

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Dan Hajducky, and I am a senior Liberal Arts major with Concentrations in Media Studies and Professional Writing at Southern Connecticut State University. Sadly, I cannot attend because of a project for an English class that happens to be due tomorrow afternoon. Wes O'Brien, the Media Studies Chair at SCSU, asked me to speak on behalf of SCSU which I felt I must—even if I couldn't attend. I originally attended Fordham University in the Bronx, NY as a soccer recruit. The school was very expensive, but my family and I agreed that we would do everything possible to put me through school there. We agreed that my life would be vastly improved with a degree from Fordham. There was a blessing and a burden with being an athlete—my soccer and my schooling were tied together. After starting the entire season as a freshman goalkeeper, my coach decided that he wanted to play someone else. After I got hurt my sophomore season, I decided that I would be better off transferring to a less expensive school; however, I wanted to still play soccer. My Fordham coach decided to sully my name, spreading slanderous lies to any coach who contacted him about me; although this almost resulted in his firing, he remained unscathed while I paid the price. Of the fifteen schools I contacted about transferring, only one school saw through my Fordham coach's façade...SCSU. Although this is saying something about the head coach of SCSU—Tom Lang—it also speaks volumes about the program. SCSU provides a quality education not just for people who are financially crippled but for: students who want an elite nursing degree, students who want an elite teaching degree, students who want to stay close to home, students who want to work their way through college, etc. To be totally honest, the quality of teaching instruction that I've gotten in my two years at SCSU is much more all-encompassing and consistent from class to class than my teaching instruction at Fordham. You have teachers at SCSU who *actually*, truly care about the process of learning and want their students to succeed. That is truly rare. At Fordham, I had teachers who would just show up, put up Power Points and then leave once class was over. At SCSU, I have had teachers give me their home phone number, encouraging me to call them with any and all questions. At SCSU I've had teachers like Karen Burke send me e-mails, bulletins, flyers encouraging me to find a way to publish my short stories and my novel. I have teachers at SCSU like Wes O'Brien who ask me to give them my writing so they can edit it and correct it, even though I'm not going to be their student any longer when they return it to me—even though it's Christmas Break, he has to catch up on hours of lost sleep and prepare for the next semester. That's saying something about the quality of this institution, and the people in it. I know how crippled SCSU has been by the state funding, and budget cuts. I also know how much of a raise the people in the SCSU administration have been given while professors and students suffer the consequences. Please stop crippling the CSU school system. You guys don't get to see how it truly gives people a second chance, and improves lives. There is nothing about SCSU, or CSU for that matter, that can be labeled as "expendable". Once again, I apologize for not being able to be in attendance; as SCSU as taught me, with resounding effect, school comes first.

Sincerely,  
Dan Hajducky  
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