

Involvement and Resource Fair provides new opportunities

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

On Sept. 2, the Academic Quad was filled with students looking for clubs and organizations to join at the Involvement and Resource Fair.

The fair was run by Associate Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development Daphney Alston.

“This is our fall involvement and resource fair where we feature 125 clubs and organizations and various university departments and student services, to just get our campus community together, get people engaged, involved, and really feeling the Southern pride and spirit,” Alston said.

The Involvement and Resource Fair is one of the many opportunities where students can learn about what the university has to offer and where they can get involved based on their interests.

With how many clubs and organizations the university has, finding the right one can be a daunting task. However, this event aimed to gather students and show them

what is available and where it can be found.

The event showcased the breadth of opportunities available on campus and how easy many of them are to engage with and sign up for.

Students found themselves coming to the event looking to engage with the university in new ways they had not considered or seen before.

One of those students included finance major Arion Johnson, a freshman.

“I wanted to come just because I wanted to see the new opportunities and different ways to connect with different people, and I just wanted to basically learn about which things I could do on campus,” A. Johnson said.

The clubs and organizations on campus are very open to a variety of people, not limiting who is allowed to come just by the title and name.

“We’re very open; you don’t have to be African to join the club,” nursing major Lauren Essii Auuah, a sophomore, said. “If you just want to know about Africa or

learn about our culture, you can just come up.”

Getting people to engage with clubs is one of the more difficult parts of running them; many organizations use opportunities like the Involvement and Resource Fair to attract more members.

“Our organization is student government; we are talking to people about what we do, hoping to get more people at body meetings so that we can hear more opinions about things going on on campus,” speech, language and hearing sciences major Lark Johnson, a junior, said.

Scrolling through a never-ending list of names in the hopes of somehow finding an organization that fits you while maybe working for some people is not a winning formula for most.

Having the human connection of talking to a club’s organizer and seeing the passion and care they have goes a long way for student involvement and engagement, not only for the betterment of the group but for the student.



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

Associate Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development Daphney Alston getting ready to speak on Sept. 2.



Students gathering at the Involvement and Resource Fair on the Academic Quad on Sept. 2

Plant lending project combines aspects of community and nature

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor

To mark the start of a new semester, students participated in a plant lending project that was similar to checking out a library book.

Who Needs a Pet When You Can Have a Plant took place on both Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 in the Buley Library lobby.

“I saw a bunch of plants lined up on a table and I love plants” physics major Amadi Mitchell, a junior, said.

There was only one condition for

participants: that they bring the plant back at the end of the semester.

The laid back nature of this event allowed for students to stop by between classes and check out a plant.

The event was designed to draw in a wide range of students and faculty.

It was not just for those with an interest in plants, but also for those that may not know much about them and therefore use this as an opportunity to learn more.

They had plant themed keychains, stickers and bookmarks they gave away as well.

The project was a collaboration between the Office of Sustainability, the Buley Library Maker-space, the Innovation Hub and the Honors College.

With the combined passions of those from various departments, their collective love for plants was clear.

Coordinators said they were inspired by other universities that had similar programs

The plant lending project was led by Innovation Hub Special Projects Coordinator Derek Faulkner who has previously done work with the Campus Community Garden and

teaches Honors 300: Introduction to Service Learning.

“We wanted to get plants in the hands of people to add some greenery to people’s dorms and help people who might be intimidated by taking care of a plant with no stakes and no cost,” Faulkner said.

With his understanding of what goes into programs like this one, as well as with the help of the collaborators, they were all able to put on an event that educated participants about plants and allowed them to grow their own.

The event coordinators

were also making students aware that they did not have any expectations for the state of the plants when they are returned in December.

“There’s no punishment if the plant dies,” Faulkner said. “It’s just a way to introduce people to owning a plant.”

Hands-on experiences like this encourage students to try new things and go out of their comfort zone especially with something with such low stakes.

A new addition to this semester’s project was the grant that they received from the Connecticut Horticultural Society.

Innovation Hub Graduate Assistant Sage Maier was able to secure this external partner to help the program to continue running.

“They thought it was a really unique idea and I’m super happy to have that to help grow our plant inventory,” Maier said.

Through using new techniques and having more supporters, Who Needs a Pet When You Can Have a Plant showed students that collaboration based projects can help the community.

“We’re collecting even more data, which is good to see,” Maier said. “I hope it’s going to continue.

Owls Decide: What is a school essential you cannot live without?

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

“My MacBook because that’s where I do most of my work and it keeps me on track.”
-Athletic training major Yairinette Cordova, a freshman



“My computer because I need it to do all my work and stay connected with my professors.”
-Finance major Gianfranco Cacciola, a sophomore



“My computer because I do all of my assignments on it. Everything is in there.”
-Elementary education major Anahy Nophal, a freshman



“My headphones; it’s really loud on campus and I get very overstimulated.”
-English major Victoria Mora, a senior



“My MacBook because I use it for everything.”
-Health science major Ashley Aucul, a senior



“I can’t live without Jesus and also my laptop and my phone because my schedule is on there.”
-Physical education major Ralph Draughn, a junior