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# SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

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## Spring break canceled Winter break extended to limit travel

**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
Editor-in-Chief  
**By Donovan Wilson**  
Reporter

On Sept. 20, an email was sent out to students and staff that spring break would be cancelled to limit student travel and prevent further COVID-19 outbreaks.

President Joe Bertolino said in the email that the university had received notification from CSCU President Mark Ojakian regarding the status of the spring semester for the four Connecticut State Universities.

"In the interests of maintaining the continued health and safety of students, faculty and staff, the decision has been made to begin the semester on January 26, 2021 – a week later than previously scheduled – and conclude on May 31, as per the current academic calendar," the email said. "This will

mean that winter break is extended by one week and spring break (March 15-21) will be eliminated."

The change came as the university had to balance the guidelines given by the Department of Public Health, while still maintaining the necessary amount of instructional days for the semester.

When the university shut down in March, it closed prior to spring break, however, some people still chose to travel. Now, with the cancellation of spring break in 2021, according to the email, it will be a "proactive measure to limit student travel."

This decision also came after the four CSU's had also decided to shift online after Thanksgiving and not have students return for the end of the semester.

Psychology major Matthew McLaughlin, a junior, said the additional week added to winter break will have a positive side.

"It's nice to have an

extra week to spend with our families around the holidays," McLaughlin said.

Business major Julian Ferrante, a sophomore, said the decision to cancel spring break felt extreme.

"It feels like it's being over-exaggerated," he said. "Connecticut is one of the best states right now in terms of numbers."

Communications disorders major Zoe Lenston, a freshman, said she was excited for her first spring break in college, but it will also be nice to have some extra time at home during the winter.

However, even though students won't be traveling in the spring, she said they likely will in the winter.

"They're keeping us home so some people can travel during January too," she said.

Health science major, Mary Maroney, a freshman, thinks cancelling spring break was a good call.

"It will limit travel and stuff but at the same time

people still travel for winter break, like going to Florida where it is a hot spot," said Maroney. "So I feel like either way it's not really going to change much."

She said not having a break in the middle of the spring semester will also be an adjustment.

"It'll push people to work harder, but start giving up because they'll want that break that they don't get," she said.

Bertolino thanked students and staff for their commitment to preserving the health and safety on the campus and said the university has a plan in place if a full shift to online learning is necessary.

"As always, we must be prepared to pivot as needed, dependent on the trajectory of the virus and related issues," Bertolino said in the email, "But for long-term planning purposes, it was important to inform everyone about the status of the semester as soon as possible."

## Dorms adapt to COVID-19 policy

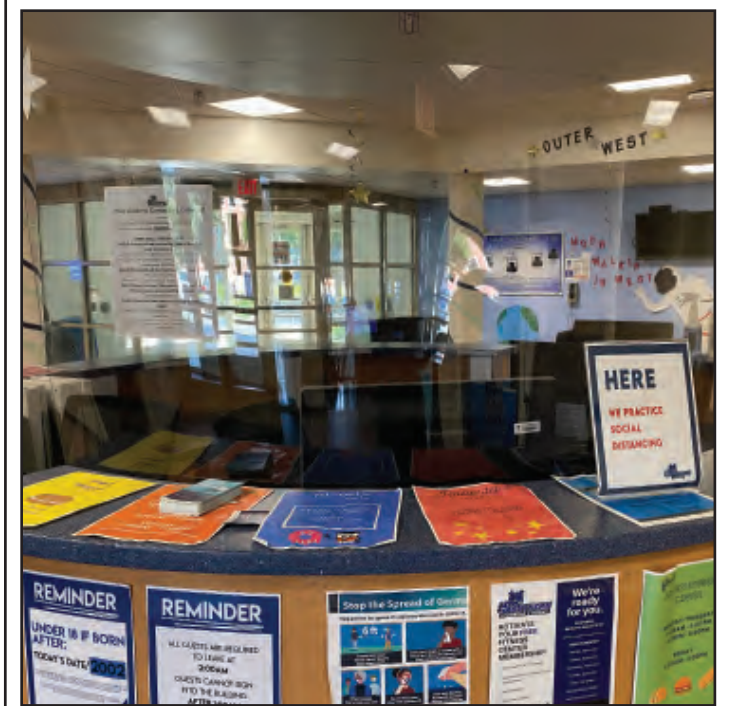


PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

**Plexiglas and social distancing signs in West Campus Residence Hall.**

**By Abby Epstein**  
News Editor

Plexiglas, less people, and more cleaning are what can be found throughout the residence halls this semester.

"We have done a lot [of changes], both through policy and physical changes in the residential halls," said Director of Residence Life Robert DeMezzo. "We have reduced the number of people who can live on campus by about 500 people."

Many changes are noticeable with Plexiglas in front of the RA desks, signs signaling where to stand in the elevators and blocked off furniture. While others happen more behind the scenes such as extra cleaning in the communal bathrooms.

"We have increased bathroom cleaning to morning and afternoon and have added electrostatic disinfecting cleaner, which is a mechanical device that does disinfectant in the bathrooms," said DeMezzo.

Residence Life was asked to save between five and 10 percent of rooms for quarantining, which the townhouses are being used for.

"The townhouses were identified for quarantine space because of their external entrances and limited interaction with the community. The townhouses were identified early in the summer and were not offered during room selection," said residence life coordinator and hall director of North Campus Midrise Nora Anderson.

Students have noticed the changes made throughout dorms and some have said it has made meeting new people harder with less activities happening within the halls.

"That is definitely one of our biggest challenges on how to get students connected and engaged, how to get students to

meet each other definitely our new students, who are new to living in our community," said DeMezzo.

Residence Life has come up with a mixture of virtual and in-person programs. Students have been able to meet people through attending some of these events.

"Residence Life has already scheduled about 100 events, which is a lot. We have 100 events on the calendar, and we'll double that before the end of the semester," said DeMezzo.

RA's are also trying to find ways to connect the residents on their floor with each other.

"My RA has created a group chat for our whole floor and so that's a fun way to meet new people I didn't even know were on my floor," said health science major Julia Braun, a freshman. "She is also always trying to find ways for all of us to meet together in the safest ways possible."

Many RAs are creating virtual meetings for educational purposes or for residents to meet other residents. Residence halls that are equipped with common areas can allow people to congregate at a safe distance.

"Our RA's encourage it, we can go into the common rooms and socially distance and still have conversations with people," said biochemistry major Christina Donaldson, a freshman.

At the end of the semester, all students living in the residential halls are required to move out of the halls and take all their belongings with them.

"It's for cleaning and precautionary, because if there is a reason student couldn't return, we don't want students belongings left here," said DeMezzo, "but it's also so we can do deeper cleaning of the residence halls. We will clean every space and disinfect everywhere, and we can't do that with belongings in there."

## New police dog completes training

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

Known to be a "superstar" on campus, this four-legged police force member has completed his training and is officially a member of the Southern Police.

"From a community standpoint, Brody on this campus working with Officer [Paul] Glynn as part of patrol duties has just been a big hit," said Police Chief Joseph Dooley.

Brody, a yellow lab, is primarily trained to detect bombs and explosives. While Dooley said he does

not expect there to be much of that on campus, he said his scent-oriented training is still helpful.

If a threat does arise that calls for Brody's special skill set, Dooley said they are ready.

In February, Brody began his training. Dooley said he walked him around Engleman with Deputy Chief Kenneth Rahn.

"Everybody stopped," said Dooley. "Everybody loves Brody. Pets make people feel good so from my perspective, Brody's been called a superstar."

As students returned to school this fall, Brody was also used to help promote

mask use by showing the incorrect and correct ways to properly wear a mask.

With everything going on right now on campus, Dooley said he is happy that Brody can bring a smile to students' faces and help them forget other worries especially while students adapt to new policies.

Exercise science major Tediessa Whyte, junior, said it is a good idea to have Brody on campus.

"They can sniff around and find stuff that is not supposed to be on campus," she said.

Whyte also said a dog on campus can bring a sense

of community.

"The dog is like therapeutic, so it's a nice to have a dog around too," she said.

Brody's day-to-day includes the day shift with Officer Glynn going from call-to-call, the rear door of the police car he rides around in, is inscribed with "BRODY".

If Brody is not needed on a call, Dooley said he stays in the locked, air-conditioned car. If something happens, there is an alarm in the car to notify him that his protection is needed.

**See Brody Page 2**



PHOTO COURTESY | ISABEL CHENOWETH

**Brody, the police dog, lays down in front of the police department building.**



## Consequences for partying to be enforced this semester

By Jessica Guerrucci  
Editor-in-Chief

Partying is ingrained with college culture, but now with COVID-19 limiting gathering sizes, parties have become more widely discouraged.

"My hope is that the message is getting out there," said Joseph Dooley, Southern's police chief, "Someone might test the system, but the system is in place."

As of Sept. 15, there have only been 12 positive cases of COVID-19 on campus, and while Dooley said parties may still happen, students have been generally accepting of the new guidelines.

The policy, as stated on the Reopening 2020 website, said "If an on-campus residential student hosts a gathering in violation of state/university social distancing protocols, the student will be immediately interim suspended and referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary resolution."

Additionally, any student, student organization, athletic or club sport team hosting a large off-campus gathering will be subject to both law enforcement action and an immediate interim suspension.

As for parties on-campus that occurred on campus,

Dooley said they have not had to break any up yet, however they were notified of one that took place at North Campus Midrise.

"That was handled by ResLife and Student Conduct and the host of that is certainly facing some consequences," said Dooley.

He said a meeting was also held for all those who attended the party to reiterate how important it is not to gather in large groups with COVID-19.

From what he has observed, Dooley said everyone seems to be doing a good job following COVID-19 guidelines.

For off-campus parties, Dooley said the city of New Haven is greatly concerned about it, so they did a walk around the neighborhoods where they knocked-on doors of known locations and spoke to the occupants.

"It was to reiterate that New Haven will take enforcement action," said Dooley. "The landlords have been notified, so I think it's the right thing to do, it's the safe thing to do."

Music major Jazaun Charles, a freshman, said he believes students will still party because they can be ignorant.

"I feel like they don't really fear the virus so I guess that's why they'll still have parties - but they shouldn't," he said.

While Charles said it

can be viewed as selfish to continue to party, he also cannot blame them because it is not their fault the virus is here.

Exploratory major Jonathan Willams, a sophomore said he "100 percent" thinks students will still party.

"It's what college kids do," he said. "They just like having fun and this whole 'fourth phase' or whatever, people are starting to care less."

Healthcare studies major Mary Seward, a sophomore, said she thinks students party, but they are more "low key" about it.

"My brother actually goes to a different college and the college that's next to him had a big party and COVID-19 broke out, like 400 people got it and it came back to his college," she said.

Seward said she will not party, but she understands how it is a part of college culture.

While police are aware of other parties going on. Dooley said he does not want to end up like other colleges where students need to be sent home.

"It's so important to emphasize that we are not doing this," he said.

"We've had a good look throughout the nation at the some of the schools that had summer classes and students were not taking it seriously."

## SGA holds virtual meeting

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

At a Student Government Association body meeting held on Friday, September 18 at 1p.m. via Webex, SGA Representatives spoke about the upcoming elections and new ways to overall make students on campus feel seen and heard.

The President, Sara Gossman and host of the meeting, began with speaking about representatives required office hours being moved online to a virtual meeting space instead of meeting in room 218 in the Student Center.

This transition to online came after the new resolution to start limiting the number of students in one place.

One thing that has not changed is the election process for new board members.

The first information session will be held virtually, on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 11 a.m.

All attendees can RSVP to reserve a spot on the Student Government's Owl Connect webpage.

Those in attendance will learn about student

government, class government, and the election process.

There is a process each candidate will have to successfully go through to achieve a potential position on the board. The first is to complete the election packet that can be found on OwlConnect

Sept. 28 the packet is due. And there will be a meeting of the ins and outs of campaigning around campus, both physically and virtually.

There will be no more campaigning after Oct. 9 because the voting process will conclude.

The actual date for students to place in ballots will be Oct 6 through 9.

Results of the new Student Government Board will be released on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

"Everyone is welcome," said Gossman.

Board member Lupita Barajas spoke on her weekly work in the "academic experience" sector of SGA.

She said they are working to investigate the pricing of books at Southern compared to other universities in the state to see how they compare.

Barajas is also working to get classes offered on

campus for students in the spring such as more science and language courses.

While speaking about other classes Gossman said she was trying to get a new language requirement passed.

Gossman is pushing for there to be a two-course requirement instead of a three-course requirement that is already embedded in every student's graduation demands.

Not only do the students at the meeting agree, but also brought up the fact that in high school, students are encouraged to take three years of a language with the anticipation of not having to take a language course in college at all.

Brandon Iovene, a board member, is also working towards student betterment on campus.

"There is room for improvement in our body when it comes to advocating for people of color and minority voices," said Iovene.

He said he is also trying to seek information from students on their adaptations to campus during COVID-19 and that he wants to hear students' problems no matter how small or big.

## Maker Space allows access to technology

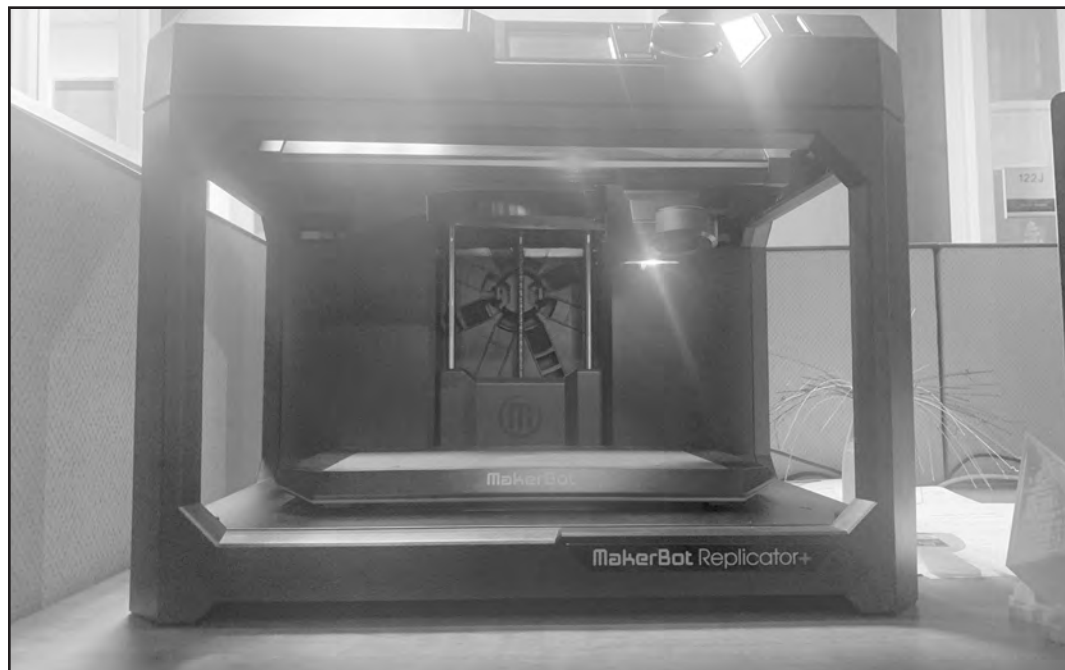


PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

A 3-D printer located in an office wing on the first floor of Buley Library.

By Abby Epstein  
News Editor

Ranging from 3D printer use, to checking out a GoPro, a range of technological amenities are available in the maker space in Buley Library.

The Maker Space is a part of the digital scholarship center. It was created to give students a place to collaborate, learn and experiment with new emerging technology.

"We've got tables with TVs, so if people want to work on stuff collaboratively, they can plug their computers into the TV, or they can check out our equipment and use that at the tables," said Parker Fruehan, coordinator of the maker space. "It's designed to be a collaborative space where people can work on projects together."

Schools across the nation have implemented maker spaces for students.

"The Maker Space has existed in some ways since about 2016, one of the first things we got was a 3D printer so people could print out things for class work or personal use," said Fruehan.

Along with a 3D printer, the Digital Scholarship Center website mentions that the maker space offers 3D scanners, audio-visual devices, button making, electronics, Legos and robotics for any student to experiment with.

"We have a few different Lego education sets for K-12 students or for people that are training to become teachers. They can check out these kits and take them to classrooms," said Fruehan.

Some students did not know the library had a maker space but believe it can be beneficial to students.

"We get people varied week to week, some weeks we'd get a handful other weeks we wouldn't get many people because there is a lack of knowledge about this space and what we are trying to do here," said communications major Leo Palumberi, a junior.

Accounting major Lillie Olsen, a junior transfer student, said she was not aware of the space but came from a school where there were multiple maker spaces.

"I think that having a Maker Space on campus is

a great idea," said Olsen, "I know that having access to this space really helped just with all of the things that were available to use. Even though it may be costly, I believe that it is a great investment for students in the long run."

Out of all the items found in the Maker Space, Fruehan said the main one used is the 3D printing. It takes several hours to print something, so students send in the file they want printed and Fruehan or Palumberi will print it out for them.

"Right now, the service is free. We don't charge students for any of it. We may decide to charge later if the material fees get to be too much," said Fruehan.

The Maker Space is located on the ground level of Buley Library and any student or staff can check out or use any of the equipment located in the maker space.

"It provides a learning opportunity that they may not get in any sort of class," said Fruehan, "if a student wants to experiment with some sort of new emerging technology, the maker space is where you would go to do that."



PHOTO COURTESY | ISABEL CHENOWETH

Officer Paul Glynn and Police Chief Joseph Dooley posing with Brody.

## Brody

Continued from Page 1

"It's quite the program," said Dooley. "I'm excited because it brings a whole new dimension to what we do. We're very community policing oriented and Brody is just interwoven into what we do on a daily basis."

According to Dooley, Rahn was a former dog handler and was very helpful in terms of preparing them for what they will need and supplies for Brody going

forward.

Rahn said he has also had a positive experience with Brody, and he joked saying he wished Dooley gave Brody to him instead.

"Oh, I love Brody," he said. "Brody is great. A lot more energy than I initially expected, but what a good dog."

The training for both the dog and the handler, Dooley said is "critical." He also said the popularity of canine programs in Connecticut is continuing to increase.

The expense of having a canine dog was covered by a grant according to

Dooley and additional costs such as food and vet bills is at a small level in comparison to the benefits that come with having a police dog on the force.

While Brody has a special skill set and additional training, at the end of the day, Dooley said he still behaves like a normal dog.

"Every now and then, Brody will come into my office and go through my trash can. There was a time I left the door open and I found a few things on the floor, so he's a dog," said Dooley. "He brings a smile to everybody's face."



PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

SGA meeting shown on a Mac at their meeting on Friday, Sept. 18.



## Safety policies on campus are keeping cases down



By Sam Tapper  
Managing Editor

These are the opinions  
of The Southern News  
Editorial Staff

Four weeks of this new-look semester are in the books, and despite the world around us, everything seems to be running in a best-case scenario. So far, that is.

Everything could change in an instant, as many of us learned last semester, but with only two positive test results for COVID-19 among residential students so far and only 15 commuter self-reported positives, all according to the universities COVID-19 Dashboard. Campus for

the most part feels safe right now.

As a senior, I must say that all the new parameters installed for this semester to happen does not necessarily make me happy - I would do near anything to have a "normal" final year of college. With that being said, the lengths the university has gone, to ensure that students could return to campus and be safe while on-campus should not be overlooked. It should be, at the very

least, appreciated.

Yes, some of it may seem asinine, such as the blue dots on the floors of classrooms or the one-way doors into buildings, but it also shows the effort that was and remains being put forth, by the university.

These efforts must be respected because look what can happen when these precautions are not taken as seriously.

The University of Alabama just had over 1,000 positive cases in just its first week of

classes. The University of Connecticut and University of North Carolina, as well as many other colleges and universities, have had occurrences of outbreaks and Western Connecticut State University had to call it off, before the fall semester even started.

At this point, we must all accept that this is the new normal - what we knew as the college lifestyle before, is now a thing of the past.

Now, it is all about being able to just stay on-campus, and so far, we are

in a safe position to do so.

We cannot be complacent with where things stand now. Again, things could go south practically in an instant.

As a campus community, rather than sit back and let our guard down because of our low number of cases.

It is time to continue to take pride in the fact that we are able to be on campus.

For as long as we do that, campus could possibly remain till Thanksgiving as safe from COVID-19.

## Recent incidents test students' awareness

By John Carluccio  
Copy Editor

The beginning of the school year has included the severe weather that moved through the area as well as a shooting that occurred close to campus and had students asked to stay put.

No one from Southern was injured in either circumstance, however, it raises certain questions regarding student safety. I, for one, was not aware of either incident until the tornado was dumping heavy rain and the shooting had happened hours earlier.

It seems imperative that we as occupiers of campus, and for some residents of campus, remain fully aware of what is going on around us. While neither the shooting nor the tornado prompted much fear, the chaos was more in the confusion that followed.

Students who were on campus at the time were asked to stay put, and sometimes will ignore these messages if they feel the threat is not real or serious.

This can be dangerous when it comes to students going about their daily routine when there is an emergency that is

occurring, especially if emergency vehicles are needed.

When or if a real emergency occurs on campus, it makes me question how students will react or their willingness to follow instructions.

The Southern Alert System informs students by sending them a text, an email, or even calling their phone directly, but some have not signed up for the notifications and could most likely miss the emails and if they're not signed up at all, how will they know what is going on?

The text can include suspicious sightings, storm warnings and

nearby shelters people can go to and more.

While many who were on campus stayed inside regarding the tornado, the shooting left me wondering if the danger could easily come to campus in the future.

Other students and myself may even be unsure of what the procedure would be if that were to happen.

We need to be more aware of not only our immediate surroundings but also the city and state we live in. For instance, knowing that severe thunderstorms that may produce a tornado most notably occur in August

and September can be beneficial. It may sound like an overreaction but until the situation is happening you can never be too prepared.

As the rain began to batter the New Haven area, many students were able to take refuge on campus. The building themselves became a safe place and remained a safe place until the danger had passed.

Alerts were being sent out in real time, but primarily by email. This delay can cause confusing because sometimes the best thing to do is to remain where you are.

The more we prepare as

a campus community, the better we will be able to handle future events that can occur.

I still think overall, students felt safer on campus for both events. They are around other people, and other resources that might not be available for miles.

These are a lot of "what-if" situations, but I know there is plenty of work done to ensure student safety.

Going forward, I hope that especially during these times we are learning the importance of staying informed and having a sense that we can rely on one another.

## Student-athletes adjust to new training policies

By Abby Epstein  
News Editor

Anticipating, stressing, doubting, is how my summer went while waiting for the decision if colleges would be having fall sports. Then the text came from Coach Lisa Barbaro saying that fall sports have been postponed until the spring.

During summer and into the school year, there were still so many unknowns with how athletes would be able to train during the fall without a competitive season.

After multiple meetings with Coach Barbaro and members of the athletic staff, we finally had the

answers we needed.

We have met with Lisa Dupis, the head athletic trainer who went over the new rules on the training room. We also met with Matthew Letkowski for our annual meeting about the rules and regulations of being a student athlete and what this fall will look like, plus how volleyball will be operating in the spring.

Southern and the NE10 have done a great job on exhausting all possibilities in order to give athletes the chance to play. The final verdict became allowing athletes to practice during the fall, but with precautions and having to go through phases.

The first phase of practice required athletes to wear masks unless they were 12 feet or more apart. We also have to stay in "bubbles" which is ten people in total including a coach, but no equipment can be used.

The second part of phase one allows teams to use equipment, but we players must still stay within our bubbles.

Phase three allows for groups of 25 to 30, which means for volleyball, we will be able to have full team practices. Teams are also allowed to start lifting in the weight room, located in Moore Field House.

Athletes will be required to wear their masks the

entire time while lifting weights, and unlike last year, multiple teams cannot be in the weight room at the same time.

The other precautions that are being taken are 25 percent of athletes each week will be tested for COVID-19. We must complete the symptom tracker by 11 a.m. each day, and our temperatures must be taken before we enter the gym.

This situation has also taken a toll mentally with all the unknowns that are still in the air. Things are changing constantly and there are always unanswered questions. The athletic department has kept the athletes well informed by sending

emails when needed.

One question that cannot be answered is what the spring season will look like or if there will be a spring season. Southern has nineteen sports which will now all be in season at the same time. I know I am curious to see how the athletic department has prepared for this.

The other part that is testing our mental strength are the phases and while we are able to get back into the gym, I am ready to put the volleyball nets up and have practices as a full team together so we can scrimmage.

There is a lot to get adjusted to, and one is not being able to show

up at the training room whenever was convenient for the athletes.

We are now required to make an appointment, which can be frustrating because if we need to get something looked at before practice but do not have an appointment, we cannot.

At practice there is a trainer in case someone gets injured so they can receive immediate care.

This is far from how I planned my senior season of volleyball to go but the biggest thing, for not just me, but all athletes is to make the best of the situation. To use these three months of training to improve their game and be ready for the spring.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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## 'Paintings, Prints and Sculptures' at Buley Library

**By Roma Rositani**  
Photo Editor

The Buley Art Gallery, located in the basement of the library is showcasing art work ranging from paintings to prints and sculptures.

Since the class of 2020's fine arts students were not able to showcase their own work due to COVID-19, the

library decided to showcase art work that the university personally owns.

All of these art pieces have different styles, and the years that each piece were created range anywhere from the 1960's to the 2000's.

All of these pieces of art have been up since Sept. 2 and will continue to be up for viewing until Oct. 15.



A projection welcoming students and staff to Buley Library Art Gallery.



Terry Haan 'Docks' screen print in Buley Library.



Elizabeth Mamorsky's 'Ascending Blue' acrylic on canvas, 1966.



John Matt's 'Fidelis' aluminum sculpture.



John Matt's 'Sky Tiller 2' aluminum.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN



Erwin Hauer's 'Cruciform' cast resin sculpture in the Buley Library art exhibition.



Nicholas Orsini 'Underwater Scene' acrylic on canvas.



Peterdi Gabor's 'Booming Ice' screen print.



Howard Fussiner's 'Mont Sainte Victoire 1' oil on canvas, 1991.

PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI



## Athletes come together to fight injustice The group works to spread a message of social justice on campus

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

Social justice has been a major topic for the past few months in the United States. It has reached campus, as student athletes have come together to form a group called Athletes Fighting Injustice.

The athletic department hosted a racial justice forum in July for athletes, which is what inspired some to create the AFI.

“All of the athletes thought that they needed to do more. More can come from this, it’s a great start, but there needs to be more opportunities for conversation in regard to racial justice,” said softball pitcher Jazmyn Martinez, a senior. “After the forum ended, an email was sent out inquiring whether or not people would want to get more involved and now here we are.”

The main agenda of the group is to try to bring awareness to the problems that are ongoing in the country and campus. The goal is also to get more people involved in spreading the message

and eventually making a change, according to soccer defender Felicia Laguerre, a sophomore.

AFI came about after the “Owls Stand Together Against Racism” virtual forum on July 7. Athletes then asked about how they could become more involved.

The group included both Martinez and Laguerre but also Madeline Sweeney and Taylor Davis from women’s soccer, Jayden Delaporta from softball, Elijah Ortiz, Jalen Coleman, Jack Brown and Dan Perusina from men’s

track and field, Grace Conselyea and Julia Schaff from field hockey, and Krishnalei So’oto and Niah Mesidor from volleyball.

One advantage AFI has is that they are student athletes and could potentially garner more attention than a normal student would, according to Laguerre.

“I think because we are athletes, I think we should be using that to our advantage because the school’s already not a huge on-campus population, so just being an athlete alone you can get that extra attention

needed to get the message out even more and let it spread,” said Laguerre.

Martinez, who also spoke at the Sept. 17 panel, “From Talk to Activism,” in support of Black Lives Matter and racial justice, said how successful professional athletes have been in bringing more attention to racial injustices using the platforms given to them and that Southern athletes should follow suit.

AFI has been meeting regularly to discuss different ways of spreading their desired message across campus.

They are planning a movie screening for any athlete that would like to attend in the next week or so, signaling the start of AFI hosting events, according to Laguerre.

All events hosted by the group will be focused on bringing awareness to racial and social justice being student-athletes, but also bigger issues that impact society.

Another strategy the group will utilize is putting up infographics depicting their cause and message around the campus to catch students’ attention and potentially

recruit new members.

AFI has also created an account on Instagram under the handle: @scsu\_afi.

Members of AFI made sure to mention that it may have been started by athletes but is open to other students too.

In terms of how long the group will be present on the campus, Martinez hopes it will be continued by other athletes in the future.

“I feel that it will stay around long term and that it should. It shouldn’t just be a one-semester, one-year thing. I feel that this is what is needed for Southern and this is a great way for us to get further involved with the community,” said Martinez.

Not only does the group consist of athletes, coaches have joined the AFI as well, including Assistant Volleyball Coach Marshay Greenlee.

“The athletes have done such a good job at putting all of this together,” said Greenlee, “and they came up with the group’s mission and message on their own and I am very proud of that.”



The Athletes Fighting Injustice logo which shows support for Black Lives Matter.

PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

## Teams return to Field House

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

Campus was effectively shut down in March when COVID-19 was beginning, but one building that has been used in the months since is the James Moore Field House.

At the end of March, after the semester moved online and most of campus laid dormant, the National Guard took control of the Field House and set it up as a recovery station for Yale New Haven Health to serve as an overflow medical station for patients that are recovering from COVID-19.

“I believe it was March 31, the National Guard came in and set up the facility to be a triage center because the numbers had spiked in Connecticut at the time. While it was a triage center, no one was allowed into the building until about mid-July and

that’s when we broke down the facility,” said Jay Turiano, assistant coordinator of Athletic Facilities.

While the National Guard was posted at the Field House, the university had no control over the use of the building. Its intent was to be used as extra patient space for people who were not being treated for COVID-19, but it was never utilized.

At the beginning of the semester, randomized testing was conducted in the Field House, but according to Turiano the location for testing has since moved to the Wintergreen Parking Garage.

Now, the only teams permitted to train inside of the Field House are the men’s and women’s basketball teams. Currently, the volleyball team can practice inside Pelz Gymnasium.

There are other limitations that have been set on the use of the Field House.

“There’s no locker room usage,” said Christopher Lynn, assistant director of Athletics and Head Equipment Manager. “So, none of our teams in phase one are permitted to use the locker rooms. We’re trying to keep everybody within their bubbles and confined within really small groups.”

Not only will there be no locker room use, but the school will not be offering laundry for the athletes. Lynn said the athletes are expected to come dressed in their appropriate training attire and leave the building immediately after their practice is finished.

Once phase two begins on its scheduled start date, Sept. 28, laundry services will return to normal. According to Lynn, the university has not issued

out any of the normal gear. Instead all student athletes received general issue shirts and shorts.

Another aspect of the Field House that athletes can use again when they enter phase two is the strength and conditioning room.

The weight room is an essential part to athletes’ training regiments and its return will be welcomed by all athletic programs.

As for the pool in the field house, the swim team will still continue to have access, but the program will be broken up into groups and multiple sessions will take place.

“The swim team has five different sessions throughout the day where they’re going to be training within their separate bubbles,” Turiano said. “The coaches will adjust and hopefully get them ready for some competition next year.”



Rob Eggerling, the Owls’ new defensive coordinator.

## New coach joins the football team

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

The new academic year has also brought a new defensive coordinator to the football team.

Rob Eggerling was named the new defensive coordinator in August of 2020 and will be returning to the same program he played for during the 1997-2000 seasons.

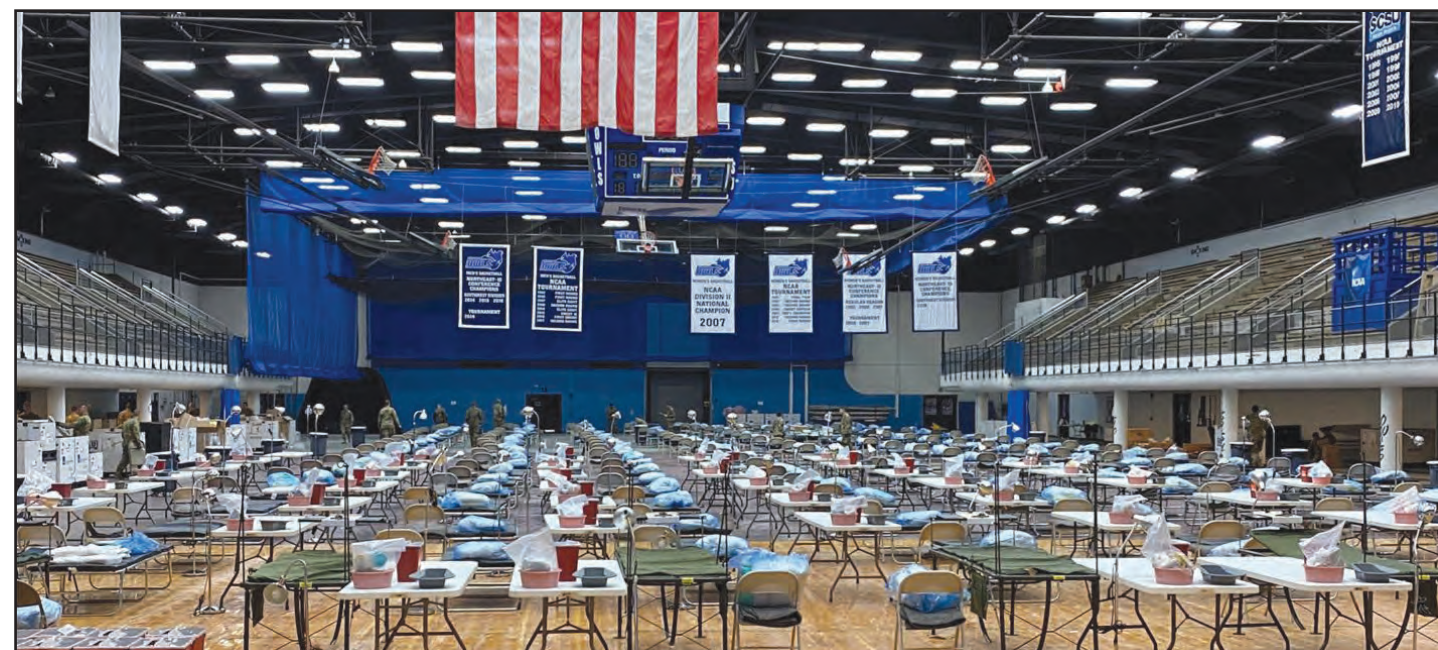
“An opportunity like this doesn’t come along all the time,” said Eggerling. “When this opportunity came across, I definitely was very intrigued and was pretty adamant about trying to get it and wanted to come back here. I’m thankful for it and I won’t take it for granted.”

Eggerling was named a captain in his senior year and earned All-Northeast 10 Conference First Team

Defensive Honors as a punter in 1999. He is the second most in punts (147) and second most in punt yards (5,135) in program history.

Eggerling has been coaching for 19 years, starting his career at St. Lawrence University as a graduate assistant in 2001. He spent seven years at NE10 adversary Saint Anselm College from 2008-2015, acting as the associate head coach and defensive coordinator. He was named 2014 NCAA Division II Assistant Coach of the Year by the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston, according to the Owls’ athletic website.

His prior job before coming to Southern was serving as the safeties coach at Bowdoin College for four years.



The Field House set up as a Recovery Station for Yale New Haven Health in April, set up by the National Guard.

PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

See Coach Page 6



# Konomis works to expand his professional career

By Mike Neville  
Sports Editor

From starting off in the bright lights of New York in Long Island, to growing up in the coastlines of Cyprus, Greece, soccer has always been Pantelis Konomis' passion. Now a junior, he is ready to begin the next chapter of his career as a member of the Owls.

Starting his career at the age of 6 and competing in Greece from 12 to 16, Pantelis eventually found his way back to the states.

"When I came back to New York, I started playing at Nassau Community College and then I came to Southern," he said.

After coming for a visit in order to expand his professional career, Konomis said he was intrigued by the Southern community.

"The coaches were really good with me and the campus was really nice," said Konomis, "I know Southern has a successful history in soccer, that is why I decided to come."

The success that Konomis was referring to is

the Owls men's soccer team bringing a stalwart force in Division II men's soccer for the early parts of the 21st century.

Head Coach Tom Lang said his connection with Nassau coach Dan Fisher is how he heard about Konomis, which led to him to go see Konomis perform in-person.

"I went to see him play at the National Junior College Championships at Nassau Community, his coach at the time recommended him to me," said Lang.

Key characteristics that Lang said stood out to him were the role and impact he had in the game that was almost accidental.

"A player had gotten hurt, so Pantelis had to change his position on the field, when he was playing his position, he had an influence on the game, when he left for another position the game changed," said Lang.

A defender and midfielder, Konomis said that there is a big difference in the culture of soccer in Greece versus the United States.

"In Greece and Europe soccer is the main sport, here there are different sports that are more popular," said Konomis.

Konomis said every kid dreamt of playing soccer professionally, something Konomis is still chasing.

"My goal is to play professionally after college, I hope to have a few good seasons here and hopefully that will catch someone's attention," said Konomis.

Although the season is still up in the air due to COVID-19, Konomis has set the bar high for himself.

"I want to get Southern where it should be; at the top, for everyone on the team to work together and set personal goals to achieve," said Konomis.

Lang gave great praise for Konomis on multiple fronts: from the kind of person he is off the field to his work ethic on the field.

"The physical and technical components that he possesses immediately captured the eye," said Lang.

If the season is to start in the spring, Lang said big things are in store for

Konomis in the two years he will be with the Owls.

"It is still yet to be determined where he will fit in best with us once we get the whole group together in the spring," said Lang. "His strengths lie in the center of the field,

either central midfield or back of team."

With the team mostly made of international athletes who have been quarantined due to COVID-19, Lang said the chances are high for Konomis to make an impact

with the Owls.

"He has had the opportunity to train and put work in over the summer, and peaked at a competitive level," said Lang. "We are easing into it and will build up over the next few weeks."



PHOTO COURTESY | NASSAULIONS.COM

Konomis playing for Nassau Community College before his transfer to Southern.

## Coach

Continued from Page 5

"He's a guy that I've known obviously with the Southern football ties. We've had to coach against him when he was at St. Anselm's and I was an assistant and later on,

a head coach. He always had complicated, diverse schemes that, to an opposing coach, was very complex. And he's just a good man and it's a good hire for our program," said Head Coach Tom Godek.

Eggerling will look to help bolster Southern's defense and improve weaknesses. Southern allowed 25 points per

game to their opponents last year. A total of 1,566 net rushing yards were also gained on Southern's defense for an average of 156.6 rushing yards per game, according to Southern's athletics website.

When it comes to coaching defense, Eggerling said he does not like having the opponent's

offense dictate what they can do on the other side of the ball.

"We're going to run what we want to run, and they will have to adapt to what we do. We're going to be attacking, we're going to be blitzing and we're going to be a multiple coverage team," said Eggerling.

"We're going to do

what we need to do to be successful but we're also going to be very basic and emphasize technique."

On top of being the new defensive coordinator, Eggerling will have to make the transition during COVID-19 pandemic which has created less than ideal training conditions.

"I have reached out

to every student athlete when I was officially hired just to talk to them and try to get to know them a little face to face, and it's been difficult," Eggerling said. "Way more so than when you're the new guy under normal circumstances and you see the players two or three days in a row. You pick all of it up way faster."

## 'Ratched' brings thrill and horror

By Sofia Rositani  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Ratched" is a new series on Netflix that may be thrilling for some but hard to stomach for others. In the first scene of the show the viewers witness a man murder eight priests. In other scenes lobotomy's are shown with a horrifying crunching noise that even seasoned horror fans will shiver at.

"Ratched" is about the character Nurse Ratched from the book and film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" by Ken Kesey. The show was made by Ryan Murphy, who is known for the FX show "American Horror Story" and FOX TV series "Scream Queens."

"You save one life well you are a hero, you save 100 lives, well then, you are a nurse," Nurse Ratched said.

Murphy may not be new to horror, but he is new to creating a show based off of a cult classic. He does a splendid job at keeping true to the original character, but has added his own twist.

While in the books and movie, Ratched is not in

any form gay. Murphy has chosen to explore the reason she has an icy exterior is because of her repressed sexuality from the era she lives in. In the books Kesey never gave Nurse Ratched a first name, but Murphy gives her the name Mildred.

Because the show takes place in 1947, homosexuality was considered a mental illness and one way to treat this was through hydrotherapy, a dangerous treatment where the person would be set into a metal bath that is covered with only their head shown.

They are then put into boiling water. After the subject is put into the bath, they are usually in there for 20 minutes to several days, and are then transferred to an ice bath.

During a scene where a woman is being treated with hydrotherapy, we see Ratched soften and try to help her out of the water without causing her more pain than she already was inflicted with. Later on in the show, Ratched helps two lesbians escape from the hospital. Her reasoning is because she finally

understands why they are gay.

"You said I didn't understand, but I do," Ratched said.

In episode four of the show there is a scene that seems like it's straight out of a movie from the 1940's but in color. From the camera angle, to how all the action happened off screen with their shadows showing, and the music in the background, it played out just like a horror movie from that era.

Sarah Paulson plays Nurse Ratched in this show. Paulson is one of many cast members in "Ratched" who was also in Murphy's other show "American Horror Story."

During the show Paulson does a great job at showing her emotions because in the book "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,"

"The expression on her face was calm and blank as enamel, but the strain was beginning to show in other ways," Kesey said in his book.

This is something Paulson does a very good job of, showing no emotion and showing emotion at the right moment of time. Her

character in this show is very similar to her character in "American Horror Story: Apocalypse" Wilhemina Venable, who, like Ratched, is very stern and scary.

Paulson has done many characters in "American Horror Story," who are different in each season. She can play the role of a blind witch with a heart of gold in Coven, to the role of a heartless woman who was one reason the world ended in Apocalypse.

She is an actress who plays very diverse roles in the shows and movies she is in and in each role, she plays these characters effectively and as an audience member you would never be able to tell she played a different role prior.

Netflix may have not renewed "Ratched" for season two yet, but the ending is left open for a new season. As someone who has been following Murphy for 10 years, I know there will be a season two because his dark and twisted shows leave you on the edge of your seat waiting and wanting to know more.

## Constitution Day promotes voting

By Bernadotte Sufka  
Features & Opinions Editor

Time has started racing faster towards the presidential election. Voting has been a popular topic among college students as the election is less than a month away.

Presidential elections have always been competitive and spreads its energy towards voters from both parties. Ever since COVID-19 regulations have been set in place, the option to place your vote can be done through mail, absentee ballot, or in-person at the correct polling place.

With the election between Trump and Biden approaching, students on campus can register to vote on-campus. Constitution Day was Sept. 17 and the SAGE Center planned an event where students can register to vote and pick up a small Constitution booklet.

"This year's election is especially important for young people in general to cast their vote," said History major and SAGE Center member, Sarah Gossman, a junior. "I find ballot voting to be a different approach to get people to go out and vote. With the presence of social media, I feel everybody has been in intense arguments about the election and just party affiliations. I think conversations about it are definitely useful. It's good to have that open dialogue."

As more resources are developed amid COVID-19, people can get increased accessibility when voting.

"As a college student I feel tense about this year's election. To elaborate it's a very hateful election especially for being at

Southern which is a very wliberal school," said Physics major Dylan Guilmette, a sophomore.

"Tense" is not the only way to describe the election, according to Guilmette.

"More like one sided, since everyone that I have talked to on campus seems to be very influenced by the people who have the loudest voices rather than what is true, and when confronted with the truth they become agitated. I find it best to avoid politics all together," he said.

The course of this election has taken an energetic and tense pathway among the country. It has been all over the media and can be seen as repetitive almost through advertisements, sponsors, and Internet platforms.

"Because I'm registered as independent, I don't really have a preference who wins. To be honest, I don't really like either candidate, so I don't have high hopes for this election or for the aftermath," said communications major Chris Rosales, a senior.

With Southern stepping in to encourage students to register and vote, it has become a part of the community to encourage students to participate in at a comfortable pace, but the actual voting is up to the students, themselves.

"I think a lot of people don't understand to the fullest extent about with is really going on. I think a lot of people are close minded and only see what they want to see," said Guilmette.

In efforts to encourage students to vote, tables have been set up outside at the academic quad, flyers have been hung up, and discussion is promoted.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

The first scene of "Ratched" where the viewers are introduced to the character.



## Ariza works to promote diversity on campus

By Donovan Wilson  
Reporter

Southern is a school full of students of all different backgrounds and Diane Ariza was brought in to promote diversity.

She arrived at Southern in the beginning of July to take on the role of Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

However, Ariza was publicly named to students as being chosen for the position in April. Her main responsibilities in this role are to essentially guide all sections of the school, faculty, students and everything in between. Her goal is working towards being the best school in terms of diversity.

“Chief diversity officers came about within the last 30 years so it’s fairly new,” said Ariza.

The concept of a position being entirely dedicated to the idea of adapting a university to diversity is a new idea for higher education.

As time goes on,

she said the general demographics of the area have changed dramatically and that reflects on the student body at Southern.

“The fear is driving out the CEO because they fear they can’t do it all,” said Ariza.

A position such as Ariza’s helps delve out responsibilities of the higher ups in a company. They rub off on each other to collectively figure out “where Southern stands” in certain fields.

Much of Ariza’s career consisted of about 30 years in higher education as a professor of ethics, admissions or student affairs.

She held positions similar to hers here at Nazareth college and Quinnipiac University.

She is also a current board member at the National Association for chief Diversity Officers in Higher Education due to the positions she’s held in that field.

On top of all of these qualifications, Ariza also holds a doctorate of philosophy degree in

sociology that she earned from Western Michigan University.

The major differences between the positions she has held at other universities is that their scope of diversity in their community was much lower than it is here at Southern, according to Ariza.

However, she said she has always been in positions that work closely with marginalized people.

A diversity position at a school is just as important to the students as it is to the faculty and general infrastructure. It helps to better integrate them into their ever changing community.

“We fail if we don’t allow space for us to have uncomfortable conversations” said Ariza.

With an election approaching, political ideologies have become a key component of diversity, according to Ariza.

“Rhetoric is marginalizing us and alienating us to a point of hate and disrespect” and that is where her

duties come in; “trying to eliminate the feeling of political hostility on campus,” she said.

Ariza said she believes with President Trump in office, he creates a lot of “gray area” and rather than running from that gray, people must look at it scrutinizingly. It will damage our work towards diversity if we

only focus on the black and white.

“I believe diversity is very prominent and strong at Southern,” said international business major, Sebastian Garzon, a sophomore.

Like many things right now, the COVID-19 pandemic has also greatly affected how Ariza does her job.

Her job does rely on face-to-face interactions which there are much less of nowadays due to the virtual switch.

The constantly changing environment makes diversity harder and harder to incorporate according to Ariza.

“This is work we should all do to be better citizens,” she said.



PHOTO COURTESY | NEWS.SOUTHERNCT.EDU

Diane Ariza, the university's vice president for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

## Virtual forum held to discuss social justice

By Ellis McGinley  
Copy Editor

On Thursday, Sept. 17, the university held its “From Talk to Activism” virtual forum, which Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Diane Ariza said she hopes will be the first of a “continuous series around anti-racism and anti-oppression.”

The panel featured eight students and alumni, moderated by Ariza.

Its mission was to allow community members to “hear how Southern students and alumni are leading racial justice efforts

and [draw] attention to the need for structural changes,” according to an infographic sent to students and faculty about a week before the event.

“Anti-racism isn’t just this badge you get the top on your shirt,” said communications major Jamil Harp, a senior.

“It’s a commitment to dismantling racism from our social structures, from our institutions. We have to look at our local neighborhoods, our local systems.”

“Root word act,” Simonie Davies, a 2019 social work graduate, said in her response to the first question: what it means to be anti-racist and an

activist for change.

“You have to be actively involved in learning different issues that might not directly affect you, but it affects the people in your community.”

Davies’ answer followed Johnathan Gonzalez, a 2018 economics graduate who shared his experience growing up as an immigrant in a predominantly white North Haven neighborhood, and Shanté Hanks, alum and Deputy Commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Housing, sharing her experience as well.

In her reply, Hanks said “sharing and liking does not make you an activist,”

referencing recent upticks in social media activity regarding Black Lives Matter and other anti-racist movements.

“To be anti-racist you have to be intentional,” she said. “My suggestion is a quick social experiment. Have you been told by even one person their experience with mistreatment, abuse, bias due to their race?”

If you have not had even one conversation with a person of color, especially an African American, that means you have been complicit.”

Other questions posed to the panelists included what the climate around activism feels like, how

that climate has evolved following recent Black Lives Matter protests, how to approach structural change within institutions and also how institutions can make hiring processes more inclusive.

The forum also included Jane Marlor, president of the Cultural Competence Club, Sasha Chandola, a junior theatre major, and Niah Mesidor, a freshman athlete and SAAP member.

A recording of the full forum is available to watch and listen to on the university’s official Facebook and YouTube profiles.

Panelists were also asked to reflect on their time at the university and

the activism they have either seen or not seen while on campus.

“I see activism here at Southern every day in many forms,” said psychology major Jazmyn Martinez, a junior softball player.

Speaking as a student athlete, though, she said her experience has not always been the same.

Martinez also is a part of the Athletes Fighting Injustice group.

“You know, we have athletes who feel that if they speak up, they won’t be heard,” said Martinez, “And if they are speaking up, they find that often people around them are silent.”



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Anti-Racist Forum virtual event taking place on computer screen.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Communications major, Jamil Harp, senior, participating in the virtual forum.



## Drumline works to empower and motivate

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

The Blue Steel Drumline has the goal to empower, teach and motivate. The community-oriented program works to create a safe space for those who love music to be part of a family.

"My main goal is to get kids to college," said Eric Green, the band director, "coming from where we come from, a very small amount of kids gets the opportunity to attend college although many have the aspiration."

In 2009, Green was the assistant band director at Hillhouse High School and was presented with the opportunity to become the percussion director at Southern by the head of the music department.

Green said his mission is to "bridge the gap between the community and Southern."

While many participants on the team are from the inner city of New Haven, Green concentrates on building skills that can be used beyond the city. "Experience isn't even

needed. You can just drop in," said Green. "The only requirement that I state is to maintain a 2.3 GPA."

Green attended Virginia State, which is a Historically Black University, so he tries to incorporate the 'down south style' to his teaching. That means choreographed movement, dancing and theatrics.

Band culture is rooted in competition, so the Blue Steel Drumline practices three times a week from 5:30-8:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday outside of Earl Hall.

"We teach anything you want to learn from reading music to holding sticks. Anyone looking to join is welcome," said Green.

The drumline has a family-oriented structure, so Green said everyone on the team is close and considers one another to be kin.

"Before joining the drumline, I would barely leave my room. I felt lost and empty at Southern because I didn't know anyone," said education major Alexis Lee, a junior. "From the first

day, everyone was so welcoming and made me feel like family."

She said she has found a "home" on the team. "It's deeper than music," said Lee.

She said she has been playing drums since 7th grade but before that she "couldn't sit still." She loves dancing and would always be "drumming" without even knowing it.

"I've always had a passion for music and will continue practicing it," said Lee, "even if that means incorporating it into my teaching."

She said normally before a performance she feels nervous, but once she's into it, she cannot even describe the emotion it gives her.

Education major Jayquan Bromell, a junior, also participates in the Blue Steel drumline.

"I'm the energetic force," he said, "the crowd pleaser."

He said that himself and his team are inspired by techniques used by HBU's and try to study their memorable abilities to integrate into their own routines.

"Music makes me feel like I'm in my own world,"

said Bromell. "I've always played sports, but music is different."

He said he lives in an area where kids do not usually graduate.

"They sell drugs, go to jail, or even die young," said Bromell. "I'm not a street person, but this team makes me not even look at the street."

Although Bromell has only been on the team for a year, he says he considers

the team his "second family."

"I learn from everyone," said Bromell.

Music and photography major Alvin Furlow, a junior, has been on the team since he was in high school. He said he "came on not knowing nothing, now I know something."

He said he always loved music growing up in church and was eager to join the team.

"This team made me major in music," said Furlow. "Music means everything to me."

His passion for music and photography has led to his goal of teaching youths and practicing photography professionally.

He said the Blue Steel Drumline helps keep him focused and grounded.

"Everyone pushes you to be better," Furlow said, "on and off the line."



PHOTO | DESTENY MARAGH

Blue Steel Drumline members at practice on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

## TikTok popular amongst students

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

In recent months, TikTok has sparked popularity amongst college students. However, the Trump administration said they will begin banning downloads and use of the popular Chinese-owned app on Sept. 20.

The app is a social network for sharing user-generated videos, mostly of people lip-synching to popular songs. Users can create and upload their own videos where they lip-sync, sing, dance, or just talk.

"I typically use TikTok at least once or twice a day, just for laughter or to find ideas for videos to post," said exercise science major Brianna Hackett, a sophomore. "It keeps me updated on some current events and I'm always learning new information."

Hackett said the app has both negative and positive aspects, but ultimately, it also brought about change.

"It's my favorite app because there are endless amounts of creativity behind it, but at the same time there are people who chose to use it in a way to harm or make fun of others," said Hackett. "The diversity on the app has come a long way."

Not only are students on TikTok making videos, they are also learning video editing.

"When I first started, my videos were choppy and unprofessional," Hackett said, "but with tons of practice I've been able to produce better content and that has helped with gaining followers."

She said she feels her creativity has blossomed while on the app.

"I wouldn't call myself 'creative' before, but now I can't stop being creative. Every time I open the app,

I have a new idea," said Hackett.

Public health major Aaron Gray, a junior, said TikTok has introduced him to a new community.

He said the algorithm is different compared to other media platforms.

"I have only about 200 followers, but most of them don't live in America and it's crazy because I didn't think people from other countries would be interested in my content," said Gray.

In isolated times like these, students living through COVID-19 have found an escape.

"With being in quarantine and not having much to do all summer, I definitely spent a lot of time on TikTok," said Psychology major Brooke Dauphinee, a junior. "Some days I would spend a total of like 4-5 hours just scrolling."

Now with school, she said she spends less time on the app. However, she said it does not change the impact it has on people.

"It is like one of the only apps where everyone has a chance/opportunity to go

'viral' or be known," said Dauphinee. "It can take one viral video and your page can blow up which happened to me, which I think is really cool."

Dauphinee has 87,900 followers and her videos have 3,500,000 likes.

Just like any other social media platform gaining traction, followers and attention helps to boost one's overall brand.

With just over 3,000 followers, communications major Joesphine Toni, a freshman, said TikTok is her favorite platform to use.

"I've used every other social media but TikTok is the only one that has stuck for me," said Toni.

Toni said she used to use Musical.ly and did not know TikTok was the same app. She said she had even more followers on the former before she deleted it.

"While I do sometimes worry about my followers, I try to not make the number dictate what I post," said Toni. "I have found that not everyone is going to like what I put out, but the most important thing is to stay

true to yourself and just post what you feel is right."

According to CNN, the Trump administration expressed concerns that the app could be used as a spying tool to collect personal data on U.S. citizens.

TikTok has denied these allegations.

"I feel like in this generation we use more of social media and interaction with other people in order to get our points across," said Hackett, "especially with the election and everything that's going on, Trump seems threatened by the voice TikTok gives its users."

The "ban" has not stopped students' efforts in remaining active on the platform.

"The ban hasn't affected how active I am," Dauphinee said. "I still scroll through the app daily and make videos whenever I want/can. Although when I had heard the news that it might be getting banned, I did try to post more videos at that time just in case it would be my 'last video.'"

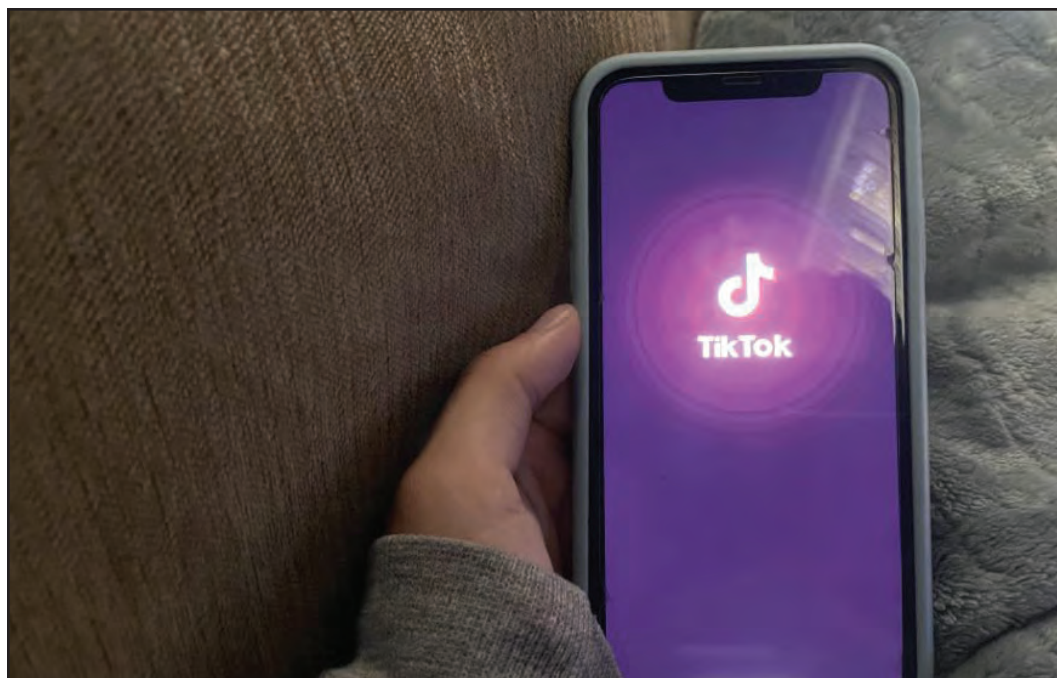


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | JESSICA GUERRICCI

The opening page of TikTok, the social media platform, on an iPhone.

## Social media helps clubs remain active

By Donovan Wilson  
Reporter

Southern's various clubs and organizations have been using social media as a way to keep involved in their community.

This semester brought students back on campus after the full lockdown in the spring. With campus back up and running guidelines are forcing clubs to adapt to this new landscape.

With significantly less people on campus, some activities such as sports are up in the air due to distancing guidelines and the proximity of people in certain volumes.

"We're trying to do social events but virtually," said Pamela Karbeinikoff, president of the Active Minds club.

Active Minds work to raise awareness on mental illnesses and try to erase stigmas they often carry.

They have many events they are aiming for this semester, including virtual social events like movie nights, mental health screenings, and bullying prevention.

These events will focus on an online medium, much like their club meetings during the first few weeks of the semester. However, there is a plan to possibly have a socially distanced tabling event in October for domestic violence awareness.

"No matter what your major is, you can join. It's a little community," said Alyssa Martinez, public relations co-chair at the Southern chapter of Global Brigades.

This club is a chapter of the international organization Global Brigades. They focus on

connecting students to communities all over the world. In the past, the chapter would go to these communities to perform duties.

Earlier this year, before COVID-19 sent students into lockdown, the chapter traveled to Panama to put on a medical brigade. Then in 2019, they traveled to Ghana where they aided in a now-ongoing initiative to get bio-digestive toilets installed in homes.

These events usually happen in January, so the chapter is now planning what they will do for 2021. They currently use Instagram to advertise their weekly meetings which anybody can attend. They happen on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Global Brigades is most likely planning to have a telebrigades in 2021 rather than an in-person event. This event would include them getting a large lecture room on campus and virtually calling medical professionals in Honduras to give them advice. The event will also be cost effective, as it will only run the club around \$300.

"It's a better way for individuals looking to get involved. It helps them to start following cool people and see cool events," said Jonathan Lopez, the new member educator of Alpha Phi Delta.

Greek life clubs are also active. They utilize Instagram and post fliers on their stories as an easy way to keep people's attention.

Social media has always been integrated into how clubs find and recruit new members, but especially in a time where COVID-19 makes it harder for these clubs to meet in person.