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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## New students join Owls' community

**By Jaylen Carr  
Editor-In-Chief  
Jay'Mi Vazquez  
News Editor**

The incoming first-year and new transfer students did not let the grey clouds and passing showers stop them from being eager to step onto campus to begin their Owl journey.

Nursing major Nari'ya Douglas-Jones, a freshman, said she was excited to move into her dorm to start her college journey.

"I'm excited to experience the college life," Jones said.

Nursing major Chasity Trotman, a freshman, said she is thrilled to meet new people and build friendships.

"I'm excited to see the people I met at orientation," Trotman said. "I'm excited for new things."

Earth science major Emma Jo Smith, a freshman, said she's looking forward to living

on campus and having a roommate.

"I was very into summer camp as a kid, so I think I'll like having a roommate," Smith said. "It'll be fun."

Computer science major Mark Ayoub, a freshman, said even though he was excited to move in, he noted that he was nervous.

"It is a big school, and there are a lot of people to meet," Ayoub said. "It's going to be fun."

Ayoub said this experience would be different for him because he came from a high school with only 60 students in his senior class.

"Transitioning to this world to a big college is very different and a different environment," Ayoub said.

Some first-year students have set expectations and goals for themselves academically and socially.

Trotman says she does not just want to stay in her dorm all the time but

instead meet new people on campus.

"I'm really just trying to stay focused and do good academically," Trotman said.

Getting used to the campus and where her classes are located is essential, Trotman said.

"I hope I can be as social as possible," Ayoub said. "I want to get to know everyone, get into clubs and be very involved with the school."

Jones said she will continue to push herself to do well in and out of the classroom.

Smith said she is looking forward to learning how to study due to not learning how in high school.

First-year students and new transfers could move in on Aug. 26. Residence Life allowed students to move in early, but an application had to be submitted. Resident Life got faculty, students and other freshmen involved in the new FLEX program



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

**During 'Move-In Day', volunteers from the football team helped students move their belongings to their dorms on Aug. 26, 2023.**

to how volunteered to help students move in. Also among the helpers was

Judy Behler, the current telephone operator at the Adanti Student

Center information desk.  
**See volunteers Page 2**

## Food Court hours extended for both in-person, delivery

**By Jay' Mi Vazquez  
News Editor**

Students Center food options will be available later while Connecticut Hall will close an hour earlier.

Tres Habaneros and The Grill will be open until 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, at the Adanti Student Center. Students will still be able to use Anywhere Meals, Food Loot and meal exchanges during these new hours.

KiwiBots are hours are now: Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. KiwiBots can be used to have food delivered to either dorm halls or buildings.

Director of Dining Services, Tony DeLuca said the student center being open later hours is something that should have been in effect on campus.

"Students don't eat at 6:30 at night for dinner or whatever the case may be. We saw through some

of our programs that between 8 and nine at 9 at Conn Hall we would get a huge influx of students coming through," DeLuca said.

"We have to take a look at what new campus population looks like and how we could better serve them overall," DeLuca added.

DeLuca explained how extended hours for the student center were in effect pre-COVID-19. He feels it has been long overdue for a return to campus dining to make the overall experience better for everyone.

"It's more beneficial for the students overall to have something open until 10 at night Monday through Thursday," DeLuca said.

The Everyday app is available for students to use KiwiBots to get food delivered as well. DeLuca explained some of the advantages of having this contact free delivery system.

"In the wintertime it

would be great. If you want something delivered through the student center through your meal plan, you can order through the Everyday app and have food delivered by KiwiBot and you barely have to get out of your pajamas," DeLuca said.

Students could use the KiwiBots late night delivery system to get food from Tres Habaneros and The Grill. Mobile Pickup will also be an option until 9:45 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

"As the campus population changes throughout the next couple years or even later on this year, we're consistently looking at ways to serve the population and their needs," DeLuca said.

DeLuca recommends students attend Dining Services committee meetings; complete surveys when they are sent out and reach out through social media or

walking into his office. These are the best ways to provide feedback for campus dining.

Senior Director of Conferences, Events and Student Affairs Auxiliaries, Robert DeMezzo, said one of his primary roles is directly working with campus food services daily on the dining program.

"There is a desire to eat in the student center, even though Connecticut Hall is available," DeMezzo said.

"With events and activities occurring in the student center, it made some sense to open the student center later and close Conn Hall an hour earlier," DeMezzo added.

DeMezzo and other staff members were trying to devise a way to make the overall dining experience on campus better for students while practicing more cost-efficient methods.

However, DeMezzo and DeLuca both are interested in hearing more feedback from students about campus dining. Both said that the students' voices matter the most and are powerful enough to create change on campus.

Students living on campus and a food court employee expressed their opinions on these recent changes.

Music major Belle Dennehy, a senior, said she sees the advantages too to keeping the food court open later hours.

"For those who are still hungry and looking for areas open around campus to eat, this would be great for them," Dennehy said.

Sociology major Kim Dudley, a sophomore said she is not looking forward to potentially working later hours.

**For more of this story go to [southernnews.org](http://southernnews.org)**

## President Smith excited to have students back

**By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
News Editor**

Since June 2023, Dr. Dwayne Smith has himself in the school's culture, getting involved with student organizations and events and even riding a bike every morning to campus; starting his day seeing students.

"I really enjoy all aspects of the campus I came onboard in June; it was the beginning of the summer, and the campus did not have the bustling scholars. That has added so much to my enthusiasm for what I do," Smith said.

"I've been attending a whole lot of events. I've been at many of the sporting events, a lot of student organizational events. Next week I'll be meeting with student groups. The goal is to merge myself in the fabric of the community that makes up our great institution," Smith added.

This is Smith's 40th year being involved in higher education. In his college days, he was a student activist and heavily involved in student life.

"For me, it's always been about the mentorship. It is all about people who show you a direction. So, giving back for me entails mentoring scholars. That has been one of my number one objectives," Smith said.

Smith also explained the importance of riding a bicycle to campus. He explained how he lives close enough to be able to do this, but also explained the benefits he receives from doing this.

"It's nice to start my day. Some days, I ride through the campus and

the cemetery as well. It's a nice, serene place. I look at the campus, meditate. I feel that it is a stress reliever. It is just a nice great way to experience the campus," Smith said.

Smith plans to become a part of the university for many years to come.

"I hope that I'll be here for quite some time. Mainly because I see the promise that we hold as an institution. We could change lives of individuals and help them reach their full promise," Smith said.

There are three principles that Smith has been saying since he arrived.

His first one is: "Claim your space; that you belong at this institution. This is your institution; you deserve to be here."

His second one is, "You are enough. We have everything we need in order to reach our full promise."

His final principle is, "Don't ever give up. This is not a sprint, it's a marathon. There will be times when you get weary, tired, or dejected. Whatever the case may be, you got to keep focusing. Understand that there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

Healthcare studies major Matthew Cadichon, a junior, said he is excited to see what Smith can offer to make the school even better.

"I'd like to see him participate in more student led events this upcoming semester like the Tail Gate or the Heritage Ball," Cadichon said.

**See Students Page 2**



PHOTO | JAY' MI VAZQUEZ

**Students standing in line at food court located the Adanti Student Center.**

# Convocation welcomes new students

By Ali Fernand  
Managing Editor

The new first-year students at the university have begun. Faculty senate and select seniors gave an official welcome at Convocation, led by new Interim President Dwayne Smith. The attendees were packed

into the Lyman Center, students watched as their official welcome kicked off the year. Both freshman and transfer students were acknowledged at this ceremony. "Most of you are becoming a college student for the first time and we couldn't be more pleased to share this moment

with you and also with our new transfer students who've chosen Southern to continue your collegiate journey," said the Vice President of Student Affairs, Tracy Tyree. The faculty sat up on the stage, they each wore a cap and gown to formally welcome the students. The stage was filled

from front to back with university faculty and students. The speakers offered words of encouragement to the new students entering their education at the university. They told stories of their own experiences and the value of the people they met. "We all want to see you flourish and excel here, and through this ceremony we are lighting the way for you to do that," said Interim President, Dwayne Smith. Faculty advised students to take advantage of opportunities on campus. This included mentioning opportunities and resources available to them. "Our faculty are a vibrant talented group of teaching faculty library faculty counseling faculty coaches and athletic trainers," said Faculty Senate President, Natalie Starling. Upperclassmen also offered their words of advice. They were once first-year students and have navigated their way through the university. In this way, they can give a taste of what students find fulfilling on campus. "Whether that be the faculty, staff or study, step outside of your comfort zone and spread your wings, joining academic club, check out great place, celebrate diversity," said the Class of 2024 President, Britny Gildersleeve.

Gildersleeve talked about the value she has found in her university education. She ensured that students would have a fulfilling time if they put in the right energy. "As a senior I know that all your effort that put into your college experience will come back to you and reward you twice over," said Gildersleeve. The speakers also gave words of encouragement to ease the worries that there will be hardships. They acknowledged the hardships but ensured that students would be able to continue through them. The path will sometimes be easy and inviting, sometimes the path will be fraught with challenges, or the path will just go sideways like the pandemic showed us," said Starling. Diversity was a topic that was brought up to the students. First-year students were told the vast walks of life that their classmates come from. This included a variety of towns, cities, states and countries. "We have some international students from Ukraine, Jamaica and Nigeria, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico," said Smith. With this ceremony, the new students on campus had their official welcome to the community. Faculty, staff and students gave them all an idea of what this university is about. "On behalf of the senior class,



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

Interim president Dwayne Smith welcomes new students at Convocation in Lyman Center auditorium on Aug.28.

## Volunteers help with Move-In

Continued from Page 1

Behler volunteered to help the students because of her passion for always being accessible. "I love seeing the students," Behler, a staff member at the university for 24 years, said. "It adds life to the university." Behler said Residence Life sent emails out to help get volunteers to help students move in. Diversity Recruitment and Retention Specialist Daisy Torres-Baez said this is her second time

helping with "Move-In Day," she is eager to help the students and parents. "My role is as parents and students coming in to answer any questions they have about Southern," Baez said. "The student volunteers are helping with the physical movement." Baez said because she has been in higher education for 10 years being a first-generation college student, she knows how it feels to be away from home having to deal with moving into a new

environment. Dominique DeLutri, a current softball player, a sophomore volunteered to help students and new freshman softball recruits move in. "My coach and I are going to be helping out" she said. This is DeLutri's first year helping, but she is looking forward to continuing helping students during "Move-In Day" next year. looking forward to continuing helping students during "Move-In Day" next year.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

A new student hugs a family member as he packs his bags to embark on his new Owl journey on Aug. 26.



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

On Aug. 26, Nari'za Douglas-Jones walked into a Residence Hall with her filled bags as student volunteers lugged in tubs filled with students belongings.

## Students offer well wishes to Interim President Smith

Continued from Page 1

"It would make my overall experience better and probably everyone's experience better if he is involved," Cadichon said. Cadichon is proud of the university's diversity. Saying how happy he is to see a racial change in leadership; hoping that it starts to create more changes in a once predominately

white institute. Psychology major Sophia Louise, a freshman part of the Freshman Leader Experience program, said her experiences with Smith so far have been great. Louise is excited to be at Southern with an Interim President whose shown great attributes like:

"Communication, authenticity, enthusiasm, motivation." "Having a president that is interactive with students, someone who is down to Earth" are all things Louise says she was anticipating for her college experience. She feels that this is exactly what she has seen from Smith so far.



PHOTO | JAYMI VAZQUEZ

Interim President Dwyane Smith in his office on Sept.8, ready to lead the campus.



PHOTO | JAYMI VAZQUEZ

Owls memorabilia in president's office in Engleman Hall.

## Dining options need improvement

By Jaylen Carr  
Editor-in-chief

After the news broke on Aug. 28 about the new dining hours on campus, I was thrilled to learn that I could get food at the Adanti Student Center later than usual.

As college students, we are always on the move, dealing with busy schedules. Having food options available later will be helpful. The new late-night hours will be Monday through Thursday and close at 10 p.m.

Having the Student Center as a dinner option will help because I am always on campus and build up an appetite from working on schoolwork. The university also found out that KiwiBots, a robot food delivery service, will also be available to provide late-night mobile food deliveries. As a person who does not use this service, I am now intrigued about how residential students use this service as a convenience for them.

Even though the new changes will help other students and me, will the Student Center have enough staff to complete the job?

First off, the workers in the student center are all kind and always willing to help students. I have never had an experience where they were rude or not willing to help. However, I have noticed some glaring issues that can impact students.

Going to the student center for lunch this past week was overwhelming because of the long lines and only having one cashier available. As someone who worked in retail and customer service, I was always lucky to call for backup so my fellow associates

would come or have another co-worker with me to help with long lines.

The student center staff seems stretched thin and unprepared to handle the lunch rush. Even the busiest spot in the student center, Tres Habaneros, which has tacos, quesadillas and rice bowls, only has one staff member completing students' orders.

Even the most patient student would be annoyed that the lines are long and take a long time to be served. They need more staff members to help at that station primarily because of its popularity among students on

campus. A solution can be hiring more student workers to help, which will allow students to have some income and help current workers deal with long lines.

Another solution can be online ordering to beat those long lines. I use the "Everyday" app, which the university food services use to facilitate online orders in the student center. But even through the app, I never get a notification when my food is ready, so I will just wait as long as I think it will take.

After guessing when my food will be ready, I

will go to the "Everyday" pick-up station and see that my food is not there. The workers would come assist me and always tell me that the food wasn't prepared yet.

I would have to wait just as long as if I was in line to place my order.

Trust me; this is not a list of complaints but some observations I have made since the start of the school year. I enjoy this university—the opportunities, the learning, the support but — I want this university to improve upon some areas where students and workers will benefit in the end.



The outside of the Michael J. Adanti Student Center on Sept. 11.

PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

## Disappointment over course cancellations

By Jaylen Carr  
Editor-in-chief

At the end of the Spring 2023 semester during registration time, I was thrilled to take some elective classes; such as sports reporting, audience engagement, and magazine writing courses.

However, I was sadly informed by the registrar's office that all of those electives would be canceled due to the lack of enrollment.

The cancellations were devastating to hear because I planned my schedule in advance to make time for other obligations; like internships, homework and my job.

As someone who wants to write sports for a living, I was saddened by the news because I wanted to home in on my craft. There are always areas one could improve upon as a writer, and I would love to learn from an experienced professor how to take my sports writing to the next level.

Sports writing is more than just recapping a game or telling the reader about crucial stats. It is about telling the story of a game from the opening quarter to the final buzzer and describing the intricate details of a game. It is about telling a story of an athlete or coach in a way to captivate the audience.

The audience engagement course sounded exciting because I always wanted to know how to engage viewers and readers better. Learning how to engage an audience better can help a future journalist.

Even though I had not thought about writing for a magazine one day, I was interested in learning the magazine style compared to other media forms.

As a journalism major, there have been many instances where courses were canceled due to the lack of enrollment. How might we get more students involved with journalism?

Incorporating more multimedia aspects of journalism can help draw students to the field. Even though I consider myself more of a writer than a videographer or photographer, there are different ways to tell stories.

Capturing stories through videos and photos can be a better option to explain a story than a 500-word story. Learning how to work a camera or drone is crucial to where the industry is going.

This is not to say the writing courses were not great because those classes taught me how to conduct interviews, write an attention-grabbing lead, attribute sources, write about a town and other vital components to writing.

Through conducting interviews, you get to meet new people along the way. Throughout my academic tenure, I have always been an introvert, but ever since I changed majors two years ago, I have opened up to speaking to people I did not know. Through assignments and projects, it forces you to step out of your comfort zone. I was a little anxious initially, but I became comfortable as I conducted more interviews.

I hope someday there can be a way where these interesting elective courses cannot be canceled. These courses can impact students who want to pursue a career in journalism in a way that helps them become good at their craft.

## Olivia Rodrigo releases her sophomore album 'GUTS'

By Ali Fernand  
Managing Editor

Olivia Rodrigo has released her sophomore album, "GUTS." This is an album that has been highly anticipated since her debut album, "SOUR." It is hard to not see Rodrigo's appeal unless you have never heard of her or have never had a conversation with a teenage girl. She has captured the often corny and angsty elements of early womanhood

emotions.

This album is no different, in fact, it is even more dramatic than Rodrigo's first album. People who are nosy about celebrity dating lives would know that SOUR was following what was probably her first breakup. "GUTS" is channeling several more heartbreaks.

Rodrigo took her pop punk influences and ran with it for this album. More than half of the album channels these rock

elements with distorted guitars and vibrant drums. It is a good sound for her, particularly opening the album incredibly with her loudest song yet which ends in her screaming. In "Ballad of a Homeschooled G+irl," she even experiments with vocal distortions, which gives a more garage rock band sound. Despite the controversial lyrics, this is definitely one of the most fun songs on the album. This album seems to

have aged with her. While it still is something that will mostly be enjoyed by younger women and girls, she dives into more mature aspects of relationships. It never gets too explicit, but she has some funny moments in her lyrics. One that sticks out is "I just tripped and fell into his bed," in "Bad Idea Right?"

This was personally unexpected, but the best moments on the album are the ballads. Rodrigo flexes her ability to write and sing a beautiful melody on "lacy." This might be the best song on the album. The lyrics are sultry and the guitar is a slow plucking melody. It is the most stunning song she has written.

Rodrigo has another slow moment with "Logical." This reminisces

her original hit "drivers license," with a flowing piano and emotional lyrics. Most of the lyrics are playing with logic in that she states things that are not true. This is meant to represent the regret she feels for believing her ex loved her. It is a ballad of heartbreak and betrayal, something Rodrigo is known for.

Despite really great moments, GUTS is extremely frontloaded. This is something I feel a lot of albums do where they pack all of the best songs right at the beginning of the album. It immediately drops at "Get Him Back!" a cringey spoken word pop punk song. Rodrigo should not ever rap again; this is easily her most uncomfortable song. It is like the terrible '90s trend of

monotone spoken word in rock music.

The last two songs do pick it up a bit; not in energy, but definitely in quality. Rodrigo inserts a moment similar to her last project where she comments on her insecurities called, "Pretty Isn't pretty." The instrumentals and vocals are fantastic in this song. It is also great for younger girls to have a pop star put out a relatable message.

Overall, this album is another hit on girlhood. Someone needs to be the over-the-top angsty girl of pop, and we should be grateful that it is Olivia Rodrigo.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff

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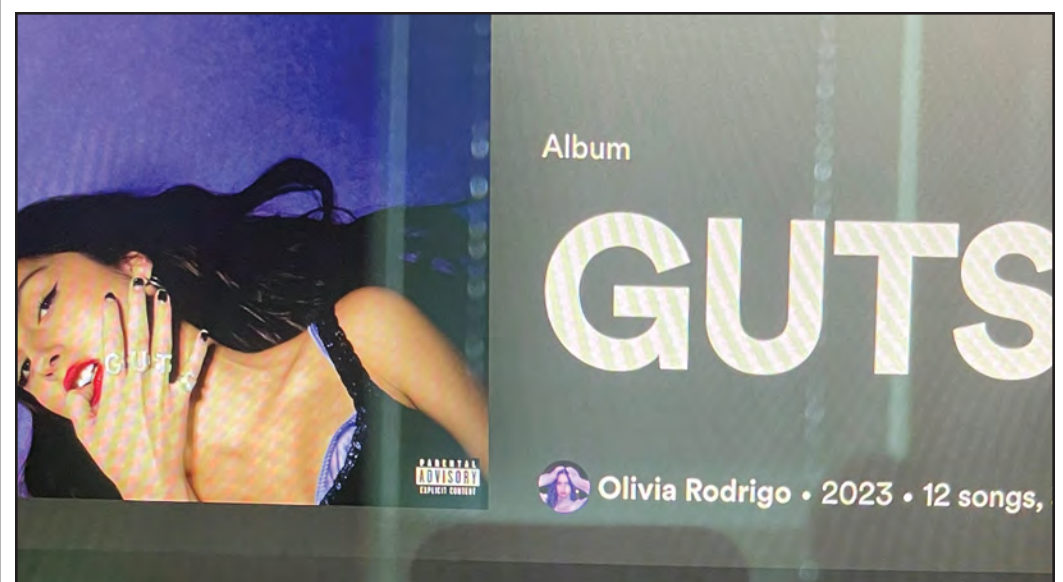
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Olivia Rodrigo's new sophomore album cover for "GUTS" on Spotify taken on an iPhone 12 on Sept. 11.

PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

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## Students move into the dorms for the fall

By Luke Gadson

Sports Editor

Jaylen Carr

Editor-in-chief

First-year and new transfer students moved in to their residence halls on "Move-In Day" on Aug. 26. Students said they were excited to embark on their Owl journey.

Residence Life was able to find student volunteers including FLEX students and athletes to help students and their families with unloading cars and hauling belongings into their new rooms.

The volunteers and the students were given garbage bins to help move larger items to the dorms.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Exercise science major Divine Edwards, a sophomore and member of the football and track teams, pushing the moving bin up the ramp outside of Wilkinson Hall.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Kyle Villani, a freshman, moving a bag outside of Farnham Hall.



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

A group of students waiting in line at the Farnham Programming Space.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Athletic training major Jason Hunt, a freshman, outside of Hickerson Hall.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Jamaine Galloway, a sophomore, (left to right) Derek Omoregie, a sophomore, Dakota Carreras, a freshman, and all football players, moving a bin outside of Farnham Hall.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Tristan Anderson, a sophomore, moving a bin.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

A group of students moving into their dorm.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Sports management major Jordan Berrios, a freshman, talking with other students.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Communication major E'lijah Gray, a senior, carrying a large box outside of Chase Hall.

## Volleyball dominates 3-0 in home NE-10 conference opener

By Luke Gadson  
Sports Editor

In their first conference game of the season, the Owls were definitely looking for a win after going 2-3 before conference play began.

Teamwork was the key factor that Head Coach Lisa Barbaro wanted her team to focus on going into this game. Their focus was displayed as the Owls cruised to a 3-0 victory against St. Anslem, winning the sets by scores of 25-20, 25-20, and 25-19.

"I think today was a great team effort, I think the key today was really the pass serve game," said Coach Barbaro. "So, I encouraged the girls to serve tough today, play with a lot of confidence, and to play together. And they did that," Coach Barbaro continued. This tough and sharp teamwork definitely showed

with several players filling up the stat sheet. Outside hitter, Kacey Deecher, a senior, led the way with nine kills and nine digs. Setter, Taylor Jones, a senior, displayed great passing, leading the team in assists with 12 and also tallying up eight digs. Outside hitter, Sara Enright, a senior, had an all-around game racking up eight kills, seven digs, two assists and one block.

Last year, the Owls fell to the Hawks in three straight sets. This gave the university some extra motivation to show St. Anslem that they were not the same team this year and had something to prove. "There was a lot of energy going into this game," said outside hitter, Sara Enright, a senior. "I knew we definitely had it in us to beat them, especially coming back from last year. We have a whole new lineup this year, so it was exciting



Owls celebrate together after scoring a point against Saint Anslem.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

to see everyone on the floor tonight," Enright continued. This energy was essential to keeping the Owls working together throughout the game. Libero, Aubrey Villena, a sophomore,

stated, "I saw a lot of support. We helped each other on serves, and in between every point we were high fiving, talking to each other, and helping each other get out of our heads."

Coach Lisa Barbaro also acknowledged how proud she was of how the team played despite having to introduce several new faces to the program going into this season.

Traveling deeper into the season, the Owls want to focus on "being able to be mentally tough in tough situations and to push through," as Coach Barbaro stated.

"We've kind of struggled with that. I think we've had a little bit of nerves incorporating seven new people into our program. So, some

people are stepping on the court for the first time in their collegiate careers," Coach Barbaro continued.

The Owls have important conference games coming up, so the focus does not stop now.

With their next three conference games being against Post University, Assumption University and The University of New Haven, they have some viable opponents up next.

Although, this win against St. Anslem does set the Owls up very well for conference play, with them starting off with an in-conference record of 1-0.

"There's a lot more to come," Coach Barbaro said. "We're just going to keep getting better every day."



Middle Blocker, Sarah Stark, freshman, goes for a kill against Saint Anslem.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

## Football loses offensive duel in home opener

By Jaylen Carr  
Editor-In-Chief

With the Owls playing their first home game at the newly renovated Jess Dow Field against their NE-10 rival Assumption University, the defense allowed 455 yards of offense, which propelled Assumption to win 42-29.

"It wasn't the outcome we wanted," outside linebacker Joe DiGello, a junior, said. "But you have to take the positives that can get from that."

DiGello, one of the team's defensive captains, led the team with nine tackles.

Assumption's defense shut out the Owls' offense on their first two drives. On the other side, Assumption scored on their opening drive because of quarterback Jake Cady, a senior, 35-yard passing touchdown to wide receiver Cameron Reagan.

The Owls had great production from their two running backs, Kieran Falzon, a freshman, and Shawn Martin, a junior— each scoring a touchdown.

Falzon ignited the Owls by gashing through the Assumption defense for a 58-yard run that set up a touchdown thrown by the quarterback, Keith Ridley, a graduate student, to wide receiver Luke Gadson, a junior, for a four-yard touchdown.

"I have been doing this since I was in high school," Falzon said. "I have always stepped up."

Head Coach Tom Godek's message throughout practice



Offensive Lineman, Eric Suda, a junior, lifts up running back, Shawn Martin, a junior, after he scored a touchdown.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

leading up to the game was to play fast and physical, Falzon said.

Despite Ridley throwing for 266 yards and two touchdowns, he said the offense can improve ahead of their next game against the University of New Haven.

"It was definitely a tough one; we prepared all week for this one," Ridley said. "I thought we had a good gameplan coming in, but we made a few mistakes on offense."

Ridley was sacked four times and threw an interception on a fourth

downplay in the third quarter.

"We have to be able to execute better in the red zone," Ridley said. "It was too many turnovers for us to really win the game."

Ridley's favorite target throughout the game was wide receiver Tylon Papallo, a senior who led the team with the most targets with 13. Papallo pulled down nine receptions for 112 yards, which led the team.

"The offense definitely has some potential," Ridley said. "For myself, I have to be clean and can't

turn the ball over."

After Gadson's touchdown late in the second quarter, the Owls were within seven points at halftime, 21-14.

To start the second half, Cady threw his third touchdown of the game, pushing the Assumption lead to 14.

Martin brushed through defenders and ran for a 59-yard touchdown, and the Owls converted on the two-point conversion to make it 28-22. The Owls were within striking distance but did not score again

until the game was out of reach late in the fourth quarter.

Assumption would score 14 unanswered points, putting the game out of reach and another loss in the "L" column for the Owls.

"We just have to keep our heads up," Falzon said.

Falzon said "Once our heads started going down, that's when we started playing bad; we couldn't run the ball, and we couldn't get stops."

See photos Page 6

## Column: On the NFL



By Luke Gadson  
Sports Editor

One common theme of the NFL offseason was teams not wanting to sign their premier running backs. In my opinion, running backs are the backbone of the offense being one of the most difficult positions and are given grueling tasks just about every single play. Yet, we saw names like Saquon Barkley and Josh Jacobs get hit with franchise tags instead of signing the contracts that I, personally, feel they deserve. But why is it that these teams do not want to pay these top-tier players?

The tasks placed on running backs are extremely rigorous. They are more likely to sustain injuries compared to many other positions because of their frequent hits and demanding workload. The trend of giving huge contracts to them only to have them miss most of the season due to injury has begun to make teams hesitant. It is a risky investment because these injuries can have a tremendous effect on a team's performance and playoff chances.

Many teams now rotate a number of running backs to distribute the strain and lessen reliance on a single-star back. Why spend a lot of money on one running back when you can achieve the same results as a group of cheaper players? My take on this is that star running backs are stars for a reason. They can excel in areas that other backs cannot. Whether that is explosiveness in play, vision, power or patience, they carry skills that you do not find in the average running back. To me, that is worth the extra change.

The NFL has also evolved into a passing league. Football used to be a game of handing the ball off down the middle and grinding out as many yards as possible. Personally, I feel like running backs play a key role in opening up the passing game. This is because by ground-and-pound running the ball, defenders will be more likely to collapse on the run. Leaving holes in the defense and open opportunities for the passing game.

The last question is if a star running back is a key part of winning a Super Bowl. Especially with Miles Sanders and Isiah Pacheco being their teams' leading rushers going into this past year's Super Bowl while both being on cheap rookie contracts. Also, since 2009, the salary of the Super Bowl winner's running back never surpassed \$2.5 million.

# Soccer ends in tie with rival Bridgeport

**By Luke Gadson**  
Sports Editor

The tension was definitely there in this rivalry game between the University of Bridgeport and the Owls. This was a physical game with three yellow cards called on Bridgeport and one on the Owls. Although they led until the final three minutes of the game, the Owls ended a tough-fought game against the Knights with a score of 1-1 on Sunday.

Despite the aggressiveness shown by both teams, the Owls never backed down. "The players' responsibility is to meet steel with steel," Head Coach Kevin Anderson, said. "But there's a way to do it. There's a competitiveness and a fairness about it that you have to make sure you instill," continued Anderson. Coach Anderson also stated that he was proud how his team was able to make adjustments on the fly versus a good opponent.

The game may not have ended the way the Owls wanted, but there were still positive moments to look back on such as the team's only goal scored by

Forward Zico Groenveld, a sophomore. "Coming off the bench, Jalen Jean worked hard to get the ball and made a great pass. I was one on one and did what I had to do," Groenveld said. Coach Anderson also made sure to point out the importance of the players coming off the bench. "We brought in Jalen Jean and Umberto Catale and within minutes both guys made a tremendous impact. And that's why guys who get brought into the game are game changers," said Coach Anderson. Goalkeeper Devin Juan, a junior, also had a great game, saving four out of five shots on goal.

One common theme looking back on this game was taking advantage of the opportunities given to the Owls. "It comes down to us finishing our chances. There are some chances that just have to be put away," said Forward Jalen Jean, a junior. Defender Alex da Cunha, a junior, felt similarly, "Some good takeaways are that we are creating those chances that we need and that we previously didn't create, now we just have to make them," da Cunha

said. Da Cunha also has high hopes for the team the rest of the season. "We're solid in the back, we're working hard as a team, we're pushing each other, and if we just score more than two goals I think we win every game."

Coach Anderson only had positive things to say when asked about Alex and his contribution to the game. "Alex is a super mature, talented, and experienced guy who has the ability to effect groups of players in a positive way on and off the ball," said Coach Anderson. He goes on to say, "His communication and organization are some of the things you may not see him doing on the ball, that he does off the ball to keep us a very difficult group to breakdown. He keeps making us better and better."

Tying against Bridgeport, the Owls remain undefeated with their record moving to 1-0-1. This keeps the university in great shape as they have two more non-conference games before beginning conference play on September 16th against Saint Rose.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Owls celebrate a goal scored by forward, Zico Groenveld, a sophomore.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Soccer players huddle before their game against Bridgeport.



PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

Forward Leroy Best, a junior, moves the ball down the field against Bridgeport.

## Ridley and Falzon in action



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Quarterback, Keith Ridley, graduate student, throws a pass against Assumption University.



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Running Back, Kieran Falzon, freshman, breaking tackles against Assumption University

## News Update: Chris Barker resigned as Athletic Director

Chris Barker has now resigned as the Athletic Director on Sept. 7, 2023. According to the Athletic Department, the university will conduct an in-depth search for the next director. Senior Associate Director of Athletics Matt Letkowski will be the intern director until the next official director is hired.

Full story available next week

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- Co-features Editor
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## Multicultural Center celebrates changes

**Solé Scott**  
Features Editor

Students, faculty and staff celebrated the merging of the Sage Center, Interfaith Office and Multicultural center. The event was held on Thursday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. in the ballroom and surprised the audience with a special guest, new Interim President Dwayne Smith.

Business administration major Reynna Singleton, a sophomore and peer mentor, went to the event with her INQ class.

"I really thought it was important for my students to learn a little bit more about the Multicultural Center, especially as incoming first years," Singleton said.

The event was an introduction to the SAGE center, Interfaith office and MCC combining under one umbrella.

Dian Brown-Albert's new title is director of Center for Intercultural Engagement.

The food was a hit as dishes from around the world were served, such as jerk chicken, empanadas, chicken tikka

masala, crab ragoon and many more.

Computer science major Sanjay Sutherland, a junior, attended the event with business major Daniel Lustin, a junior.

"I really came here for the food," said Lustin.

The event included a bingo game where students had to collect other students' signatures if the words in a box resonated with them. This encouraged students to socialize with others and



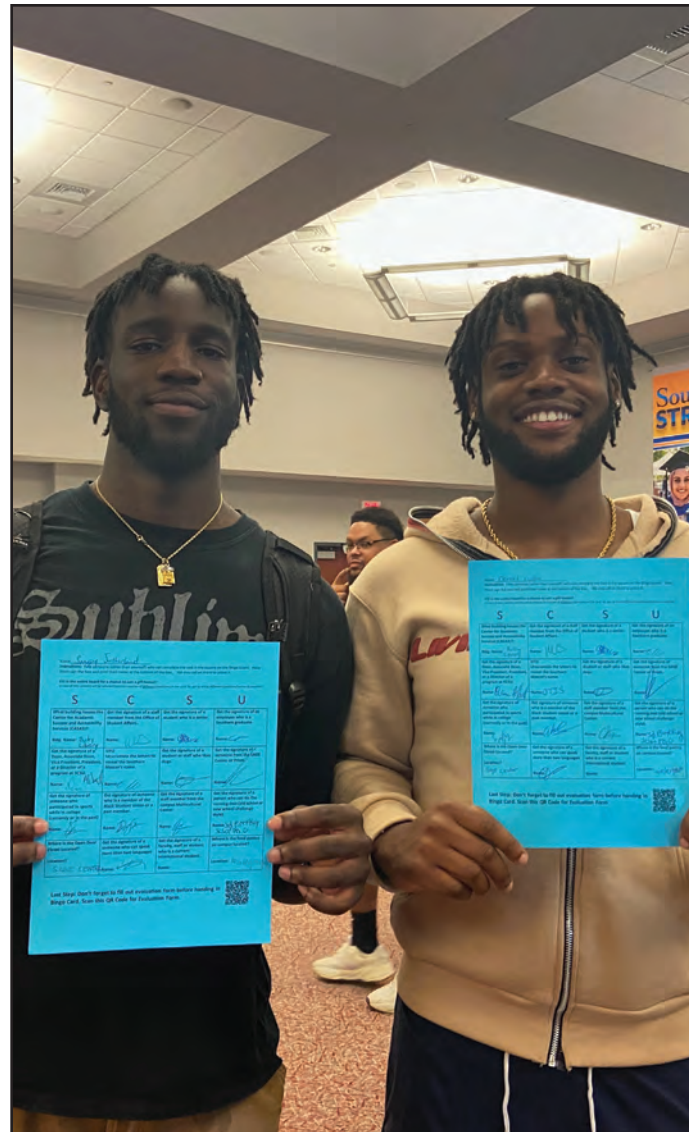
Attendees pose at the end of the event

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT



Students socializing in the Adanti Student Center ballroom

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT



Sanjay Sutherland and Daniel Lustin holding their bingo cards

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

## RHA hosts Y2K themed throwback party

**By Solé Scott**  
Features Editor

The long awaited 2000s kickback finally arrived on campus. The resident quad was filled with R&B jams from the aughts.

The event was held on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 6:30 until 8 p.m. The weather was breezy, but that did not stop the fun.

Sociology and journalism major Yasieli Perez, a sophomore, said she was enjoying the atmosphere and the food served at the event.

"Just wanted to check it out, the events held by reslife is always fun," said Perez.

Business information major Jahdia Williams, a sophomore, a resident advisor in Wilkinson, was there to support

her residents. "I came with one of my residents because I am an R.A. and I wanted her to experience this," said Williams.

The activities included tie dying shirts and a photo booth that was the star of the night as people flocked with their friends to get a picture.

The line for the cotton candy machine was long as students patiently waited for the delicious treat. The popcorn tasted like movie theater popcorn.

The photo booth was a 360 camera that circled around them and friends as they stood on the platform.

There was a competition on who had the best Y2K outfit, which resulted in a top prize. Other prizes included an iPad, earbuds, and many

more for runners-up.

The students' fashion was a praise to some icons such as Aaliyah, Devon Aoki and Jessica Alba.

Healthcare studies major Cristal Rivas- De La Cruz is the president of Residence Hall Association and is excited to introduce the freshmen to campus.

"My favorite thing about this event is giving back to the students and welcoming them to the residence life at Southern," said De La Cruz.

RHA is an organization that represents students living on campus.

When asked what they are looking forward to this semester, two students answered about ambitions they want to

tackle this upcoming semester. "Getting a 4.0," said Williams.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people, meeting all the new freshmen here at Southern and making them feel welcomed," said De La Cruz.

Even though some students were enjoying the event, it was noticeably semi-empty for a music, food and fashion party.

Granted it was a Saturday night and students were either home or out in downtown New Haven, yet some students said the party seemed dull.

Why didn't more students come to the event? Was there little to no advertisement?

Overall, the residence hall party was a success.



President of RHA Cristal Rivas De La Cruz outside of Chase Hall on Saturday Sept. 2

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT



Resident Advisor Jahdia Williams

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT



Student Yasieli Perez

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

# This or That- McDonald's or Chick-Fil-A?

By Solé Scott  
Features Editor



"I prefer Chick-Fil-A because McDonald's is gross. My body is a temple, I will not let nasty stuff in my body," exercise science major Avery Watts, a sophomore, said.



"I prefer McDonald's because it's cheaper and has a bigger menu," social work major Tyana Smith, a sophomore, said.



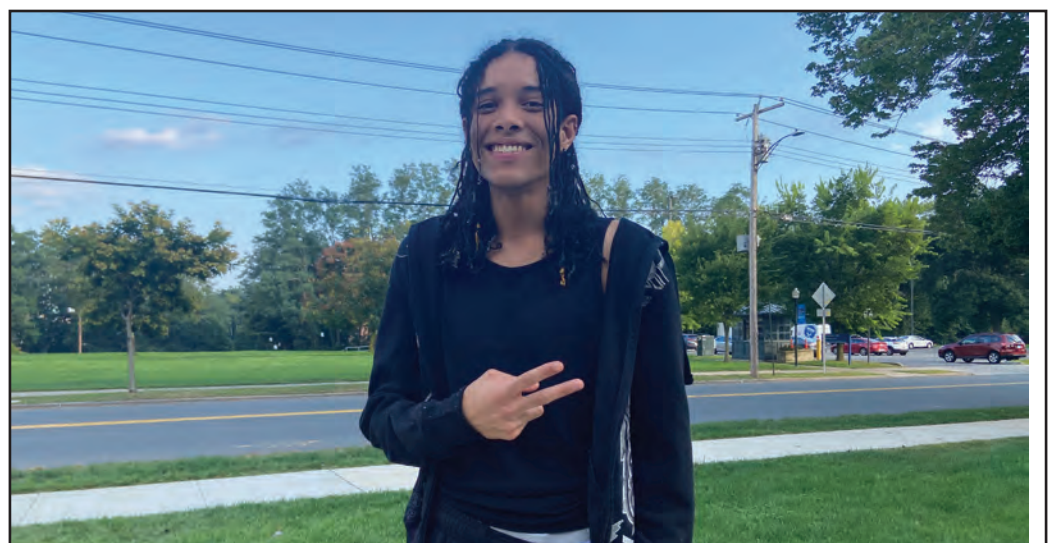
"Chick-Fil-A and it's not even close because McDonald's is so old school and dusty," computer science and health science major Nigel Paul, a senior, said.



"Chick-Fil-A is the best and McDonald's is nasty," nursing major Trudy Annor, a sophomore, said.



"Chick-Fil-A's food is just better because you actually know it's real food unlike McDonald's," education major Careonna Bradley, a sophomore, said.



"One, I heard Chick-Fil-A don't like gay people. Two, McDonald's has the app," computer science major Atticus Johnson, a sophomore, said.

## Multicultural Center hosts party and performances

Continued from Page 7

Students were excited as they made their way to the front to drop off their completed bingo cards. The prizes were displayed on a table in front of the room.

Diverse cultural groups displayed their traditional dances as the audience excitedly took pictures and videos.

"As a student leader on campus I love going to different events and learning about different cultures and departments on campus," said Sutherland.

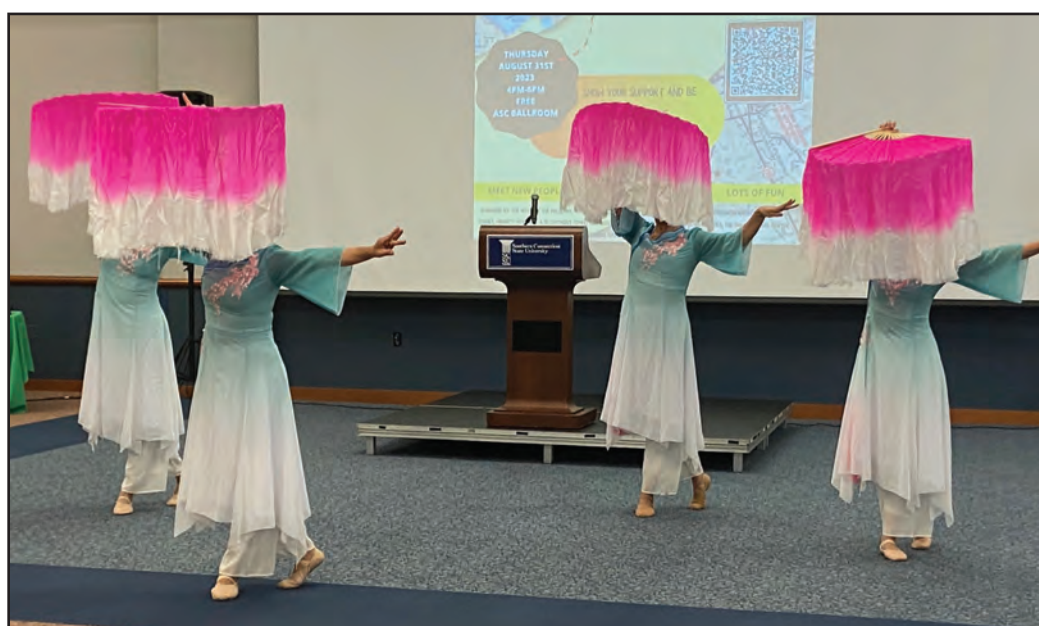
Staff had conversations with all students who wanted to know more about the program and what the MCC offers.

Computer science major Atticus Johnson, a sophomore, is a peer mentor who took his class to the reception too.

"I wanted to show them a resource on campus where they can learn different cultures and have a safe place on campus," Johnson said.

Johnson mentioned that a safe place is important because the MCC is all about providing equality among the community for the betterment of students and staff.

This reception was an introduction to the diverse voices and leadership roles the university has to offer. This was a great opportunity for first year students to



Group of students taking a picture at the end of the event.

greater cause. At the end of the reception, there was a dance party that staff and students participated in. Cultures united and enjoyed African music, Spanish music and American music.

Smith even joined the "Cha Cha Slide" and "Cupid Shuffle". That was a treat to watch because everyone was truly having an enjoyable time.

"It was an awesome opportunity for my students to meet other students around, especially student leadership positions," Smith said.

The MCC event was stunning with all the vibrant decorations. The MCC has moved from their old room to the old computer lab in room 202



Group of students taking a picture at the end of the event.

on the second floor of the Adanti Student Center. The MCC office is open Monday through

Thursday from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm, and 8:30 am until 4:30 pm on Friday.

## Upcoming events-

### Involvement Fair Rescheduled

Due to last week's heat wave, the Involvement Fair has been postponed to Sept. 13 from 12-2 p.m. on the academic quad.

### Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Sept. 15

On the corner of Wintergreen and Farnham avenues, the new School of Business building will have its ribbon ceremony on Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. There will be a keynote address and performance by Jeffery "Skunk" Baxter, a Grammy Award winner.

### C.C. Sabathia comes to Southern on Sept. 22

World Series champion six-time Major League Baseball All-Star comes to John Lyman Hall Center on Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

### Homecoming and Family Weekend 2023

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

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