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University has seen a decline in enrollment

**By Tyler Fisher
Contributor**

The university is losing students in fact, it has been losing students for several years.

"There are several reasons," said the university's new head of admissions, Nilvio Perez. "It's easy to say that the pandemic has caused a decline in enrollment, but Southern is very dependent on Connecticut residents, and the number of high school graduates is on the decline."

The decline in prospective students, coupled with the competition amongst Connecticut's institutes of higher learning, out-of-state colleges, and the CSCU PACT program, which provides access to free tuition at community colleges leaves Southern struggling to grow its admission numbers.

Perez says of the 2019 and 2020 graduate high school classes, about 50% chose to enroll in school out of state. This leaves Connecticut universities scrambling to attract students to their school.

"From my perspective, being new here, I think there's a way to tell our

story a little differently. I think that the people that are here, the students and faculty, know how special it is, but many times if you live locally and hear Southern and don't know how special it is, you kind of overlook it. 'You're like I'll apply to UCONN; or I'll apply to Sacred heart,'" said Perez.

There was a difference of 686 fewer undergraduate students enrolled at the university in the Spring of 2021 than in the fall of 2020.

This change in enrollment is documented in the university factbooks released by the university's Office of Institutional Research detailing the fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

The National Clearing House Student Research Center released a report detailing spring enrollment numbers on June 10, 2021.

The report stated, "Overall spring enrollment fell to 16.9 million from 17.5 million, marking a one-year decline of 3.5 percent or 603,000 students, seven times worse than that decline a year earlier."

While the enrollment numbers for the nation

have fallen, some students chose to continue their education here at Southern.

"I love it here," said social work major Kyle Magri, a sophomore, praising the sense of community on campus. "I grew up around the New Haven area. The school has a great social work program, and I also love the inclusivity at Southern I felt that it was a very diverse, inclusive and wonderful university."

"The community is what really makes the campus," said Magri, "I find that the community at Southern and the people that I have met really make this a wonderful experience."

The university's mission statement describes the school as "student-centered" and "intentionally diverse." While those words have proven true to some students, the university is also regarded as highly affordable.

English Literature major Theodore Ko, a junior, was drawn to the university because of low tuition costs.

"I liked that it was one of the most affordable in the country," said Ko. "It

was ranked up there."

Moving forward, the university plans on improving its admission numbers by building connections.

Perez said, "We have really strong admission counselors and assistant directors who are building relationships with high schools,

community colleges, and community-based organizations to try to really see how we can sustain and then grow enrollment from there."

In addition to these budding relationships, Perez said the university is potentially looking into how it can make the university more

affordable and accessible to students.

"I understand what the generational landscape is, but I still think having a five-minute conversation with someone can go a long way. I think it's really being visible and making our office accessible and really sharing the story," said Perez.



PHOTO | TYLER FISHER

Southern Connecticut State University Head of Admissions, Nilvio Perez, in his office.

Students learn about feminine health and care at event

**By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor**

A group of women sat around the room to listen to Reign Sanitary Napkin representative, Sharon Lomax, discuss menstrual health. A taboo topic the women in the room were not shy to admit they were not taught much about.

"I feel like when I was in high school, and even in college, if that's not your major, you don't really get those options. So, it's important for me to promote women's health and feminine and menstrual care and things like that because I personally don't hear about it as much and having an open discussion about it is definitely needed," said president of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. Kayloni Hall, a senior.

Hall brought Lomax to campus for the event "menstrual health and feminine care discovery" on Wednesday, Oct. 5 in the Adanti Student Center. She used the sanitary napkins Lomax represents and brought education and alternative menstrual health option to the students of the university.

"So, I actually used her sanitary napkins before and I actually felt a difference," said Hall, "I usually use maxi pads how I mentioned in the event, and her products actually helped with like my cramping, my back. I have really bad back pain. So, I thought that made a difference in my health."

Lomax talked about the dangers of certain feminine products, including conventional pads, and wanted the women to know what they

were putting near their bodies each month.

"The way they made a lot of them [pads] starts off with recycled trash out of the landfill, old newspapers and wood pulp fibers," said Lomax. "[It] goes through an eight-step bleaching process to make them white and make them look like cotton and pure but the residue from that, is that dioxin."

"Has everybody heard of dioxin?" Lomax asks the room. They all nod their heads no. "Okay, dioxin is a carcinogen."

According to the World Health Organization, "Dioxins are highly toxic and can cause reproductive and developmental problems, damage the immune system, interfere with hormones and also cause cancer."

Students learned more about feminine care and better options. Information that can help themselves and others.

"I basically learned a lot about like feminine care. A lot of stuff I didn't know; tips and tricks to help alleviate like cramps and stuff. And then stuff I can teach other people," said psychology major, Diamond English, a junior.

Graphic Design major, Glenda Marcelin, a senior, was on her way back from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship meeting, where she is one of the leaders, when someone told her about the event. "I was kind of forced into silence, but I have endometriosis and there's nobody to talk to you about that. So, I thought it would be a nice community," said Marcelin.

Lomax covered

a plethora of topics including an article handout about Jesse Thompson, creator of the Kill the Pill campaign. According to Lomax, Thompson had fibroids and infertility issues and used natural remedies to help heal her body.

"And prior to her doing her research of going a natural route, she went through numerous surgeries, infertility treatments and it took a good long while and it wasn't until she went natural and started shrinking those fibroids herself through her diet and lifestyle that she was able to strengthen, get rid of them and conceive," said Lomax. "So, she has a campaign called kill the pill. Are you gonna kill the pill? Again, this is information, knowledge. Any birth

control that has a high estrogen level is going to manifest something in you. And like I said, everybody's different. So, the manifestations will be different."

Marcelin was inspired to take charge of her health. "I learned that my mom is not crazy when she tells me that organic products might be the way to like stop all my cramps and all that. And I kind of got motivated I guess to kind of take control over my health," said Marcelin. "Because I know a lot of the time, I know the things that I eat affect it [menstrual health], but I don't do anything about that. And I think indifference is honestly a little bit of a pandemic. Sometimes too many people don't care, and it ruins their lives without them even seeing."



PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Students watching presentation on feminine health and care.



PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Sharon Lomax, presenting sanitary napkins and how they work at the event.

Charlie Brown is a good man in performance

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Audiences returned to the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts, when the theatre department ran their first showings of, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, this past weekend.

The musical marked the department's first production in front of a live audience since the COVID-19 pandemic, an overwhelmingly pleasing feeling to those involved in the production.

"It is extremely satisfying," Sound engineer Nick Moran, a junior, said. "I missed this so much. I love doing this, it's what I want to do as soon as I graduate. Something about live theatre is so different from

streaming theatre. They are completely different reactions, it's hard to describe just how awesome it is."

Opening night was Friday at 8 p.m. and university students with valid student ID's got in free. The show started a bit late, but the audience did not mind.

The part of Charlie Brown was played by Sebastian Cordero, a junior, while Alexina Cristante, a junior, played Chuck's foe, Lucy.

Gauging by the audience's reactions, Cordero put in a fine performance as Brown and Cristante, a music major, displayed her vocal talents to the crowd's delight.

"This is my first real musical I've been to here

at SCSU, and I'd definitely come back and see this show again, specifically," Gary Robinson Jr said. "I really enjoyed it, I liked everything from the lights to the music, to the characters everything was funny and the set was nice and very colorful, I liked it a lot."

The audience, for the most part, enjoyed it as well.

Linus was played by communications major Liam Welsh, a junior. About 20 minutes in, Linus began a song and dance number with his blanket and talked about thumb sucking. Seconds later, the whole cast came out and danced with their blankets.

Not long after, Charlie tried to fly a kite after his sister, Sally, played by theatre major Nicole Thomas, a junior, complained to her school teacher about a coat hanger project.

Snoopy, played by psychology major Keegan Smith, a senior, did a lot of stretching, sitting up, yawning and laying back down.

Snoopy did, however, perform a song solo which showcased his vocal range vocally, while endearing himself to the audience.

The mention of Beethoven resulted in the entire cast breaking out into song and dance again. A dance which was reportedly the most difficult

to nail of the musical.

"It was just a lot of unison dancing and sometimes people had trouble seeing each other and making sure they were all on time," Assistant choreographer Brenna Smith said.

They came out of intermission with the red baron scene, which was difficult to act out, as the set was stationary, and Snoopy is supposed to be flying in a doghouse plane.

After this scene, a baseball game followed, which ultimately turned into another song and dance.

Later, Lucy stole Linus' blanket.

Snoopy tap-danced with Woodstock, played by psychology major Colleen Wilson, because Brown brought him food.

Then the whole cast danced and sang about supper time, and the audience reached their highest pitch in response.

Charlie Brown found the red-haired girls chewed up pencil and cheered up. Now he is happy. The play ends and the audience applauds the cast.

Snoopy in particular got the loudest ovation, serving as much needed comic relief in a story centered around Charlie Brown who is upset and depressed with his ineptitude and inability.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Cast of "You're a good man Charlie Brown" on stage

"I would say, get ready for a very fun, action-packed show," Robinson Jr. said. "Everything was moving really fast and I think that kept the audience on their toes and everything was kind of unpredictable, which was really good."

Nobody in the cast flubbed their lines, everything went off without a hitch on the technological side, the audience did not set the seats on fire, nor did they heckle and walk out. The opening night was successful as far as those involved in the production are concerned.

"There was nothing that really went wrong,"

Playbill coordinator Ryleigh Rivas said. "It started a little late, but no big mistakes, everything went well and definitely a decent turnout for the first show back after the pandemic."

Performances of the musical will run from Thursday, Oct. 14 through Saturday, Oct. 16, with all shows starting at 8 p.m., as well as a matinee showing on Saturday at 2 p.m.

"It's hard to quantify the success of this," Moran said, "but I think the crowd enjoyed it, I enjoyed it, everybody did everything to the best of their abilities, and I think that's a success."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

A scene from "You're a good man Charlie Brown."

Students glow and skate at RHA and Recfit event

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

The 80s was brought back to life when Resident Hall Association, RHA, and Recreation and Fitness, Recfit, teamed up to have a glow skate event.

On Thursday, Oct. 7, the basketball court by the parking garage and Wilkinson hall was full of glow-in-the-dark panels and rental skates, and right outside the court were free t-shirts and Dippin' Dots.

"The Resident Hall Association, also known as RHA, is a board of Southern students who basically get together and make events for residents on campus. We advocate for changes, and things like that," communication disorders major Alonna Thompson, a junior, said. "So we put on an annual roller skating event every year."

Thompson said how this event works is, RHA and Recfit reach out to a vendor who provide the skates and panels and even though

Recfit has access to the campus gym, she believes the easiest place to set all of this up is the basketball court.

"The basketball court is in the residence quad area so most of the residents live on this side of campus, so this is the area that is easily accessible by walking or a car," Thompson said. "So we do the basketball court because it is enough space for us to layout the panels for all of the residents to roller skate."

The panels in which to skate on seemed to only cover half of the basketball court this year, which early childhood education major Josie Kendrick, a sophomore, points out.

"I've roller skated but I'm not good," Kendrick said. "It definitely looks cool, I like the lights, it was bigger last year though. It was the full court instead of half the court which is kind of, not disappointing, but different because I was expecting the full court."

As the skates were hand-

ed back, they were sprayed down by RHA workers to be handed out again. They were organized by different sizes on the side of the court next to the panels.

"I am handing out skates, but I'm also making sure everyone is having a good time right now skating," said communication major Alex Grant, a junior.

Grant said he enjoys putting on events like this, and this particular event is always successful.

"We did it [the event] last year and it was very popular with the residents so we thought why not try it again and it was a success," Grant said. "We had 250 entries and they're all full."

The only problem which seemed to arise was when Grant had to announce to stay on the pad so students do not get injured on the concrete, but otherwise, it was a pretty easy and safe event.

"So far we haven't had any issues and everyone is having a great time," Grant said.

One student, health science major Ange Bamureke, a freshman, only had one suggestion: the time slots should be longer.

The way this event worked, students had to

sign up for a 45 minute time slot from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

"They should make it an hour or two," Bamureke said. "I feel helpless and I hate feeling that way. I want to learn."

However, she still had fun trying to learn how to skate, since she never had before. She said she was struggling, but still loved it.

"I wanted to try something new," Bamureke said.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Students roller skating at the skating glow party hosted by RHA and Rec Fitness.

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One day: multiple events on campus

**Tyler Fisher
Contributor**

Ethan Deer got his haircut in front of Buley Library.

The money he spent on the haircut went to Camp Rising Sun, a camp in Branford, CT, where children between the ages of 5-17 who have been diagnosed with cancer can go and have fun.

Mathematics major Deer, a junior, was eager to support Camp Rising Sun.

"I knew a couple people from the sorority," said Deer. "My freshman year, I got a haircut and won the raffle. It's a great fundraiser and a good haircut."

Several events took place on Wednesday; The "Buzz-A-Thon" hosted by the Theta Sigma chapter of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority was one of the events.

"We're trying to raise money for Camp Rising Sun," said Mckenzie McDermott, a junior.

McDermott, one of the student organizers of Buzz-A-Thon and a member of Theta Sigma said, "It's a local organization that raises money for kids in remission or kids with cancer. It's \$15,000 a week for them to attend. We're

trying to send as many kids as we can for free."

Haircuts were \$10 each. Halfway through the event, McDermott said they had raised at least \$900 for the organization.

Nursing major and sorority member Kayla Bonaldo, a junior, helped run the raffle for the event and said one student donated \$105 to the charity in exchange for 52 raffle tickets.

Leah Karaban, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, a senior, said, "We've been booked full. Now we have a waitlist."

The hairstylists, Laura David and Gina Thomas, had their hands full - of hair.

David, the mother of an Alpha Sigma Alpha member and a hairstylist with over 30 years of experience, volunteered her time to help the organization.

David said, "It's been so much fun. I love it. We've been really busy."

Just a few feet away, students lined up to ride the party bike with President Joe and other faculty members.

President Joe said, "I have to give credit to student involvement. It was their idea to get folks involved, so they invited

the party bike."

He continued, "They are giving out donuts from donut crazy, so you eat a donut, and you can exercise at the same time. It's just an opportunity to get to know people. It's a short ride, a little fun on a beautiful day. It is an opportunity to sit with students and not be in a traditional meeting."

Childhood education major Francesca Lupo, a senior, spent some time on the party bike before class.

"I don't have class until three, so I might as well kill some time," said Lupo. "The atmosphere is very cool and very interactive. I think it's great, and I think they should do it more often."

The SAGE Center and Office of Career and Professional Development hosted their Dress for Success program next to the party bike and gave away professional attire.

"We're working here to spread information about how to dress professionally. What that can look like for different folks - how to be able to express yourself while also maintaining professionalism," said Aaron Morabito, a graduate student from Central's counselor education program, and an employee of the SAGE Center.

In addition to free clothes, the Office of Career and Professional Development offers students a host of free services.

One of their employees,

Giana Pedevillano, a graduate student in the university's public health program, spoke about their services.

"We always have an opportunity for people

to come in if they have questions or set up career coaching appointments, so like maybe a mock interview or any advice in that realm," said Pedevillano.



PHOTO | TYLER FISHER

Ethan Deer getting his haircut at the event for Camp Rising Sun by Gina Thomas.



PHOTO | TYLER FISHER

Leah Karaban (left) and Leah Gunneson (right) at the Buzz-A-Thon event.

Taylor Upsahl is here with music

**Sarah Shelton
Features Editor**

One of the most underrated artists, in my opinion, is Taylor Upsahl, known as UPSAHL.

UPSAHL is an alternative artist who had a popular Tik Tok song a while back called "Drugs" and has written music for many artists, such as Dove Cameron and Madison Beer. She has now released her album titled "Lady Jesus."

One of the first songs on the album is called "Melatonin," which has been out for a bit as a single. I find the lyrics to this song very relatable. She wrote in a comment on YouTube, "Melatonin is about being so overwhelmed with your emotions, that you can't even escape your problems in your dreams." I really love the music too, it is fun and makes you want to dance.

Melatonin reminds me a bit of one of my favorite songs by her, "Young Life Crisis." They are very different, but kind of have the same vibe.

The next song on the album has a very different

feel, but deals with a similar situation. "Time of my Life" reminds me of how we are supposed to be having the time of our lives when we are young, but sometimes cannot. I love how the song has a reference to her song "Drugs" with the lyric "I go to all the parties but I really only came here for the drugs."

Her song "Lunatic" is a fun song, but "Last Supper" hits hard. I really love the alternative guitar and other instruments she always uses, but in this song she uses autotune to make the mood rebellious.

"Thriving" reminds me of her other songs, such as "People I don't like" and "STOP!" I really love her old songs, but this one is not really my favorite. I feel like the lyrics were too repetitive, which UPSAHL usually seems to be really good at, like in her song "Drugs."

"Sunny D" sounds like something Taio Cruz would release back in the 2010s and I think it is really cool because I grew up on this type of music. I can tell she collaborated with someone on this song, but the guy in the

song is not featured. According to a YouTube comment, his name is Elijah Noll.

When "Notourius" started playing, I was very surprised. This sounds very different from the type of music she does, but I honestly loved it. Her voice sounds great and this song somewhat makes you feel like you are in a DC Comics movie.

I have to say, my favorite song off this new album is "IDFWFEELINGS." I really like the energy of this song, even if the lyrics are a little harsh. I love how when she mentioned texts it actually made a texting sound. I also think the ending is really cool. The pace of the song slows down as she continues to sing.

I did not expect the album title song, "Lady Jesus," to sound the way it did, but I do not hate it. It is not the best song, but I think the lyrics are amazing. I feel like this is a revival for UPSAHL.

I'm glad UPSAHL is still making alternative music, even if it is not going to be chart-topping like the recent pop and rap music. It is really inspiring.

OPINIONS Celebrating Native lineage

**By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor**

The story given to me about my family was my great-grandfather moved to Connecticut for a better life than the one he had on a Native American reservation. Which one? I am not sure. I know my grandfather's lineage is Black, White and Native American. I was told his father wanted better for his children than the life of depression you can so readily find on the reservations in America. People we have forgotten and stolen everything from. My ancestors, somewhere down the line.

I have always connected with the original people of this land and wanted to put their faces forward, but in general, I am all for culture to be celebrated, period. I am torn when cultures are clashing for recognition on certain days when we all deserve to be celebrated. There is no competition in my eyes when we all are supposed to be recognized. America is a melting pot.

Personally, as a history minor, I have a love of culture which goes deeper than just those I know. I am an African-American woman with roots in multiple countries. I am a lover of people and want us all to celebrate and understand each other. With that said, I think the difficult history behind Columbus Day and the recent recognition by President Joe Biden is important to unpack.

According to Native Land Digital, New Haven is Quinnipiac, Paugussett, and Wappinger land. It is deeply important to me to

have people know those who have been forgotten and erased. We have so much we owe to Native Americans.

President Biden's recognition of Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day is necessary but hurtful. In the days where we are silencing these people on their lands, can we say we are celebrating them by simply giving them a day of recognition?

America owes Native Americans recognition but not just in name. The president supports pipelines which toxify their waters. All they ask is for respect for their people and their land, but we think a name, a day, a month is enough to rectify what this country did to them. It is not.

My great-grandfather was said to have been a strawberry blonde, blue-eyed black man who left his family further north, on a reservation, to save his children from the ills of alcoholism. He did not escape it though. Three of his four children had issues with alcohol, including my grandfather.

Can you imagine a pain so deep it follows you? I cannot fathom what injustices lie in my DNA. I cannot fathom all that has been forgotten. I found out, while at the university, I am related to descendants of King Phillip. That cousin came to campus and told the true details of Thanksgiving. The murder. Those stories never left my mind.

This is all I think of when I think of this recent recognition. It is a great show, but we owe them more than just a day reclaimed. We

owe them respect in the present day. We owe them amplification of voices when they ask for their waters to be protected. We owe them safety for their women and girls who go missing in vast numbers with zero media coverage. We owe them respect when they tell us to stay off their current designated land. America has taken enough.

Native Americans exist, today. They did not die out. They must not be made people of the past. I have tried for my entire college career to take a Native American history class. It was again cancelled this semester for low enrollment. Again, I was cheated out of learning about my ancestors in a college setting. Again, I felt like we were forgetting them.

As a New England school, we should be required to learn about Native American history as well as Black and Hispanic. After all, we are on Native land. We even kept the words. According to Britannica, Connecticut takes its name from an Algonquian word meaning "land on the long tidal river." According to Meriam-Webster, Quinnipiac is an extinct Algonquian people of central Connecticut.

Everything we do as New England residents sits on the shoulders of people we do not remember or fail to recognize. We ignore that they are the first step in this country of immigrants. They are our first teachers. We fail them each day we use their words and do not recognize who they are or celebrate their murder. We must do better than this.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

UPSAHL's album "Lady Jesus" on Spotify open on Southern News computer

Volleyball scores 10th home victory Kacey Deecher's career-best performance powered the Owls to their 15th win

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Volleyball split their two home games this past Sunday. The Owls dropped their early game against the American International College Yellow Jackets in four sets and defeated the Wilmington University Wildcats.

Sunday's defeat in four sets marked the second time the Owls lost to the Yellow Jackets this year and only the second time the team has lost at home in Pelz Gym on the season, where they are at 10-2.

They were able to bounce back in their afternoon matchup with the Wildcats, winning in four sets and moving their record on the season to 15-6.

"I'm really happy that we pulled out this win," outside hitter Lillee Olson, a senior, said. "Whatever happened this morning, it's in the past. We're going to learn from it. We're going to move on to next week."

Early on, it was not easy. The first set saw 13 tie scores and eight lead changes, with the Owls ultimately losing the set 25-22.

From this point, the Owls clearly made an adjustment as the Wildcats never got a lead in the second set and the Owls stepped up to take

care of business, winning 25-16.

"We just came more together as a team and figured out what worked and their weaknesses in order to execute on offense and we got it done," outside hitter Kacey Deecher, a sophomore, said.

Deecher had three kills in the second set. She was on her way to a career best performance. Setter Taylor Jones, a sophomore, had eight assists in the set. She would reach a career milestone later in the game.

Early in the third set, middle hitter Abigail Epstein, a graduate student, sent the ball over the net for a kill which left three Wildcats sprawled on the ground, tying the score at seven apiece.

Epstein led the Owls with four kills in the third set, on their way to another 25-16 win.

Deecher had two kills, a service ace and five digs in the set, stuffing the stat sheet.

The Owls' bench were chanting the names of their teammates as they made big plays.

"I love it," Deecher said. "It's my favorite part."

In the fourth set, Jones assisted Deecher for the kill to tie the score at 15. Jones then assisted Epstein to give the Owls the lead and they never looked back.

The Owls won the set 25-17 and won the match three sets to one.

Jones had nine assists in the set, 27 assists for the game and reached the 500-assist milestone for her college career.

"That's cool. I'm excited about it. I didn't even know that I was close to that," Jones said with a smile. "I feel really accomplished. I couldn't do it without the hitters and passers. It's a team effort. I'm really glad they helped me get to that accomplishment."

Deecher had her first career double-double by setting new career highs in kills with 10 and digs with 13.

"I had no clue until you guys told me," Deecher said. "It's very exciting. I hope to move forward and up from there. It's a good start."

The Owls' next volleyball game is Tuesday, Oct. 12, against Mercy College in Pelz Gym.

They have defeated Mercy the last nine times they have played, dating back to 2007. A good opportunity to build on this season's success and make a deep playoff run.

"I want to win it," Jones said. "We have a lot of seniors, and this is the year and I want to do it now and have no regrets. This is the year in my opinion. I want to do it now."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Kacey Deecher had her first double-double during Sunday's win over Wilmington.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Sunday's home win marked the Owls 10th in Pelz Gym this season and 15th overall.

No. 3 team in country ruins field hockey senior day

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Field Hockey ran into the buzzsaw known as the Assumption University Greyhounds this past Saturday at Jess Dow Field on senior day.

The Owls lost 8-0 to an Assumption team which is currently first in the NE-10 Conference and ranked third in the country for Division II.

Saturday's victory marked 10 in a row for the Greyhounds, a team who has not lost since their season opener. The Owls dropped to 2-6.

"This was definitely a mental game," team captain Alyssa Haskins, a senior, said. "I think a lot of us came in nervous and then comes stage fright, and because this is the nationally ranked third team a lot of us knew it was going to be really tough and really challenging."

The Greyhounds made for a tough senior day opponent; doing their best to put a damper on all the festivities surrounding the game.

Haskins, along with fullbacks Julia Schaff and Megan Habakangas were recognized both pre- and post-game as part of senior day, complete with signs, balloons, flowers and framed pictures commemorating their field hockey careers.

"It's just surreal to me that I'm actually a senior now," Schaff said. "It's sad that I lost a year, but it's also just crazy that I made it this far and to see how much I've

grown as a person and as a player here at Southern."

From the start of the game, the Greyhounds dominated possession of the ball to the tune of 10 shots in the first quarter to the Owls' zero.

Only one of those shots found the back of the net. Just over 10 minutes into the game, Greyhounds forward Shannon Quinlan passed it to forward Christina Leonard for what was the first of many goals for her team.

Owls' goalkeeper Janelle Ward, a junior, recorded an impressive eight saves in the first quarter. She would have her work cut out for her throughout the contest.

The Owls competed better in the second quarter, fighting for the ball and possessing it more than in the first. However, the Greyhounds just executed better and scored for the second time less than five minutes into the quarter, with forward Mia Salah scoring unassisted for Assumption.

Midway through the quarter, Greyhounds forward Isabel Primack scored to make it 3-0 and then came halftime, which featured a fan shootout contest.

"The biggest challenges were staying up after we get a goal scored on us and also just keeping our mindset positive after we get scored on," Schaff said.

The Owls got all three of their shots off in the third quarter, but none found the back of the net. The home crowd stayed firmly behind their home team throughout, despite the

teams score.

Assumption scored three times in quick succession in the third. Leonard scored again, as did Salah and forward Sydney Bouchard. The wheels were falling off and the Owls' hopes of a comeback were rapidly fading.

"We are strong in our backfield and our midfield," Habakangas said. "We get the ball up to about that point and then our forwards are struggling a little bit with getting it up to that next spot, and I think that's where we really need to work."

The fourth quarter was more of the same, with Assumption scoring two more times, including a third goal from Salah. Ward finished with 21 saves in the game due to the sheer volume of shots which came her way.

Habakangas made a defensive save late. Keeping the score from looking even more lopsided.

"So, what goes through my mind every time we have a situation like that, I'm backing Janelle [Ward] up all the way because she's phenomenal," Habakangas said. "I just keep my hands low; I keep my feet behind me, and I just stay strong and trying to keep it out that goal."

It was an emotional day for the seniors. A time for reflection and thought. Thoughts which lead to different feelings.

"It is the most absurd thing," Haskins said. "Because I feel like just yesterday, I was walking into preseason on my first day as a terrified freshman

and here I am almost four years later, and it's totally crazy."

Habakangas perceives time differently from her teammate.

"It means a lot," Habakangas said. "Feels really weird. I feel like I've been here forever, so it's crazy that it's finally coming to an end, but I wouldn't want to go out with any other group of girls. So I'm proud that I'm here with them."

Field hockey plays next Tuesday, Oct. 12, on the road against Bentley University, looking to improve their record as their season winds down.

"I'm happy just to be out here with my team playing and to have this opportunity with all my friends around me, playing the sport I love," Schaff said.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Field hockey lost 8-0 on senior day at Jess Dow Field.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

The Owls lost 8-0 to Assumption on Saturday. The team ranked third in the nation.