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Fashion show promotes body positivity

By Victoria Cruz
Contributor

On April 14 in the Adanti Student Center Theatre, Delta Phi Epsilon hosted an ANAD "All Bodies are Good Bodies" Fashion Show.

ANAD is the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders. Eating disorders affect people of every age, race, size, gender identity, sexual orientation and background.

"10,200 deaths each year are the direct result of an eating disorder—that's one death every 52 minutes," according to ANAD.

Eating disorders are a life-threatening mental illness that impacts at least 30 million people in the U.S., it is the second highest mortality rate of any mental illness.

ANAD is a national foundation that empowers volunteers to support those who are in recovery.

It is the leading nonprofit in the U.S. that provides free peer support services to anyone struggling with an eating disorder regardless of background.

Delta Phi Epsilon has been working with ANAD since 1985. Ever since, the group has committed themselves to supporting the foundation through funding and support for those in recovery. All proceeds for the event go to the ANAD Foundation.



PHOTO | VICTORIA CRUZ

Models and members of Delta Phi Epsilon at the ANAD Fashion Show on April 14 in Engleman Hall.

The event included various categories including Y2K, formal and dress your own style. This showcased different eras and fashion styles while even giving models the opportunity to show the crowd their own unique style.

In between categories, videos were played that educated spectators on the realities of eating disorders and how they can seek assistance. This educational incorporation in the event allowed the audience the opportunity to feel connected to the cause and understand the significance of ANAD and Delta Phi Epsilon's mission and how the foundation works every day to assist those in need.

The second video educated spectators on how social media affects the emotional well- being of its users. Social media creates unrealistic expectations. Images are altered and only the best parts of users' life are shared. Body positivity looks to embrace our bodies while understanding the root cause of where negative emotions come from.

English major Emily Weiner, a senior, expressed her pride in the events success.

"Over the past two years we've just been working super hard to raise money for our philanthropies and really build up this chapter and show that like what we're doing here we do everything for a good cause," Weiner said.

The event raised over $750 for the ANAD foundation.

"This is the biggest turn out we've had in the last three years this is also the most amount of money we've raised in the last four years so I would definitely consider it a success," Weiner said.

English major Mikaila Cinelli, a senior, was in charge of the event.

"As my first time being in a leadership position for the sorority, I'm very proud of myself for having such a turnout that I did and I'm very thankful for everybody who was involved," Cinelli said.

Jillian Haggerty a senior English major shared her connection to the cause.

"What drew me to this sorority is ANAD which is for eating disorders," Haggerty said.

"Walking in this fashion show always makes me feel like my body is beautiful I love that the theme this year's all bodies are beautiful, so it just makes everyone feel like empowered and that every body type is celebrated."

The "All Bodies Are Good Bodies" Fashion Show celebrated empowerment, raised critical funds for ANAD and spread awareness about the importance of body positivity.

Through events like this, Delta Phi Epsilon continues to show the powerful impact of community, education and support.

Sana Muneer becomes the first to crack the code

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

A weekend of coding, quantum algorithms and fierce competition resulted in a breakthrough for the university.

In a field of top students at the Yale Quantum Institute Hackathon, Sana Muneer became the first student from the institution to claim victory, leaving her mark on the future of quantum computing.

"It means alot to me because I represent SCSU," computer science major Sana Muneer, a senior, said. "It's been such an exciting and enriching experience."

The annual hackathon brought together undergraduate students from across the globe to collaborate on cutting-edge quantum computing projects.

Muneer said over the span of 48 hours, code was written, theories were tested and solutions were developed.

The event featured nine different challenges that were sponsored by various companies.

Muneer said that she participated in the most advanced challenge from Alice & Bob Company, that focused on reconstructing quantum states from Wigner functions.

"Our task was to reconstruct quantum states from noisy data to figure out the original quantum state," Muneer said. "It's like trying to see a clear image through a foggy lens — we built a system to clean the fog and get accurate results."

Muneer, who specializes in computer science, said the task was very physics and math heavy.

"Everything was with coding, but we still needed the concepts of math and physics to be able to write the code," Muneer said.

Fortunately, she was paired up with students from Princeton University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institution of Technology and Korea, who brought diverse perspectives and concepts to their team.

Muneer said with a variety of expertise, they were able to come together and solve the task. She was also able to learn new resources from them.

"They know lots of things and they were able to teach me new concepts because they had a background in Quantum and three other hackathons," Muneer said.

Derek Faulkner, the Project Coordinator with the Division of Research & Innovation at the university said that Muneer's participation in the hackathon followed a recent visit to the Yale Quantum Institute through the Institute for Real-World Education and Curriculum Advancement, a program that aims to connect students with real-world opportunities in high-tech fields across the state.

For Muneer, winning at the hackathon was more than just an achievement, it was a symbol of possibility.

Muneer, who left Afghanistan over two years ago, said she was proud to represent her country and the women silenced by oppression.

"Currently in my country women are banned from school," Muneer said. "So doing this really means a lot."

Muneer explained that her success was not just for herself, but for those who cannot speak up or have the same opportunities.

"They're also a lot of people who are talented and even better than me but they and don't have the opportunity to show off their skills and succeed," Muneer said.

She plans on defying more odds and breaking through barriers in the tech world and inspiring others to follow in her footsteps.

Muneer said that is determined to break the stereotypes that often hold women back in the tech world.

"The field is male-dominated, even in my classroom," Muneer said. "I have one or two female classmates, and sometimes women feel they're not good at tech."

Subsequently, her passion for her work is evident, as she strives to break down barriers and challenge biases.

"I want to challenge this kind of bias or beliefs, so I try my best to be good in this field," Muneer said.

Muneer is just getting started in the world of computer science. She said that her future plans include taking on the complex challenges in the ever-evolving field of quantum computing.

"I also love learning new things and in tech everyday something new is happening that you need to learn," Muneer said.



PHOTO | DEREK FAULKNER

Sana Muneer and her teammates receiving their awards on April 13.

She already has her sights set on even greater achievements, including next year's Hackathon at MIT and "analyzing the applicability of post-quantum cryptography on biometric authentication" under the guidance of Dr. Hossain from the computer science department.

With her passion for quantum computing and determination to break new grounds, Muneer is set to make an even greater impact in the tech world.



PHOTO | SANA MUNEER

Headshot of computer scicence major Sana Muneer, a senior.

Exclusive Ceremony

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

As graduation approaches, many seniors at the university are buzzing with excitement as they prepare their caps, confirm their degrees and pick up their regalia.

However, this year, some students were left confused and even disappointed after realizing they had not been invited to the Senior Honors Convocation, despite qualifying for Latin Honors.

"I feel like I'm kinda missing out," communication major Samantha Harmon, a senior, said. "I didn't go last year but I remember people talking about it and wishing I could and now I can but they changed it so that sucks."

An email sent by the university highlighting Latin Honors Cord frequently asked questions, said the Senior Honors Convocation is not the same as the Latin Honors cord distribution.

"The Senior Honors Convocation is a formal event for students who were nominated by their department to receive a specific award," the email said. "Latin Honors cord pick-up is not part of the Convocation and is a separate process."

While Latin Honors recognize academic achievement based on GPA, only students receiving departmental awards are invited to participate in the Convocation ceremony.

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