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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## State of University Address by President President Joe Bertolino highlighted key issues in the University

**By Tyler Fisher  
Contributor**

Five is the magic number. Tuesday's state of the university address established five new goals for the short and long term. "We must focus on the future. We must accept where we are and say, 'what's next?'" said university President Joe Bertolino. Several key issues were addressed during Bertolino's speech, so many in fact the president and other members of the university's leadership have thought it was prudent to establish five priorities and responsibilities to guide the university's policies and decisions for years to come.

One of the priorities is

preparing the university for the future.

The extra funding allotted to the university because of the pandemic from the state and federal governments is ceasing at this year's end.

Remedying the university's financial status is essential.

"It is vital that we stabilize the university's financial position," said Bertolino. "This year, we have a balanced budget largely due to multi-million dollar injections of state and federal support and the hard work of our finance team. The downside to that is that all of this wonderful funding that we received will not be available at the end of the year."

To fix the university's financial hardship,

Bertolino talked about the possibility of creating more revenue streams.

"The CSU system as a whole is looking at a projected budget deficit of more than \$100 million in fiscal year 2023, largely as a result of the sharply declining enrollment system volume. As a result, it is critical that we develop new revenue streams, including external grants, corporate partnerships, and contracts," said Bertolino.

Bertolino and the rest of the university leaders hope to enhance financial aid and scholarship funding, research, and program development.

Making the university more accessible for students already enrolled and prospective students is

a big aspect of priority two; driving enrollment.

As Bertolino said, "flexibility is going to be the key to our future success. These are qualities that we will need in the days to come as we address a long-standing enrollment downturn that had been exacerbated by the events of the last 18 months. We were already struggling before COVID. COVID has just sped up the process."

The bane of the last 20 months - the pandemic - has permanently affected how students learn.

"Virtual learning is also clearly here to stay," said Bertolino.

The president said there has been an increase of more than 10% in virtual course offerings compared to last fall.

As the university continues to adapt, Bertolino said, "We now need to move forward from virtual course offerings to online degree programs that respond to the needs of our state."

The third priority is to ensure student success by removing the obstacles which make it harder for students to graduate.

"I think we need to take a hard look at all of our policies, all of our procedures, all of our systems in a variety of different ways to see what those barriers are and then see how much flexibility we have in changing them," said Bertolino.

The university says it is committed to social justice and being a part of the community. Priorities four

and five are rooted in those beliefs.

The fourth priority, advancing social justice and anti-racism on campus and beyond, serves to recruit new students who share the same beliefs.

The fifth - engaging the community and expanding the university's reach, exists to widen the number of learning opportunities for students. The university hopes to engage with local schools and alumni while growing the potential donor base.

"Why should a student come to Southern?" Bertolino said, "There are a laundry list of reasons, but the most powerful is when an alumni of this institution says, 'I am successful because I came to Southern.'"



PHOTO | TYLER FISHER

A volunteer from the flu clinic putting on gloves to prepare to administer the flu shot.



PHOTO | TYLER FISHER

A volunteer from the flu clinic putting on gloves to prepare to administer the flu shot.

## Una Noche En Panama Gala event in ballroom by OLAS

**By Danielle Campbell  
Copy Editor**

The Organization of Latin American students continued a tradition which was put on hold last year because of COVID-19, Noche De Gala. The benefit dinner features food and dancing, and proceeds go to a good cause, a scholarship for an incoming latinx student.

"I want to thank the university for giving us the opportunity to get back together in this room. It's a little intimate

this year. For many reasons, COVID being the main contributor to that. But we're headed in the right direction and hopefully next year we'll get the whole ballroom full again," said Anna Rivera-Alfaro, co-advisor of OLAS.

The event took place Thursday, Oct. 21, in the Adanti Ballroom. Students dressed up in their best to attend the once-a-year affair. The gala celebrates one Latin American country a year and this year's theme was Panamá. Hence the name, Noche De Gala:

Una Noche en Panamá. A night in Panamá it was, but OLAS didn't want to let the students forget what the night was about.

"Ultimately we try to raise funds for incoming freshmen. That is the purpose of this Noche De Gala," said OLAS President Azhaleia Reyes.

OLAS collaborates with CALAHE, Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education, for the scholarship. They send the applications to the high schools and look at the students that are committing to Southern. There is no GPA requirement. The student's main requirement is to be a Latinx student committing to Southern. The scholarship is \$1,000 and the club raises that money any way they can to support a student, sometimes two.

Past president and OLAS graduate advisor Erika Colón said, "I'm excited that we're able to have it this year, honestly, because last year was really sad that we weren't able to have it this year, obviously, with COVID

restrictions, but still we wanted to raise the funds to be able to give back that to scholarship that we've been doing for so many years."

The event featured the Caribbean Students Association dance team. They danced to a dancehall and soca medley for the gala because OLAS did not get a dance team together this year.

"We're always down to support OLAS, they support us, so we were excited to do their perform for their event here. So, I really enjoyed it. It was fun," said Briana Patterson, dance coordinator for CSA.

The food for the dinner was donated by Tropical Caribbean Delight in New Haven and Tata's Restaurant in Wallingford. The dinner featured chicken, yellow rice, pasta, and other delicacies.

The screens showed people from Panamá and different facts about the country, including John McCain who was born in the Panamá canal.

Students dressed

in their best suits and dresses and after the dinner and performance headed to the dance floor to dance the night away to bachata, salsa and other Latinx treasures.

OLAS treasurer Gianna Ciarleglio's family donated table linens, runners, centerpieces, utensils, napkins and other necessary items. "OLAS has treated me like family. Even though I'm not Latin American, I'm Italian. So, we wanted to give back being that I was, I'm part of the eboard now. And tonight, is just

like amazing. It was so stressful. But it honestly, it couldn't have gone any smoother than I did."

The event was a success, even though it looked different because of COVID-19 restricted the number of students to 120. Students came to support OLAS and celebrate culture.

Nursing major, Brittany Hernandez, a sophomore, came with a friend and to socialize. "I came out to learn a little more about Panamá and just have a great night with other people."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Students getting food at the Noches De Gala event.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

The CSA dance team performing at the event.

# InterVarsity Christian Fellowship held event on Jesus

By Devin Hollister  
Contributor

The InterVarsity Christian Fellowship organization gave students the opportunity to provide their thoughts on Christianity at the Adanti Student Center. Students wrote down on sticky notes their personal opinions on how they felt about the religion.

InterVarsity created this event titled "What Are Your Thoughts On Jesus?" for reflection on

the men who came on Sin Awareness day and spread hateful messages to the students on the academic quad. Due to the occurrence of Sin Awareness day that passed, InterVarsity was concerned about students' emotional trauma that the sin awareness organization could have given them due to the condemning message they were offering.

Because of this, InterVarsity wanted to spread a more positive and less hostile message

to students rather than what the sin awareness group was doing. According to Graphic design major and co-president of InterVarsity Glenda Marcelin, a senior, the news the sin awareness group was sending antagonized students, and their goal was to bring inner relief.

"Sin Awareness day happens every year," Marcelin said, "and it creates this divisiveness for students because these random people come in, who don't even go

to this school, and start preaching a very hateful form of the gospel. So we just want to reach out with love and heal that hostility."

As of 2015, according to the Pew Research Center, the United States population that is Christian is 76.9% Christian, meaning more than 200 million people practice the religion. Yet, the sin awareness groups go onto campuses around the country try to preach out claims towards the other percent

of people who live in the U.S., usually on campus grounds, they are bound for everlasting punishment.

Marcelin explained that in Christian belief and their mission for InterVarsity was Jesus puts love first for everyone before anything else. But, unfortunately, this message shows how the men from the sin awareness group ignored and disregarded the belief.

"People don't care what you know until they know that you care," Marcelin said. "Those men did not show that they care about us."

The other members of the organization were Bilingual elementary education major Siomara Rodriguez, a junior InterVarsity advisor Danielle D'Oliveira and InterVarsity President Monae A. Perrier, a senior.

InterVarsity setting up an opportunity to share their thoughts on Christianity gave students a better and more optimistic perspective on the gospel. No one was emotionally affected by it, and it was significant since they were able to express their opinions on

religion with Christians without any form of conflict.

InterVarsity accomplished this by writing down their thoughts onto a sticky note and then collecting them all. They also welcomed those to join the organization to learn more about spiritual healing and the Christian faith. Snacks were also given to those who wanted to fill out a note.

InterVarsity's involvement with students, in general, encourages them to get more involved in Christianity on campus by taking risks and getting out of their comfort zone to spread their faith in a more welcoming and positive way. With this particular event, they were able to get even more connected with students for their message and help them emotionally and spiritually.

"We hope that this can be a place where the love of Jesus transforms people," Danielle D'Oliveira said, "we hope this can be a community where people come together, and bonds are made with each other."



PHOTO | DEVIN HOLLISTER

Students learning about Christianity in the Adanti Student Center.

# Why those feelings: missing white women syndrome

By Danielle Campbell  
Copy Editor

Missing white women syndrome can be seen in full force in the Gabby Petito case. The term was coined by Gwen Ifill and is "a term used by social scientists and media commentators to refer to the observed disproportionate media coverage, especially in television, of missing-person cases involving young, white, upper-middle-class women or girls compared to the relative lack of attention towards missing women who are not white, women of lower social classes, and missing men or boy."

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, the Why Those Feelings series had the Missing White Women Syndrome conversation about missing person cases showing up in the media as of late. The focal point was the mass coverage of Gabby Petito and how her case has brought up the issue of missing coverage

for anyone that is not a young white woman or girl.

"There's two cases that attracted this much media attention in terms of missing white woman syndrome. The first one was JonBenét Ramsey which happened in 1996. - And another one is Natalie Holloway which happened in 2005," said Kyle Augustine, the graduate intern for University Access Programs and creator of the Why Those Feelings series.

The first two cases to be discussed were JonBenét Ramsey in 1996 and Natalee Holloway in 2005. These cases dominated the news in coverage and documentaries created up to this day. Those who haven't gotten the same coverage such as Jelani Day, whose body was found a month after he disappeared. Day's case is still yet to be solved and coverage has only been minimal and in contrast to Petito's case.

Psychology major,

Rosenine Saint-Val, a senior said, "If you're a white girl you go missing, all of New York or California all of whatever, news spreads like wildfire, but whereas if it's a black missing child it's just like okay they went missing. Okay, what were they doing? They got skeletons in their closet."

Missing girls of color, such as Maya Marcano were a large part of the discussion as well. Marcano was kidnapped and killed by a maintenance worker in her building in Florida. Her story was mostly shared in Caribbean and black American circles on social media but did not receive the same media coverage as Gabby Petito. This is the very issue this discussion was trying to showcase.

Business Administration major, Aldric Joseph, a junior, said, "I thought the event was surprisingly good. I enjoyed the open discussion and the fact

that I ended up leaving with new awareness. The discussion was heavy due to the topic, but I'm glad that it was something we got to learn and discuss about."

Augustine showed news video clips from

the Petito case and the funeral of Maya Marcano to show how big her case was to her community compared to the coverage she received in the mainstream media.

Joseph said, "In the discussion, I learned just

how bad the disparity is regarding missing persons. There isn't a reason why around 45% of missing persons is POC, yet the missing people who go viral (for lack of better words) are missing white women."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Students participating in the "Why Those Feelings" event by viewing a powerpoint.

## OPEN MEDIA POSITIONS

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### REQUIREMENTS:

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Full-time student

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## Spooky Season: Trail of Terror event

**Sarah Shelton**  
Features Editor  
**Danielle Campbell**  
Copy Editor  
**Wula Cham**  
Copy Editor

Chainsaws, Skeletons, Michael Myers, Witches, Graveyards and Haunted houses. What do all of these things have in common? A trip to Wallingford.

On Saturday, Oct. 23, Programs Council, Pro-Con, held an event which brought students from Hickerson Hall all the way to "Trail of Terror" in Wallingford.

The trail featured themed sections such as Michael Myers' house, Graveyards, Chainsaws, the Exorcist, a polka dot room, Alien vs. Predator, a circus, toy story, a witch hunt and many other terrifying themes.

"I saw it on the weekly Southern email that they were having a Trail of Terror event and I was like, 'I need to get on that RSVP list,'" Computer Science major Siddhi Suresh, a junior, said.

Suresh said she is happy ProCon put on Halloween-themed events for this season.

Weekend Programmer Matthew Berry, a senior,

said, "We couldn't do it last year unfortunately because of COVID. But now that we are, well, I'm finally happy to do it again, bring it back, especially for me since this is my last time with ProCon before I graduate."

Berry said he had a fun time at the event because he loves the adrenaline of getting scared. He is also glad to hear students also had fun at the event.

Suresh said she is not very experienced in the haunted and scary department, but she volunteered at the university's Haunted Hickerson event and got to scare people, so she was excited to be the one getting scared.

"I didn't even know this [Trail of Terror] existed. I knew of Lake Compounce's Halloween events and Six Flags, but never anything like this," Suresh said.

International student and finance major Tian Zixuan, a junior, said she signed up for the event to try and experience as many things as she could while she is here at the university.

She said this was her first time going through a haunted event like this and it makes her excited to celebrate Halloween in America.

"Obviously I was very scared. It's longer than

I thought. We spent a bunch of time in the haunted house with friends," Tian said.

Nursing major Destinee Holly, a freshman, and psychology major Craig June, a freshman, came together to the event and said they had a good time.

"They locked me out for like so long," Holly said. "The guy dressed as Michael [Myers] would not let me pass and then Freddy [Krueger] was chasing me and they left me."

June said they had to wait there for a bit and Freddy Krueger made jokes about the situation.

"He didn't even notice at first," Holly said. "I was screaming 'Craig 'Craig.'"

Other students, like biochemistry major Eva Rodriguez, a freshman, came by themselves but made new friends at the event.

"The event was really good, honestly I had a lot of fun," Rodriguez said. "I actually came here alone, and I made a lot of friends."

Rodriguez got scared during the event but had new friends to hold on to.

"It was scary, but I signed up for that," Rodriguez said. "The best part was the chainsaw guy. When he was chasing us, he was relentless. It was good."



PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Trail of Terror sign listing the rules and leading guests to the ticket booth.



PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Scary props set up at the Trail of Terror event in Wallingford, Connecticut.



PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Green lit up Trail of Terror sign above students right before they walk in.

## Ultimo breaks hearts in new album release \*cries in Italian\*

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

Niccolò Moriconi, famously known as Ultimo, an Italian singer from Rome, Italy released a new album on Oct. 22. This album is really exciting, as Ultimo has not released an album since 2019.

"The tracks Niccolò describes is the emotions found this age from silence, away from the public," an English translation from Roma Today said.

While listening to the album, I can hear the emotions he puts into his music. Ultimo has a way with his lyrics that can make anyone relate to it.

Though Ultimo has many ballad-like songs, he did have a few with a more rock sound to them, such as "Quei Ragazzi," or "Those Friends," is a catchy song with a rock sound. While this song is high on my list of favorites for this album, my most favorite song is "La Finestra di Greta," or "The Window of Greta." This song is full of emotions because Greta is Ultimo's girlfriend who he has been dating since 2016.

The lyrics in Italian and English are added because Italian is such a complex language and for those who understand the language, being able to read and understand the beauty in these words he writes, which enraptures his lyrics compared to a rough translation of it in English. But this is how it is for many languages, including English.

"Come le rose a novembre, tu trova forza all'interno Eli che trovi la fora per insegnare a un maestro E vorrei Dipingere insieme a te Parole per vivere Se vita in te poi non c'è," Ultimo sang in the song "La Finestra di Greta."

"Like roses in November, you find strength within Eli finding the hole to teach a teacher. And I would painting together with you words to live if there is no life in you," a rough translation of the lyrics Ultimo sings in "La Finestra di Greta."

Prior to the release of his album "Solo," he released the title track "Niente" or "Nothing," a song Ultimo uses to express his anger and frustration. The

torment and apathetic end to a long love story makes a person reflect on another aspect in their life. It is a feeling which will fade and eventually vanish. This song is a flow of his thoughts which culminates into the phrase "Io sono le mie canzoni" or "I am my songs," something he emphasizes with his identity as a songwriter.

The ending of the song is particularly sad. With his acceptance of not feeling anything anymore for the person. Though he is in a long and happy relationship, it is unclear why or how he wrote these heartbreaking but beautiful songs.

"È triste ma quando mi abbracci non sento più niente," he sang in "Niente." "It's sad but when you hug me, I no longer feel anything," a rough translation of his lyrics in "Nothing."

When I first heard about him, I was not really a huge fan, until I heard "Piccola Stella." This was when I fell in love with his music. Now 2021, this man has completely stolen my heart one lyric at a time.

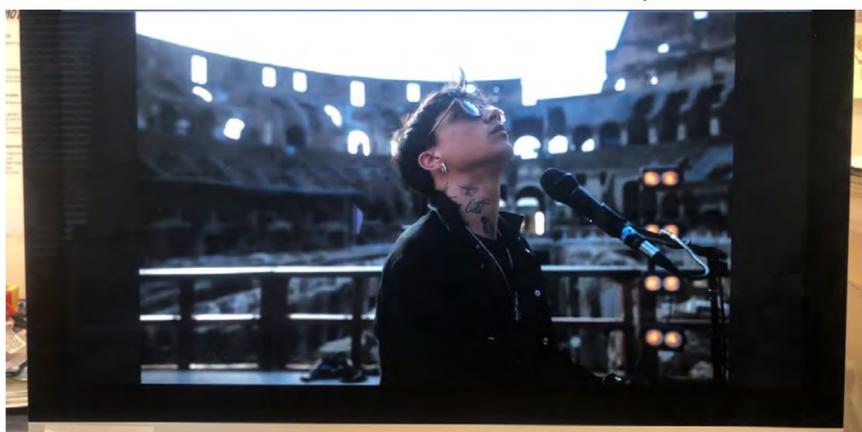


PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

A picture of Ultimo performing at the colosseum opened up on a computer.

## OPINIONS

### People are sick, not COVID-19

**By Sarah Shelton**  
Features Editor

While walking around West Campus I heard coughing coming from a lot of the rooms. I see everyone all of a sudden ordering tea at Dunkin' or making it at Conn Hall. There is a sickness going around nobody is talking about, but the thing is, it is not the flu and it is not COVID-19.

Sure, it is normal to get a cold at this time of year, but it seems as though everyone is being silent about it due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of my friends actually went to the university health center for his cold to get help and they sent him all the way home to quarantine. I appreciate the safety precaution, but his COVID-19 test was negative, so he had to come all the way back a few days later. I also had a sore throat and a cough for a few days, but luckily for me, it was during the days I had online classes over a weekend so I did not have to miss much. Some mornings I still wake up with a sore throat, but it tends to go away after drinking some water.

For a bit, I thought it was just the students in West, because we had a recent problem with our air conditioners, but while looking through my Twitter app I saw a tweet by someone who does not go to the university that said, "did everyone get that weird cold that wasn't like a cold but also wasn't covid or the flu?" I have also seen many Tik Tok videos about it.

A lot of people I know on campus, including myself, have felt sick within the last two weeks and have tested negative for COVID-19, strep and mono. Like I said before, the common cold is normal at this time of year, but the thing is, we all have the same symptoms: a sore throat, cough, and/or respiratory issues. It does not just feel like a small cold, but it also does not feel as severe as COVID-19. Most of us have no fever, no loss of taste or smell, and no stuffy or runny nose, although some mornings I do have a stuffy nose, which is probably from the cold of the fan in my room. My friend and I even lost our voices for a few days.

A friend of mine pointed out stress lowers immune symptoms and I know a lot of students have been feeling stressed lately, especially during midterms.

College also has been hard on the majority of us students lately, since we went from lockdown to a full blown university experience with in-person classes and meetings. If all of our stress levels are so high, this could be the reason it is spreading so fast as well.

There are other reasons why this is spreading so fast. While going through Tik Tok, a video came on my 'For You' Page which caught my attention, since I am a big astrology lover. @Howlitesmovingcastle, who has been studying astrology for a few years, said in a video, "mercury retrograde

started September 27 right? And it ended October 18, but we still have the two-week pre and post shadow period and people all over social media have been complaining about a respiratory infection or illness that they had and it wasn't covid or the flu. Now, this is interesting, because everyone has been complaining about this while mercury was in retrograde. Mercury rules over the chest and lungs. We know mercury has adverse effects when it comes to communication, but I feel like we never talk about the effects it may have on our health."

She made sure to say she is no doctor, but she has noticed many people getting sick during the retrograde and thinks the phenomenon is interesting.

Now, this may not be true, but it is cool to think about. Is this mercury retrograde? Is it just seasons changing? I personally believe it is possibly a strain of the cold going around. I think it has been hitting us hard because we have not been sick in a long time because of masks and lockdown. It really took my roommate out for about a week and a half. She developed an ear infection and has been coughing for two weeks now, where as I seemed to only be sick for a few days. I am worried about students not getting help in fear of getting sent home to quarantine for COVID-19 when it is not, as most of the campus has the same kinds of symptoms.

# Volleyball continues home dominance

## The Owls look to carry momentum into a stretch of NE10 conference games

By Christian Dunn  
Contributor

The Owls followed up an away loss to Bentley, only their seventh loss of the season, with a very strong home performance versus Molloy College, whom the Owls had lost to earlier in this season.

After taking the first three points of the match, the home team found themselves down 6-11 after a long scoring streak by Molloy, forcing the Owls to call their first timeout of the evening.

"We had a shaky start," outside hitter Gabriela Vazquez, a graduate student, said, "but definitely got back on track and helped ourselves win the set."

The home team did manage to find their groove after the timeout, going on a 9-2 run and taking a two-point lead on Molloy, forcing the away team to use their first timeout of the game. The opposing team's game stoppage would not be as effective as the Owls', however, with Vazquez managing to find two kills and preventing any sort of momentum swing by Molloy. The Owls found themselves up 24-15 after an impressive 18-5 run, but would drop four straight points, giving the home team a comeback scare. This comeback would be put to rest

however, as mid blocker for the Owls, Erika Benson, a senior, closed out the first set with a kill assisted by setter Taylor Jones, a sophomore, the final of her four kills in the first set.

"We practiced a lot with tips and rolls this week," Benson said. "I thought our offense was strong, we came out of the timeout pretty hot which is good, and we usually get stuck in these little ruts, so we made it a goal of ours tonight to prevent them which I think we did a pretty good job of. We also lost (to Molloy) last time so we wanted to come out here and not lose to them."

The second set would remain a less one-sided contest, as a few miscues by the Owls gave Molloy a 5-1 start after multiple side outs by the home team. The Owls managed to fight back the deficit with two kills by Abigail Epstein, both of which were assisted by Jones, who finished with 15 assists in this set alone. Down 11-8, the home team tied the set up following two kills by Benson, who added on to her four kills in the first set with another 6 in the second. Vazquez found her way onto the stat sheet again with her first kill of the set, adding to what was already a great performance.

"I'm currently doing

a different position than I'm used to so, a lot of adapting," Vazquez said, "I still have a lot to work on to get the right side down, but as a team we're all working on communication and playing our game, maintaining our energy throughout the whole match."

The kill by Vazquez started what would end up being a 4-0 run, giving the Owls a 20-16 lead late. After dropping consecutive points to the Lions, back-to-back kills by Benson and Epstein gave the home team a 23-18 advantage, before eventually closing it out 25-18 following a side out by Molloy.

The third set would prove most difficult for the Owls, with eight tie scores and five lead changes in this set alone. Following a 4-0 run by the Lions, the home team was down 4-6 early. Some few exchanges later, Vazquez made a highlight reel save in the back of her own zone, hitting the ball back over her head and onto the away team's side, although the Owls would ultimately drop the point. Soon after, Vazquez would get a kill off a Jones' assist, her first of five in the set. As the set prolonged, the Owls could not seem to overtake the Lions, dropping a point after tying them 5 straight times, giving

them a one-point deficit, 13-12. Vazquez would make another great play, this time a block, making the third set 13 a piece. This point would give the home team some much needed momentum and allow them to overtake Molloy for only the second time of the set. After another assist, Jones set up a kill for Epstein. The Owls were up 18-16, forcing the away team to use a time out.

The Owls dropped the next few points, but after a side out by the Lions gave the Owls a 21-20 lead, Molloy called yet another timeout. A kill by Kacey Deecher, a sophomore, her second

of the set, and a block by Benson gave the home team a 23-20 advantage before eventually closing out the match in a 3-0 fashion with a final of 25-20.

"This game was really important for us because we had revenge because we played this team before and it was a hard fight and we ended up losing," Jones said, "so we came into today with a lot of energy, and after we beat them those first two sets, we wanted it to be a shutout, so it was pretty easy to make sure that's what we got."

Jones would finish the night with an impressive 34 assists, accounting for

all but 4 of the total assists on the team, for the game as well as 13 digs. Double-digit kills by Vazquez, 10, and Benson, 11, made for a team-oriented revenge victory as the Owls head into an important stretch of conference games.

Volleyball wound up dropping their road game this past Friday to Franklin Pierce University in a five set battle.

The Owls have a three game homestand this week starting on Tuesday, Oct. 26, against Adelphi University, in search of their 18th victory.

Both teams are 3-3 in NE10 Conference play, so the Adelphi matchup could prove vital later on.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Tuesday's home win marked the Owls 12th in Pelz Gym this year and 17th overall.

# Women's soccer senior day results in a 2-0 loss

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

As the sun was beginning to set at Jess Dow Field this past Saturday evening, it was also setting on the college playing careers of some of the Owls women's soccer players.

It was senior day over the weekend and the Owls lost to the St. Anselm College Hawks 2-0. This first home loss dropped their record to 5-6-2 on the year, and it was not the result they were looking for given all the pomp and circumstance surrounding senior day.

"It was bittersweet," forward Kaitlyn D'Amico, a senior, said. "We have a really close team, and our underclassmen really did a lot for us and made us feel really worthy and really appreciated."

D'Amico was one of eight seniors recognized as part of the day's ceremonies, but with COVID-19 having granted athletes an extra year of eligibility, it is a bit more complicated. Just because they are seniors does not necessarily mean they cannot come back.

"It was kind of weird," back Amanda Dustin, a senior and team captain, said. "I don't think anyone really was sad about it, because most people are coming back, but it was exciting to finally have a senior day, because of last year."

Dustin's family drove three hours from Massachusetts to be there to support the Owls in what was a tightly

contested matchup.

The first half saw the Owls defense firing on all cylinders. Goalkeeper Allie Smith, a graduate student, did not record a save in the first half because the Owls defense did not allow the Hawks to even attempt a shot in the first 45 minutes of play.

It was a frustrating half for the offense, however. The Owls were able to fire off eight shots in the half, with Hawks goalkeeper Kate Macaluso recording saves on seven of them. The only goal of any kind scored in the half was by a small child on the practice field adjacent to Jess Dow.

There was a halftime show featuring two emcees, trivia, a foot race and a goal scoring competition. Not to mention the musical stylings of Jay-Z and the Notorious B.I.G.

The Hawks finally got their first shot off in the second half, which was saved by Smith.

In the 56th minute, the Owls had a scoring opportunity from a corner kick, but the shot was just a bit too tall, glancing off the top woodwork and keeping the game scoreless for the nonce.

Hawks forward Grace Foley ended the tie in the 66th minute, scoring her third goal of the season off an assist from Regan Pratt.

The goal gave the Hawks momentum and seemed to take something out of the Owls team struggling to find the back of the net.

"I think more numbers in the box will help us and more discipline,"

Dustin said. "We do all the work to get down there and then the second we get down there, we don't execute well enough, so I think we've got to be more disciplined once we get into the final third."

The home crowd did their best to will the Owls back into the game down late, but to no avail.

The Owls offense took nine shots in the second half, and 17 for the game, not scoring on any of them. Macaluso had 14 saves for the game, and the Hawks offense, which took zero shots in the first half, took nine in the second.

In the final moments, as the Owls were pressing and in desperation mode, they pulled Smith from goal in hopes of getting more offense, but it allowed Hawks forward Olivia Gotobed to put the Owls to sleep, scoring her seventh goal of the year unassisted in the final minute of play to make the score 2-0, and the deficit insurmountable.

"We worked really hard as a team, but basically we just need to work harder and get ready for the next game," forward Kelsey Burr, a senior, said.

Their next game takes place Tuesday, Oct. 26, on the road against American International College. With only three games remaining in the regular season, the Owls need to make their move now if they want to make the playoffs.

"We are going to beat AIC, and we are just going to continue to get better," Dustin said. "This isn't the end of our season."



PHOTO | ALVIN FURLLOW—SCSU ATHLETICS (SCSUOWLS.COM)

Eight seniors were recognized as part of senior day festivities for women's soccer at Jess Dow Field this past Saturday.



PHOTO | ALVIN FURLLOW—SCSU ATHLETICS (SCSUOWLS.COM)

The Owls lost 2-0 to St. Anselm on Saturday. The senior day defeat marked the team's first home loss on the season.