



THE CAPTAIN'S SCRIBE

Hello, thawed Pirates! I hope you have all recovered after last week's harrowing mega-episode of *Survivor: Texas 2021*. The psychological and physical drain of simply trying to fulfill our basic needs has been immeasurable: We spent our days and nights wearing every sweater and blanket we owned. We cursed ourselves for not remembering to wear mittens to bed only to wake up at 3:00 a.m. with numb hands because the wind chill was below zero and we were still without power. We had to battle burst pipes and lack of running water in the middle of the Arctic freeze. Whatever your situation was, I hope you took the weekend to recover and reset for a return to normalcy this week!

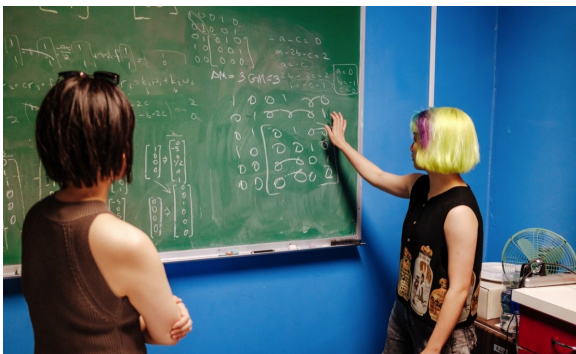
Enormous gratitude goes to our Facilities and IT teams, who worked around the clock to respond to phone queries and restore our servers and website. In addition, thanks to all of our frontline staffers (e.g., Dining Services, Campus Police, and Residential Life) who continue to keep our campus safe and support in-residence students during not just a pandemic but also a historic series of winter storms. This university

could not (and didn't!) function without you, so our Pirates' hats off to you!

We should take a moment to mourn all of our beloved trees that took a hit thanks to their heavy frozen drapery. I don't know about you, but I spent an inordinate amount of time listening to the sound of leaves shivering and giant ice-cloaked oak trees swaying just before they cracked and their branches tumbled to the ground. That sound is sublime, and I mean that in the Romantic sense of 'simultaneously wondrous and terrifying,' especially because you feel so small and powerless to do anything to stop the damage. There's something quite tragic about seeing the gorgeous crowns of long-nurtured oak and fruit trees lying on the ground, so to our Facilities team and everyone else who grows and nurtures our green friends on campus and beyond, you have my utter empathy.

On a more upbeat note, happy (belated) Lunar New Year, which I failed to mention in our last issue because I have become lost in time! Here's to the Year of the Ox, friends! May yours be prosperous and filled with rewards (and delicious fried sesame mochi) for all your hard work.

TAILWINDS



Generating Art

If you've ever wondered what it's like to double major in computer science and art, the amazing and talented Sarah Friday '20 will warn you that it is "definitely a big commitment." They didn't arrive

at Southwestern thinking they would intertwine the two seemingly disparate fields, but Paideia is destiny at SU. Last year, Friday published a conference paper with Anna Krolikowski '20, Alice Quintanilla '20, and Associate Professor of Math and Computer Science Jacob Schrum '06 on art generated by artificial intelligence. I'm not going to cite the article title here because you should read the story to find out more about

Friday's fascinating philosophies of art and science, but I will say that Wave Function Collapse would make an excellent band name.

[Read more](#)

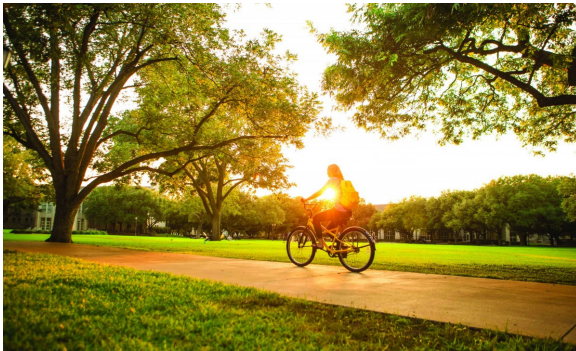
THE HORNBLOWER



Fist Bumps to Faculty

Please raise your glasses to Associate Professor of Kinesiology Ed Merritt and Associate Professor of Psychology Carin Perilloux for earning tenure and promotion this

year! Thank you for all your hard work as scholars and teachers, as well as for your service to your departments and the University, these past several years. SU is lucky to have you.



Plexuss Rankings

Plexuss.com, a website that consolidates college rankings from other organizations, has again recognized Southwestern in its second annual (well, the last one was eight months ago?) list

of colleges and universities:

#1 in Texas among Top Liberal-Arts Colleges

#3 in Texas among Best Foreign-Language Schools in Texas
(Undergraduate)

#4 in Texas among Best Fine-Arts Schools (Undergraduate)

Don't you ever get tired of winning? Just kidding! Congratulations, Pirates! You rock my socks, as always.

[Read more](#)

PIRATE PRIDE



Into the Deep End

COVID has obviously had a significant impact on athletics. For example, our swimming and diving team hasn't engaged in meets since last spring. The weekend before last, they entered

the competition pool once again for the first time in a year—for nothing less than the SCAC Championships. “I have no expectations,” said head coach Jon Duncan before the tournament. “I just want them to have fun, and if they do, good things can happen.” And good things did happen, with many of our Pirates placing in top spots. Congratulations, swimmers and divers!

[Read now](#)

THE CATCH



A couple weeks ago, a Texas attorney accidentally activated a filter during a Zoom court hearing that caused him to appear as an adorable little feline. “I’m here live. I’m not a cat!” the werekitten lawyer promised while waiting for his assistant to figure out how to switch the filter off. What’s the funniest Zoom mishap you’ve witnessed or experienced recently?

A



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