was something that no team really gets to do often, so it was rare but so fun."

Part of the deal made between the field hockey team and Zag Tours was that while on the trip, the team would participate in a community give-back program. However, Frassinelli said due to poor weather and scheduling difficulties, the team was unable to participate.

Also, while on the trip, the Owls were able to face off against two Bermudian field hockey teams. On the first day, the team played against Bermuda's Senior

Mixed team, an adult league team comprised of both male and female players of various ages.

"The first game we played was the mixed team, and that was really fun. That was the first game we've played as a team with the freshmen," said Craft. "I thought we were finding our spots, we were finding our places. The freshmen were picking it up, finding their little groove in it."

The team lost to Bermuda's Senior Mixed team but found a silver lining to the night in freshman forward Bella Migliaro's first recorded goal.

On the third day, Southern's field hockey team went against the U21 National team, which consists of elite talent selected from Bermuda's club teams. The game was a scrappy battle before the Owls fell short during shoot-outs. Even though they lost, Frassinelli said the second game gave them hope for the regular season.

"I think the second game

that we played actually was really a moment where things seemed to click for them, which was a really great thing to see," said Frassinelli. "The core of them play together [throughout previous years], but the six, seven new players that came in had no idea what was going on, and they blended nicely."

Frassinelli also said the team does not ordinarily have a lot of time during preseason to bond off the field and the trip abroad solved that problem.

"They're going back to their dorms afterwards and they're kind of just resting - secluded in a sense, you know. Eating, coming and playing and that's the only aspect that they're really engaging in when they're in preseason camp, because there isn't a lot of time for other activities," said Frassinelli. "We try to do other activities, but I think this really gives them opportunity to really experience, also, another culture."



PHOTO COURTESY | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The volleyball team celebrates winning the 2018 NE10 championship against American International College.

## Volleyball chases after second championship

By Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

After making their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2017 and winning their first ever NE10 conference title in 2018, Southern's volleyball team said it hopes to keep trending upward in 2019.

After the Owls started out with a mediocre 7-10 season ago, they were able to flip the switch and finish the season on a 14-4 run to claim the conference title and play in the NCAA Tournament against number two-seeded, and fellow NE10 rival, Adelphi University. Despite the loss, the Owls' success last year only serves as motivation to do better this year.

"Obviously, the goal is to continue that upward trend and hopefully be back in the championship," said head coach Lisa Barbaro. "For us, it's really about maintaining the culture that we've created these past few years and the work ethic."

It has not always been easy, but the Owls have worked incredibly hard in recent years to improve and establish themselves as a force to be reckoned

with in the NE10.

Just four years ago, the Owls found themselves winning only seven games and finishing in the bottom of the standings. However, for Barbaro and her players, it is not as much about perfection than it is about being the hardest working team.

"We definitely had to just focus on winning each day instead of focusing on the bigger picture, winning NE10's," said senior hitter Jillian Chambers. "I think that's why we were able to be so successful."

Chambers said a big part of last year's success was the level of trust the team had with one another, something that they will need to retain for this year. This year's roster consists of 20 players, which includes six true freshmen and ten new players in total.

Having strong leadership skills among the upperclassmen is important with all the new additions, and Barbaro pointed to Chambers and graduate-student defensive-specialist Jennifer Dawson as two of her most important leaders on the court and in the locker room this year.

See Volleyball Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY | KELLY FRASSINELLI

The field hockey team before their game against Bermuda's Senior Mixed team while on a trip during summer.

## Women's soccer welcomes new students at annual meet & greet

By Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

After a long offseason of training and conditioning, the Southern women's soccer team is back on campus and ready to go as their season is right around the corner.

Though the excitement for the season is evident among players and coaches, the journey begins each year at their annual meet-and-greet, an event the program has been hosting for several years, but never during the first week of school.

"This is a part of Week of Welcome," said head coach Adam Cohen. "We just want to be here to let people know about athletics and to kind of welcome them and let anyone coming on

campus know that they're in a friendly place. The best thing that we can do, is every time we come into contact with somebody, we have a smile on our faces."

The first week of each fall semester at Southern is known as the Week of Welcome, or W.O.W., for short. The purpose of the whole week is to get students acquainted and familiar with the campus and all its clubs and organizations, particularly the freshman who are new to campus and may be unsure about how to get involved with either club or team organizations.

"We've done similar things with our team and welcoming people in the past, but not during Week of Welcome," said senior midfielder Mikaela Magee.



PHOTO | WILL ALIQU

Defender Paula Nunez, a junior, giving Wellington Da Silva, a sophomore, a slice of pizza on Wednesday.

"I think this is kind of new for us and I think it's really cool and something that I think we'll do going forward."

The event was scheduled to take place on Jess Dow Field with open space.

See Meet & Greet Page 6

## Men's soccer aims for more fruitful season

By Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

After finishing the 2018 season with a .500 record of 9-9, the men's soccer team has their sights set on a much more successful 2019 season.

Consistency was an issue for the Owls a year ago, as last season consisted of a four-game winning streak early on, but also a three-game losing streak later in the season. Head coach, Tom Lang, said he hopes to avoid the latter this year.

"Last year we were not good enough. 9-9 is not acceptable," said Lang. "We weren't good enough away from home; we were very inconsistent overall. This year we're looking for a sense of consistency but also using each and every opportunity in training and in games to get better."

Consistency is something Lang knows plenty about. During his time at Southern, Lang has established one of the top men's soccer programs in the nation. He has coached the program to thirteen NCAA Tournaments, including back-to-back

national championships in 1998 and 1999, as well as three 20-plus win seasons.

"I still think we have a little way to go," said Lang. "For the most part, I've been pleased with the work ethic and the attitude of some of the players. The younger players have done very well, but we still realize and recognize that this is a process. That this can't be accomplished in one week."

Despite only nine wins throughout the previous season, the Owls were picked to finish fifth this year in the NE10 Preseason Coaches' Poll, behind Adelphi University, Southern New Hampshire University, Le Moyne College and Franklin Pierce College, respectively.

A large portion of the Owls core are returning from a year ago, including multiple All-NE10 picks. Among that group is senior forward Devante Teixeira out of Boston, an All-NE10 second team pick who will be tasked with being one of the leaders on the team.

See Soccer Page 6

# What's on Tap?

## Checking in on Owls across the country

By Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

If any student has spent an extensive period of time on campus during the first week, they have probably heard the phrase, "It's a great time to be an Owl" from somebody at one point or another.

The 2018-19 year showed successful seasons from many of the athletic programs on campus, and the potential among them this year is just as high, if not higher, among some of the teams.

With college football season underway for some schools and right around the corner for others, let's check in on some of the other Owls taking the field across the country this year.

For starters, let's go down to Philadelphia, as we begin with the Temple University Owls, a team looking to build from last year's success. Temple went 8-5 before losing to Daniel Jones' Duke Blue Devils in the Walk-On's Independence Bowl in Miami.

This year, Temple opened their season with a 56-12 thrashing of Bucknell, a game that was over practically before it started. Under center, they return their redshirt senior quarterback, Anthony Russo, who threw over 2,500 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2018. Against Bucknell, Russo would go 25 for 46 passing with 228 passing yards.

Despite being picked to finish fourth in the American Athletic Conference's East Division, there is still a lot of optimism concerning the Temple Owls' ability to make and win a bowl game.

We now move onto the Owls of Rice University in Texas, who won just two games in 2018. Despite senior running back Nahshon Ellerbe, who missed last year due to injury, rushing for 103 yards on nine attempts, the Rice Owls fell to Army, 14-7, on the road in the opener.

Rice University is picked to finish sixth in the West Division of the Conference USA this year, and the Owls of Florida Atlantic University, who finished with a 5-7 record last year, are picked to finish fifth in the East Division.

Lastly, we venture back home to our campus. Southern's Owls open on Sept. 5, despite a 4-6 record (3-6 in NE10) in 2018, the Owls were picked to finish fourth in the NE10 Preseason Coaches' Poll.

Even though they lost six All-NE10 picks from a year ago, including running back Eli Parks, last year's NE10 offensive player of the year, head coach Tom Godek still returns All-NE10 selections, including Julian Chung, the team's top receiver a year ago.

Matt Sanzaro will return as the Owls' quarterback this year, after throwing for 833 yards in six starts in 2018. Sanzaro also serves as a dual threat, as he ran for 228 yards with four rushing touchdowns as well.

There is no telling how the Owls of Southern or other Owls across the country will fare this year. One thing is for sure though—the excitement and energy are high, and it truly is a great time to be an Owl, no matter which Owl you cheer for.

# Volleyball

Continued from Page 5

"I try to help steer them in the right direction. It's a huge transition coming from high school to college," said Dawson. "I know it's tough especially with so many young people, so I just try to guide them in the right direction and show them the example of hard work and competitiveness and really show them what it's like to be a part of such an awesome culture."

In their season opener on Sept. 6th, the Owls will host Dominican College and Queens College as part of the SCSU Tri-Match, and

Barbaro only has one primary concern with her team: health.

"We're a little banged up," said Barbaro. "Right now, it's just about getting everybody back healthy, it's definitely a concern early on."

Injuries aside, there is excitement among the Owls for this upcoming season. They hold a firm belief that they can come together as a team to win the conference again this year and make a deeper run in the NCAA Tournament.

"We always talk to the girls about really trusting in the process and outworking our opponents," said Barbaro. "That's going to still be the recipe for us going forward."

# Meet & Greet

Continued from Page 5

However, the intense rain forced the event to be moved under Moore Field House and cut short by an hour, yet that did not seem to take away from the excitement.

There was free pizza, refreshments, giveaways and music for all Southern students, and the athletes seemed to enjoy meeting some new faces.

"It's really important to get our names and how friendly we are as a team out there," said sophomore forward Courtney Viglione. "We want people to be as invested in us as we are invested in them, we represent the school, we want them to come support us so we can support them and give them that title."

The consensus among the players is that the Owls are serious about winning and are looking to boost their team chemistry each day. Even though they

have much longer and tougher days ahead of them on the field and in the training room, the team camaraderie remains high.

"It's so exciting," said sophomore midfielder Georgia Teixeira. "We have a really good group of girls and we all get along so well. I'm really excited for the season."

The Owls will open their season on Friday, Sept. 6th, as they take on the University of Bridgeport as part of the SNHU Tournament in Manchester, New Hampshire. Their first home game of the 2019 season will be on Wednesday, Sept. 18th as they host NE-10 rival Adelphi University.

Coach Cohen added that team events such as this one go a "long way with team bonding," but also serve as a message that his players are not just a part of one team, they are a part of the University and help make it what it is.

"We are a true family and care about every single one of each other," said Viglione. "We just want to be the face of Southern and make sure everyone knows we're doing everything we can for them."

# Soccer

Continued from Page 5

"I feel like I've come a long way from my freshman year, being that little punk who wanted everything at his fingertips," said Teixeira. "My leadership skills are based off leading by example, just working hard, showing up to practice on time, making sure I'm eating the right things, doing my schoolwork and making sure guys are in the right places."

Teixeira finished last season with four goals and 13 total points, while tallying over 1,000 minutes of playing time.

The Owls also have senior midfielder Blaise Haba returning, another player tasked to carry a big leadership role. Haba, who would record one goal and three points in over 1,200 minutes of playing time in 2018, said he was very

pleased with how his team is looking with the season opener approaching.

"So far, this team looks great," said Haba. "I like everything about this team. We're like a family, we've got each other's backs."

Haba said during his freshman year, he would have loads of questions for his upperclassmen teammates, so this year he is making the extra effort to be there for the freshmen with anything they need, no matter the time.

The Owls are set to open their season at home at Jess Dow Field on Saturday, Sept. 7th, as they will host the Mavericks of Mercy College out of the East Coast Conference.

The Owls met the Mavericks in New York to open the season last year, where they fell 5-1.

"We're ready to have fun this year," said Haba. "As soon as we start on Saturday with that first game, we're going to be ready to go."



Devante Teixeira, currently a senior forward, battling for the ball during a game against Saint Rose last year.

PHOTO COURTESY | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM



Seniors Jillian Chambers and Jennifer Dawson during the NE 10 Championship game at Adelphi University.

PHOTO COURTESY | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

# Adaptive sports event opens new perspective

By Jacob Waring  
Online Editor

At the Introduction to Adaptive Sports event, which was sponsored by the department of recreation, tourism, and sports management, students could be seen playing goal ball or wheelchair basketball in the Pelz Gymnasium on Thursday, Aug. 29.

Goal ball had students wearing blindfolds, mimicking those who have visual impairments, passing the ball to group members who stomped their feet to indicate they were ready for the pass. They then must catch the ball, which was a challenge due to their lack of sight.

Wheelchair basketball was played like regular basketball, with the difference being that students must use a wheelchair while participating. Regulation rules for basketball were still in effect, but players were allowed two pushes before every dribble of the ball.

Watching on the sideline was junior Jeanne Moore, a recreation therapy major who has been in a wheelchair nearly all her life. She said she has a birth defect called spina bifida, which causes the spine and spinal cord to not properly form.

"Your spine doesn't close properly in the wound. You're born basically— they have ways to repair it now, but that was almost forty-seven years ago— with a hole in my back," she said.

Moore was not participating because she said, "I'm not 20 anymore, but I like to at least watch, it's fun to watch."

Moore said she thought

the students playing wheelchair basketball were doing well navigating in the wheelchairs.

"I think they're doing pretty good," Moore said. "I was watching some of them, and they're doing good at not leaping up and getting out of the chair instinctively."

She said she was happy to see adapted sports being played at Southern, and she hopes the university continues to allow it to grow.

One of the students who participated was sophomore Mike Mozzicato, a sport management major. It was his first time playing any sort of adaptive sports, and he said he found it engaging.

"I think it's fun. It's a little confusing at first, but I feel it's fun to do and learn it," Mozzicato said.

Aside from the enjoyment he found while playing the game, Mozzicato said he gained a newfound respect for athletes who participate in the sport at a high level of play.

"[The wheelchair is] definitely very hard to move in. Doing this everyday must be very hard. So, it definitely gives me a lot of respect for people who move like this in real life," he said.

As an associate professor in the department of recreation, tourism and sport management, Michael Dodge teaches across all disciplines of sports. At the event, he presented the drills of wheelchair basketball and demonstrated some techniques to help students get used to utilizing the wheelchairs.

Dodge said he coached football for 30 years at Southern where he

worked with high-level, elite scholarship athletes. However, when he retired from coaching and transitioned into the department he now resides in, he found a passion for adapted sports.

"[Adapted sports] made me push beyond my realm of expertise in the athletic world—actually have to begin to understand what it's like to modify the techniques for those athletes who did have difference in ability," he said.

Dodge said he ultimately gained a total respect for the athletes functioning at a level of athleticism that goes with playing adaptive sports.

Mary Jo Archambault, associate professor within the department of recreation and leisure, said her intention for the event was to expose students to adaptive sports. According to her, a lot of students do not know the sport even exists. She also said that it is a chance to show that the sport is not as easy as it appears at a glance.

"The athletes that are playing make it look really easy," said Archambault. "It is not until they get to the chair themselves do students have that realization that it's very hard, takes a lot of skills and be in great physical shape."

"I feel very fortunate that Southern, as a whole, is very supportive of adaptive sports. They helped to fund the 12 sport wheelchairs, which is great," Archambault continued. "I just feel like that this is something that is up-and-coming in Connecticut and that the more the people are aware of it, then the more people will support it."



Students and staff participating in Goal Ball, an adaptive sport, on Thursday.

PHOTO | JACOB WARING

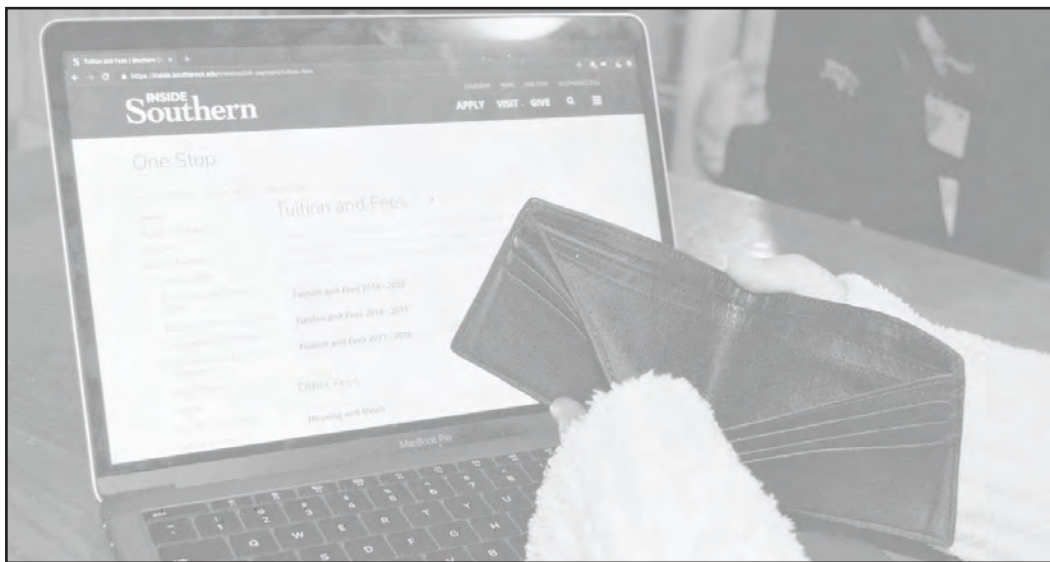


Photo illustration of the cost of 'back to school' in college. Photo illustration: Nina Bartlomiejczyk

## The cost of back-to-school in college

By Nina Bartlomiejczyk  
Copy Editor

In the beginning of the fall semester, the campus fills with returning students and new Owls alike. However, within the racing minds of students trying to acclimate to their new classes, residences and surroundings, there lies one shared anxiety among all: the cost of back-to-school.

Students bemoan the cost of school after tuition increases in Southern's new school year. In the 2018-19 school year, the total semester cost (tuition plus other fees, not including housing) for an in-state undergraduate student was \$5,477, and \$6,072 for graduate students. This school year, 2019-20, the total cost has increased to \$5,723 for undergraduates and \$6,372 for graduates.

In conjunction, the cost of on-campus living can bring the price up to, depending on the choice of housing, between \$10,289 and \$14,117-- solely in regards to in-state undergraduate students. Also, if a student were to choose a private institution rather than Southern, these costs would skyrocket even further.

The cost for college rarely ends here, as professors begin to urge students to buy incredibly expensive and frustratingly specific textbooks, which are rendered useless after three months of study aside from their generally unprofitable sell-back rates. Students

are needlessly made to buy books and supplies that can cost hundreds of dollars even for courses taken for the LEP requirement, that tend to not be of high interest to the student, and in many cases are taken to check off a box on a degree analysis.

In some cases, these supplies can even require usage such as answering questions within the book, annotating, or ripping out pages, which render them completely useless to anyone else.

Of course, for students who choose - or are lucky enough to afford - on-campus housing, there lies the additional cost of dorm room supplies. These supplies range from things like phone chargers and alarm clocks to pillows and blankets. While one could argue that these supplies are not technically necessary and thus are not included in thinking about the cost of college, it is hard to believe that any sane student would move into a dormitory without bedsheets.

In addition to the cost of college monetarily, there is also a cost to pay with one's sanity. The cost in this criterion lies in the moments where one wonders what they really want out of life, if their major is truly the right fit for them or if they should even stay in school at all.

When complex problems arise, such as being denied entry to housing because a loan has not yet been

approved or forgetting to pay tuition on time and being promptly booted out of the classes fought tooth-and-nail to get into in the first place, it can be hard for someone who is barely cutting their teeth on adulthood to even parse, let alone begin to rectify.

The reality is that college students are all tired, stressed, underpaid, overworked and more-or-less clueless as to how to begin to function in an independent adult life, no matter how hard some may pretend they can manage.

The expectations set on young adults are no less than lofty in the modern world, where they are saddled with jobs, school, bills, debt and the looming responsibility of inheriting the country. Yet, as college becomes more of a necessity than a choice, we all must continue onwards and upwards, preferably all the wiser because of it.

Perhaps this article will instill in someone a newfound disappointment in the state of the affairs they face, or cement an already cynical view. However, setting this possibility aside, the hope is that someone will think it best not to scoff at a freshman having trouble finding "Englemen C112", and to instead offer a helping hand, knowing we all face the same problems and share one sometimes troublesome, but ultimately worthwhile, narrative in our current lives.

## Undeclared label changing to exploratory

By Alexandra Scicchitano  
Opinions & Features Editor

Throughout my entire Southern career so far, the school has identified people without majors as undeclared.

For example, "an undeclared major, Jane Doe, a sophomore said..." The school now has decided to switch the term to exploratory.

I believe this is a big transition that holds little to no benefit to Southern students. The change of undeclared to exploratory does nothing for Southern students and it does not need to be changed to accommodate anyone. No one has complained to the school about the term used for people who have not decided a major.

Exploratory constitutes as a student that is still searching for a major they are interested in pursuing.

On the other hand, undeclared implies that they had not yet chosen a major. Both indicate the same thing - a student not yet declaring a major - but seem to hold two completely different connotations that can be taken in various ways.

I do not really think changing undeclared to exploratory makes a huge difference. Whether it's

pointed out to students or not, those declared as undeclared majors have been exploring their interests way before the term was changed because that is the point of the undeclared major. It ultimately is not a necessary change because, whatever you call it, it is still the same thing.

Undeclared was part of the top five majors of the freshman class entering fall 2018, according to the Fast Fact page on Southern's website. That means there is a huge population of the now-sophomore class that still do not know what they want to pursue a career in.

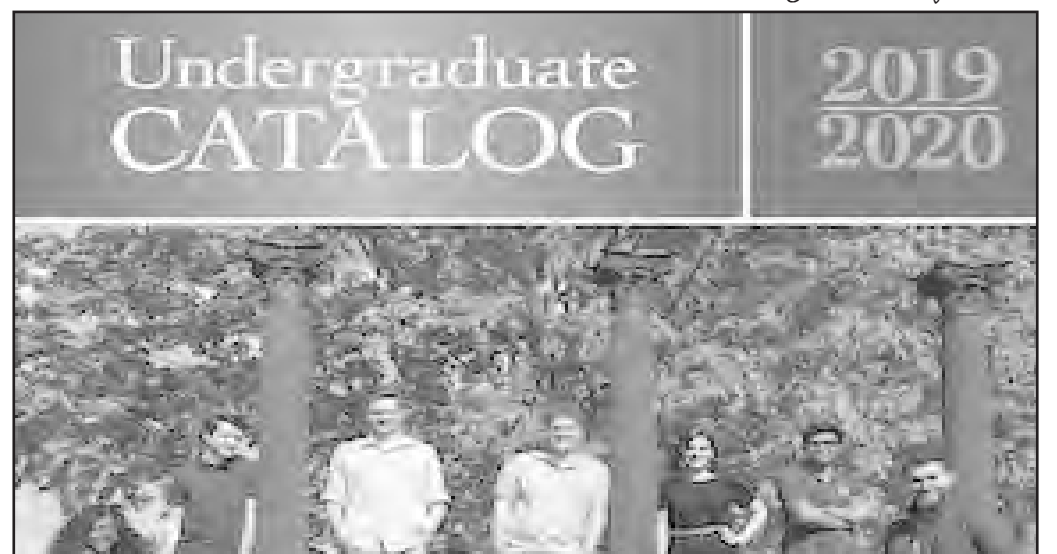
Though this change may have been made with the goal of making the term to describe their situation less derogatory, and while being undeclared or exploratory might be a good thing for some people, it is required for all students to choose a major after two years of being at Southern.

Changing the name to make students more comfortable does not change the fact that it only describes a temporary and, for some, an anxiety provoking situation.

Furthermore, Southern has dedicated links and pages on the school website to helping undeclared students choose their majors. However, now all those pages need to be updated with the term exploratory. People will need to know to not say undeclared or undeclared and actually instead say exploratory. In conjunction, switching to exploratory will be different not just for the school website, but also for people in administration who have used the word undeclared for many years too.

Moving through the motions of changing the name of a term to something meaning the same thing, does nothing for the students at Southern. There is no explicit goal for the changing of the name to exploratory from undeclared.

In conclusion, I do not believe that the word itself needs to be changed officially. However, word of mouth can do a lot to make change. Perhaps if the administration pushed it more through that forum instead, such as through advisors and inquiry classes, it could be successful that way, but, it does not need to be changed officially.



Screenshot: Alexandra Scicchitano

Screenshot of the Undergraduate Catalog for 2019-20 school where students can explore potential majors.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau  
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

Email: [scsu.southern.news@gmail.com](mailto:scsu.southern.news@gmail.com)

Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928

Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:

Southern Connecticut State University  
501 Crescent Street  
Student Center Room 225  
New Haven, CT 06515

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Jessica Guerrucci

### Section Editors

Essence Boyd

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News

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# PHOTO

## Construction continues on campus



Solar panels and construction supplies at the rear end of the Fitch Street Garage near Davis Hall.



The entryway to Connecticut Hall while undergoing renovations over the summer.



Construction works gather around the side of the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School.



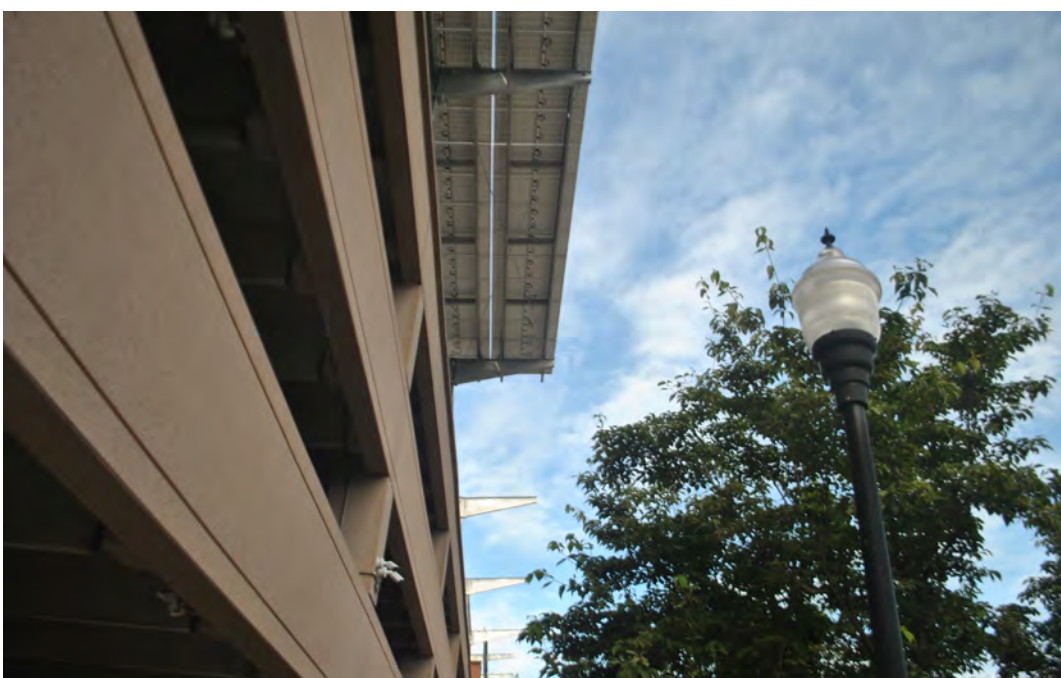
A dumpster in front of Connecticut Hall during renovations.



Metal beams in field near Fitch Street Garage.



A construction worker operated a lift while another worked on the roof of the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School.



An unfinished row of solar panels seen from the side of Fitch Street Garage.



A manlift in front of the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School.