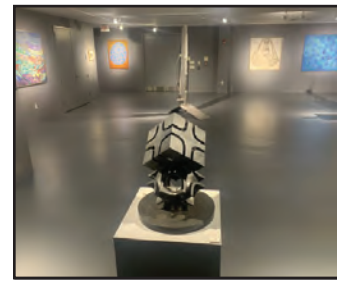


**Gymnastics welcomes a new coach**  
Page 5



**Social justice takes place around campus**  
Page 7



**Art gallery in the basement of Buley**  
Page 8

# SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

VOL. 59—ISSUE 3

## Scholar Strike held on campus Professors joined a nationwide strike against discrimination

**By Sam Tapper**  
Managing Editor  
**By Abby Epstein**  
News Editor  
**By Tamonda Griffiths**  
Contributor

Students and teachers gathered on the Hilton C. Buley Library patio at 1 p.m. on Sept. 8 and 9 for

the Scholar Strike in their efforts to bring awareness to the police brutality and racial injustice that has affected minority communities in the U.S.

“I think it [the strike] was conceptualized a couple of weeks ago by some scholars in other parts of the country, scholars of color, who wanted us to put a strike on all

of our responsibilities as professors, which include[s]; teaching, committee work and meetings,” said associate professor of history, Siobhan Carter-David.

According to a campus-wide statement, the strike was a national two-day movement sparked by a tweet from Anthea Butler, Associate Professor of

Religious Studies and Graduate Chair in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania following the shooting of an unarmed black man, Jacob Blake at the hands of Kenosha, Wisconsin police officers.

“A lot of us have been working at Southern to undo some of the systemic racism at Southern and

this seemed like a really good opportunity to recommit ourselves to doing that work and to showing solidarity with the folks that are doing this nationwide,” said associate professor of sociology, Cassi Meyerhoffer.

English professor, Brandon Hutchinson, who participated in the strike, said she has been at the university for almost 17 years and it has “taken quite a long time” for her to feel comfortable enough to participate in something like this.

Hutchinson said it took time for her to find, “allies” and a sense of community within her fellow faculty and staff members and has felt safer than she did years ago.

Hutchinson said her biggest commitment, is to step back, breathe and communicate her feelings of being overwhelmed by the racial injustices in society.

“I was a little unsure if I could make it today and I think some of that might be fear, some of that might

be how public do I want to be on campus,” said Hutchinson. “My heart’s desire is to no longer be in the shadows and to stand out.”

Associate Professor of Social Work, Amy Smoyer said as society and the campus community continue to attempt to strive for racial equality, she too recommit to being “present” to those around her. Ideas of white supremacy that say our productivity is the only way to measure our self-worth. This a moment where we take time for ourselves, for our emotional wellbeing is a type of productivity that I want to learn more of.”

Tracy Tyree, vice president for student affairs, said she evaluates her role in unintentionally contributing to racial injustice through her microaggressions, racism or racist behavior to help her address them and instead contribute to racial equality.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Faculty and students gather at the Buley Library patio at 1:00pm in support of the Nationwide Scholar Strike.

See Strike Page 2

## Shooting occurs near the campus

**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, New Haven police reported a shooting one-tenth of a mile from campus, prompting students to be asked to stay inside.

The shooting, according to an email sent out by Patrick Dilger, director of Integrated Communications & Marketing, took place in the area of Wintergreen Avenue and Wilmont Road.

“It was on Wintergreen Avenue which is just north of the campus,” said Police Chief Joseph Dooley, “and New Haven got a call and then New Haven called us.”

He said the New Haven police needed assistance with stabilizing the scene and blocking off traffic heading North on Wintergreen Avenue.

“We have a great partnership with New Haven, Hamden, and the state police in this area so we were doing our part,” said Dooley.

New Haven requested a lockdown of the area’s schools and Dooley said a notification was immediately pushed out to the Southern Alert.

A message was then sent to students around 5:30 p.m. that said violent and or criminal behavior had occurred in the area of Wintergreen and it was not until 6:00 p.m. when students received an “all clear,” informing them that they could now move

about campus.

The message, Dooley said, was “generic” because of the limited information available; it stated that everyone should stay inside and secure themselves until they had more information.

“We were notified about 5:20 p.m. and then gathering, going to the scene, verifying getting the information I think our first broadcast went out at 5:36 p.m.,” said Dooley. “That might seem like a long time, but we don’t just send them out because someone saying so, we need to make sure because we don’t want to cause a panic.”

As a RA in Farnham, Letitia Adumoah, a senior, said she had to knock on residents’ doors and let them know that a shooting happened it is advised for them to stay within their dorms.

“A lot of them kind of didn’t really listen because they were going to [Connecticut Hall],” said Adumoah, “but it wasn’t anywhere far so I told them ‘it’s okay you can go to Conn., but make sure you come straight back to the dorm.’”

She said students did not think it was real, however it has also been an interesting first weeks for students with a tornado.

As for students not listening to the alert, Adumoah said she was not surprised.

See Shooting Page 2

## President Joe Bertolino delivers State of the University virtually

**By Sofia Rositani**  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

On Sept. 10, President Joe Bertolino held the fall 2020 State of the University; however, this year’s was virtual. Bertolino brought up topics that were impacting the university, especially COVID-19.

“We’ve had a summer to prepare to offer our students the best learning experience possible given the circumstances,” said Bertolino. “As we move forward the health and safety of all members of our campus community remains our highest priority.”

Bertolino also said the university has protocols in place and will continue supplying the latest information to students regarding COVID-19. Each Monday there will be updates about the prior week’s test results on the new reopening website.

“For the good of our community, I ask you to continue wearing masks and observing social distancing. This is truly the only way that we can keep the campus open until Thanksgiving,” Bertolino said. “I know that the past few months have been strange for many of you. The pandemic and related issues of economic hardship and racial equities has tested our resolve [and] our collective character.”

Enrollment has declined more than 25 percent, according to Bertolino. The



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A recording of President Joe Bertolino giving his State of the University speech.

causes of this decline may be due to health issues, a gap year, or financial issues. In prior years, the number of students enrolled was higher.

“Our task in the coming weeks or months is to drive these numbers back up,” said Bertolino.

During the livestream Bertolino talked about positive events that happened over the summer and when the school was shut down, such as when Asma Rahimy was awarded the Harry S. Truman scholarship, the first student to ever win this scholarship from a Connecticut State University, and the Financial Literacy program was awarded best in the nation last June.

Before the livestream started, students received an email from Patrick Dilger,

director of Integrated Communications & Marketing, who directed students to a place they can send out questions to Bertolino so he can answer them during the livestream. Many questions had to do with the outbreak and the reopening of campus.

A question was asked about how students will have to be randomly tested throughout the semester and Bertolino responded this is not the university’s decision -instead all the COVID-19 decisions for state universities were made by Governor Ned Lamont.

“I think there is still assumption that there are a lot of people here and that just isn’t the case, in fact there are very few people here on campus most students and most faculty decided to work remotely,” said Bertolino.

“The university has been continuously working with students and faculty who are working remotely and trying to be flexible and understanding with them. At least 70 percent of classes on campus are currently being taught fully online.”

“There will be no going back to the sense of normalcy that we experienced for much of our institution’s history. Instead, we must move ahead and make changes in our disciplines that reflect a post pandemic world and the evolving needs of our students and economy,” Bertolino said, “but for now our immediate priorities are everyone’s safety the success of our students, delivering a quality education, the advancement of our admission, and ultimately a return to stability.”

# Doctorate program approved

By Jose Vega  
Contributor

The newly approved doctoral program in counselor education is aiming to cultivate the next generation of counselors and aid in the development of more graduate programs available to students.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for trained mental health professionals," said Associate Professor of Counseling and Psychology Laurie Bonjo. "People are experiencing higher degrees of stress and counselors can help.

Our doctoral program is designed to meet the needs of a post-pandemic reality."

This program comes as students and their surrounding community

attempt to find healthy methods to deal with COVID-19 related stress and anxieties.

"The need for well-trained mental health clinicians is likely to increase," Associate Director of Counseling Services Ellen Allen said, "and this program could help Connecticut increase its capacity to train the next generation of counseling students and professionals, since doctoral students often become university professors, counselor supervisors, and leaders and policy-makers in behavioral health care systems."

The university already offers two separate Master's programs within the Department of Counseling and Education; M.S. in Clinical Mental

Health Counseling and M.S. in School Counseling. The Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs committee during the process asked Bonjo and her colleague Stephen Hegedus, "what is the standard enrollment for a Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision?"

According to approved meeting minutes, they responded, "the standard enrollment is 6-8 students per cycle. We've already had interest in the proposed program from four potential students."

This doctorate program would indeed aim to attract those who are outside New England, while also keeping our students at their alma mater, while they achieve higher scholastic achievements.

Psychology major Joaquin Selmeski, a senior, said even though he was planning on attending graduate studies outside of Southern, the new doctorate program is intriguing.

"I definitely say it piques my interest because it sounds like it was built in a way that you can take it in different directions. I think it was really smart for the university to implement this program with the current climate," said Selmeski.

Psychology major Cara Richardson, a senior, who is planning on applying to and attending the M.S.

in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program said she finds the doctorate program to be a relief.

"I did want to do my doctorate in psychology or some form of mental health counseling at some point. A program like this would tie together everything that I've been working towards my entire undergraduate studies into one degree and I see as benefiting me moving forward," said Richardson.

University of Kansas, Oregon State University, and University of Northern Colorado are said to have some of the best doctorate programs in counseling in the United States.

The university hopes to etch its prominence in the field of counselor education with this new doctorate program set to begin in fall of 2021.

"Each time the university implements a terminal degree program, we reinforce our status as an institution of distinction," Bonjo said. "We are willing, able, and prepared to educate students to work to their highest potential in their professions. Offering a doctoral program at Southern is about creating space for students to self-empower by providing the opportunity to earn a highly sought after doctorate. We are making it affordable, manageable, and efficient for working students. I am proud to be filling that need."



PHOTO | JOSE VEGA

The entrance to the Counseling Services in Engleman.

# Strike

Continued from Page 1

"I make a commitment, recommitment - I feel like I have been working at this commitment," Tyree said, "but I continue to check myself as to whether I'm doing enough."

As a mother, Tyree said the hardest job is raising her son to be a man who thinks differently about race and acknowledges his white privilege to eventually effect change within underprivileged communities around him.

"As a vice president at the university," said Tyree, "I commit to addressing racism that we know exists at Southern. I recognize the privilege that I have in my leadership role and the power that is within me, not just in the work that I do, but in the table that I sit at with the colleagues that I join and how we collectively provide leadership for the university and the things that need to be done to address the racist and other forms of bias that exist systemically."

Multiple professors did not know about the nationwide Scholar Strike until the day before, when Carter-David told them about it.

"I heard about it really just last night through Siobhan, I saw something really briefly about it a couple weeks ago, but

I'm not on Twitter or anything so I didn't know about it until she had found out about it last night," said Meyerhoffer.

Carter-David said the people who organized the strike have a range of resources on the Scholar Strike website and a YouTube page where they were streaming live and recording information over the two days of the strike.

Political science major Abdul Osmanu, a sophomore, said a lot of students look to professors on campus as mentors and the Scholar Strike allows them to use their "teacher power" to potentially open a lot of eyes on campus.

"I think they could truly be what starts something much bigger," said Osmanu. "It's that union power, it's that teacher power, that people power. And it's more than just having 'Black Lives Matter' plastered on your building; you actually have to put in the actual work that it takes to be a social justice school."

Among those in the crowd on the Academic Quad were the Owls men's basketball coaches, Scott Burrell and assistant Mark Fogel, as well as numerous players from the team, including two of last season's captains: guard Isaiah Boissard and forward Greg Jones, both seniors.

"I wanted to be here] just to see the different

viewpoints from everybody on campus and how they feel about the situation and how we're going to address it as a campus, as a community," said Jones.

With basketball being at the forefront of social justice conversations among the major sports in the country, both Jones and Fogel, (while they did not directly attribute their presence at the Scholar Strike to the NBA and their actions), said that they felt it was important that their team be represented at the event.

"For me, it's important [to be here] because as a basketball coach, many of the young men that I coach are African American," Fogel said. "Just being here and listening to a lot of different points of view of what people have experienced in their lives, because obviously it's much more different than what I've experienced throughout my life. So, [I'm] trying to learn as much as I possibly can about people's experiences and what they've had to go through."

Burrell focused more on the national side of the social justice conversation. While he said that "it's good to see" these types of campus events given the current climate, he also said that the extreme division between the left-wing and right-wing is what is holding the country

back with these kinds of conversations.

"Everybody's a human being, and we should all love each other no matter what your sexual orientation is, the color of your skin, what you believe in, who you're voting for," said Burrell. "We're all in this together. Like everybody's said, this virus we're in together. Our country is so divided that a mask has become Democrat and no mask has become Republican, which is the stupidest thing I've ever heard. Our country is so divided over every little thing, and it's sad."

Fogel said that the men's basketball team is "talking about doing some things" regarding social justice and that the coaching staff is still discussing what the team can do to spread the message of social justice during the season, should they play this year.

For now, Burrell, Fogel and Jones all said the Scholar Strike was event is a good start and spreads the right message about what the university stands for as a social justice institution.

"I think it's very important that all the minorities, all the different races, people of color can see that our school does care and wants to make a change, to advocate for a change," Jones said, "I think it's good and shows that we're moving in a positive direction."

# University makes own hand sanitizer

By Gabriela Cuapio  
Contributor

Generic spray bottles have been positioned at the front of many classrooms, filled with disinfectant made by Facilities Department staff.

Director of Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator, Lisa Kortfelt, said she mixes about 42 gallons of sanitizer a day to keep Southern stocked with enough to keep high touch areas clean now that students have returned to campus.

"Many disinfectants we've used usually go about being green," Kortfelt said. "But green means it's not harmful to the environment it doesn't mean that is not as harmful to people," she said.

With increased sanitation and disinfecting procedures on campus, Kortfelt said she needed something that would be free of preservatives but still effective at the same time.

Kortfelt and Associate Vice President for Capital Budgeting and Facilities Operations, Eric Lessne began looking into a chemical called Hypochlorous Acid (HOCl).

Eric Lessne said he first heard about the chemical during a conversation with a product seller. "The gentlemen said, 'Hey, I just sold this solution to the town of Glastonbury for their schools, would you be interested?'"

Lessne said that the university is currently the only institution in the CSU system that is making their own sanitizer at a cost-effective price. "We are spending a little less than five cents per gallon," he said.

According to a review article published on June 25th by the National Center for Biotechnology

Information, an ideal disinfectant and sanitizer must be nontoxic to surface contact, noncorrosive, effective in various forms and relatively inexpensive. HOCl may be the disinfectant of choice for coronaviruses.

Kortfelt said she is currently the only staff member in charge of the mixture that consists of acetic acid water and sodium chloride. She mixes it all first in big batches that she later distributes into separate bottles and gallons.

"I take pH readings and free chlorine readings of the original and diluted batches. I do this for every single batch," she said.

Kortfelt said the process is labor intensive. However, she did not want to purchase the mixture elsewhere because she did not want to run the risk of extra preservatives being added.

"Our custodial services are spraying it while areas are not occupied, but the person spraying it still has an exposure, I need this product to avoid harm" she said.

The HOCl solution is being used all over main areas where people most meet, not only by custodians but also by staff members and students. The solution is not only sprayed on mainly touched areas, but also placed in all hand sanitizer dispensers around campus.

Student worker, Jurea McIntosh, a junior, works at Buley Library handling books and said she uses the solution during her shifts.

"I'm glad somebody actually took the time to research what they were using and made a better decision," McIntosh said. "During this time, we are all finding methods to stay safe, but you still have to be mindful of the stuff we are using to avoid harm."



PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

One of the hand sanitizer stations on-campus.



PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

Southern Police Department where officers received notice of the shooting.

# Shooting

Continued from Page 1

"They're college students," she said. "Even though I'm their RA, I can just advise them. I can't force them to stay unless we are told to force them to stay in, but since it wasn't directly on campus, I believe that's why it was just an advisement."

Healthcare studies

major Ashley Harris, a freshman, said she was in the student center when she got the alert.

"Everybody was just nonchalant about it," she said. "Nothing was really happening to anybody."

Harris said she and other students that were also in the student center at the time mostly ignored the alert, knowing they were already inside the student center and the email specifically had requested that students

stay indoors.

Had there been an imminent threat, Dooley said they would have activated Southern's Public Alert system with the sirens and students would have been aware that immediate action was necessary.

"It's an unfortunate incident that happened there," said Dooley, "but New Haven is continuing their investigation on it, so we were collaterally involved."

## University must follow through on social justice

Universities are not spared of racism or violence. As a school that prides itself as one that values social justice, it is critical that it follows through on that.

Last week, the Scholar Strike happened. The movement, according to CNN, is designed to bring recognition to the mounting numbers of deaths of African Americans and others by excessive use of violence and force by police.

Personally, I'm glad to

see that faculty members stepped up, because like I said, universities have their own fair share of racism and violence. For those faculty members to step aside from their regular duties and educate students on social justice – well, it is what being a social justice university should mean.

Then another point of discussion on campus has been the Black Lives Matter Banner. Students have told me that they are upset the one over the bridge was removed.

However, a permanent one is going on the side of the library.

Is that enough? That seems to be the question on campus. However, it is a step that should have been taken.

Then we have the Instagram account @blackatsouthern that began in June where Black students or people of color, both past and present shared anonymous stories which were posted to the account – and it is powerful.

The stories on the account are sometimes hard to read and the page has a trigger warning.

The account sheds light on issues that many people can be ignorant too since they are not facing them firsthand, but it certainly does not mean they are not happening every day.

I hope whoever runs the account continues to share those stories because they need to be heard and I encourage students to continue to speak up when they experience injustice..

How the university chose or chooses to respond to the content shared on that account is another issue at hand.

As a university, I hope we keep pushing for more and taking steps forward, even if they are small, to fight against injustices and make campus a safe space.

Whether it's having virtual talks or strikes, we should always keep discussing and educating people on campus in regards to social justice matters.



**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
Editor-in-Chief

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

## Random COVID-19 testing will be a good thing

**By Sam Tapper**  
Managing Editor

Students living on campus during these times have heard the same phrase from everyone in Residential Life – from Director Rob Demezzo down to the resident advisors: “You are subject to random COVID-19 testing.”

The wording is one thing –phrasing it the way it has been phrased paints it to be just as an involuntary or random drug test. Despite the sentence composition, do not be fooled – this is a blessing in disguise.

No, the physical COVID-19 test is not necessarily fun. In fact, I would even call it actively unfun, as the nasal swab – while it does not hurt for some – does not feel good.

Yes, the process is inconvenient, as being selected just adds another place to go and thing to do on all our busy schedules. But as a university, we must remember how lucky we are to have this resource accessible on campus.

COVID-19 testing, just like the virus itself, has been a big unknown since our nation went into crisis back in March 2020. First, from about March to

May, testing was scarce, only available with the right amount of dollars and a good insurance plan, unless you are a professional athlete.

Then over the summer, testing became more widely available. Across the country and people were able to give themselves a bit more peace of mind

President Trump repeatedly said over the summer months that the country is “testing too much,” which is a gruesomely foolish and quite frankly shocking statement from someone at the top, but we do not have to go there.

Testing, simply put, is how society is still being able to run, albeit differently than we are used to. But in the times of a pandemic, everyone must do their part and be a team player. By having these random tests, the university can do two things.

Primarily, it allows the university to be transparent. Positive tests cannot go unannounced or kept in the dark – the rest of campus needs to know. So, with these tests, students have, and will continue to be kept informed about the state of the university in terms of the virus.

Secondly, these tests will decide our future this semester. That is hard to believe, but it is true.

If at any point there is an outbreak on campus, these test results will be what let us know. If at any point the university must shut down again, these test results will be a catalyst for making that decision.

Being randomly selected for a COVID-19 test will not kill you. It will not kill you to walk to Moore Field House even if you do not want to or if the weather is bad. We have all had COVID-19 tests to come to campus, the nasal swab did not kill you there and it will not this time either.

It is an inconvenience, but a minor one at its worst. Being selected for a random COVID-19 case will take an hour out of your day, but by complying you are doing your part to help prevent any possible rapid spread.

The more we comply and cooperate, the sooner campus, and the world, can return to normalcy. It is all about doing our parts. So please, keep your distance from each other, wear your mask even if it is not ideal and do not pout or whine about you being randomly selected for a COVID-19 test. This, at the end of the day, is a good thing.

## Early closing times can be negative for students

**By Bernadotte Sufka**  
Opinions & Features Editor

College has always been a place where students study endlessly throughout the day and night without any restrictions, however, this new semester is packed with more changes for students.

Apart from the COVID-19 regulations, the freedom of being able to do such tasks with others is now limited, as the dining services on campus close one hour earlier and have set stricter eating times throughout the day.

This goes for the library as well. Although it may

only be a minor time difference, it can still impact a student's eating habit and workflow.

Some may only have time to eat between a certain period and go to one of the on-campus dining halls.

This can be inconvenient as everyone has a busy schedule to attend to. Many students have said they do not study well in their dorm buildings or homes provided by the many distractions one could have there.

The environment could cause low motivation, roommate disruptions, loud neighbors and the list goes on. The library is the place where residents

and commuters resort to get their assignments or studying completed.

Since most classes are online, the library is occupied with students on laptops and class zoom meetings. To have Buley close an hour earlier from 11 p.m to 10 p.m now, it can infringe on one's studying habits.

It is not an efficient way to carry on about things concerning this.

Both places are known to be popular hangout areas and group project gatherings for students to meet up at and have private space. Already, with the limitation of commuters not being able to be signed into resident halls has also made study

groups to narrow down.

Everyone is still adjusting to this new lifestyle on campus whether online or in person. The library is a place where people go to search for a quiet space and feel motivated to get work done.

An hour difference can be a lot for most students who rely heavily on the library itself for such school related purposes.

Having a meal at the right time ties within this as well. Eating before a study session is very important to keep one's mind engaged on their tasks. Mental health also must be set as a stronger awareness since everyone is still coping with these

new changes.

Students should not be limited to eating times because everyone's schedule and eating habits are very different. People may feel hungry at 10:00 p.m for example and will want to go to the dining hall at that time. Not everyone has access to a kitchen on campus and therefore cannot cook something.

Whether it be midterms, finals or even a test, students have always resorted to going to the library to prepare.

A smaller time frame cannot be allowed. One hour early for closing these buildings makes a huge impact on a student's lifestyle on campus,

commuter or not.

Ever since the time changes were displayed, it left a huge time gap among students. It's not a good change made so far. Procrastination can happen to anyone and eating at a specific time or studying at a certain place should not take place.

A full day of operating each facility just as it was prior to semesters needs to be brought back on campus.

There are already a lot of new restrictions on campus due to COVID-19. Adjusting process is still going on and must be followed. But that should not comply to a student's daily choices on eating or studying times.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau  
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

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

Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928

Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:

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

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT

Follow Us on Twitter: @Southern\_News

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/thesouthernnews](https://www.facebook.com/thesouthernnews)

Visit us online: [TheSouthernNews.org](https://www.TheSouthernNews.org)

View print edition at: [OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern](https://www.OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern)

Jessica Guerrucci

Sam Tapper

**Section Editors**

Abby Epstein

Bernadotte Sufka

Sofia Rositani

Mike Neville

Roma Rositani

Essence Boyd

Vacant

**Staff Reporters**

Vacant

Ed Rudman

Donovan Wilson

Desteny Maragh

Vacant

Bria Kirklin

**Copy Desk**

John Carluccio

Wula Cham

Ellis Mcginley

**Business/Ad Manager**

Sam Tapper

Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editor

News

Opinions & Features

Arts & Entertainment

Sports

Photo

Online

Layout

News Writer

Sports Writer

General Assignment

General Assignment

General Assignment

Photographer

Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students and faculty.

To submit a piece, email it to [scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com](mailto:scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com), or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Visit [www.TheSouthernNews.org](https://www.TheSouthernNews.org) for more.

# PHOTO

## Scholar Strike for racial justice held on campus



Kelvin Rutledge, Director of Career and Professional Development, speaks at the Scholar Strike.

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

Faculty and staff held a teach-in, in front of Buley Library on Sept. 8 and 9. The Scholar Strike was a two day event. Faculty and staff refrained from their duties on campus to attend and speak against racism and injustice, not only on campus, but in America as well.

Students who attended were able to listen to staff and faculty share their stories with first hand experience of racism on campus.

Athletes such as Colin

Kaepernick and the NBA are two examples of athletes and athletic programs that have addressed racism and injustice in the United States, with the hashtag Scholar Strike. The teach-in promotes an action against racism.

"It's not that we are less than it's that it's embedded into the fabric of our society," said assistant professor of social work, Steven Hoffer.

**See Page 1 for more about the Scholar Strike**



Steven Hoffer, a professor of social work, speaks out about social justice at the Scholar Strike.



Cassi Meyerhoffer, sociology professor, speaking at the Scholar Strike.



Brandon Hutchinson, English professor, who spoke alongside Steven Hoffer at the Scholar Strike.



Tricia Lin, Chair of Women's Studies, speaking at the Scholar Strike event along with other speakers.



Elizabeth Keenan, social work professor, attended the Scholar Strike event to speak on social justice.



Lupita Baraja, senior, at the Scholar Strike on Sept. 9



Gary Winfield, staff at the AAUP, speaking at the Scholar Strike.



Speakers of the Scholar Strike event come together for a group photo.



Siobhan Carter-David, history professor, using a megaphone at the Scholar Strike.

## New gymnastics coach is introduced Southern alum sets new expectations going into the future season

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

The Owls gymnastics team has a lot to look forward in 2021, and that all starts with the hiring of new head coach Byron Knox.

As a Southern alum, Knox said the timing to take over the reins as head coach was just right.

"The opportunity arose last year, but with not having all my ducks lined up I wasn't able to take part in that," said Knox. "When the opportunity arose again, I made an effort and thankfully I was chosen."

Looking to the future, Knox said he has high expectations for his new team and wants to do things his way, starting by getting right down to business.

"I would like to hit the ground running, I think we have enough talent to compete right away, if the athletes buy into philosophy of training, I think we can make our mark," said Knox.

Beam and floor gymnast, Keara Loughlin, a senior, said much like Byron, she also has high expectations

going into the season.

"My expectations are high going into the season, we have a great group of dedicated individuals who are willing to work hard," said Loughlin.

Besides being a Southern alum, Knox said that he has been involved in gymnastics for many years at a very high level. At the start of his career, Knox said he did not have interest in coaching

women's gymnastics until he saw the amount of dedication.

"I didn't have much interest in coaching women at the time. The key thing that created desire to coach wasn't the sport of women's gymnastics, but the kids," said Knox.

At the start of his career, Knox started working with youth gymnastics and then went on to the college level.

Knox said giving the people the opportunity to compete like he did gives him great joy.

"I think he is going to push me to become the best athlete I can be and make me give 110 percent," said Loughlin.

The hiring of Knox ends the top-notch career of Jerry Nelson, who was the gymnastics coach for many years. Knox said filling

those shoes will be a big challenge for himself but believes he can ride the waves of Nelson's success.

"Jerry ran a very successful program with who he recruited, two different styles that worked but I will need to assess the situation once I get there," said Knox.

Assessing the situation, Knox said his plan is to serve one student athlete

at a time with emphasis on academics with hopes of a championship down the line.

If the season occurs it will also come with its own trials and tribulations if it occurs due to the presence of COVID-19. Practices have not started yet, so the athletes have had no contact with their new coach.

"We haven't really had any contact with Byron, although I do know of him from his success at Bridgeport," said Loughlin.

The COVID-19 situation is a matter that Knox said he takes very seriously.

"We want to follow school policy, we don't want to put anyone at a risk over sports, safety is number two so being healthy and safe is the key," said Knox.

Looking forward to his first practice, Knox said his plan is to create a level of fitness with the team that will allow them to go through the rigors of the sport.

Knox said he does not expect this change to happen overnight, but if the athletes follow the program, he is confident they will be able to do it if committed.



Members of gymnastics team rejoice after a successful senior night in February of 2020 before the pandemic.

PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Kwadir Delgado-Mcintyre at a game last season.

## Delgado-Mcintyre brings leadership

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

On the field, cornerback Kwadir Delgado-Mcintyre is a leader, a role he says he has lived up to.

Delgado-Mcintyre said as a child, his first love was baseball, but as he got older he could not resist football's calling.

"When I moved in from Kentucky, I was only playing baseball at the time," said Delgado-Mcintyre. "I moved to Connecticut and my dad signed me up for football and that's how it all got started."

He started playing football at about the age of eight and has progressed to becoming a major piece of the football program.

Now a senior, Delgado-Mcintyre has suited up and played 27 times, recording a career total of 47 tackles and three interceptions, according to the SCSU Athletics website.

Delgado-Mcintyre grew up in Hamden, Conn.

He said this makes him proud to play for a local university that he feels he has a strong connection with.

"I love playing here because I'm close to everyone I know and I know everybody can come see the games if they want, and it keeps everyone in tune since I'm so close to home," said Delgado-Mcintyre.

When it comes to what it means to have someone like Delgado-Mcintyre be a part of the program, Head Coach Tom Godek spoke highly of him.

"As a coach and as a man, I have grown by this guy coming into our program," said Godek. "Eight semesters and he's made Dean's List five times, Bachelor's in marketing, has his degree, and is now attending graduate school and taking a heavier course load. He works two jobs too, it's pretty impressive."

See Leader Page 6

## Quill helps swim team's success

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

As a coach of a university athletics program, experience is highly valuable; something swimming Head Coach Tim Quill speaks much of.

Quill has been around the sport of swimming for much of his life, having had his first lessons at the Waterbury Boy's Club at the age of 9.

While he attended Sacred Heart High School, he swam for the Waterbury YMCA throughout high school and after, he swam at Alfred University, a Division III school.

"I like to believe that I've taken bits and pieces from every coach that I've had throughout my career. It has helped me develop and it has made me the coach that I am today," said Quill.

Before becoming head coach of the Owls swimming program, Quill went back to his YMCA

roots and coached the Cheshire YMCA swim team, implying those years of experience of trial and error played a role in his ability to coach athletes at the highest possible level.

Assistant Coach C.J. Moran, a Southern alumnus and former four-year member of the swim team, said he has known Quill for many years and has learned much under his tutelage, as he was one of his swimmers during his coaching tenure at the Cheshire YMCA.

"It's almost a 30-year history now. Our relationship is interesting in that he was my first coach ever because I didn't start swimming until I was 14," said Moran. "We kind of came full circle, his first year of being a coach at Southern in 1998 was my senior year and I've been fortunate enough to work with him for a total of 11 years once I became a coach."

The program during

Quill's tenure has become a powerhouse for the Owls. Quill is a 23-time Northeast 10 Conference Coach of the Year winner and the men's and women's programs have won 25 NE10 championships combined.

During his time there, Quill has coached a total of 118 NCAA All-American selections, 63 of them men and 55 women, including 16 NE10 swimmers of the year. After 21 years as head coach, the program is still going strong as the Women's won the NE10 conference championship last season and the men finished as runners-up.

Long distance freestyler Evan Bombery, a senior, is about to embark on his fourth year under Quill and is grateful to have that caliber of a coach helping him become a better swimmer.

"I think when it comes to training, he's helped me the most with working hard. When you come into practice every day

and you see the set that he has made and it looks very hard, but then he gives us that motivation we need. Then you get done with the practice and you did it and to me, it would be different without him," said Bombery.

In regard to the expectations for the upcoming season and how it will play out due to the environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Quill is excited and ready to work hard to continue the program's success.

"This is a season like no other," said Quill. "There are a lot of variables in play right now, but we are just going to take one step at a time. I cannot say much about it as of right now, but I will say this, our program is founded on built, not bought. Talent only brings you so far, it's the hard work that brings you the rest way and we have one of the hardest working teams in the conference."



Quill (second from right) celebrating a title with the women's swim and dive team at NE10 Championships.

PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

# Men's basketball success on its returning starters



Column By Mike Neville  
Sports Editor

Head coach Scott Burrell will have all hands-on deck with his assistant coaches Mark Fogel and Tavares Cambell as they gear up for basketball in 2021.

Besides the obvious circumstances of COVID-19 ending fall sports and

leaving winter sports in question, the Owls men's basketball team has a lot more to look forward too.

After finishing last season with a 16-11 record, the Owls look to regain some of their lost success after missing the NCAA Tournament in each of the last three seasons.

Moore Field House has been the Owls saving grace, accumulating a record of 19-8 since the winter of 2018 in front of their home crowd.

Due to the graduation of forward Taurus Adams II, and the departure of some key individuals, Burrell will need to evaluate some of the team's personnel before the season.

Averaging 16.1 points per game last season and standing at 6'7, the shoes

of Adams will need to be filled, although Burrell does have an intriguing option in Zack Penn.

The 6'8 forward could be the answer for the Owls' center spot and fill the void left by Adams.

Penn, who came off the bench last year after averaging four points a game could be one of Burrell's starters this year if a season is able to happen.

Looking at the guards, the depth there is intriguing. Hamden-native C.J. Seaforth, a senior and Boston-product Lyron Bennett, a sophomore, look to be the early favorites in terms of a starting backcourt combo.

Seaforth, the Owls' best scorer on paper, had his share of struggles last year during a midseason slump.

After starting out averaging over 20 points per game through November, he averaged just under 12 points a game to finish the season.

Bennett, however, could turn a lot of heads this year after being an All-Rookie selection in the Northeast 10. What will ultimately be the question for Bennett is if he is ready to make the next leap after seeing personal success as a rookie.

The 2017-18 Northeast 10 Rookie of the Year Ulyen Coleman, now a redshirt-junior, is the clear-cut choice to be Burrell's main man this year after sitting out last season. Known for his sharpshooting ability and standing at 6'4, Coleman has the chance to become one of the better

two-way players in the league.

The Owls also return with key starters and captains in guard Isaiah Boissard and big-man Greg Jones, both seniors.

Jones has proven himself time and time again that he always belongs on the court for the Owls, and that shouldn't change come the start of the season. Jones has shown he can score, but his biggest improvements must come on the glass, especially with Adams no longer by his side.

The beast from the Bronx averaged 13.8 points for the season and is a key rim protector on defense.

Boissard showed promise in his debut campaign for the Owls last season. The 6'3 swing man started in 18

games last year and showed on numerous occasions he can be the top scoring option, scoring 10.6 points per game, reaching double-figures 13 times and having a season high of 31 points.

What it will come down to for Boissard is consistency.

While he did have major scoring outbursts last season, he also had numerous cold spells where he struggled to hit shots or make much of an impact.

Much of the Owls success this year will hinder on the returning starters from last year. No matter what starting five Burrell decides to go with this season, one thing is for certain: The Owls have talent, and the potential to make a major statement in the NE10.



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Kwadir Delgado-Mcintyre at a game last season.

## Leader

Continued from Page 5

Not only is Delgado-Mcintyre the definition of a student-athlete, but he has also cemented his presence of being a part of the campus community by having an on-campus job during the week.

He works in the Wintergreen building and can be seen interacting with other students

regularly, according to Godek, who feels the role brings more to the university than people may realize.

Delgado-Mcintyre caught Godek's attention as a recruit after Southern alumnus and former football player Tom Dyer told Godek about him. Godek said he could immediately tell that it was a player he wanted to recruit for his program.

"One thing he has is common sense. That's

something that I think we're searching for a little bit out there in society today. For a young man to have that and to know that it's more than just himself involved and that people are relying on him, it's just so impressive," said Godek.

As Delgado-Mcintyre prepares for his life after he graduates from Southern and his football career, he reflected on his time at the university so far and how he would like to be remembered.

"I want to be remembered as someone who could do it all, you know what I'm saying, not just for stuff on the field," said Delgado-Mcintyre. "In terms of how I work outside of football with two jobs and my love for my family. I just want to be remembered as someone who made it an emphasis to work harder than everybody and someone who worked for what they have, nothing was given."

# Students adjust to a new campus environment

By Essence Boyd  
Online Editor

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students are having to learn how to adapt and adjust to the new cautionary way of living.

From random COVID-19 testing selections to new guest regulations, there have been changes on top of classes.

"It has been a big change, I actually went to the doctor recently and I have shingles which has been stress induced," said English major Carlos Lemron, a freshman. "That was only after the first week of school."

Noticeable changes are all over campus, with stickers on the floor to guide students and remind them to social distance.

Not only has the virus

taken a major effect on student's health but it has also impacted their comfort level while living on campus with several changes that also occurred within the residence halls and a staggered move in.

"Settling in was difficult and stressful," said English secondary education major Jessica Clark, a senior. "It was hard trying to feel comfortable in a living environment that just doesn't feel safe."

In addition to having reservations about living in the dorms, some residents are also having issues adjusting to the limited interactions between professors and friends.

"It's been tough because everything has been online, but it is just important to get onto those virtual meetings and not just stay in the dorms I feel," said

Business major Melissa Poinelli, a freshman.

According to Lemron, not being able to interact with people is taking away from his first-year experience on campus.

"I definitely miss in person classes and hanging out with my friends," said Lemron. "It definitely adds to the experience of school."

Some of the biggest challenge's students are facing while trying to adjust to COVID-19 on campus is finding new ways to be social from a distance. Especially with the new regulations and the constant need to have a mask on.

"Being able to meet new people and being able to go out and just being able to hang out with friends in the same place," said Poinelli. "It has definitely been hard to be able to do that this year."

Due to the virus, many on campus events have moved online which has also limited student interaction on campus.

According to the Reopening 2020 section of Southern's website, more than 20 percent of classes will be taught in a hybrid and hyflex format, with 20 additional classrooms technologically updated for this purpose. About 8 percent of classes will be taught fully on-ground.

"We have prepared more than 100 classrooms for socially distanced teaching, along with an additional 30 instructional support spaces for use by students who need to transition rapidly from an on-campus course to a virtual course," the website read.

Noticibly, the campus has much less traffic due to classes shifting online

and student say they are missing connecting with other students.

"I miss all the community events and just feeling safe to hang out with people," said Clark.

Although online classes have allowed students to gain an education while not exposing themselves to the virus, the stress of waking up on time is still existent, according to Poinelli.

"Getting used to the online stuff and getting up on time to sit on your computer in your room instead of walking to your class and sitting with your friends and being able to talk face-to-face with your teachers," said Poinelli.

Adjusting back to life on campus has also come with a new sense of responsibility for some.

"The idea that whatever happens is

really up to me," said Lemron. "No one is going to tell my parents, no one is going to report back to me. I am accountable for whatever I do."

Despite campus life being more quiet, the Office of Student Involvement has still made multiple efforts to hold online events.

Residence Life is also holding virtual events for students to help them connect back to the community.

Although there is a lot that has changed and students are lacking normal social interactions, the down time of being inside and not having to walk or commute to classes from home or the dorms has been a good thing for some.

"It has been kind of nice having all this time to not kind of be in a rush," said Lemron.



PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

Business major Melissa Poinelli, freshman, standing in the residential quad.



PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

English major Carlos Lemron, freshman, standing in the residential quad.

## BLM banner is hung on side of library

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

As a social justice university, it is meant to promote activism, but some students said they are skeptical because the Black Lives Matter banner located on the side of Buley Library is not enough promotion.

Southern has an array of multicultural students and many of them say they feel anxious today with the desensitization they experience while watching death happen within their online social community.

"This deserves more than just a banner," Public Health major Sundus Aden said. "Countless Black people are dying, and I just helplessly watch it online and police aren't being held accountable."

The Black Lives Matter movement was founded in 2013 with a mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes, according to the Black Lives Matter website.

"I don't know what we can do to show solidarity, but the banner is a small start. At least they are publicly acknowledging the movement," said Aden.

Aden is not the only student who thinks the banner is not enough activism.

Exercise Science major, Dina Moore said "Black Lives Matter" is more than just a statement, it is a revolution."

While some may walk past Buley Library

unphased by the BLM banner, for Moore, it is a sign of acknowledgment and unity.

Although she is not a Black student, she agrees that the banner is a nice start and hopes there is more to come.

"Maybe more Banners or a public conversation could help promote," said Moore.

A few students felt the banner itself was enough activism, such as Psychology major, Samantha Rivera.

"It's a big banner with an even bigger message," said Rivera.

She said she felt the banner is a symbol that we are an active social justice institution.

English major, Kayleigh Roy shared the same opinion.

"When I saw it, I initially thought it was a great thing," said Roy. "I think it shows that the university is on the right side of justice and will be accommodating to those who experience racial bias."

The university's Social Justice page also explains the past regulations it has made.

"We are committed to identifying and addressing systemic barriers to equity, access, and success for all members of our community," the page reads. "We are also committed to constructive dialogues where we treat one another with dignity, respect, kindness, compassion, and civility as we share varying perspectives, with the goal of creating an inclusive culture."

While the university's claim is equality, one

student feels that is not always the case.

Although Public Health major, Kendall Manderville has worn many hats on campus, he said he was still subjectable to un-kindness due to his culture.

"I am a Black boy from the inner-city, I speak different, my experience is different," he said.

He said a job he worked at on-campus made him feel a sense of unbelonging. While working, he would often be called out for the "way" he would do certain tasks, he was diigent with his work and never received complaints from his boss.

The judgement towards him came from another student. "All my co-workers were white." Manderville was left feeling underappreciated and judged.

"No one wants to feel they don't belong," Manderville said. "You stay somewhere you don't want to be no matter how uncomfortable it is because you need the money, but the goal is bigger."

For Manderville, the money came second to Black evolution. To him "more important than money is to keep the door open so those who look like me can walk in."

Manderville said the university focuses heavily on other social injustices but is lacking on the BLM movement.

Sexual Harassment is taken very seriously and students are obligated to sign a contract., seek help and contact the services offered on campus.

Gender equality is also



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Large BLM poster hanging outside behind of Buley Library to enhance awareness.

highly ranked on campus with accommodating dorms and bathrooms throughout campus.

"While Blacks only get a banner," Manderville said. "Promote more and keep

the exposure high because many are not exposed to BLM where they live," said Manderville.

"Many people, even Blacks, are not having discussions of racial

equality at home."

Although the Black lives matter movement was started in 2013, what it represents has always remained present and relevant.

## ProCon event adapts to new safety measures

By Sarah Shelton  
Contributor

While clubs face challenges planning events with COVID-19 restrictions, Procon continues its events with safety as a provision.

"It's harder to make events with the social distancing guidelines that

are in place," daytime programmer Sarah Cooney said. "We also realize that not as many students are on campus now."

Daytime programmer, Ariana Taylor, a sophomore, said that one of the main factors clubs rely on was students already being around where their events are held

and deciding to be a part of it.

"People don't necessarily want to come all the way back to campus for an event and now there are less people living on campus," Taylor said.

"So even if we're out in the Academic Quad during a time where there would normally be a lot of classes,

there's a lot less traffic."

Both Cooney and Taylor said that many of the events they plan involve free food, but it is now difficult to do that because of the restrictions that need to be followed and not as many students being present.

"Usually when we have an event our big thing will

be, 'come and get some free food', but now when we're looking for a vendor, we can't just have one come in and bring a big tray of mac and cheese or whatever food, because then people would have to get it themselves," Taylor said.

One of the free food events ProCon hosts is the Peanut Butter and Jelly Event, which allows students to make sandwiches, but because of the COVID-19 safety guidelines, ProCon needed to change how they run the event.

Taylor said they usually have bags of bread out and different spreads on a table for students to make their own sandwiches; however, now that all food needs to be prepackaged with new COVID-19 rules, so they handed out Uncrustables which are premade peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

"We do PB&J every Thursday, and usually we'll have a line formed, and it runs out pretty fast, but now it's just very slow because of the lack of students around," Cooney said.

Psychology major, Jacob Adorno, a sophomore, is one of the many students who used to go to ProCon's events before COVID-19, but now that his classes are online, he does not attend any on-campus events.

Taylor said they are trying to do digital events for students who are not on campus, but this is new for ProCon.

"I attended some digital events, but they were exclusive to club meetings and peer mentoring," Adorno said. "The other digital events didn't appeal to me and I haven't even touched campus since moving online."

"We have good events, on campus and virtual, but both of these experiences are different because of these guidelines," Cooney said.

Connecticut's Covid-19 website said the current rules for gatherings are 25 people for indoor gatherings and 100 people for outdoor gatherings.

Cooney said because of these rules, they are trying to do all their events virtual or outside, so that somebody does not have to keep track of who comes in and out of the room and it will reduce contact.

Taylor said she hopes that ProCon can still benefit students, even with the changes that had to be made.

"We're trying to do the same sort of things," Taylor said.

"Just changing it enough to where it's still safe, so that we don't have to completely give up what we used to do."



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Ariana Taylor, sophomore, and social work major Sarah Cooney, junior, working the PB&J event.

## New gallery features abstract works of art

By **Donovan Wilson**  
Reporter

The Buley Library art Gallery's current show, "Paintings, Prints And Sculptures From The Permanent Collection," aims to display contemporary pieces from the universities art collection.

The theme of the current exhibit to reflect the university's art collection's more contemporary

pieces. All of these pieces come from as early as the 1960s and as late as early 2000. Most of the pieces reflect a theme of abstraction, whether it be a painting or as a sculpture.

This exhibit is showcased now until Oct. 25. It is available on the bottom floor of the Buley Library from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

"The goal of these exhibits are to teach something to the different

groups of Southern," said Cort Sierpinski, current gallery director.

This exhibit's lesson is normalizing the idea of abstraction and helping art students to better understand the concept. One of the previous exhibit was of African art and it's goal is to teach students what art looks like from many different cultures.

An annual feature of the art exhibit that was due to COVID-19 was the showcasing of senior

studio art students' work.

With most studio art students needing access to supplies to finish their work, COVID-19 was very difficult to adapt to.

Sierpinski said the hope this year would be to display next semester shortly before the graduating senior studio art students have their pieces on display, assuming the semester goes as planned.

The selections from the "Paintings, Prints

And Sculptures" exhibit were picked from the aforementioned permanent collections of art that the university owns.

This collection consists of about one thousand pieces that were either purchased or donated by former faculty, sculptor Erwin Hauser, and Annie Albers, according to an email sent out to students announcing the gallery.

This collection ranges from contemporary pieces

like the ones on display, to pieces of all different ethnic backgrounds from different time periods.

"It's really interesting to see how integrated with art our campus is and how many different types of pieces we have access to as students," said business marketing major, Michael Formica, a junior.

Sierpinski also included that one of the exhibits coming soon is a display of "engravings from as early as the 1500s."

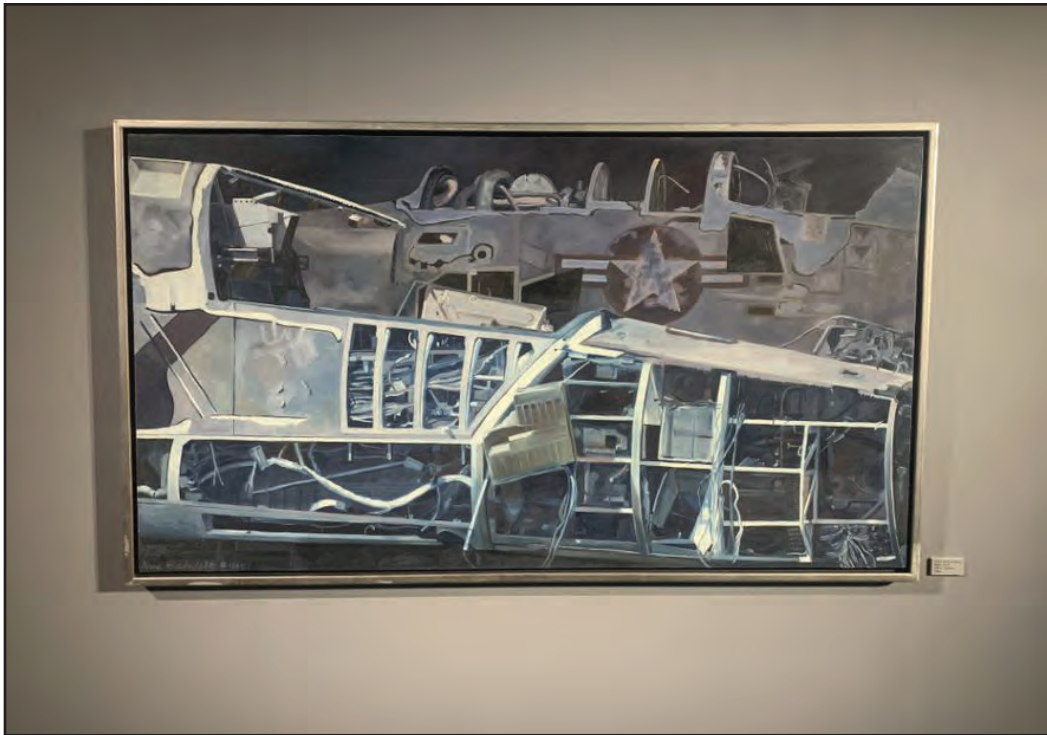


PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

Anna Held Audette, Plane Parts, 1984, currently being showcased at Buley.



PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

The Buley art library, which is open to students on-campus to view until Oct. 25.

## Students virtually pick spring musical

By **Donovan Wilson**  
Reporter

The theater program hosted an event to pick out the musical next semester, to encourage students to have their voices heard.

"Last year we started these conversations with getting students involved in selecting the musical," said Michael Skinner, Chairperson of the theater department.

Usually the theater department puts out a student ballot for those interested in the upcoming musical. However, last year they decided to start having larger conversations to better hear students' voices.

A lot of the conversation going into this year revolves around how COVID-19 has changed the world. There is talk going into what would be feasible nowadays or what's even possible; such as virtual performances, and live performances with social distancing.

For instance, "Footloose" was originally selected for this year, but because of all the hands on interactions between cast it was deemed impossible in the COVID-19 landscape. one of the musicals being thrown around is "Songs For A New World" due to its themes and smaller cast.

"If the students were behind it, I was behind it" said Larry Nye, an associate professor in the theater department.

The process involves students throwing in any title they wish to do but there are many factors

that then go into selecting which musical actually gets selected. Budget plays a big role which is normally adaptable.

The licensing budget, is usually less adaptable. The budget usually falls between three and \$4,000 and some more popular musicals will cost around \$20,000 for licensing.

An element that also plays into licensing is how close the university is to New York City due to a rule of being 100 miles away. Licensing rules could also effect when to begin advertising a musical and that plays a role in choosing the musical.

"We try very hard to keep acting equitable," said Jill Brunelle, an adjunct faculty member in the theater department.

A part of the process is also casting in all facets, not just performing. It comes down to who's available for singing, instrumentation, design and how that fits into the budget.

The budget typically sits somewhere between 25 and \$28,000 as a grand total at the end.

However, besides all the restrictions, the meeting had involved students desperately throwing out different ideas.

Some of the titles that were being thrown around included "Shrek," "Hello Dolly" and "Anastasia" which was released back in 2016. they love to do that is to constantly gain ideas from students who are in tune with the ever changing field of musical theater.

By **Donvan Wilson**  
Reporter

"WE ARE CHAOS" seems like a fitting title for an album about 2020, and essentially what Marilyn Manson has done with his new album.

Many of the A-list artists, such as Taylor Swift, are embracing a feeling of hope for what's to come, but Manson has provided a setlist of pessimistic anthems for those who know it is going to get worse before it gets better.

"RED BLACK AND BLUE" starts the album off with what appears like Manson giving the speech that begins the apocalypse. The song unapologetically attacks United States of America for its treatment of its citizens, including Manson himself. It sets the tone for a dark album that foreshadows a dystopian future.

Manson is known for rock music with a dark twist so it was a surprise when a folk rock song was the title track and lead single, "WE ARE CHAOS." This is Manson's version of hope; we are all indefinitely screwed and going nowhere fast, but let's drink to the apocalypse while we watch the world burn.

"Don't chase the dead or they'll end up chasing you," wails Manson on the aptly titled "DON'T CHASE THE DEAD." It's his way of saying if you constantly worry about the day you're going to die, it will creep up on you before you are ready for it.

"PAINT YOU WITH MY LOVE" is an echoey, country-tinged power ballad of sorts that feels

right at home in this mixed bag of pre-apocalyptic prayers. Manson seems to be taking form as the grim reaper talking to the same person he scolded in the previous song, inviting them to the underworld rather than repulsing them unlike in the previous song. Through this new voices eyes death seems to be a privilege rather than an obligation like it is through the voice of the previous song.

"I need a raincoat for tomorrow, it's about how much people cry when you die, it's not about the storm of tears that you make when you're alive," proclaims Manson on "HALF-WAY & ONE STEP FORWARD." The song paints images of the exact thoughts racing through someone's mind at full speed as they plunge headfirst into darkness.

The way Manson describes death on this album is very romanticized and inviting in a way. It feels as if he really is a reaper, enticing the listener to dive into his realm.

"PERFUME" is a conceptually interesting song as it jumps all over the place thematically and ties it all together with two seemingly unrelated things; Fashion and Satan. Society's unrelenting obsession with how we look is illustrated perfectly here. The relationship between narcissism and social belligerence is no mere coincidence in this ideology, it is a direct correlation.

"KEEP MY HEAD TOGETHER" dives further into what we are doing to plunge society into the

forementioned infinite darkness. This time, however, Manson explores topics of how we think we have ownership over everybody and everything and try to change their ways of life while unknowingly letting ours deteriorate. It pays out like an eerie warning to the U.S. to stay out of foreign affairs that don't affect the U.S. and worry about our own dying country.

"I'm not special, I'm just broken and I don't wanna be fixed," solemnly sings Manson on "SOLVE COAGULA." It feels as if we have switched to a new character, maybe us, the audience Manson has been warning this whole time. We, the audience, finally listen to Manson and realize while also neglecting the

fact that we could fix what's around us rather than focusing on ourselves.

"BROKEN NEEDLE" closes off the album with a slow, acoustic ballad telling the listener that this nightmarish hellscape was merely a dream - a look into just how bad it can be if we stay as dangerously complacent as we are currently.

"I'll never ever play you again," yells Manson as the album roars to a close, seemingly bargaining with a higher power.

A constant battering of hope has been pulsating through 2020's musical landscape, but Manson replaces that by realizing hopelessness. He begs us to acknowledge our pain and listen to Manson and realize before we lift ourselves out of it.

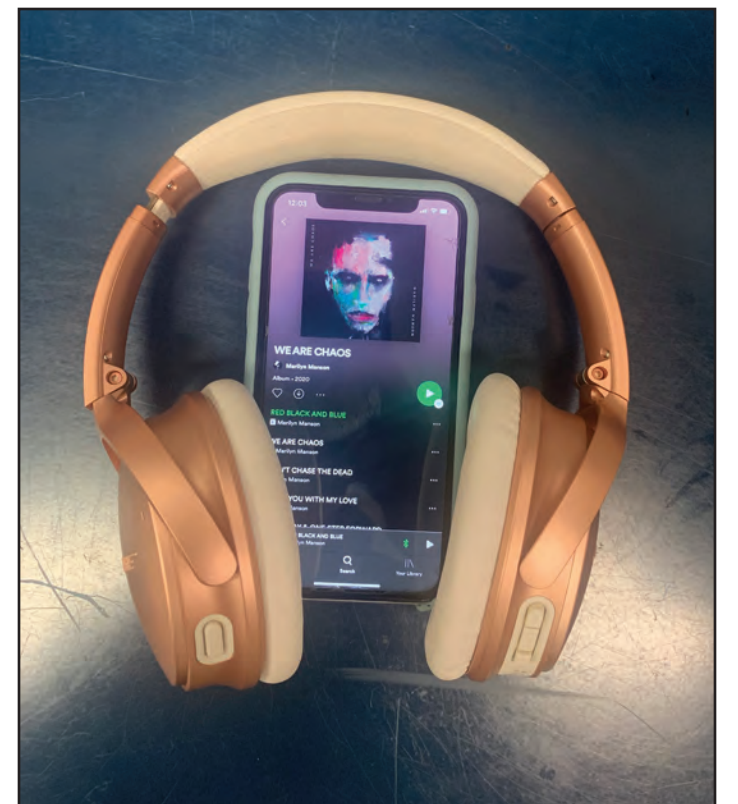


PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

Cover of Marilyn Manson's newest album "WE ARE CHAOS."