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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

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## Hurricane Ida sweeps across campus

### Impacting the East Coast, lightning and rain disrupt and damage with floods

**By Sofia Rositani**  
Editor-in-Chief

The fall semester began with inclement weather. This last storm hit harder than Hurricane Henri, bringing with it flooding, falling trees and even the death of a Connecticut state trooper.

Interdisciplinary studies major Mishel Noboa, a junior, is a commuter who witnessed the storm from home.

"I was actually home but I saw people walking in the storm getting soaked," Noboa said.

Noboa was home during the storm, her road flooding, which causing issues for residents.

"The worst part was my street getting flooded and some cars breaking down because they couldn't pass through all the way," Noboa said.

The flooding was bad enough to reached Noboa's knees, making it hard to leave her house.

There was little to no flooding on campus but the drain at parking lot 10 was filled to the top with streaming water.

While there was a sign in the parking lot saying it may flood, by the next day, the lot was dry.

"It was scary. I got outside and the rain was pouring. The campus had big puddles that I had to work through. There were also lightning and high winds," psychology major Alexandria DePaul, a junior, said.

DePaul said the scariest part was walking through the lightning.

While on her walk, she noticed flooding in the walkway of Farnham and the construction beside it.

"The death toll from Ida in the northeast has risen to 46 people killed across five states, the Associated Press reported," according to the CT Post.

One of those lost was a Connecticut state trooper, Brian Mohl, who killed when his car was swept away by a river in Woodbury.

Other areas of Connecticut also endured major flooding and damage to homes. Governor Ned Lamont issued a state of emergency.

"Walking in it was scary

but once I got back to my dorm, I felt safe. I had no leaks or electrical problems in my room which was good," DePaul said.

Elementary education major Dave Lee, a senior, said when he walked through the storm he also saw the flooding in front of Farnham.

"Honestly, the worst part of it was just getting my socks wet," Lee said.

He did say he began to feel nervous once he saw the lightning flashes.

"I was afraid that lightning would strike directly on the umbrella and incinerate my entire body, because there's always that slim chance that it would," Lee said.

Elementary education major Isaiah Walker, a junior, and a first year commuter said the aftermath of the flooding caused his father's basement to be submerged in water.

Most of their possessions to get ruined.

Walker said "we felt safe knowing God has our backs and my father [is] fortunate enough to have somewhere to stay for the time being."



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Sign in parking lot 10 warning of flooding. Students told to park at their own risk



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Drain between Schwartz and parking lot 10. Waters are higher than normal

## Library science accredited this year



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Graduate assistant Emily Raymond, part of the library science program

**By Sofia Rositani**  
Editor-in-Chief  
**Sarah Shelton**  
Features Editor

Library and information science was recently accredited this year after losing it for the undergraduate and graduate programs.

"We are offering 36 credits. This means 12 courses. 6 courses are required and then 6 electives," chairperson of library and information science Hak Joon Kim said.

He added that students also have to do a capstone.

Emily Raymond is a graduate assistant for the department who

graduated from UConn with an English degree and has been working at the university's bookstore.

"I've known Southern had a library science program for a long time," Raymond said. "I grew up in Connecticut and it was mentioned to me all the time like 'oh, if you want to become a librarian, Southern has a program.' I learned about... the accredited program from one of the professors. He and I were talking one day and I was like 'oh you're working in the library program, too bad it's not accredited, and he said 'oh, it will be' and that was a few years before I applied— but it put the bug

in my ear that this was an option."

Raymond said she decided to become a part of the library science program to follow her dream of being a librarian.

"I've worked at Southern for several years and I've known I've wanted to become a librarian for probably the same amount of time and I did not want to apply to the program until I knew it was accredited," Raymond said.

"Being a librarian is what I want to do and Southern is going to be the most cost-effective option for me. Having a completely online program that I can do full time while working full time is

really important. I was so happy when they got the accreditation."

The undergraduate degree is one of 63 in the world that are accredited, according to the American library association.

Biochemistry major Matt Berry, a senior, said he had no idea the Library and Information Science degree became accredited.

"I think it's good for people who chose to go into that field. Now they have that chance to make it official," Berry said.

"It's a completely online degree," Raymond said.

She has to take a variety of classes, both elective and major-based. She has also had to take part in an internship.

For this internship, Raymond worked within Buley Library's special collections department.

She helped to set up an exhibit on the New Haven mayoral archive papers, which will come out this fall.

She also worked in the New Haven mayoral archive organizing papers.

"I love the faculty," Raymond said.

"The faculty of the library science department here at Southern are fantastic, and I've had really good conversations with all of them about what the jobs are like, how the courses work, and honestly, the internship was an amazing experience. I interned with Patrick Crowley, a librarian in the

## Fall enrollment numbers take hit

**By Madeline S. Scharf**  
News Editor

Enrollment levels at the university and across the country have significantly decreased within the last two years.

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, "this spring's overall college enrollment fell to 16.9 million students from 17.5 million, marking a one-year decline of 3.5% or 603,000 students."

With enrollment levels down at both the national and university level, there are questions about how this will affect things happening on campus.

Denise Bentley-Drobish, director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, was able to comment on how enrollment

numbers at the university are currently going. "It is too early to tell how enrollment levels have affected this department," said Bentley-Drobish. "I wouldn't say that we have seen a big change in our numbers since our last point of data two years ago." This means that students are still coming to events on campus.

From the current data, there does not seem to be a big effect from the lower enrollment. "This New Owl Weekend actually had higher participation this year than previously," said Bentley-Drobish.

Nicole Henderson, director of FYE, spoke about how different the enrollment numbers are this year.

"The exact numbers are not out yet," said Henderson, "but it is estimated that there are about 1000 to 1050 first year students this semester. Two years ago, we had an incoming class of 1505."

Many schools were not prepared for the lower enrollment levels. "We had seen that a lot of first year students did not like online learning," said Henderson. Because of this, people at both the university and national levels believed that enthusiasm with on-campus classes would cause an increase in enrollment. Instead, it decreased.

While there have been a few canceled courses, FYE has not been negatively affected. "We have had no budget cuts, and have not lost any resources," said Henderson. "The university understands that this program is here to help students succeed."

The enrollment levels are not a cause for concern for new students, however. "The enrollment decrease has not affected what we [the FYE program] do with students. There are still peer mentors, it's the same experience as prior to the pandemic," said Henderson.



# FYE office moved to Engleman, more space

**By Madeline S. Scharf**  
News Editor

The office of First Year Experience (FYE) has officially moved to Engleman Hall room C 105. Located where the Disability Resource Center (DRC) resided, the FYE team made the space a comfortable and open environment to First Year Freshman students.

FYE is responsible for programs such as INQ classes and LEP objectives. Nicole Henderson, director of FYE, explains how the program helps students. "It provides a transition between high school and college," said Henderson.

Students have found this to be a valuable resource. Psychology major Jalyn Roberts, a freshman, believes it has helped her, even in the first week. "It has shown me that my habits in high school were terrible and not beneficial," said Roberts via email interview. "Overall, it's helpful in showing me the tools I need for each class."

As a peer mentor,

english major Kamal Orahovac, a junior, helps guide the First-Year students. "For me, being a peer mentor is about being a bridge between students and faculty," the he commented over email. "We use our experience to help first year students know what they have in store for them for the first semester."

The importance of this program is highlighted this year, as high school seniors who were online now transferring into in-person college. "Students came in this year feeling unprepared with their senior year online," said Henderson. This program allows them a safe environment to assimilate to in-person learning and college classes in general.

The peer mentors are there for extra help. "Your peer mentors are there as a resource for both social and academic questions," said Orahovac.

Orahovac found the first week with these students to be a positive one. "It's much closer to pre-COVID times," he said about the experience in

the classroom. The FYE program has allowed these students to be able to enjoy this resource.

The FYE offices were moved from their previous home in Buley Library. They were moved after the DRC merged with the Academic Success Center, becoming the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility.

This move seems to have benefited the FYE program. "I am happy about the move," said Henderson, "we worked hard to make it welcoming to students." There is also another bonus to being in Engleman. "We can help students find their classrooms."

Having students be comfortable in the FYE space seems to have been a main goal. The layout is open and welcoming, and comfy chairs greet students who are waiting to speak to someone. "It is also great that they (the FYE office) are offering coffee in the space," commented Orahovac. "It is a great way to make people cozy and facilitate interactions."



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

Peer mentor room. Here, peer mentors can talk with students in private

The new space has been received well by the students who would be spending the most time in the facilities, the peer mentors. "It (the new offices) definitely impressed me," said Orahovac, "and I am eager to use the spaces they set out for us."

There are even bigger

plans for the space once COVID-19 dies out. The office has two new spaces, a place where peer mentors can talk one on one with their mentees, and a room where students can get help and more information on their First-year Research & Artistry Experience (FYRE) project. "Post-

COVID, we can even have classes be in the FYRE room," said Henderson.

The new FYE office is a wonderful resource available in the middle of campus. "Take advantage of the FYE space," said Orahovac. "It will be a huge advantage to know people in the space ahead of FYRE season."

# Open mic draws music students

**By Madeline S. Scharf**  
News Editor

The sound of a piano greeted students in the hallway outside of Garner Recital Hall. Upon entering, a trio playing jazz sat on the stage, kicking off the Week of Welcome event, an open mic.

Hosted by Week of Welcome and the music department, this open mic was a chance for students to learn more information about music majors and minors. Before Joshua Groffman, chairperson and associate professor of the music department, began a quick PowerPoint. The trio played soft jazz for onlookers to enjoy.

Music major Daniel Velne, a junior, was up playing on stage when students began to take their seats. Holding a white electric guitar, he keeps time with the drum and performers excellently. "I came to this open mic to play," said Velne. "I work as a

musician."

Once the trio concluded their piece to a thunder of applause, Groffman began an overview of information pertaining to music majors and minors. He described upcoming events to look out for, and the office hours of the staff in the music department.

After concluding his presentation, students began to make their way on stage. A few slipped behind the black piano and begin playing a classical piece, while Velne sat down behind the drum set to play a bit.

"This is really to celebrate being on ground," said Groffman. "Of course we are socially distanced, but now we are taking the opportunity to meet up." Previously many classes were online, and thus group ensembles were unable to meet. This open mic presentation affirmed these programs would now be in-person, and students were welcome to sign up.

This sign-up for

ensembles is not exclusive for music majors and minors. "Ensembles are open for everyone," said Groffman, "I would say get permission from advisors and such, but it is open to all."

With many music events previously online, people were very excited for an in-person event. "Music can offer a sense of community," said Groffman. "There is a huge diversity of music. From jazz to classical and more. Within music, you are never doing just one thing, you can express yourself in many ways."

The importance of music and the connections it brings are not lost on people. According to Greater Good Magazine, "listening to music and singing together has been shown in several studies to directly impact neurochemicals in the brain, many of which play a role in closeness and connection."

Events that are music-based offer a stronger

sense of community and growth to those who attend them.

The importance of music is not lost on the students. Velne has big plans with music, both through the school and more. "I am trying to run a club where people of all skill and backgrounds can learn to play music," said Velne. While the project is still new, that is not all in store for this music major.

"I want a grant for this, large scale," said Velne, "I am asking the government to help sponsor this outreach program." Velne believes strongly about the connective power of music and wants it to be accessible to people of all backgrounds. This is still a developing story, and the information is subject to change.

Students stood around the stage, talking and listening to people play music and participating in this way for students to network and show off their musical talents in an on-campus event.



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

Joshua Groffman taking questions at open mic

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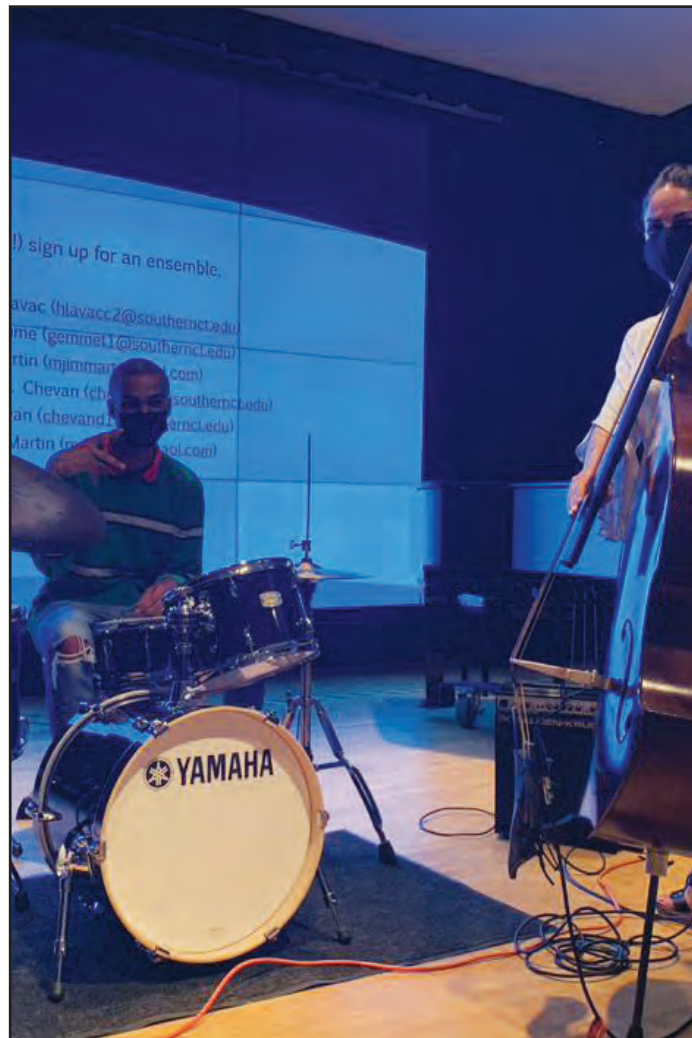


PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

Students and teachers on stage playing instruments for their peers



## Alum opens Jaigantic studios

**By Danielle Campbell  
Online Assistant**

Jaigantic Studios plans to plant its roots in the Fair Haven community of New Haven. The studio is ran by actor and Southern alum Michael Jai White. The CIO of the project Jackie Bustier is also an alumni.

University students should look at these two as an example of what you get when you continue to keep in touch with your classmates.

That kind of collaboration is possible when you network while you are in school and keep up with those connections. It is also achieved by student involvement and introducing yourself around campus

Deciding to establish this

studio in New Haven is a big deal for the city, state, and the students.

After attending an info session on the plans for the studio on September 1, it was clear to see that this studio was going to change how people saw New Haven. More importantly, it was going to change how New Haven saw itself.

There is a culture and talent in New Haven that often goes untapped and unnoticed. Students may not hear of the events and hidden gems around the city.

Having a film studio may help create a better infrastructure to know of events going on in the city and an incentive to get involved.

This film studio will be a chance for students, at all

levels, to see an industry they admire up close. Jaigantic plans on having an apprenticeship where they cycle people through six months in one area and six months in another. The first six months will be rotating through multiple types of jobs on a film set and the remaining six months are in one specific discipline.

Internships can be tricky and experience in the creative space is often missing for many students.

Now, students have job opportunities in a field that they would not have better access to.

It comes with excitement, professional experience and an industry that we know and love but may never see up close.

This experience is

paid and will help the people of New Haven—and especially Southern students—in majors related to the field of film

Even if students are not directly interested in specific film jobs, there is still a place for them.

The Jaigantic team spoke about the need for industry involvement that people often do not talk about.

Jobs in areas such as food, sanitation, hospitality, and a large list of other areas will need experienced workers and novice workers.

Jaigantic Studios is a great opportunity for students who want to get experience in a career, but also need a paid job.

University students will have plenty of places to look for work during the school year. This may aid the student who needs a job but has a hard time looking for work; who needs good pay but might want a new space to occupy.

Having a movie studio in New Haven operated by Southern alumni could be a confidence booster. It is not too often we know the big names in a recognizable industry we take in every day.

Netflix has already started using the facility in Shelton. Our students should prepare themselves for exposure to a fresh new idea of New Haven pride and life after college.

## Earl Hall needs love

**By Ellis McGinley  
Managing Editor**

Once, I stepped into Earl's gender-neutral bathroom to find it occupied by a cockroach about the size of my thumb.

We made awkward eye contact (always rude, walking in on someone) before it scurried into a large gap beneath the sink, lined with rotting insulation where two tiles had split at the corner and formed a perfect hideaway for whatever experimental insects were left from Earl's early days.

After staring into the dark, dingy crack, wondering what oversized creatures had made their colony within, I returned to class and got on with my final.

Could have been worse. Could have had wings.

The first time I ever had to spray-seal a project in Earl Hall, I was ushered to the spray closet: a small, unassuming metal door at the end of the hall, behind which I would presumably find paints, and a secure, ventilated space to douse my piece in an aerosol clear coat that probably causes some awful lung disease.

Inside, I found a small room about the size of a dorm closet. There was a large fumehood overhead, and a small section of floor with some beat-up cardboard.

An old lab stool was cluttered with a graveyard of old spray paints, walls splattered with what I could only hope was their wayward emissions.

While I trust the art professors and faculty to never allow an unsafe workspace, it certainly wasn't reassuring.

According to a 2013 inventory by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, Earl Hall was built in 1959 by architects Bradford Tilney and William Pedersen.

It was named for the famed Revolutionary War-era painter Ralph Earl (also a staunch loyalist to the British monarchy).

Staff who work in the building as well as the presence of an abundance of science equipment say the building really began as a laboratory.

Rooms like the metal shop convert hollowed-out fume hoods and old chemical cabinets into storage and workspaces, while down in the ceramics rooms, the old lab tile becomes slick with water from pottery wheels.

High humidity means returning from summer break to find equipment red with rust, mice in vending machines, and assorted other 'quirks' of the building which has yet to be renovated since the elevator was added in the rear of the building and someone switched in the gender-neutral bathroom signs.

College Factual lists our fine arts program as the second-best in the state, just after UConn's.

While our arts may not be the largest of our departments, we do boast a comprehensive program, including my passion of choice: our four-year metalworking program. It is the only like it in the state and one of few in the country, among our other unique concentrations and both art education and art history majors.

(Although UMass Dartmouth, one of the only other comparable metals programs, has eight dedicated rooms to the craft.

We have one.) A 2005 Campus Plan Update from state archives says it "called for Seabury and Earl Halls to be demolished," although they were protected under a Connecticut Environmental Policy Act review at the time.

Seabury was demolished in 2012; public documentation for why Earl Hall was not could not be found. Neither could details of any renovations since.

I do know one thing about the arts: it isn't like other departments, where you can put in money and get out profit.

In the arts, you put in money and get out art, although at a state school facing rigid budget cuts, a STEM-student majority, and an art gallery literally tucked away in the library basement, it's natural our administration would choose to overlook the campus home of its artists and musicians.

I'm not complaining about other departments' new facilities. Majors like nursing are essential and deserving of new, fully-equipped facilities to produce the best possible healthcare workers for our state and community.

But it's hard to practice my craft in an environment literally eating away at it.

Is a dehumidifier too much to ask?

**These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff.**



PHOTO | XXXXXXXXXX

Jaigantic Studios CIO Jackie Bustier (second left) talking about the

## Welcome back to campus from staff

**By Sofia Rositani  
Editor-in-Chief**

This semester started with not just a storm of emotions among new and returning students but also a hurricane moving everything back a day.

The weather may have stalled the opening of the university, but it did not damper anyone's excitement to return to campus. Southern News editors welcome the return of students and faculty to the university.

We are all excited to return to in-person learning and producing a great newspaper every week. The newsroom moved to ASC 222; also, for anyone interested in joining the newspaper

we have many openings. Available newspaper positions include reporters, news writer, sports writer, and layout editor. Anyone who is interested in a position should contact the Southern News email address found at the bottom of the opinions page.

This semester has started pretty rough, from not one but two storms and a really bad heatwave, which carried us through the first few days of classes.

Now with cooler weather on the horizon, I am reminded of metaphors and symbolism from my English classes as I was moving in. Expectations for the new year started out with

excitement but soon I was in a whirlwind of activities and occurrences which made my first weeks overwhelming.

As the weather was giving us storms, I was reminded that life is similar. We cannot have complete sunshine and when the storms come, we must remember we always have support from others.

This is normal, though there will always be bad days in between the good days.

For first years who may be nervous, it is completely normal to have such feelings, but pushing yourself through is part of the college experience will prepare you for a successful life post-college. After the

storm and the rain, the sun will ultimately shine.

I am not saying college will be this constantly overwhelming, there will be amazing days and these amazing days will be the moments you will always remember and cherish. There will be classes you love and classes you hate.

It is these hard choices and experiences that help you grow as a person.

College is a space where you can learn from your actions outside of the classroom; the likes and dislikes of life without the pressures of anyone else. This past year has been hard on everyone. Returning to campus and have a "new normal" is something that not just first years need but also returning students.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT

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## New Owls are welcomed to campus

**By Roma Rositani**  
**Photo Editor**

Every fall semester the university holds events for new students.

The campus offered a big cookout with hot-dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and other foods.

Events, such as "Rec the Night," were held in the Moore Field House. There were games, inflatable bouncy houses and clubs for students to check out.

The cookout for the first year students in the academic quad was one of many to mark the first in-person events on campus

since last semester.

Even through a heatwave left students exhausted, they were still attending in-person events.

Compared to last year, the campus safely amassed far more students in the academic quad and the residence life quad.

Students were served food after their learning community meetings and sessions, held to show first-year students different resources on campus.

This semester may have started with storms and a heatwave, but excitement between students has not wavered.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Students served by a faculty member at the cookout.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

A giveaway to students during New Owl Day.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

The sign on the bridge "Welcome[s] New Owls" to their first semester on-campus.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Emma Sundstrom (middle) and other students walking to their next event during New Owl Day.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Calandrelli workers making popcorn for students during New Owl Day.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Communications major Spencer Deer, freshman (right), and film major Ethan Shurkus, freshman, play a game of cornhole.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Students playing a game of cornhole.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Faculty members helping to serve food during New Owl Day.



# Owls upset Division I Central in football

## In their first meeting in 10 years, Division II Southern picks up the 28-21 win

By Bancroft Nicholson  
Contributor

The university's football team has not played a game since November 2019. They returned with a bang, toppling former rival Division I Central Connecticut State University 28-21.

The Owls were down 7-0 after a quarter, as a result of Central quarterback Romero Williams, completing a 42 yard pass to wide receiver Kenyata Huston with a minute and 41 seconds left in the first quarter.

The Owls eventually got on the board around the 11 minute mark when defensive back and team captain Kwadir Delgado-McIntyre forced a fumble on defense. The Owls recovered it and quarterback Jackson Ostrowsky completed a 17 yard pass to tight end Timothy O'Shea Jr. The Owls would later go up seven after a 19 yard completion from Ostrowsky to wide receiver Tye Hodge.

With 11 seconds remaining in the first half, Central scored on a 13 yard completion from Williams to wide receiver Everett Wormley to tie the game at 14 apiece, right before halftime.

The score was still tied at 14 going into the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter was a showdown. The Owls

came out and made plays capped off with a 90 yard interception return for a touchdown from linebacker Richard Williams Jr. to put the Owls up 21-14.

"As soon as it caught in my hands, it was over from there, straight to the house," said Williams, who also had 9 tackles to go with his pick six.

Wide receiver Izaiah Sanders came up big in the fourth quarter with a spectacular catch. After the ball was tipped by a Central defensive back, Sanders hauled it in and ran into the end zone to complete a 51 yard touchdown that put the Owls up 28-14.

"I'm just happy I could put on for my teammates, for my brothers, that's all I wanted to do," Sanders said. "I wanted to make plays for my brothers and I did."

Sanders had three catches for 109 yards receiving.

Central tried to mount a comeback after a touchdown by wide receiver Tyshaun James, cutting the Southern lead to 28-21, but the Owls' defense was too much to handle. On fourth down with little over a minute left in the game, the Owls' defense ended the Blue Devil's comeback attempt emphatically with a sack, forcing a turnover on downs.

The Owls completed the upset victory over Central 28-21.

"It's just a great game for the state of Connecticut,



Derek Ward Photography

PHOTO COURTESY | SCSU ATHLETICS DEREK WARD (SCSUOWLS.COM)

Conerback and team captain Kwadir Delgado-McIntyre celebrates a score during Friday's victory at Central

we're so excited for our players we can't say enough about how they played and stayed with everything all the way through", head coach Tom Godek said.

After the game, players were overcome with joy and emotion from having to sit out a year and then coming back to beat a Blue

Devils team who won the NEC championship in 2019.

"It felt surreal, surreal is the only word you could describe it with," said Delgado-McIntyre. "We put in a lot of work, especially in the beginning of the season last year, getting ready to play and our hearts just get broken and tell us

we can't play."

Friday's game was the first time SCSU and CCSU locked horns on the gridiron since Central's 35-21 victory in New Britain on Sept. 3, 2011. 10 years to the day. Now, Division II Southern has some bragging rights.

It was an emotional

win for the Owls Friday night.

They earned the right to celebrate, but according to captain Delgado-McIntyre, they are ready for the next challenge.

"Stonehill. That's the only game," Delgado-McIntyre said. "This game's over, Stonehill is next."

# Volleyball off to an impressive undefeated start

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

Owls volleyball could not have asked for a better start to their season after having last year's season taken away. The lady Owls are at a perfect 4-0 to begin the 2021 season.

Saturday, they defeated both the Bloomfield College Bears and the College of Saint Rose Golden Knights in the Pelz Gym, winning all six sets across the two games.

"We're super confident," Junior Hitter Gabriela

Gaibur said. "I knew that we were going to come out here and kill it. We've been working so hard. We have so many talented players, all we had to do was just mesh it all together and that's exactly what we did here."

Gaibur recorded a double-double in the first game against Bloomfield, notching 13 kills and 12 digs on the stat sheet, and was a key contributor in game two against Saint Rose, with 10 digs and seven kills.

The university went through Bloomfield

in three sets without much of a threat from the opposition, with Bloomfield's closest set coming in the first when they lost 25-20.

Through the first two sets against Saint Rose, it appeared to be the same, winning the first two 25-19 and 25-18 respectively.

Then came the third set. Midway through with the Owls down 13-10, coach Lisa Barbaro called timeout.

"It was really about just staying within ourselves," Coach Barbaro said. "Taking a deep breath,

communicating, relaxing. Really it's just that, and sometimes we get in our own heads, so it was just a reset and a re-focus."

It worked. The Owls went on a 7-2 run out of the timeout to put themselves in a good position late in the third set.

A third set which saw as many lead changes, six, as the first two sets combined.

There were 15 tie scores during the third set, including a tie at 25. At this point, the gym was rocking and the

Owls were able to outlast Saint Rose in a close one, 27-25. It was the kind of signature win to mark a resilient team.

"Those are the moments that prepare you for championships and to be great, it's being able to execute in tough situations," Coach Barbaro said. "The more opportunities we get to do that and the more we end up on the winning side of that I feel very confident that we're taking big steps forward to reaching our long-term goals."

The energy in the gym during the waning moments of the third set was palpable.

The pressure was on the Owls, and they responded. After the victory, the audience was able to release all the pent up energy they had been holding in during those tense last moments.

"It was like a million pounds off your shoulders," Gaibur said. "Games like that are probably the best part. The excitement of it. They're a really good team, Saint Rose. It was a huge relief, but I knew we could do it."

The Owls next take the court on Tuesday, against Nyack College at 6:30 p.m. in Pelz Gym.

In the meantime, the team will continue to work on any areas of their game they feel need improving.

"I still think we have a lot we can improve on as a team," Middle blocker Erika Benson said, "We

have been really trying to clean up the little things that really go a long way in our sport.

Benson led the team during game two with eight kills.

Other key contributors in game two included Gabriela Vazquez, Abigail Epstein, and Taylor Jones.

Vazquez had seven kills. Epstein had five.

Jones tallied double-digit assists for her fourth straight game. An impressive feat for a first year player.

Even more impressive are the 68 assists she has amassed through just four games. Something an Owls volleyball player has not done since the 2018 season.

"We all worked really hard to get where we are right now and we want to make the most of every opportunity," Benson said.

The university also began the 2019 campaign with a 4-0 start.

They were able to push the win streak to six before suffering their first loss in the season.

How far they can carry their early momentum this year remains to be seen.

Even after starting all three sets of the second game of a doubleheader, Gaibur was still pumped with adrenaline after playing a lot of winning volleyball.

"These past two days I think we did awesome, and I can't wait for our future games," Gaibur said. "We're just going to kill it this season."



PHOTO | MORGAN DOUGLAS

Volleyball team members celebrating after scoring a point against Saint Rose on Saturday at Pelz Gym.



# Chris Barker named new athletic director

## An introductory press conference was held at Southern over the summer

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

The university has hired Chris Barker to be the sixth athletic director in the school's history.

The Kenosha, Wis. native was welcomed to New Haven during an introductory press conference held over the summer in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

Much of the athletic department was present, as well as University President Joe Bertolino.

"We're thrilled," Bertolino said. "I think Chris is the right person at the right time, he's going to bring a whole new level of enthusiasm. He comes to us with no preconceived notions of what athletics is or should be at Southern, and so I think the fresh perspective in a post-COVID world is needed, and it will be great."

The importance of family to both Barker and Bertolino was part of what made Barker a good fit in the hiring process.

Bertolino called the decision a "no brainer." Barker's wife Emily and son Henry were sitting in the front row to share in the moment.

"Family and respect are things that mean a lot to me," Barker said. "My parents taught me that. I'm a person of color raising an interracial family, so the population that Southern

serves, I was that student."

Barker is a competitive person and has come to the university to compete athletically, academically, and socially. Barker and his family are making a big leap, moving from Wisconsin to Connecticut and taking it as an opportunity.

"I had a mentor who always said, 'think big, be bigger, become biggest' and I believe that, and that's what I saw at Southern Connecticut," Barker said. "We have an opportunity to really create an efficient and sustainable athletic department."

Coming off a pandemic plagued 2020 that saw no fall sports at SCSU, those interested in athletics are excited to get games back up and running. Coaches and players of football, soccer, volleyball, field hockey, and other fall sports are eager to compete after being unable to last year.

"The top priority is to get our student athletes back on the field, back on the court," Bertolino said, "I worry less about the win column and more about whether or not our students are getting a good holistic experience. I just want all our students to have a good time."

The positive experiences of university's students were part of the school's appeal to Barker, who



PHOTO | MORGAN DOUGLAS

Athletic Director Chris Barker, University President Joe Bertolino, and Tracy Tyree at the July press conference.

remarked—people don't leave Southern. They stick around.

"That's culture," Barker said. "That says a lot to me, and I want to be in a place that values people; whether it's the coaches, our admins, and most importantly our students."

Barker previously worked at the University of Wisconsin Parkside,

holding several distinct positions over the years, most recently the deputy director of athletics.

"The message coming from Wisconsin is that we've got a good one," Associate Director of Athletics/Athletic Communications Ken Sweeten said. "After COVID, now is the time we need a little energy around

here, a little boost, and Chris is a high energy guy. He has a big plan moving forward. I'm excited to start working with him."

Barker and his family are now getting acclimated to what he referred to as 'big-city traffic' in New Haven which he was unaccustomed to in Kenosha.

Being from Wisconsin,

they are familiar with cheese and have been pleasantly surprised with the pizza New Haven has to offer, citing BAR and Sally's as places they have enjoyed.

"I look forward to everything," Barker closed the press conference with, "I can't thank you enough for the opportunity and go Owls."

# Fantasy football is back

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

Stress. Second guessing. Time is running out. No, I am not speaking of the project you put off until the last moment. Of course, I am talking about fantasy football.

Football is back, baby. With the NFL returning to regular season action this week, millions of football-starved fans will be setting their lineups as they gear up for another run at a fantasy championship that means so much to them personally (and often financially), and so little to the rest of the world outside of their fellow league mates.

The purpose of this column is to give some fantasy football advice. First piece of wisdom; do not talk to people outside your league about your team. The kid next to you in history class does not care who you have for a Quarterback.

According to the Fantasy Sports and Gaming Organization, 59.3 million people (about twice the population of Texas) played fantasy sports in 2017 in the U.S. and Canada. Of this number, over 40 million played fantasy football.

It is popular. So popular that there is a litany of mobile apps, television shows, podcasts, even newspaper columns dedicated to the subject. With so much out there, it can be hard to decipher useful from worthless information.

Some of the easiest bits

of information to dismiss, level one, if you will, would be: 'Player X came into camp in the best shape of their life.' Or 'They added 15 pounds of muscle in the offseason.'

Do not let this be the reason you draft somebody.

It is also good to remember that NFL coaches lie (not our fine, upstanding SCSU coaches, to be sure). Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Bruce Arians has no reason to tell anyone who gets more carries between Ronald Jones and Leonard Fournette. Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll is going to say everybody looks good.

Watch the games. No, really watch and pay attention to the X's and O's to understand football better to, in turn, be a better fantasy player. Anyone can read box scores. How the players look on the field is more important. Talent usually wins out.

Spotting differences in players' talents can be the difference between drafting busts and drafting potential league-winners.

Do not overestimate situations beforehand. Those who drafted Clyde Edwards-Helaire or Miles Sanders in the first round last year could tell you that. Talent trumps situation.

Point projections are garbage in and garbage out. If the people who made the projections on your favorite fantasy platform really knew what was going to happen, they would live in Las Vegas and not have to do projections for a living.

In a similar vein, a wise

fantasy player should not adhere too strictly to average draft position (ADP) either. If a player allows ADP to dictate who they draft, then they are letting the rest of the league decide who is on their team.

Embracing risk is part of the game. Mileage varies as to how much risk each fantasy manager can tolerate. Some people are afraid to take potential league-winner Saquon Barkley in the first round, and they cannot really be faulted for being nervous about a player returning from a serious knee injury. Rest assured though, someone is going to draft him and Michael Thomas too, just preferably not on the same team.

The mental health aspect of fantasy football is not talked about enough. My strategy is to always do the thing that will make me feel the least sick. Benching the struggling star only to see him have a great game that week is infuriating. Reduce the stress. College students have enough already.

Some readers may be questioning my authority on the subject, and rightfully so. I may do the same in your shoes. Well, let me tell you, I have been playing fantasy sports since 2012, won several leagues and do not intend to stop anytime soon, because I am good at it.

To quote the 'American Dream' Dusty Rhodes, "I have been to the mountaintop, and it will take one hell of a man to knock me down."

Good luck with your teams.

# The return of fall sports

Sofia Rositani  
Editor-in-Chief

This semester students will be able to watch fall sports.

Women's field hockey midfielder Alyssa Haskins, a senior, is looking forward to being able to play this season. She was upset she was unable to play with her friends last year, but this year she is looking forward to guiding the new players.

"I am a bit nervous that with the new strands of COVID-19, we may not be able to finish our season or semester. In the meantime, I'm going to continue to make the best of what we have and hope that Southern's community stays safe and healthy," Haskins said.

For this semester, associate director of Athletics/Athletic Communications Ken Sweeten said the department will be putting many different policies in place for games to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

"So, it's kinda business as usual, but with that added layer that we need to adhere for students' safety under COVID protocols," Sweeten said.

Sweeten said the one challenge everyone is facing is getting back into the "groove" of sports.

"These fall athletes haven't had a season since

2019. So, I think a lot of them are just getting back up to speed just like a lot of us are," Sweeten said.

For Haskins, last year was difficult because while she was training in person, many of her other teammates did it online with them.

"So far, this season has been right up to speed with 2 years ago: a tough preseason, working hard, team bonding, and making new friends," Haskins said.

Men's cross-country runner Chris Lebeau, a senior, said since this could be his last season in cross-country. He is nervous but motivated to bring the team far. He said he hopes to get to the national championship.

"I'm really looking forward to having the opportunity to compete cross country again this fall. Losing last season due to COVID-19 was disappointing as we were excited to race. The most exciting thing about the return of fall sports is having the opportunity to train with my whole team at Southern," Lebeau said.

Being able to run with the team daily has helped with their motivation and morale, Lebeau said.

"I am very excited for the return of fall sports. Sports bring excitement to campus no matter what team you're on. Walking through the field house or outside and seeing all

our teams training just makes me excited myself to compete again," Labeau said. "As a team, we have been training very well so far. Team morale is high, and we all seem ready to compete, both older and younger guys. I'm excited to see what everyone can do."

Sweeten said this year, the COVID-19 restrictions will be the same in sports as they are with events on campus.

"We're asking people to mask indoors and outside when they can be where they're comfortable outdoors and socially distance wherever they possibly can be in those circumstances," Sweeten said, "But I don't believe we will be restricting crowds or anything like that."

Like Haskins and Labeau, many athletes are looking forward to going back on the court and field and being able to follow the COVID-19 guidelines in place will help them continue to play sports on- and off-campus.

Sweeten said "they're all excited to get back out there. Even our Spring sports all of them ended up having shorter seasons than they normally would, but there were a lot of cancellations because of COVID. So I think what we're looking forward to most is getting back to normal."



# Students gather together to paint and chat

By Sarah Shelton  
Features Editor

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, students had the opportunity to de-stress by adding some paint into their college lives.

The University Access Program (UAP) held an event called "Paint and Chat." Their OwlConnect said: "come tap into your creative side and enjoy a space for painting your next masterpiece and making new friends. You can follow the lead of the instructor or do your own thing!"

Gabriela Vazquez, UAP graduate intern, was the instructor for the night. She was helping students paint an owl.

"For Week of Welcome, we wanted to do something to bring our students back together in the UAP cohort. So we figured, why not have a paint night? Because our grad intern is a wonderful artist," Kyle Augustine, UAP advocate and graduate intern, said.

Health science major Janee Byrd, a sophomore, said she was following the lead of the instructor to paint an owl.

She also said she has not had many experiences with events because of COVID-19.

"I was a freshman [last year], so I didn't even know they had events like

this," Byrd said.

Byrd also said she will be participating in more events like this throughout the semester now that she knows these types of events exist.

Other students, such as special education major Gean Barron, a sophomore, agreed it was nice to have in-person events again.

"It's a good social thing," Barron said as they started painting a sunflower. "It's a thing to get you out and do something that isn't school-related."

Public health major Angela Corsino, a sophomore, said she decided not to follow the instructor, but was not sure what to paint at first.

"I'm doing my own thing. I'm going to paint a little fish that's holding a shark fin above the water, because I saw it on Pinterest and thought it was cute," Corsino said. "I wasn't sure what to make for this, so I went online."

Psychology major Jaydin James, a freshman, did not get to start his painting due to his class schedule, but still showed up to give his support.

"I was going to paint, but I have class at 5," James said. The event started at 4:30 p.m.

"I didn't want to start and not be able to finish because we have to let it

air dry before we start drawing the owl," James said.

James said he might take the canvas home to paint, but he was mainly there to show his support since he is part of UAP.

"I've never been really good at art," James said. "But I feel like certain things like this, like painting, if you enjoy it it's a really good outlet. It's a good healthy way to vent out some stress, talk to some people, and it's also a good way to network also because networking is important when you're on a college campus."

James said he is trying to go to as many Week of Welcome events as possible to meet as many new people as he can so he does not have to feel alone on campus.

He is looking forward to more events, specifically through the University Access Program—which Augustine said will happen.

"I did a lot of events before COVID and when COVID happened, we switched to virtual, and we didn't have a lot of students that attended that," Augustine said. "It's good to have on-campus stuff again and we have a lot of good events coming up—looking forward to sharing that to our Instagram account at 'SCSUUAP'."



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Students start painting at the University Access Program Event.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Gean Barron painting their canvas at the Paint and Chat Event.

# Honestly? Q-Force: a Netflix animated disaster

By Ellis McGinley  
Managing Editor

Netflix has released a new animated disappointment: "Q-Force."

The team: Steve Maryweather, self-obsessed gay man and superspy, stripped of his valedictorian title after coming out. Known as "Mary" thereafter.

Deb, tactician and mechanic, happily married to her wife Pam (who works with underserved communities, like "troubled children and Capricorns.")

Stat, gender-nonconforming hacker and ex-convict.

Twink, drag queen with "jelly bones" and a troubled past, introduced during the clumsy, exposition-ridden pilot with this instant classic of a line: "last night I met a guy who I think is a terrorist. Did you guys all know that all raisins are grapes?"

Buck, token straight man; blatantly homophobic, vaguely misogynistic.

Often depicted nude.

The final product: occasionally upsetting, consistently mediocre.

My expectations for Q-Force were low despite its queer writing, producing and acting cast (Wanda Sykes will need a chiropractor after carrying this show). I found its crass efforts at humor and out-of-date references, as shown in early teasers, come off alienating.

It certainly isn't a Bond film, nor a queer homage. Nor is it feel-good like "Steven Universe," the LGBTQ+ children's show, or addictively feel-bad, like "Bojack Horseman."

With circus-like colors and too-fast animation, it is hard to find a good reason to watch past the first five minutes.

I binged the entirety in about 24 hours.

My conclusion: Q-Force is a show on its own coming-out journey. It is desperate for approval, seeking validity through any extravagant means

necessary. V, our team's supervisor, is meant to be our one true ally - but she's often insensitive, informing the team they're called Q-Force by their straight colleagues because, you know, "Q for queer." Queer is a reclaimed slur, once used against the LGBTQ+ community.

Later, when briefly firing the Q-Force, she tells them to "sashay away, agents," which they all meekly accept and never address again.

She even passes them a note from the director himself, which among language unfit for print, refers to the Q-Force team as a "lollipop brigade."

He also worries queer agents in the field will mean "somebody hurts their pronoun."

This serves Q-Force's apparent need to spend its first episodes punching itself, like it fears it needs to beat the audience to it.

But once it finds its own authenticity, it also finds a rhythm of fast-paced

quips, embracing absurdity with subplots like the troubled land of Gyneorvya (Soviet-era Poland meets Santaland meets "The Princess Diaries") and giving much-needed nods to old spy tropes (bombshell blondes and evil billionaires for all!).

When the show does invest in its characters, their interactions are warm and fun. Edgy loner Stat helps celebrate the flamboyant Twink's birthday. Maryweather gets a date with the man next door. Deb, her wife and their pitbulls are a constant throughout Q-Force's fluctuating quality, and the elusive V's slow-burn backstory is dark, absorbing and surprisingly twisty.

Even Maryweather, in a rare challenge to Buck's constant homophobia, meets yet another off-color comment with "Buck, fetch!" as he tosses a ball through a window, which the violently heterosexual lug lunges after.

By the closing scene of

the final episode, I found myself almost disappointed it was over.

Almost. The show's inconsistent character design undermines its moments of watchability. They move too fast against high-contrast, low-detail backgrounds reminiscent of construction paper collage. Jarring CGI renderings warp the visual perspective.

While the plot eventually stumbles into something compelling, it is packed with unanswered questions - even if catty villains and chuckle-worthy one-liners ("straight men are just lesbians with longer cargo shorts, fewer skills and evil in their hearts") cover for the worst of it.

But my biggest frustration with Q-Force is, for a show about the fight for inclusion, it is not inclusive. It leans on heavy-handed, explicit jokes rather than meaningful exploration of identity. The Q-Force itself features

one main character of color.

Most hurtfully? Although it has no issue animating intercourse or voicing foul body humor, Q-Force plays it frustratingly safe on the representation front. There are no openly transgender or nonbinary characters in the entire series. Instead, they keep to the first half of LGBTQ+ rather than the full, promised spectrum.

Furthermore, it fails to give homophobic antagonists any real consequence. They receive neither revenge nor redemption, or even a finger-wagging for the endless barrage of slurs and degradation.

If you want something fun, brainless, and filthy, Q-Force might be worth a shot. But if your mission is for something deeper, inclusive, accessible and comfortable to watch - prepare to sift through an approximate four hours of eye-searing content to find the rainbow diamonds in the rough.



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

Managing Editor Ellis McGinley, a sophomore, reacting to Q-Force.

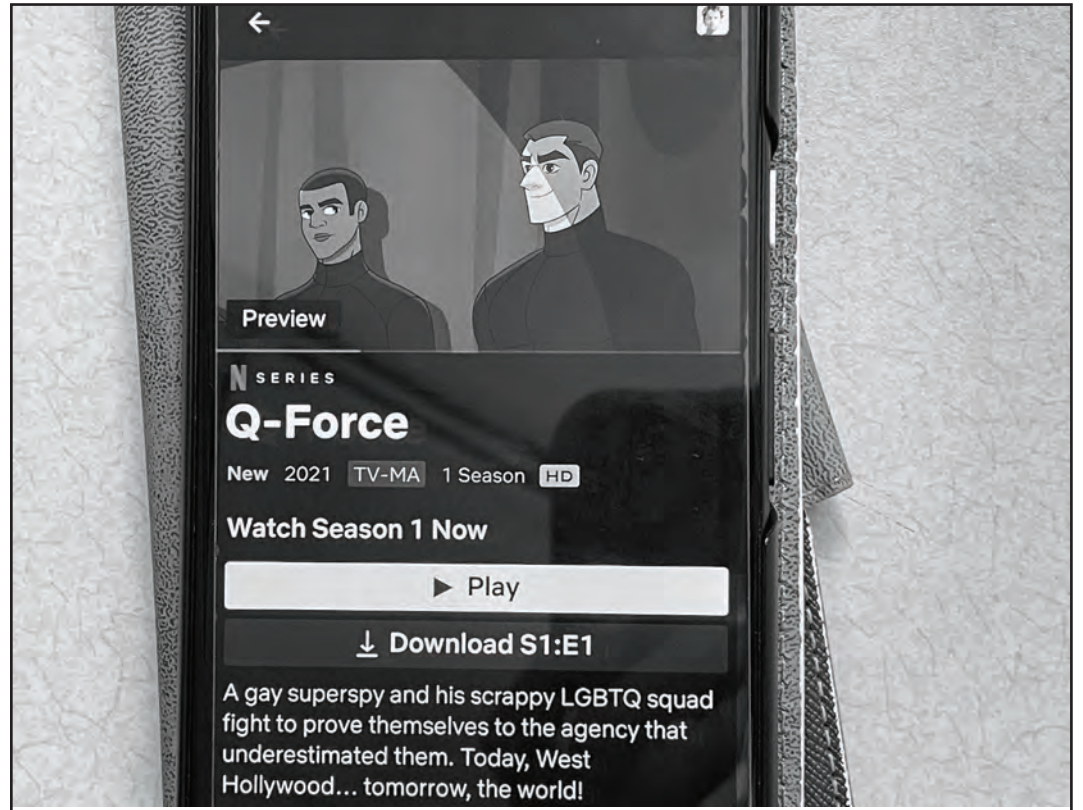


PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Q-Force: animated series on Netflix about a gay superspy and his LGBTQ squad.



## Good grief: musical production begins

By Sofia Rositani  
Editor-In-Chief

The theatre department had callbacks for the musical they are preparing for in October.

“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” will be the next musical the theatre department and Crescent Players are hosting in October. This will be the first musical they will have a live audience for since 2019.

“What has to happen this year, we are fortunate that it’s three feet and mask, so we are doing really good with that. Last year was 20 plus feet and mask and it worked out,” associate professor and director Larry Nye said.

Nye said the musical put on last year was “Songs for a New World.”

Originally, the musical was supposed to be “Into the Woods,” but due to certain scenes not possible for this year, due to COVID-19, they all agreed on “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.”

“We were supposed to do ‘Into the Woods’ this year and we had a meeting before school started, so I thought ‘You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown,’ because there are no love scenes, nobody has to hold hands and make out and

get close. So, it’s a show that we can keep social distancing and still continue with the musical,” Nye said.

The musical is based around the comic strip created by Charles Schultz, which developed into cartoons. The most famous being “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” and “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” The musical has been out since 1967 and has gotten awards for production since the opening of the show.

The production is meant for a small cast, along with a straightforward set design.

Crescent Players’ Vice President Leah Herde was relieved when she got the callback for the musical and is really excited to have the chance to perform again.

“I’m so excited. It’s been so long since I have done a show for a live audience,” Herde said.

Herde said while performing she “feeds” off the audience’s energy and being able to perform again makes her feel thrilled to be in the musical. Herde was casted for the role of Peggy Jean.

Theater major Tom Sigano, a senior, said this is his first time auditioning

for a role in a musical at the university.

He has done musicals and plays in the past, but primarily with the camera operating crew.

During his interview, he mentioned he was not picky about the role he plays in the musical and is looking forward to seeing everything return to how it once was pre COVID-19.

“We’ve gotten through a lot of obstacles. We can get through this one,” Sigano said.

“We picked our musicals based on the interest of the students and the budget. A lot of it has to do with the rights we can get, what we think is going to be helpful for our students educationally and experientially,” assistant stage manager Ariana Harris, a senior, said.

Harris said the next play the department is hoping to do is a gender bent version of a work by William Shakespeare.

Harris is looking forward to seeing a live audience from the stage again.

“I’m looking forward to seeing a show come together on the stage again,” Assistant stage manager Callie Hoyt, a junior, said.

“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” will be shown Oct. 8, 9, and 10.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Leah Herde (right) waiting at a “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” callbacks.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Ariana Harris (left), Leah Herde (middle) and Callie Hoyt (right) at callbacks.

## Let’s make a deal: game show

By Ethan Sabetta  
Contributor

On Monday, Aug. 30, students excitedly filled the ballroom of the Adanti Student Center to attend the night’s Let’s Make a Deal event, as the university’s Week of Welcome continued with enthusiasm.

The event, hosted by the Office of Student Involvement, was inspired by the well-known television game show Let’s Make a Deal, in which audience members are randomly selected to confront a series of “deals.” The Week of Welcome event followed virtually the same format, as students were selected through a variety of means to choose between unknown prizes; which ranged from nothing to a 40” flat screen TV and everything in between or less valuable guaranteed prizes.

Despite the apparent success of the event, there were several obstacles in the process of bringing it to life which made the Office of Student Involvement’s job difficult. In particular, COVID-19 posed a unique problem for organizing.

“We had to continuously think about capacities, tracking attendance, creating safe and fun opportunities for students, and how to get them engaged in a very safe way,” said Daphne Alston, assistant director for the Office of Student Involvement and the evening’s host.

Looking at the many students in attendance on Monday night, it could be difficult to imagine the challenges coordinators faced in encouraging student turnout. However, the Office of Student Involvement had their work cut out for them in convincing students to

attend Let’s Make a Deal. “I think people are still figuring out what’s safe, what’s okay. They’re honestly still trying to assimilate to being around people,” Alston said. “I think slowly but surely people will start getting into the groove.”

To explain the success of the night’s turnout despite these challenges, Alston was quick to point to the Office of Student Involvement’s interns. “I think our graduate interns have really stepped up our social media account and presence, so really connecting people through social media. We’ve never been at this level, and it’s really all thanks to our interns,” she said.

For some students in attendance, COVID-19 procedures went mostly unnoticed. “We just had to sit one seat apart,” said nursing major Jessica Palumbo, a sophomore and one of the night’s winners. When asked if she would be willing to attend any future events hosted during the Week of Welcome and beyond, Palumbo was quick to respond, “of course.”

But for those students who are reluctant to attend events such as Monday’s “Let’s Make a Deal,” Lexi Buccia—a graduate intern with the Office of Student

Involvement—had advice.

“I would say not to be scared, everyone’s very welcoming coming back to campus it’s a great opportunity to get to know more people and get out of your comfort zone,” she said.

“You don’t expect to have a good time cause it’s a school event, but you really do have a good time,” Palumbo said. “You just gotta get out there, honestly. It’s really fun.”

As for the upcoming schedule of events, which students can attend, Chelsey Cerrato, another graduate intern with the Office of Student Involvement, provided a summary.

“Trivia, just a whole lot more game shows, and then I would also say we like to come up with some new things that students haven’t heard of. Very mysterious challenges.”

Despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic and associated protocols, the Office of Student Involvement seems determined not to let obstacles put a halt to their plans to create an exciting and engaging environment for Southern’s students.

“Our ultimate goal is to bring back our traditions in a safe way,” Alston said, “and I think we’ve been doing that.”

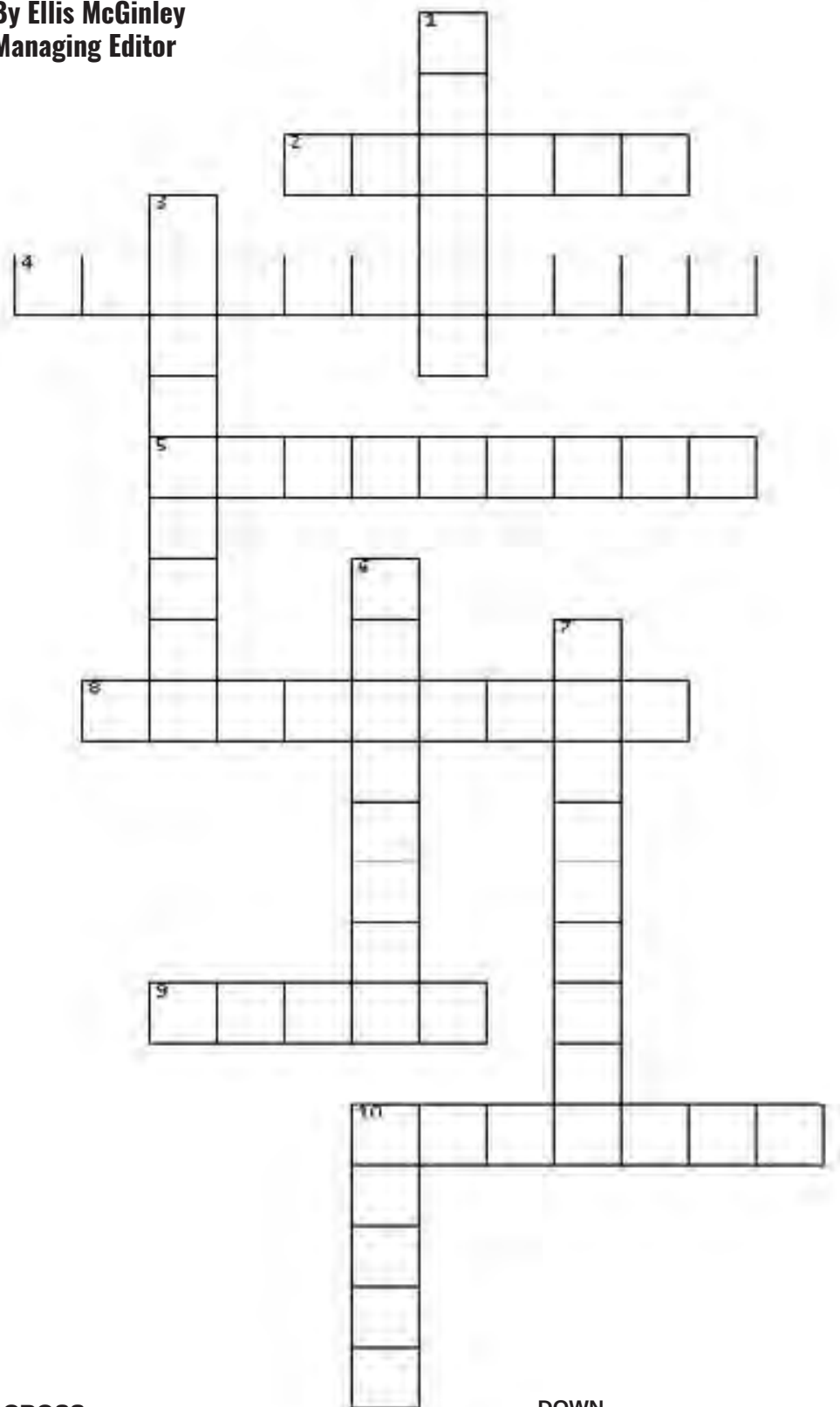


PHOTO | ETHAN SABETTA

Hands going up at the “Let’s Make a Deal” Event.

## Our first crossword

By Ellis McGinley  
Managing Editor



### ACROSS

2. A new Netflix animated series
4. Legendary poet & playwright of the Elizabethan era
5. Storm’s light; an electrical discharge
8. Weekday on which Paint and Chat happened
9. Name of university library
10. Hall which houses primary programming space

### DOWN

1. Charlie Brown’s beagle companion
3. Organized inventory of a library’s books
6. An optional class taken by student’s choice
7. The Zodiac sign which rules December and January
10. Recently overflowed the streets

Answers on [thesouthernnews.org](https://thesouthernnews.org).