

Owls share their take on the presidential inauguration

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

The inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th president of the United States took place on Jan. 20.

Held within the U.S. Capitol rotunda in Washington, D.C., this event signaled the commencement of Trump's second non-consecutive term and JD Vance's first term as vice president.

"From what I saw, it was just Trump trying to hype up the crowd and get them going," psychology major Anastasia Anderson, a sophomore, said.

Trump's inauguration brought many shockwaves to campus with viral clips that spiraled throughout social media platforms.

Whether it was the CEOs of Meta, X and Amazon having exclusive seats or Trump stating he will change the Gulf of Mexico to the "Gulf of America," many students have mixed emotions on the political event.

After seeing the most powerful and rich men in the world sitting close to the president during the inauguration, Anderson could only call it one word: disappointing.

"The top richest white men are running our nation and it's honestly sad to see," Anderson said.

One of those reserved

seats was occupied by Elon Musk, the owner of SpaceX, X and Tesla Motors.

After Musk delivered his speech, many social media users accused the billionaire of signaling a fascist-style salute with a straight-arm gesture to the crowd.

"I'm pretty sure he did a Nazi salute," Anderson said. "I feel like history is repeating itself."

Another controversial moment was when the president did not place his hand on the Bible while being sworn in.

Even though there is no legal requirement, many viewers were puzzled by his decision to opt out.

"He promotes God and religious motives, so it seems disrespectful for him to not put his hand on the Bible," exploratory major Cameron Parson, a freshman, said.

Parson said that he watched clips from the inauguration on TikTok. This was due to boycotting the inauguration.

Parson said that he also saw multiple videos on TikTok of people coming together to avoid watching the inauguration, with the intention to create a dip in viewership.

"Since I don't support him, I didn't want to boost his views," Parson said.

According to Nielsen, the inauguration was

broadcasted across 15 networks, reaching a peak viewership of 34.4 million viewers during the 12:15 p.m. quarter-hour.

As reported by Forbes.com, in 2021, President Joe Biden's inauguration had approximately 33.8 million viewers while in 2017, around 31 million people tuned in to watch Trump's first inauguration.

Psychology major Aryana Ali, a junior, also did not tune into the inauguration.

"I didn't pay him or the inauguration any mind," Ali said. "I feel like that says enough."

Overall Trump's 2025 inauguration was impacted as its viewership was lower compared to the previous two inaugurations.

After the inauguration, students said that they are anxious about what awaits them.

Anderson, who was in middle school when Trump became president for the first time, said she believes that he is not going to keep his promises that got him elected into the office.

"I feel like people have to learn their lesson. He was our president once and they saw what he put us through," Anderson said. "Now they're going to see the consequences of their actions by making him president again."



Exploratory major Cameron Parson, a freshman, in Neff Hall lobby on Jan. 31.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN



Psychology major Aryana Ali, a junior, in Neff Hall lobby on Feb. 3.

Latine students connect with organizations



PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted the event to educate students.



Carlos Torre in Room 301 in the Adanti Student Center at the "Ethical Chisme with Pan Dulce" event.

Continued from Page 1

"They paint immigrants as monsters and criminals when that's not the case at all," Perez said. "We come here for a better life and to get a better education."

Staff at the university also engaged in the discussion to share their concerns and sympathy for students as well.

"What do I do at that point if ICE comes in to try and take a student?" Carlos Torre said, a professor of curriculum and learning at the university.

Following the meeting on Wednesday, Interim President Dwayne Smith and the Office of Residence Life released a statement, about a notice from CSCU chancellor to establish campus protocol regarding U.S. ICE on campuses in response to recent executive orders.

Overall, the statement highlighted that any communication or interaction with ICE should be coordinated through the Office of the President and/or the CSCU General Counsel and students' status will continue to be confidential.

"It is important to note that under the

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, all scholars are entitled to privacy, regardless of immigration status," Smith said in his statement.

However, Torre expressed that many students have stated their concerns about the current climate, expressing anxiety about being on campus to pursue an education.

"Students are leaving and unenrolling from classes," Torre said. "Energy wise we are depleted from these scare tactics."

Public health major Chekeenah Jeudi, a junior, also said that she has emotional ties to immigration policies.

Jeudi, who is also the president of SISTAS, Sisters In School Together Achieving Success, said that she is worried about her family members from Haiti who were able to leave their home under temporary protective status (TPS) due to gang violence.

Despite her worries, Jeudi said that she is thankful to be able to express her concerns and relate to a community outside of her own.

"I'm grateful that we're having these spaces to talk about these things," Jeudi said.

The event provided a platform for these discussions.

Ultimately this can help students to not only connect with each other but also seek out resources and solidarity in the face of these challenges.

Students and staff were also able to share their own personal thoughts on the issue.

"I find it ironic because Europeans also came here illegally," Torre said. "They are on stolen land and put us in reservations and into slavery."

Torre also spoke about the 2024 movement of "Latinos for Trump," a coalition of Latino supporters for the president.

"When we have these oppressive structures there will always be people of all types trying to pass and be looked at as one of them," Torre said.

Despite the numerous targets and obstacles facing the Latine and Caribbean community, Torre encourages them to remain resilient and to stand together.

"This is the time to organize and get people together," Torre said. "It's not the time to be angry or scared. Levantarse, sacúdete encima y resiste."

WE'RE HIRING!



Join student campus media.

SOUTHERN NEWS VACANCIES:

- News Writer
- Sports Writer
- General Assignment Reporters (3)
- Copy Desk

CRESCENT MAGAZINE VACANCIES:

- Copy Editor (1)
- Assistant Photo Editor
- Assistant Online Video Editor

Contact scott28@southernct.edu and vazquezj25@southernct.edu to schedule an interview or for more details.