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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## U.S. Secretary of Education visits campus Dr. Miguel Cardona speaks at Hispanic/Latinx heritage month celebration

By Madeline S. Scharf  
News Editor

To celebrate the 12th Annual Empowering Lives: A Celebration of Heritage and Esperanza/ Hope, the United States Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona spoke.

The event was held in honor of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month.

"September 15 is the anniversary of the independence of Latin American countries," said Dian Brown-Albert, director of multicultural affairs, who opened the presentation with an explanation of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month's origins. The director also said that Hispanic/Latinx people should "honor, celebrate, and appreciate their culture."

"This is one of a series of events to celebrate Latinx Heritage month," said President Joe Bertolino, speaking on the university's continued efforts for equality and equity. He spoke on the work the school is doing, such as the "establishment

of the Diversity and Equity office, and beginning a process of self-reflection," said Bertolino.

Bertolino discussed the work administrators are working on to further make the university an inclusive and equitable one. "Senior leadership has spent time in discussions to take a step back and reflect on what we can do," said Bertolino. "My hope [is] over the course of the academic year, you will see improvement."

Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona, appointed by President Joe Biden in March of this year, then began by discussing the effect being Latinx had on his life. "What I love about being Latino," said Cardona, "is the sense of family." He discussed how Latinx influences in his life lead him to where he was that day and encouraged listeners to "think about people in your community who have foraged the path you walk now."

Cardona was originally scheduled to appear via video conference. His ability to speak in-person after Bertolino's introduction appeared to be a last-minute decision. He shook hands with Bertolino and addressed the spectators of the event.

Cardona reflected on his life in his hometown of Meriden, Conn., the son of two Latinx immigrants.

"I was born rich with community," said Cardona. His father and brother were both police officers, while his sister was a social worker. Cardona said that because of his family's influence, he "learned early on to serve others."

Cardona granted much credit to his family and community for where he is now, serving in United States President Joe Biden's cabinet.

"There were sacrifices made by the generations before me to get me here," said Cardona.

Embracing one's culture was a main

theme throughout the event, both Latinx and others. "In no small part I embraced different perspectives to be where I am as Secretary of Education," said Cardona. "We must have the ability to celebrate our differences under one flag."

Cardona emphasized the important position of American educators.

"It is the role of the educators to help [students in America] become critical thinkers," said Cardona. Because of this, he believes that educators, as well as all people, should "stay true to who you are, and do it in a way that embraces others as well."

Cardona felt strongly towards the idea that people should "honor those who gave up a lot to get you to where you are now," he said.

The secretary closed his speech with an inspirational call to action for all. Cardona said: "it is on us to make sure we make our education good for the next generation."



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

From left to right: Patrick Dilger, Dian Brown-Albert, Gladys Labas, Miguel Cardona, Joe Bertolino.



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

Miguel Cardona shakes hands with President Bertolino.

## CEC assistive technology

By Madeline S. Scharf  
News Editor

Technology increasingly improves how students learn and grow. On Friday, Sept. 24, the Center for Excellent Children, or CEC, held an event highlighting some of the available technologies for assistive learning.

"CEC is a national organization. In 2022, it will celebrate its 100th anniversary. It's been around for a while," Elementary and special education major Katie Allen, a junior and co-president of the university's CEC chapter said.

"They set the ground for special education in this country and made it what it is today. It focuses on outreach and helping students learn to be educators."

According to the OwlConnect page for CEC, "We advocate, raise funds, foster awareness, and provide support for children with disabilities in our local, state and national communities."

They also welcome a variety of people to join their organization.

"If you are looking for a place to make friends, help the community and get more experience-slash-knowledge about working with children with disabilities, CEC is the place for you," said the

mission statement of the organization.

The event's main administrator was Dr. Lauren Tucker, an associate professor with the special education department who helps with outreach opportunities.

The range of assistive technologies and the university's work is not limited to campus.

"In the graduate program, we have outside programs to collaborate with other organizations and make assistive technologies," said Tucker.

Tucker brought a variety of virtual assistive learning technologies for students to explore.

They included devices like Osmo, a mirror screen over an iPad which recognizes physical letter tiles on a table. It can help students with math, literacy and spelling, depending on the program used. Tucker also shared iPad apps like "Bits Board," which has interactive flashcards.

"For student teaching, it is important to understand if your teaching was helpful or not," said Tucker. "These apps track the data, so you are able to know."

Assistive technologies like this one may be helpful for students with learning disabilities.

When demonstrating Osmo, Tucker commented, "This one is

good for students with attention difficulties, as it brings in the tactile, physical letters."

But this technology may not just be helpful to those with learning disabilities. "It creates a learning journey," said Tucker, "students can go on an adventure, like a game."

"I have never seen this type of assistive technology," said Allen.

The technology demonstrated during this program was not all the school had to offer.

Tucker explained the school also has access to devices such as TAPit, a portable smartboard, and Eye Gaze, which tracks the movement of the user's eye so they can navigate screens, type and more.

This technology is available on campus for educators who wish to try out learning technologies with their students.

The CEC program is not just for educators, however.

"Last year, our [club] president was not an education major," said Allen. "Anyone can come to this club."

Allen, a transfer student, joined the club to engage in new things on campus. "I wanted to make friends with similar interests," said Allen on joining the club.

"Everyone is welcome to join, you don't have to be an education major."

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# Students visit Dinosaur State Park

By Ellis McGinley  
Managing Editor

The university's Earth Science club visited the Dinosaur State Park Friday, Sept. 24, allowing students to gain hands-on experience with preserved dinosaur tracks and regional geology.

The Dinosaur State Park is an 80-acre preserve in Rocky Hill, Conn. According to park employee and environmental science major Velania Madera, a sophomore, "we are the only [park] in North America that has one, tracks, and also the making of casts."

The park's exhibits include fossils, tracks and stones as well as live animals, such as green iguanas, bearded dragons, snakes and frogs, among others.

Madera, who has worked at the park since "April of this year," focuses on "the care of animals. I take care of animals

and do, like, animal demos to educate the public on the care of primarily amphibians and reptiles."

It also has many hiking trails, which were closed due to inclement weather during the club's visit.

"I somehow stumbled into the GEMS club," Madera said, regarding on-campus involvement, "but I would like to join [the Earth Science club]."

Of the 18 attendees present, only three had visited the park before. Few were earth science majors; others included psychology, communications and computer science.

"Many people who lived in Connecticut all their lives never heard of it," a park supervisor said. "And we have lots of awesome things here besides tracks."

The approximately two-hour trip allowed students to explore authentic dinosaur tracks after a session with a park

employee.

Students were encouraged to examine the tracks from afar, formulating hypotheses as to how the impressions were made, the lack of fossils found at the site and other observations. They were taught the basics of measuring a dinosaur's prints to estimate body size, how the layering of certain types of stone can indicate the passage of time and what material best preserves prints as opposed to fossils.

"As scientists, we piece together the story. Look at the tracks. Look at the clues to find whatever was happening here," the employee said to assembled club members.

The tracks were found when the state intended to begin a different project in the late '60s. Instead, they found the tracks: large, reptilian-esque foot impressions made in what looks like stone

or dry clay.

Two years later, the park facility was built around it. The tracks have remained unmoved and unaltered since.

Students did have to remove their shoes to avoid damaging the tracks and stone. Among the tracks, park supervisors encouraged participants to look for other impressions besides footprints.

Outside, club members worked together to mix plaster-of-paris, secure rings around stone impressions and pour to create large castings of real Eubrontes footprints.

Eubrontes are large, fossilized dinosaur footprints found in many parts of the world, dated as far back as the late Triassic era.

After making the casts, the club donated the leftover plaster to the museum for future guests' use.

Psychology

major Zoe Pringle, a sophomore, said, "I came because I have two earth science classes for tier two and, honestly, we get extra credit. But I always like fossils. I used to dig in the ground as a kid."

Psychology major Olivia Navarro, a freshman, said, "I really like nature, hiking and learning about the environment. Earth science is more like an interest or hobby."

This was the club's first event of the year. President of the club and earth science major Eric Regan, a senior, said, "we go on hikes a lot around Connecticut, especially last year when we were really strict. That was a good outdoor, socially distanced thing we could do."

The Park trip had a COVID-19 coordinator present; club treasurer Derick Arnold, a sophomore.

Regan said, "it's been a long time since we've done something like this."



PHOTO | ELLIS MCGINLEY

Students listen to a presentation at the Dinosaur State Park.



PHOTO | ELLIS MCGINLEY

Students observe geological samples.

# OwlConnect confusion

B: Madeline S. Scharf  
News Editor

The Office of Residence Life hosted a self-care event in the Farnham Programming Space on Sunday, Sept. 26. It is part of the ongoing weekly Strengthening Sunday program.

The event, although attended by many students, experienced a minor error prior to start.

OwlConnect, according to its website description, is a place where students can "discover unique opportunities at Southern Connecticut State University." This includes events being held by various organizations, like the Office of Residence Life, who orchestrated "Self-care Sunday," at 3 p.m. this past Sunday. However, the doors never opened, leaving some students confused.

Elementary education major Kristina Long, a sophomore, and physics major Hunter Dale, a junior, both arrived in front of FPS at 3 p.m.

"The OwlConnect website says 3," said Dale, "although other sources said 7. So, we got a little confused." The other source Dale was referring

to was an email from Residence Life regarding events available that week for their program. The email correctly attributed the time of the event to be 7 p.m.

According to the two, this is not the first incident. "This is the second event that we have had where it just didn't happen," said Long. Dale added he believes OwlConnect had said 3 p.m. for the prior event as this one did, but was not completely sure.

The duo was unsure if they would be attending the event since it would be hosted at 7 p.m. "We will see how we are feeling I guess," said Dale.

The error was corrected for the Self-Care event shortly after 3:30 p.m. to reflect what the newsletter said.

When 7 p.m. rolled around, FPS was bustling with activity.

Students had a variety of self-care activities to choose from.

This included making their own sugar body scrub, face mask and coloring sheets. The various tables could be visited by students. Snacks and drinks were provided.

Psychology major Asha Sneed, a graduate student,

was assisting with the event.

"We noticed a lack of wellness events around campus, especially since other offices aren't operating over the weekends, so we thought why not have Strengthening Sundays for students who live on campus and want to have events after hours," said Sneed.

The event itself can accommodate more students.

"We have a lot more supplies in the back," said Sneed. "The space itself can hold about 100 students at maximum capacity, but we keep it at a minimum to abide by COVID regulations."

The event is COVID safe. "Masks are mandatory," said Sneed, "we make sure the students aren't tight together and have students sign in for contact tracing."

Sneed commented, "These Mindfulness events are every Sunday from 7 to 9."

Long and Dale ended up returning to the event at 7 p.m. "I am happy to be here," said Dale.

Long was happy to have attended. "I am glad to have come back," said Long.

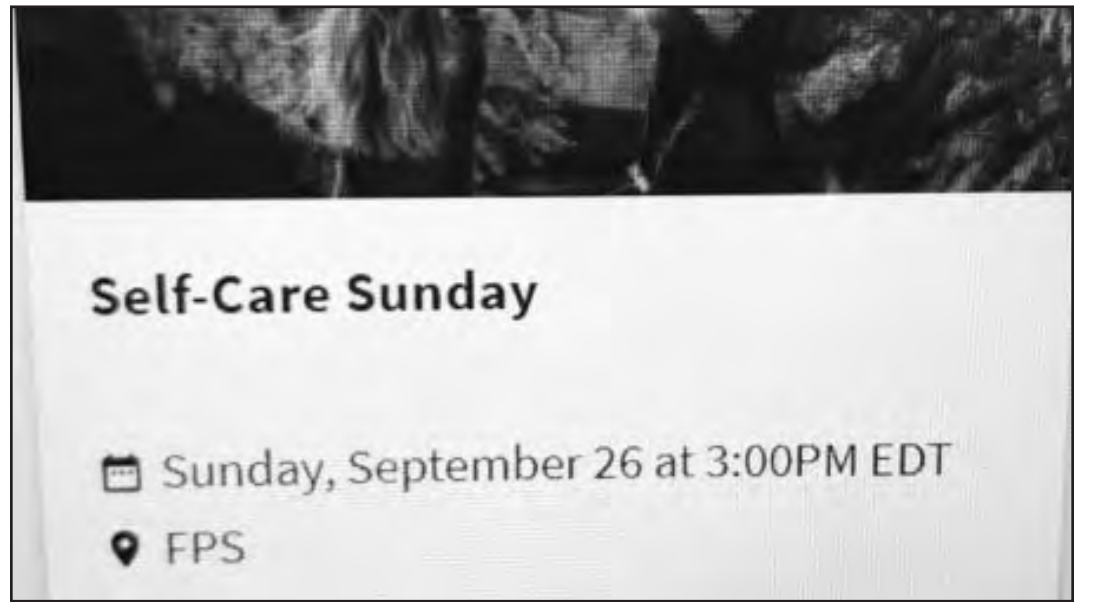


PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

The OwlConnect profile prior to the correction.



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

Skincare masks offered at the event. Masks and applicators were provided.

# Bones and stones

By Ellis McGinley  
Managing Editor

## ACROSS

5. Era after the Triassic period; like the park

7. Red state gem/mineral



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Drawing of a Triceratops.

8. Type of rock formed by sediment in the environment

## DOWN

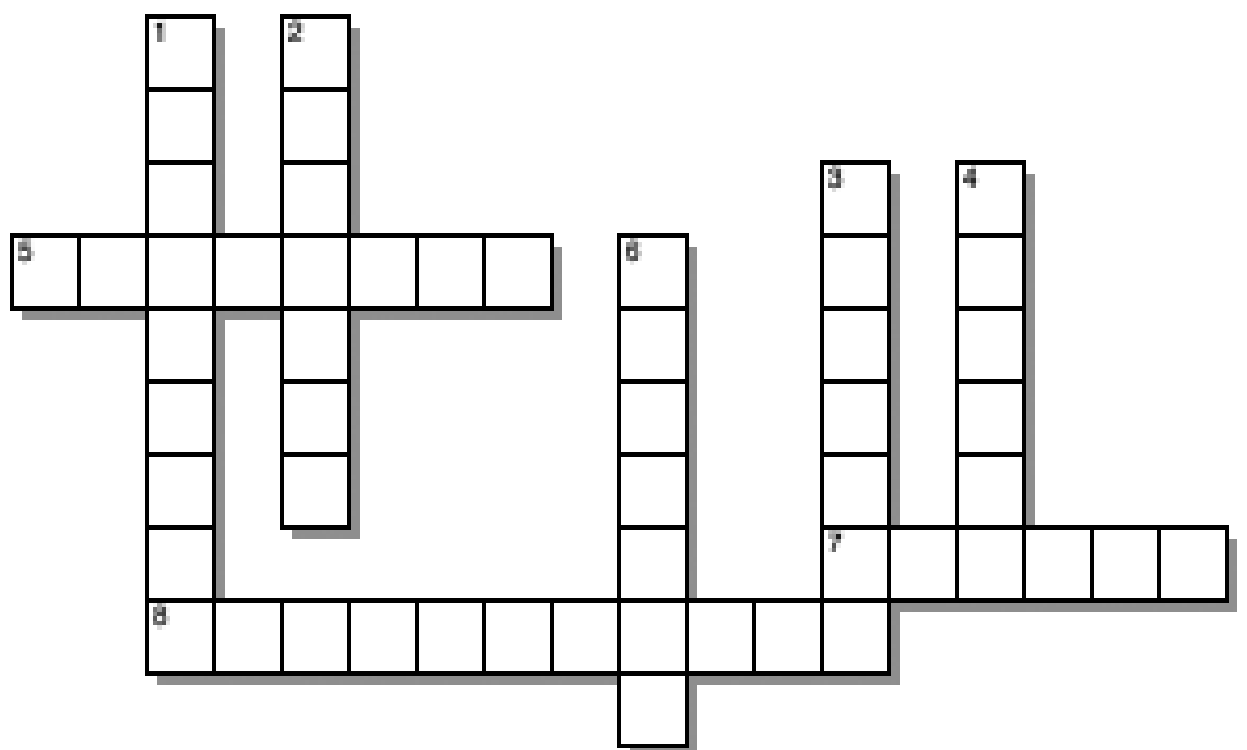
1. State fossil; fossilized dinosaur prints from the late Triassic era

2. Remains or impressions of a prehistoric creature

3. The study of earth and history of the planet

4. A bipedal dinosaur; a bird of prey

6. One of the hardest stones; a fancy countertop





## Major change is okay, we cannot control this



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

In my three years of being at this university, I never thought I would be changing my major. I also did not realize I would be changing so late in my four-year journey called college. It was a hard decision but

overall, I am happy with my decision. Change is not just in a major, change is everywhere.

I was originally a journalism and Italian major with a minor in social media. I am now an Italian major with a minor in journalism. While I do love journalism, it has been something I have wanted to do since I was 10 years old, I do not see myself doing it as a full-time job. Instead, I see myself becoming an Italian teacher, something I know my family in Italy are overly excited about. I love my culture. I love my language, and I want to show high school students how amazing it is and how learning a new language can be fun.

The major change took forever. This process was probably one of the most stressful parts, the waiting, contacting the registrar's office and still currently waiting for my minor change to take effect, hopefully soon. It is a tiring process, and so will the classes I have to take once I go for my post-baccalaureate in education, if I get accepted that is.

I love to write. Being a journalism major has taught me so much, but I also love Italian. At first, I thought combining the two and working for an Italian newspaper would be my "future," but I realized what I really wanted to do was teach instead.

"We all change, when

you think about it, we are all different all through our lives. That's okay. That's good you gotta keep moving as long as you remember all the people you used to be," The 11th Doctor said in the show "Doctor Who."

This quote makes me feel good about changing who I am, I always saw change as a bad thing until I watched "Doctor Who." What is change? When you think about it, change can be a physical sense, an emotional sense, and even a psychological sense.

"We all saw our lives as single-handedly within our control," Meera Navlakha wrote in a New York Times article.

I do not believe we can control change, I was

15 years old when my grandmother died. I could not control the change. Now I am 21 years old, a junior in college changing my major to something my grandmother taught me at an early age to be proud of and to continue studying. From middle school to college, you are constantly changing. You may not realize it, but you are. Change is constant it can be from your clothing preference to your music preference.

Change can be difficult too. You can lose a loved one, break up with your partner and lose the best friend you have had for who knows how long. Even so, you may also gain love from a new family

member. You may find your soulmate and the person you said would never be your friend is now your best friend. Being optimistic is what people should be like during change.

I am optimistic about my change in majors. Who knows, I may even write for an Italian newspaper one day, but right now I am very happy to continue my journey and better myself in not just my writing but also my culture and language.

Do not be scared to change something about yourself. Most importantly if you are not happy in your major, just find something else more interesting, pursue it and do not let anyone tell you otherwise.

## Overwhelming thoughts? You are doing amazing

**By Danielle Campbell**  
Copy Editor

I cannot be the only one. There is no way it is just me suffering like this. Stress. School. There are so many things happening I cannot keep up with at all. I have assignments due for classes, for my extracurriculars, I work at three concert venues, I have an internship and a senior class which might as well be another internship, my sister is getting married this weekend, and my aunt in Atlanta just died from COVID-19, the second of my father's siblings to suddenly pass in the last two years. Overwhelmed is no

longer a word, it is a feeling in my bones. Granted, I took on many of these jobs. I had felt so unproductive and emotional throughout the pandemic I wanted to make up for the uselessness I felt. I am not particularly keen on emotions, although they hit me like a gut punch from a marvel character often. In part, I took a lot of these responsibilities on, so I had no time to feel these wretched emotions, but once in a while, it happens. They seep through to my bones and tears peek out. Gross.

I have said, "I know this is going to catch up with me and it is going to be bad, but I really do not have time for a breakdown," about

five times this week. There is not enough time in my day to be rendered helpless at the moment. If I allowed myself to feel those feelings, as many have suggested, I do not know if I could bring myself back and there is just way too much I need to do. People are depending on me. I have no time to be sad although it is probably much healthier for me to do so.

Are we all collectively finding this September overwhelming? Like, if we mess up now, we know it will haunt us for the rest of the semester and we will not recover? This is what I am feeling. I have no time to be upset that my weekends do not belong to me but are

preplanned by my family until we can get my sister married already [it is almost over].

I have no time to mourn the only aunt to check up on me, the black sheep of both sides of my family, whenever I was sick [and I was sick a lot]. Where do I find the time to sleep when I know it is incredibly necessary for me to take naps, but I am at school the entire day? Food? What is food? I average about a meal a day between no food in classes because of COVID-19, not having the time to go eat, my stressful relationship with disordered eating, and shaky finances.

Let me get this out of

the way. Stress is not good for you. Overwhelm is not good for you. You should be eating at least three meals a day. Do not be like me, but if you are like me, how are you doing? How are you feeling? Are you okay?

Listen, I get it. I fully understand your stress. I innerstand and overstand, as the kids say these days. We can not let this get the best of us. I fully support tears in stalls. Hit that cry session in the comfort of a bathroom. I have done it multiple times already. Only a few thug tears are allowed to fall from my eyes in front of others and while not the healthiest, I get it is just a reality for some of us. I do, however, have a therapist

and I highly suggest you see someone at the counseling center.

We are not alone. Us - overachievers - as they say. Just wanting to succeed but drowning in that success some days. It is okay to breathe. It is okay to pause for your mental health. Breaks do not make us any less successful. They model to others you can achieve, succeed, and breathe if you need. We are okay even if it feels like we are not. I feel your pain and we will get through it. Here is a moment for you to take if you need one. If you read this article, congratulations, you took a few minutes for yourself. You are doing amazing. We both are.

## ALEKS, making math harder for students

**By Sarah Shelton**  
Features Editor

"ALEKS is the worst," I have said plenty of times during my freshman year here.

"What did he do?" many people would ask thinking I was referring to someone actually named "Alex".

"No, the math program." If you have never heard of ALEKS, you are lucky.

ALEKS is a math program the university uses for Math 100P.

Freshman year I was placed in Math 100P as a prerequisite. For a journalism degree, you only need one math class in the liberal education program.

My high school also

used ALEKS. The day I graduated, I was so happy to never have to see it again, but I walked right into this university, sat down for orientation and learned I had to do the program once more. It was quite disappointing.

For Math 100P, you have to spend a minimum of two hours in the Math Emporium, a lab in the basement of Buley Library, a week. If you do not, you fail the course. And no, students cannot do four hours in one week and not come the next.

Students also have to spend a certain amount of hours working outside of class and the emporium, and need a certain amount

of topics and hours done a week, or they risk failing the class.

If students do not master enough topics during the knowledge checks, which pop up after a certain amount of topics, they will likely fail, at least according to the professors and peer academic leaders at the time.

I remember sitting in the emporium and the wall had a giant poster with the dates of the semester. The poster basically showed if you are not at a certain point at each date, you are most likely not going to pass. They made this timeline using what they called engagement points.

As students, we were told

if you do everything they ask of you, you still only get a D. To get a better grade, you have to do extra hours in the lab to get what they call engagement points.

Every minute students work in the emporium, they get two engagement points. If they have less than 7,800 engagement points at the end of the course, they fail the class.

I did my math emporium hours every week. Some weeks extra hours were spent there, but my problem was I did not have enough engagement points. I completed topics faster than the average time they came up with, so I could not hit the amount of points they were requesting of me.

The only possible way for me to pass this course was to finish it early, so that is what I did.

I mastered enough topics to take my final test, and I was able to take it two weeks early.

The way finals work in this course is you take it when you finished all of the DSAs; However, if you do not have enough topics mastered by finals week, it is an automatic fail. You also have to have a certain amount of hours done in the course, because of the points, but if you took your final early, hours did not matter as much because you could not possibly continue working on it to get hours after you finished.

I ended up with a B- in the class. It would have been even lower, possibly a fail, if I did not go and quickly master my topics.

This was the first semester of my freshman year, the semester before COVID-19. I understand online courses are pretty normal now, but I still think the ALEKS program is unreasonable. Everyone in the class is at a different part of the course which means there is no possible way for the math professor to efficiently teach the class.

I am not sure if they still running things like this; however, with all the complaints from the past few years, I am surprised to learn this course still exists.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Annual Mid-Autumn Festival on campus

**Photos and Story by Roma Rositani**  
**Photo Editor**

This past week, the Multicultural Center offered a Mid-Autumn Festival event. The festival is celebrated in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and Vietnam. Students and Professors who came were presented

with a PowerPoint about the Festival which was discussed by Tian Zixuan. The festival also celebrates the moon, because it is at its brightest, and is a time for those who worship to give thanks to their Gods. The event offered pre-wrapped mooncakes, which anyone who attended the event were able to take at the end of the presentation.



"Mid-Autumn Festival" written in English and Chinese.



Students holding mooncakes at the festival.



Elementary education major Razan Abunar, a freshman (left), and education major, Samantha Maces, freshman, eating mooncakes at the festival.



Students watching the PowerPoint that Tian Zixuan created for the Mid-Autumn Festival.



Faculty member taking a mooncake.



Student selecting a pre-packaged mooncake after the presentation ended.



Faculty discussing the event after the presentation.



# Owls lose big at UNH over weekend

## Football falls 38-9 on road after last week's big last-second win

By Christian Dunn  
Contributor

After a memorable home win over Saint Anselm last Friday, the Owls headed across town to take on familiar opponent New Haven in a coveted rivalry match for the Elm City Trophy.

Joe Bernard made his first start at quarterback for the Owls, substituting for Jackson Ostrowsky, who was injured during last week's victory. Bernard had the Owls offense moving well to begin the matchup, accumulating 50 yards on 11 plays the opening drive, capped off with a 34-yard field goal completed by kicker Szymon Gawlick.

The consistent offense—much thanks to Owls' receiver Izaiah Sanders—who had 7 catches for 77 yards on the afternoon, was something the Chargers had to deal with, as the away team managed to run 12 plays on New Haven's side of the field on their first three drives. However, despite the success moving the ball down the field and chewing up the game clock, the Owls had to settle for a field goal once again with 1:18 remaining in the first quarter, this time a

successful 43-yarder by Gawlick.

Between the solid play of Bernard and a job well done by the Owls' defense, which forced the Chargers off the field consistently on third downs the entire day, New Haven finishing 1-for-9 on third downs in the game, the Owls found themselves with a 6-0 lead with under a minute remaining in the first quarter.

After a rush for no gain and false start on back-to-back plays, New Haven was met with a 2nd and 15 on their own 30 with 00:12 remaining in the first, and Charger quarterback Connor Degenhardt taking his shot. Javon Turner found himself behind the Owl defense for a 70-yard receiving touchdown, which not only allowed them to take the lead at the end of the first, but flipped the momentum significantly towards the home team's favor and reversed the Owls' 14 minutes of hard work to begin the game.

After a combined three scoring drives in the first quarter, the 7-6 score in favor of New Haven would remain relatively the same by halftime. Three straight three-and-outs by both teams to begin the second quarter,

taking five minutes off the clock before either team crossed midfield.

Credit to both defenses, who were stopping any offensive attempts to move the ball both on the ground and through the air.

It was not until New Haven's possession, beginning at midfield and with 10:32 remaining in the half, that either offense moved the ball efficiently. Back-to-back runs and a catch by running back Shamar Logan helped the Chargers move the ball to the Owls 21-yard line. Some plays later, the Chargers were met with a 4th-and-4 after nice plays by the defense, including a tackle for loss by Harrison Smith and a throw away by Degenhardt after no one was found open.

An offside by the defense renewed the set of downs for New Haven but back-to-back tackles for loss set up a field goal attempt by the home team, a 22-yarder completed by kicker Brian DeFelice. On 2nd-and-10, the ensuing drive, quarterback Bernard found himself scrambling outside the pocket, and with the sideline getting closer Bernard decided to release the ball into

double coverage, which was then intercepted by the Chargers and returned to the Owl 9-yard line. The Owls' defense however, would remain strong and hold the Chargers out of their endzone, forcing a 26-yard attempt, which was then missed, retaining the 4-point deficit.

After the offense had stalled the past few drives, the Owls got the ball moving again with some nice runs by running back Johnson, totaling 37 yards on three runs and forming a solid possession to close out the half, only to be forced to punt from the New Haven 45 with 00:26 remaining in the first half. Both teams would begin the second half with scoring drives, the Chargers putting up six after the opening kickoff, and the Owls putting up another three points by Gawlick, this time a 24-yarder.

"I think the special teams for us has had a huge impact," Gawlick said, "whether it's me or any other guy on the team. We just need to come out hunting, wanting everything, but I do think that today everybody put in the effort on special teams."

Gawlick would finish a perfect 3-for-3, with a long field goal of 43 yards. The Owls found themselves down 17-9 with just over four minutes in the third quarter. After multiple big plays by the Charger offense, the Owls found themselves once again defending their endzone. Quarterback Degenhardt capped off the quick drive with a nice corner of the endzone throw to Kevin Foelsch, who caught the pass for a touchdown, making the score 24-9 in favor of New Haven.

Down two scores in the fourth quarter, Bernard had the offense moving once again, and after some great completions, found himself with a 1st-and-goal on the Chargers 8-yard line. However, even with the momentum

on the drive in their favor, the Owls would have four incompletions in a row, thus turning the ball back over the Chargers with 12:41 left in the game.

Three plays later, New Haven's quarterback Degenhardt found receiver Dev Holmes for a 93-yard touchdown, thus extending their lead to 22 points (31-9).

After a 1-yard rush by Diante Wilson, Owl quarterback Bernard lost possession of the ball and the Chargers recovered, taking over on their opponents 30-yard line. Degenhardt, on the first play of the drive, found Dev Holmes once again for a 30-yard touchdown pass, extending his number of touchdown throws to 4 on the afternoon.

Following the touchdown, Bernard turned the ball over again with another interception, with the return into the endzone being brought back due to a personal foul, setting up the Chargers on their own 44.

With 8:28 remaining in the game, New Haven managed the clock effectively, ending the game with a kneel down on the Owls 12-yard line, extending their number of victories over their rivals to 12 in a row, and retaining the Elm City Trophy for another year.

Despite the loss, the Owls sit at 2-2, 1-1 in conference, with a big opportunity to learn from this loss and power through the obstacles they have faced thus far this season. Kickoff for next Friday's game versus the Yellow Jackets will be at 7 p.m. at Jess Dow Field.

"So right now, we got like a lot of guys down so that's a negative right there," Owls' defensive back Nas Richardson, a senior, said, "but we got some young guys stepping up, so that's a positive, so we're going to work with it and take this week and work in practice and we should be looking better for next week when we got AIC at home."



## Fantasy Football

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor - Opinion Column

We know a lot more about NFL teams than we did three weeks ago, and the same can be said of our respective fantasy football teams.

At first glance, though, there are some misleading numbers which savvy fantasy managers can take advantage of.

The standings in the AFC West division look flipped compared to how many envisioned it going into the season.

The perennial Super Bowl-contending Kansas City Chiefs are currently in last place in the AFC West at 1-2. The Chiefs do not suddenly stink. They lost to two exceptionally talented teams.

As superhuman as we like to make Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes out to be, he is. With the way the guy plays the position, there are going to be turnovers, which will inevitably cost them a game or two this season.

Staying in the AFC West, both the Denver Broncos and the Las Vegas Raiders are off to undefeated, 3-0 starts. Both teams were picked by many to finish behind the Chiefs and the Los Angeles Chargers in the division, and still very well may, but it would be wise for fantasy owners to ride this hot streak while it lasts.

Raiders' quarterback Derek Carr is not great. Neither is Broncos quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, but both have been competent enough to support some decent fantasy weapons early on that may be available in your leagues still.

Wide receivers like Tim Patrick, Bryan Edwards and Hunter Renfrow are all off to fine starts to their 2021 campaigns, and most went undrafted outside of deeper leagues. They are worth a look at from receiver needy teams.

The biggest fantasy-related injury in week three occurred Thursday night, when Carolina Panthers running back Chrisitan McCaffrey left the game and was promptly ruled out with a hamstring injury.

McCaffrey, a consensus first-round pick in drafts, is expected to be out multiple weeks, clearing the way for rookie Chuba Hubbard to get a crack at the starting role.

Do not be surprised if the Panthers add another body to their backfield in the interim. Hubbard, if available, will be a hot commodity on the waiver wire this week.

He looked okay. Worth putting a claim on him.

Chances to get starting running backs off free-agency do not come every week, but do not expect McCaffrey-like production out of the rookie.

It is not too early to start kicking the tires on trade ideas, a topic we will delve further into for a fantasy football column in the future.



PHOTO | Roma Rositani

The Owls took the loss in a road game at the University of New Haven on Saturday, dropping their record to 2-2 on the season.

# Women's soccer plays to a draw in OT

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

After 110 minutes of back-and-forth soccer, the lady Owls had to settle for a tie in last Tuesday's home match against the Assumption University Greyhounds.

The final score was 1-1, meaning the Owls record was sitting at 1-4-1 by the end of the matchup.

Their lone goal marked their first in an NE-10 Conference match and netted them their first point in the conference standings.

"We wanted the three points," head coach Adam Cohen said, "but looking back on it, I think that we took huge strides forward in terms of effort and understanding what it takes in this conference."

The first half of this match did not offer much in terms of offensive fireworks.

The Greyhounds

had a chance to score in the early going, but Owls' defender Nadine Hilkert, a senior, stopped Assumption forward Brooke Shatney from getting a clean shot off.

In the 20th minute, the Greyhounds had another shot at the goal, but were deemed offside by the officials, giving Owls' midfielder Mia Mulin, a graduate student, a shot in the 21st minute, but was off-target to the right of the goal.

Goalkeeper Allie Smith, graduate student, made a save in the 27th minute to reinforce a defensive first half.

The first half ended in a scoreless tie, and the home team headed to the locker room in what appeared to be surprisingly high spirits, with the crowd rallying to support them as they walked off the field.

"We stayed together as a team and that really helped us," Smith said.

"We were very positive out there, and that kept us together and in this game."

The Owls' first scoring opportunity of the second half came up short in the opening minutes and gave the Greyhounds the chance to make something happen offensively.

Greyhounds' forward Kate Carleson's shot in the 52nd minute was on target, dead center, but Smith was able to make the save, keeping the game scoreless.

In the 54th minute, a foul on Greyhounds midfielder Diana Bruggeman committed by Owls' defender Caileigh Driscoll, a freshman, set up a penalty kick.

The kick was on point and true. Bruggeman was able to convert and give her Greyhounds squad a 1-0 lead in the early stages of the second half.

Penalty kicks are amongst the toughest to defend.

"It's about timing really," Smith said. "Unlucky for us she nailed that right in the bottom corner, so, the most I can do is just get the side right and try to get there to the best of my ability and was just a little too late."

Down a goal, and with time beginning to run low, the Owls were in need of a spark.

They turned to forward Julia Alicea, a junior. Upon her substitution into the game, Alicea looked shot out of a cannon.

Her entry into the game got the home crowd back into it, and she rewarded their enthusiasm by promptly scoring her second goal of the season to tie the score in the 63rd minute.

"I just saw the goalie come out. I saw that I had the opportunity to just slide and touch it right by her, and I did it and it just went in. I was just happy it

didn't go wide," Alicea said.

Tying the score in the later stages after not starting the second half got her teammates and the crowd back into the contest for the all-important final minutes.

"It felt amazing," Alicea said. "It feels really good to do something really productive for the team coming onto the field."

Alicea continued to play with her hair on fire, drawing a foul downfield to set up a scoring opportunity, and going all out trying to score on a header in the 66th minute, unsuccessfully.

Bruggeman was fouled again with under 10 minutes remaining in regulation. She had a shot in close, which was on target, but Smith, once again, was there for the save.

The final moments of regulation were tightly contested.

See Women's soccer on Page 6



# Men's soccer shutout at home Wednesday

## The Owls also lost Saturday on the road, dropping record to 1-5-1

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

Men's soccer was defeated by the College of Saint Rose Golden Knights at Jess Dow Field last Wednesday night. The loss dropped their record on the season to 1-4-1.

The 2-0 loss marked the fourth time this season in which the Owls had been shutout.

Despite the lack of offensive production to begin the season, the team remains upbeat and hopeful.

"Everybody's positive still," defender Johnny Foster, a senior, said. "We're working hard every day in practice, just trying to get better, day by day. Trying to find the next goal, once we find the goal, we're good."

They were unable to find the goal in this past Wednesday's contest.

The game started with Golden Knights' midfielder Oskar Aastroem and Owls' midfielder Juan Alava getting chippy with one another to set the tone for the entire game.

A foul committed by Owls' defender Arnold Signell, a freshman, set up the opportunity for a Golden Knights' penalty kick in the 16th minute.

Golden Knights' Victor Henriksen, a freshman, was able to take full advantage of the scoring opportunity, nailing the penalty kick for his third goal of the season and giving Saint Rose an early lead off the ever difficult to defend penalty kick.

"Some people say it's chance. Some people say it's luck. Some people say it's skill," Owls' goalkeeper Bailey Bassett, a graduate student, said. "At the end of the day, it's just about if you pick the right side. A ball comes at you fast. They try to watch you, watch your movements, at that point it's just a bit of a mind game, and you've just got to take a chance there. On a PK it's a tough one."

The costly penalty put the Owls in a position where they once again had to play from behind and mount a comeback effort.

Saint Rose goalkeeper Ryan Henning had his only save of the first half come in the second minute of action, with extraordinarily little work to do for the remainder of the half.

In the 30th minute, the Golden Knights forward Hilmar Halldorsson scored his first goal of the season off an Erick Radtke assist to give his

team the 2-0 advantage on the road.

The score remained the same until halftime, with the Owls down a pair. Half-time adjustments were necessary.

"We needed to get more pressure on the back of their team, we gave them way too much room," Head coach Tom Lang said. "So, we changed the formation, and that allowed us to have a little bit more success in the second half, just unfortunately didn't result in goals. We just need to find ways to get back into the game and to just get one goal and try to get them to play a little bit nervous with the lead."

The blow-by-blow of the second half could be characterized by missed scoring opportunities by the Owls' offense.

The Golden Knights were able to convert two shots into two goals in the first half. The Owls could only aspire to such efficiency.

"This was hard fought," Foster said. "We played well. They had two chances, they just happened to capitalize. We'll be better next time."

The Owls got seven shots off in the second half and failed to score. The only result was Henning adding five



Photo | Roma Rositani

The Owls dropped a pair of games this past week, including a home loss to St. Rose Wednesday at Jess Dow Field.

more saves to his stat sheet, ending his total for the day at seven saves compared to Bassett's two, both of which came in the second half as he held the Golden Knights scoreless for the final 45 minutes of the match.

Nevertheless, the armor of the Golden Knights shone brightly in this contest, despite the aforementioned Aastroem picking up a yellow card in the late going—whilst the Owls could never quite find their talons.

"We'll be okay," Lang said. "We're a young team, still coming together, and

we've gotten better, but we've still got work to do."

The Owls proceeded to lose again on Saturday, falling to 1-5-1 after a 4-1 road loss against Stonehill College this past Saturday afternoon.

The Owls' next matchup was on Tuesday, Sept. 28, another road game against Adelphi University.

In the meantime, between games, men's soccer will look to rectify their issues on the field.

With their record being what it is, adjustments seem necessary.

Perhaps the most

glaring deficiency has been the lack of offensive production.

The team has five goals on the year, with three of those coming in their lone victory.

The fact that they have scored in only three of their seven contests thus far has not ben lost on this team.

"I think we all know," Bassett said. "We just need to put a couple balls in the back of the net. I think we're solid defensively. Need to clean up some things, but we need that offensive threat, and I think it's coming."

## Soccer

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor  
Continued from Page 5

Greyhounds forward Annie Irwin could not have come any closer to scoring what would have been the go-ahead goal, but the shot just barely ricocheted off the post and out of the net, saving the Owls' bacon.

"I was just focused on covering my angles," Smith said, "and I knew if it went past me, I had Caileigh (Driscoll) cutting down the angle as well and Amanda Dustin was coming down the back side as well, so I knew my teammates had me covered."

After multiple missed opportunities on both sides, the game headed to sudden death overtime.

One scoreless 10-minute interval followed by another, and the contest ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Owls played their next game on Saturday, Sept. 25 on the road against Southern New Hampshire University. The Owls wound up losing 1-0, dropping their record on the season to 1-5-1.

Despite playing 110 minutes on Tuesday and not getting a win, the home team was in fairly high spirits following a tightly contested matchup.

"We did a really good job of moving the ball around today," Alicea said. "Coming off a couple losses we were really hungry to get a win. Unfortunately, that wasn't the outcome, but I think we played really well, and I think it's the start of something good for the team."

## Field hockey loses big at home over weekend

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

The field hockey team was straight up outplayed by the Saint Anselm Hawks at Jess Dow Field this past Saturday afternoon, losing 5-0 and dropping to 2-4 on the year.

Saturday's contest marked the first time the Owls have been shutout since Sept. 5, during a road game against Mansfield University, when they were shutout in both games of the Mansfield Tournament to begin the season.

"Our connections were off," head coach Kelley Frassinelli said. "We seemed to be a little disconnected with each other, and so that attributed to how we positioned, how we pushed, how we defended, so it was a domino effect."

With such a lop-sided final score, it may be difficult to comprehend, but this game was a stalemate after the first quarter.

Owls' goalkeeper Janelle Ward, a junior, did her best to stave off the Hawks' offensive attacks.

In the second quarter, the Hawks had shot after shot in the early moments, finally converting when forward Maeve Murphy scored the first goal of the contest, her fifth of the season, midway through the second quarter.

Moments later, Hawks' forward Sarah Bagley bagged her third goal of the season, and later, a pair of penalty corners put the Hawks in great

position to jump out to a big lead and were rewarded when forward Emilie Martin stepped forward to score her third goal of the season.

"I think our passes were good," Owls' forward Brianna Shaw, a sophomore, said, "We worked together, this team was just really tough. We had a lot of pressure on us that we're not used to, so I think that definitely played a big factor in what happened today."

Part of the pressure came from the Owls being outnumbered two to one. The Hawks had 28 players on their roster, whilst the Owls had only 13 players. Meaning only one substitution is available to the whole team.

"Having those fresh legs that can go on for a few minutes, just to give somebody that rest, that's huge," Coach Frassinelli said. "It's having that depth to be able to support that next step that we need to take, and it's just not there for us."

To look out onto the field and see a bench full of players rallying around their team, and then just panning to the left to witness the lone sub on the Owls' bench, looking ever-so lonely as the chaos on-field ensues around her teammates as they get increasingly fatigued with no deliverance on the horizon.

"That definitely impacts us in the second half when we get tired," Shaw said, "and I think that definitely can impact our play sometimes compared to other teams."

The Owls best scoring



PHOTO | Roma Rositani

St. Anselm got off 21 shots against field hockey on Saturday and scored five goals to defeat the Owls at Jess Dow Field.

chance came in the second half when a downfield pass to sophomore forward Kiley Jackson found herself all alone with Hawks' goalkeeper Mackenzie McConnell, one on one, but she was unable to convert the shot attempt into a goal.

The Hawks did score again in the third quarter. Forward Shannon Walsh scored off a Maddie Davis assist with plenty of time left in the third quarter.

Ward was able to save another shot attempt by Davis down late, keeping the home crowd engaged.

"There's always going to be games where we're not going to win," Ward said, "and we just have to use things that happened in the game as takeaways

and improve on those in practices and come out stronger in the next games."

The Hawks swarmed the Owls' goal to score the dagger with just over five minutes remaining. Midfielder McKenzie Robinson found the back of the net to give the Hawks the decided 5-0 advantage, which would stand until the game's end.

All things considered, Ward did not do a bad job in goal when taking into consideration the sheer volume of scoring opportunities the Greyhounds had.

Ward recorded seven saves in the losing effort.

"There were some doubts coming into it, and that's a problem," Coach

Frassinelli said. "We need to commit to every game and compete no matter what. Whether it's number one in the nation or the weakest team in the conference, doesn't matter, we come in and we compete the same way every single time."

Field hockey's next contest will take place on Thursday, Sept. 30, when the Owls take on the Saint Thomas Aquinas Spartans on the road at 4 p.m.

In the meantime, this team will focus on positives in an attempt to turn the page before their next game.

"We played together, we did the best we could and we're not going to dwell on this game," Shaw said. "We're going to just keep looking forward."



# BTS collaborates with Coldplay in new song

By Sofia Rositani  
Editor-in-chief

Coldplay has outdone themselves with their new song featuring BTS, released this week. This song brought me back to the time I used to religiously listen to Coldplay, but it also has the new sounds of BTS. It made me feel some type of way.

BTS fans were blessed with so much excitement this past week. First, the group was in New York City for the United Nations General Meeting, where Kim Namjoon, the leader of the group, said an amazing speech, but also performed "Permission to Dance" both in and outside the UN. BTS not only accomplished this, but then went ahead to release a collaboration with FILA, which I already know will be sold out within an hour. And then they released this song with Coldplay. And finally, yes, I promise this is the last one, they were on "Good Morning America."

This is a reminder for non-BTS fans to check on their friends, because they may be suffering from loss of sleep right now. This may cause hallucinations of the members. As a BTS fan, I understand the pain of what we do to see the group because I went to sleep late and woke up at 6 am to watch BTS on

"Good Morning America." It was worth it. International fans deserve all the credit because we stay up late or wake up super early just to see them live.

"This has the same beat of Coldplay but sounds like BTS," my mother said.

I really enjoyed the lyrics and meaning of the song, and I personally am happy to be hearing them sing in Korean because it feels like forever since I heard them release a song in Korean. Their last few were in English.

As someone who has been having a rough few weeks, hearing some of the lyrics in "My Universe" are refreshing.

"Because you are my stars and my universe. These hardships are just temporary. Always shine bright as you always do. We will follow you through this long night," rapped Suga in Korean.

I love these lyrics, and it is not just because it is my favorite rapping it, but because it makes me feel like I am not alone through moments where I feel like a failure or not good enough, which happens more than many may think.

Not many people know that BTS has saved the lives of many through their music. People may think it is stupid but listening to them helps me through when I feel at my worst and listening

to them makes me think "I can do this," during the moments I feel like I cannot. They have helped me through so much without even realizing it.

Before the song even came out, it was all over Tiktok where users from both fandoms were showing their reactions to the small snippet of the song. A video I thoroughly enjoyed on the app was of a person using a green screen pretending to be in church praying to the song because it sounds like a "church song" to the user.

"The track, co-written in English and Korean by both groups, celebrates life's small wonders; the universe becomes a metaphor for a romantic relationship where both partners overcome societal barriers by understanding their differences," an NPR article said. "The song soothes hardships, reminding us of the ways we shine light on each other's lives. Even through heavy conversations on love and discrimination, "My Universe" remains hopeful throughout with its punchy drumline and inspirational lyrics: "After all, this hardship is just brief Always shine as bright as you are now."

BTS has become one of the most popular groups in the world, so it was no surprise that they were asked to attend the



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

BTS taking a selfie at the United Nations general Meeting on a Google Pixel 4a 5G.

UN general meeting by President Moon Jae-in as presidential envoys to talk about climate change and mental health at the general meeting. Due to the group being there, the livestream of the meeting got over 1 million views worldwide.

"My Universe," an uplifting pop-rock song about a difficult love, works as the second promotional single from Coldplay's Music of the Spheres," according to Genius. "The track, written by Coldplay alongside BTS

rappers, originally was made only for BTS, but the artists ended up performing it together. The chorus vocals sung together were recorded in April 2021 when Coldplay's Chris Martin visited South Korea. The song marks the first collaboration between the two artists."

The excitement did not end with the song, but at the Global Citizen concert Coldplay performed "My Universe in New York. BTS did do a virtual performance of their song "Butter" and "Permission

to Dance." This band holds the hearts of millions around the world and us Army, BTS fandom name, are excited to see what the group does next, hoping for a new album.

While they sing "My Universe," in the hearts of all BTS fans they are our universe and when their new Soop, a show they put out, comes out, I know I will be staying up for each episode's release, just like I did with their song and their show appearances.

# Students listen to trap and paint Weekly Zodiac

By Danielle Campbell  
Copy Editor

As "Do You Mind" by DJ Khalid and practically the entire industry played through the speakers, the sisters of Sigma Gamma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho prepared the brushes, paint and canvases to a few early participants.

"Definitely with COVID, the social life died a lot. So, we're just trying to bring it back. Bring the campus a little more joy cause it's bad," said Sigma Gamma member and psychology major Diamond English, a junior.

"Trap and Paint" events are not new to the campus, but this event was different. It felt like a release, a commingling of students which could not happen a year before and is slowly picking back up again.

"We wanted to do Trap and Paint because we wanted to create an event that was fun. Something to relieve a lot of stress

so they get to come, they can listen to good music and just get creative," said Sigma Gamma President, social work major and psychology minor Tishana Williams, a senior.

"Trap and Paint" involves a group of people sit and paint freehand or from a model painting as trap music, the university's bred subgenre of hip-hop, bumps in the background. The campus event was no different after the apparent promoting efforts of the sorority.

"I just wanted to make sure we had good attendance. So, we tried to do a lot with promoting. We had the event uploaded on Owlconnect. We had a flyer there. Um, we also do a lot of promoting on social media. So, we just wanted to make sure that we had a good turnout because even though, with COVID last year with a lot of things being virtual we're trying to get people back into the routine of attending things in person and being pres-

ent," said Williams. The room was filled with happy participants who were glad to be social on campus again.

"I just thought it would be a good experience to, you know, meet new people, make new friends, you know, in the sorority and just other girls here," said psychology major Amaya Bruce, a junior.

With the room bustling with conversations and laughter, there were all kinds of paintings from those who have clearly painted before to the beginners.

There was no set painting to copy, so the students had to pull from their imaginations as they connected.

"I think it's a really nice, like calm social space for us to like interact and like just paint and chill," said health studies major and French minor Kellyann McPhoy, a junior.

"I wanted to meet new people and get more involved on campus," said

theater major and women & gender studies minor Anasia Gordon, a senior. When asked about the event she said, "I like it. The people are really nice, and the painting is relaxing."

The Sigma Gamma chapter also had supporters in the room who appeared to be using this opportunity to release the stress of the week.

"Me and my friends love to paint usually as something fun to do and then also I have friends in SG Rho. So, it was nice to come out and support them," said secondary education major and English minor Mychelle Barnes, a junior.

Williams said, "art of why I wanted to do Trap & Paint was, for me personally, sometimes I do it [paint] as a way to relieve stress and I just started doing it maybe within the past month. So, I was like 'we could do a Trap and Paint,' cause I think maybe other people who feel how I feel would think it's a good stress reliever."



By Ellis McGinley  
Managing Editor

**Libra**  
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)  
Mars is in your sign, so it's time for a charm offense. Seize the momentum: while Mercury's retrograde may try to hold you back, you have the power to push through.

**Scorpio**  
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 22)  
Venus is in Scorpio, so love is in the air! Put communication first if you choose to start something new—but while falling fast can be fun, will it build the foundation you need?

**Sagittarius**  
(Nov. - Dec. 22)  
Change is in the air, Sagittarius. Move with it. This may be a good week to invest in some cooperative efforts and embrace a team effort this week.

**Capricorn**  
(Dec. 23 - Jan. 22)  
Spend this week building on previous wins. What opportunities would you like to see through? What no longer benefits your momentum? And this may be a hard one—who's help do you need to ask for?

**Aquarius**  
(Jan. 23 - Feb. 22)  
Jupiter is still in your sign, which means now is time to take lead. What can you do this week to lift up those around you, and what do you need to ask for?

**Pisces**  
(Feb. 23 - March 22)  
Embrace your explorative spirit this week, and reach out to those around you to see who wants to join on the journey. Adventure is better together!

**Aries**  
(March 23 - April 22)  
Keep your temper, Aries. This week, put your energy into those who can reciprocate and encourage your warmth, not who stoke the most dangerous parts of your fire.

**Taurus**  
(April 23 - May 22)  
You cannot always forge the way with hardheadedness, Taurus. This may be a week to explore new paths: reach out, step back, and try to reassess rather than push through.

**Gemini** (May 23 - June 22)  
It might be time to practice some grounding. You are so prone to introspection and impulse, but put some extra effort into thinking things all the way - and from all sides - this week.

**Cancer**  
(June 23 - July 22)  
Patience and resilience. Try exploring both new opportunities and connections as well as investing further in established ones this week. Keep your energy consistent.

**Leo**  
(July 23 - Aug. 24)  
Find courage in collaborative efforts! Your spotlight is big enough to share, and you may even find it brighter when you invite others to succeed alongside you.

**Virgo**  
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)  
Stay your course. Evaluate the ways you communicate: are you receiving as much as you put in or is it time to change tactic?



PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Amaya Bruce painting panda at paint and trap event.



PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Students gathered at the event, ready to start painting



## Mid-Autumn Festival celebrates the moon

**By Sofia Rositani**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
**Sarah Shelton**  
**Features Editor**  
**Danielle Campbell**  
**Copy Editor**

Looking at the moon, celebrating with friends and family, and eating mooncakes are important part of a holiday which just passed on Sept. 21.

The Mid-Autumn Festival event has been celebrated at the university for 15 years.

The coordinator of the Multicultural Center, Dian Brown-Albert, first began this tradition on campus.

"It's really about respecting and appreciating a value in everybody else's culture," Brown-Albert said.

This year, international student and finance major Tian Zixuan, a junior, gave a presentation on how the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival, came to be.

"Think of it as Chinese Thanksgiving—and like Thanksgiving, the celebration revolves around food and symbolize the family reunion," said Tian.

According to China Highlights, "the Mid-Autumn Festival is the sec-

ond most important festival in China after Chinese New Year. Chinese people celebrate it by gathering for dinners, worshipping the moon, lighting paper lanterns, eating mooncakes, etc."

"This is my first time study abroad and it is my honor to present my own culture to the public," Tian said.

Students who watched the presentation engaged with Tian's PowerPoint and the lesson on the celebration's origins.

"I thought the presentation was really good, I really enjoyed it," said history and political science major Kyle Thaxton, a sophomore. "I took Chinese last semester, so I find it interesting to learn more about the Chinese culture, because in class you kind of learn too much about vocabulary and stuff, so it was interesting."

Thaxton was there with his friend, exploratory major Gwen Healey, a sophomore.

"I thought it was very well done," Healey said. "It was actually very informative."

At the end of the presentation, students were allowed to go and grab a mooncake to eat. The op-

tions for mooncakes were a sesame seed or custard filling.

"There are mooncakes in the back of the room," Tian said at the end of her presentation. "They are delicious."

This year, due to COVID-19, the mooncakes given out were pre-packaged for the first time.

"At first, I was worried about it because I heard at this time of year they go fast. So by the time I got to the store, they may not be there," Brown-Albert said. "But I had help from my colleague... she actually went out and she spot them, and I was like, get them. Get them, because we wanted to make sure we had some for our events."

Mooncakes are particularly important during this time of year.

Mooncakes are offered to family members and friends while celebrating this festival.

"They [the mooncakes] were really good," Thaxton said. "I've never had them, and I love them."

Healy had the custard-filled mooncake whereas Thaxton had the sesame seed-filled one.

"I feel so surprised that everyone was enjoy[ing] the mooncakes and I am

enjoying introducing Asian culture to you," said Tian.

Brown-Albert said she really enjoys celebrating holidays like this with the school.

"It's really nice to see the Southern community come together because the Mid-Autumn Festival is kind of like our Thanksgiving, it's not Thanksgiving, but the community when I look around the room and see students connecting and so many students is that

because we didn't expect that many students. This was just really nice," Brown-Albert said.

Because of COVID-19, in-person campus events were limited.

Now that these events have returned to campus, it seems harder than before to get a turnout.

"I didn't know who would show up, if we would even have a turnout, but it felt important that we have to do something because this is important in their culture," Brown-Albert said. "As a university, it is important for us to make sure that we continue so that we could create a sense of family as this time that is about family and gathering."



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Mid-Autumn Festival sign in Engleman Hall on Sept. 21.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Dian Brown-Albert with her colleagues at the festival

## Bi Visibility Day tabling

**By Sarah Shelton**  
**Features Editor**

Every year on Sept. 23, Bi Visibility day, also known as Bisexual Awareness Day, is observed to recognize the history of bisexuality and to celebrate the bisexual community.

According to the GLAAD website, "Bisexuality is a sexual orientation. Bisexual (commonly abbreviated as "bi") people have the capacity to form attraction to and/or relationships with people of more than one gender or gender identity."

The university's own SAGE Center held an event to celebrate this day.

For this event, the SAGE Center set up a few bins on the table, with the Bisexual flag and pamphlets on how to be an ally, and created a game out of it.

For this game, students had to stand back and throw one of the center's rainbow stress balls into a bin. Aaron Morabito, SAGE Center's graduate intern, then asked them a trivia question based on bisexuality.

If students got it correct, they then got to take a little goody bag that had some candy, tissues and one of their rainbow stress balls.

Morabito said, "our event today definitely focused on debunking some of the myths and misconceptions about bisexual and pansexual people. I think spreading awareness on it is important, just being able to make people challenge their ideas of what they think about when they think of a bisexual person."

Morabito said they believe the education part of the SAGE Center is really important, if not the most important part.

They work to teach others how to practice good allyship to the LGBTQ+ community.

"We try to do a lot of,

especially on awareness days, bringing awareness to different identities and different issues that the LGBTQ+ community faces," Morabito said. "Just being able to reach the campus community as much as possible and spreading the information outside of just our queer students [is what we aim for]."

Studio arts major Helena Lang, a freshman, saw on the SAGE Center's Instagram the Bisexual Awareness Day event was happening and decided to come because of their love for the LGBTQ+ community.

"I used to identify as bisexual and my friends are bisexual," Lang said. "I like to support the LGBTQ+ community, so I went to see what's going on and what they're doing for the event."

This was Lang's first time at the SAGE Center and they really enjoy the fact there is a safe space for the community.

"I really like it," Lang said. "It's an open space for anyone."

Lang said they believe many people in the LGBTQ+ community face discrimination because other people do not understand they are just the

same as them, a human.

"There are people out there that discriminate against others because of their sexualities, and I think it's a good thing to be aware of that," Lang said. "Even if someone is bisexual, they are still the same person and they're allowed to be who they are."

SAGE Center student worker and theater major Ryleigh Rivas, a senior, also believes it is very important to spread awareness about biphobia and how to be an ally for bisexual people.

"I think it's fairly important [to spread awareness] because bisexuality is one of those things where there's biphobia on both sides, from straight people and from gay people. It's one of those sexualities that I feel like needs more awareness and support," Rivas said.

Rivas got involved in the Sage Center last year and said they are excited to be able to participate in more events like this.

Follow "@scsusage" on Instagram to keep up with events they hold and to learn more about the LGBTQ+ community and why it's so important to be an ally.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Table in the SAGE Center for Bisexual Awareness day.

THE SOUTHERN NEWS

# SPOOKY STORIES

THE SOUTHERN NEWS WANTS YOU TO SEND THE SPOOKIEST STORIES (OR POEMS) TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER

**DEADLINE: OCT. 15 AT MIDNIGHT**

SEND YOUR SPOOKTACULAR STORIES TO:  
[SCSU.SOUTHERNCT.NEWS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SCSU.SOUTHERNCT.NEWS@GMAIL.COM)

## Last week's crossword: autumn edition answers

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| <p><b>Across</b></p> <p>2. Maybe you'll wear one for Halloween<br/>                 Answer: Costume</p> <p>4. Visit one to pick your own apples<br/>                 Answer: Orchard</p> <p>5. What farmers are gathering now<br/>                 Answer: Harvest</p> <p>8. Collective leaves; New England is known for its colorful autumn.</p> | <p>Answer: Foliage</p> <p>9. Will you carve one?<br/>                 Answer: Pumpkin</p> <p><b>Down</b></p> <p>1. Did we scare you?<br/>                 Answer: Boo</p> <p>2. Seasonal drink made from apples; good with cinnamon<br/>                 Answer: Cider</p> <p>3. You might see them flying at night</p> | <p>Answer: Bats</p> <p>4. The multi-faceted October birthstone<br/>                 Answer: Opal</p> <p>6. When the sun crosses the equator<br/>                 Answer: Equinox</p> <p>7. The blue birthstone of this month<br/>                 Answer: Sapphire</p> <p>10. Abbreviation of a popular fall coffee; get one at the Owl Perch<br/>                 Answer: PSL</p> |
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