Students get creative with the holiday spirit

By Lexi White
Features Editor

Holiday music and the sweet smell of hot cocoa filled the North Campus Midrise Community Room. Students gathered to decorate Christmas ornaments and to enjoy delicious treats.

The resident advisers of the sixth floor said that it took about two weeks to plan the event, get approval from the hall director and to order supplies. One of these RAs was nursing major Berrit Ilunga, a senior.

"I think this event benefits students because they get the opportunity to see who else lives in the building," Ilunga said. "This gives people a chance to step away from work and get better acquainted in the community."

Ilunga also said that an event where students can create something brings a sense of nostalgia.

"I feel like this is just a way for students to take a break from adult responsibilities and to feel like a kid again," Ilunga said.

This is Ilunga's first semester as an RA, and she said that she wanted to help other students to get out of their shell. She said that there are 13 other RAs in North Campus Midrise and that it can be hard to come up with unique event ideas.

"Anyone can come up with an ornament making event, so I needed to come up with something more original," Ilunga said. "I came up with this idea with the help of my best friend: ChatGPT."

Ilunga's co-RA, music therapy major Alexis Sorrell, a senior, also helped to host the Christmas-inspired event. Sorrell said that her main priority was getting students involved on campus.

"I feel like this is a great way to engage the community and bring people together outside of classes," Sorrell said.

Special education major Callie Newberg, a senior, said that she came to the event to make an ornament for the people that she cares about.

"I have a new baby nephew that was born a few weeks ago, and I want to put his picture in the ornament to make it special," Newberg said.

Newberg said that she wanted to meet new people in her dorm, and this event helped her to do so.

"Being an upperclassman makes it harder to meet people," Newberg said, "but I've been bonding with other people here, and I'm having a great time."

Exercise and sport science major Jaylon Tucker, a senior, was another student who came to the event in hopes of expanding his horizons and to get in the holiday spirit.

"I really like the sense of community that these events have, and I wanted to help support my RAs who were hosting," Tucker said.

Tucker said that he loves Christmas and all the food that he gets to indulge in while celebrating with his family. He said that he wanted to create something that he can take home to them.

"I have little cousins, and I love being able to see them grow up," Tucker said. "I'm at the age where I need to start getting them gifts, and I think they would like these homemade ornaments."



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Music therapy major Alexis Sorrell and nursing major Berrit Ilunga, seniors, at the event.



Students decorating their festive Christmas ornaments at the event.

CASAS tutors are helping students at the university

By Eric Ruiz Jr.
Contributer

The university's Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services offers tutoring services to students struggling with schoolwork.

Located on the third floor of the Buley Library, tutors are available to help students in different major-related courses such as math and English.

Health science major Angel Lee and French major Hannah Krutz, seniors, and Spanish major Tanisha Guadalupe, a junior, are tutors at CASAS; they help students in different fields that need support.

"Honestly, the environment makes CASAS a relaxing and trusting place to go for support," Lee said. "I had met good friends at CASAS that my co-workers became my current roommates."

Tutors help their peers to face challenges when they do not demonstrate confidence in their academic work. What the tutors like to do the most is connect with the students they are helping and get them to open up more.

"I like to ask if they are doing okay, hoping to make them feel comfortable and to ask if they are doing okay with the Spanish classes they are taking to see if they have any problems so I can help them understand it," Guadalupe said.

CASAS offers tutoring through their PALS program, which focuses on math 100P, Spanish 100, 101, 200 and English 110, 120.

Also, CASAS has 50 tutors in total.

The 50 tutors at CASAS help students through their PALS program, which focuses on helping students with math, Spanish and English.

"I try to keep it light-hearted and make the learning process more relaxed", Lee said. "I find that students who are not stressed about their situation gain so much more from tutoring sessions."

CASAS tutors can use this chance to assist students in better understanding the materials or syllabus by asking questions related to the materials and testing the student.

"I find it quite rewarding to help people, as it is very interesting, as well as making people feel as if they can count on me to assist them in any way they need," Krutz said.

According to Robert Benway, the associate director of CASAS, the purpose of their tutoring program is to provide students with outstanding academic support for a wide variety of courses.

In a tutoring session, the student who is requesting help drives the purpose of the visit.

The tutor is always willing to help support the student by breaking content down, providing additional examples and establishing a plan for the student after the visit.

Visit the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment with a tutor, either in-person or online.

Owls Decide: Do you prefer Chappell Roan or Charli XCX?

By Lexi White
Features Editor



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

"I prefer Chappell Roan because I'm very into performances, and she has the vocals."
-Journalism major Guillermo Hernandez, a junior



"Charli XCX because she's bringing back old pop music, and I think her music is good."
-Psychology major Leticia Asante, a sophomore



"Chappell Roan because my friend started showing me her songs, and I really like them."
-Psychology major Isabella Forte, a senior



"Charli XCX because her music sounds more interesting to me, and I really like it."
-Athletic training major Shelby Douglas, a sophomore



"Charli XCX because she's cool and makes really good music."
-Healthcare studies major Areriona Bowens, a sophomore



"Chappell Roan because I feel like she brings a sense of comfort to the gay community."
-Computer science major Atticus Johnson, a sophomore