

Students taste cuisines from around the world at SUBOG’s World Food Showcase

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Some University of Connecticut students concluded their Spring Break by sampling delights from around the world in the third annual food showcase held by the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) on Sunday, March 22.

Held in the Student Union Ballroom, UConn students feasted on food from five restaurants representing five different countries, all of which reside in Connecticut.

Gallo’s Restaurant in Willimantic, Conn., represented Mexican cuisines with their spread. Their

menu included staples like Chiles Rellenos, a green chili pepper stuffed with mincemeat and coated with eggs, tacos and Sopas, a dish that consisted of a fried masa base with savory toppings such as refried beans, lettuce, tomato etc.

Seoul BBQ from New Britain, Conn., brought Korean cuisine into the mix. Their menu had Japchae, a savory and slightly sweet dish of stir-fried noodles and vegetables; Tteokbokki, cylinder-shaped rice cakes covered in spicy sauce; and Kimchi, a side dish of fermented vegetables.

Banana Brazil Grill in Meriden, Conn., brought Brazilian food. Traditional

Brazilian dishes like Coxinha, a snack which consists of shredded meat inside a ball of dough; Pão de Queijo, a baked cheese ball that is another popular snack in Brazil; and grilled chicken and beef.

PABS African Restaurant in East Hartford, Conn., represented Nigerian cuisine. They had Egusi soup, which consisted of ground-up Egusi seeds and chicken; Jollof rice, a popular West-African rice dish, made with rice, chillis, onions and a host of spices; and fried Plantains, starchy bananas that are fried until they’re golden brown.

Mykonos Mediterranean Restaurant in Newington,



Students attend SUBOG’s World of Food event at the Student Union Ballroom on March 22, 2026. The menu included Brazilian, Greek, Korean, Mexican and Nigerian cuisine, and the first 100 people to complete the World of Food crossword won free lunch totes.

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Conn., was the last restaurant on this list and they brought Greek food to the party. They served Gyro meat, which could complement baked Pita bread or creamy Tzatziki sauce. Made from yogurt, cucumber, garlic and olive oil; a savory pastry in Spanakopita, filled with a mixture of spinach, feta cheese and onions or leeks; or Pastitsio, a baked pasta dish that bears resemblance to lasagna.

There was a party-like atmosphere in the Ballroom Sunday night, as tables were dressed in decorations representing different cultures. Flags upon flags adorned the walls and music blared from the speakers, a blend of K-pop, Latin pop, Afrobeats and more.

Karan Rana, a sixth-semester management in engi-

neering and manufacturing major, also appreciated being able to savor foods from different cultures as well.

“I was just here for the food,” Rana said. “A lot of my friends are from different cultures, so it’s nice to be able to try some different food and experience some of that.”

Rana liked the Mexican food on offer, as it met his dietary restrictions, “Mexican food was pretty good. I’m a vegetarian so it’s nice to have options here during this event,” Rana said.

While Rana said the Mexican cuisine was great, he said he hopes there will be some Indian food at the showcase next time round.

“I mean, not to be partial, but some Indian food would be nice.”

‘Age of Attraction’ — WHY MODERN DATING IS UNSERIOUS

by Catherine Rivera
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Like R&B artist Aaliyah once sang, “Age ain’t nothing but a number.” Or is it?

On Wednesday, March 11, Netflix released their new reality dating series “Age of Attraction.” In case you weren’t satisfied with the mass amount of reality shows alike, such as “Love Island,” “Love Is Blind” and “Too Hot To Handle,” just to name a few. Now you can watch more strangers attempt to form connections, all while feeling like you’re interrupting the most awkward Tinder date of all time!

“Age of Attraction” follows 20 single men and women on their journeys to find their true loves. What makes this show different from all the rest? The contestants must form their new relationships while simultaneously being unaware of their partner’s age from the get-go.

In this new series, hosted by Nick Viall and Natalie Joy, an age-gap couple of their own, we meet people that are eager to prove that an age gap shouldn’t overshadow good compatibility, and are told your soulmate may very well be someone who was around before the internet was invented. With the ages of contestants ranging from 22 to 60 years old, this show feels like a poor excuse for Gen X to not be labeled as creepy for going for someone 20 or more years younger than them in the name of reality TV.

Age gap relationships have always been a big debate, rife with history and controversy surrounding the topic’s very problematic reality. I find it strange that Netflix is trying to normalize the idea of big age gaps within relationships. But there have been many famous age gap rela-

tionships in pop culture — just ask Leonardo DiCaprio.

Now, psychologically speaking, there is many reasons why someone may go for someone much older than them, with a lot of the contestants justifying their participation by saying that they’re looking for someone who is more mature, responsible and stable in their life than those in their age group. The idea doesn’t sound too bad, until they find out they’re closer in age to their prospects’ children than they are to their partners.

But seriously, there’s plenty of people who seek older partners to provide a sense of security, safety and maturity. So, what’s the reasoning for the people who go for someone a lot younger than them?

For many of the older contestants in this show, they claim to be looking for active, independent and free-spirited partners. If that’s the case, I’d point them to their nearest dog shelter. However, it gets even weirder when certain contenders say they saw similarities between their connection and a close relative or even going as far as to seek certain traits attributing to them; which feels like only further fueling the fire that is hating on age-gap relationships.

Only five episodes have been released so far, with new episodes coming out every Wednesday. While the idea of seeing how these relationships adapt in the real world sounds interesting, the premise of the entire show is off-putting, and I don’t see it being renewed for a second season. But who knows, maybe next year there will be 40 more contestants who are just as desperate to find love.

RATING: 1.5/5
★☆☆☆☆



Promotional image for new Netflix series “Age of Attraction.” This controversial series has sparked debate online as some couples have age gaps large enough to be parental. A second season has not yet been confirmed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NICKVIALL ON INSTAGRAM.