Students make bouquets for Valentine's Day

By Lexi White
Features Editor

The sweet smell of roses, carnations and baby's-breath filled the air as students created their own bouquets for Valentine's Day.

On Feb. 11, the Programs Council, also known as ProCon, hosted a bouquet making event for students. Members of the organization said they wanted to give people an opportunity to show themselves, or their loved ones, some appreciation.

Nursing major Melanie Gloster, a junior, said, "I have been looking forward to hosting this event since last semester because we are giving students the chance to express love for themselves and others."

When the event started, students lined up all the way down the hallway to participate. Gloster said she did not think there would be an enormous amount of people to show up.

"Oh my goodness, I was so shocked to see a line out the door," Gloster said. "It made me feel so excited and proud of myself."

Gloster said numerous students expressed their gratitude for the event.

"I have seen so many people smiling and enjoying themselves today which makes this all worthwhile," Gloster said. "People have been thanking me for hosting this and giving them the resources to make something so beautiful."

Eric Lacharity, a ProCon adviser, said they purchased enough materials for 70 people to use and about 125 showed up to participate. Lacharity said ProCon paid about $600 for the flowers and supplies to create the bouquets.

"I think people are always looking for ways to connect with others and our event definitely gives them the opportunity to do so," Lacharity said. "Students can express their creativity in a way that makes themselves, and others, happy."

This is the first time ProCon has hosted a bouquet making event. Lacharity said he was very excited to see how students would react to it.

"This week can be very polarizing for a lot of people," Lacharity said. "People think Valentine's Day is just about a romantic partner, but it is also for people to celebrate themselves."

Nursing major Joselle Ventosa, a senior, said she attended ProCon's event because she wanted to try something new.

"I've never made a bouquet before and I thought it would be a fun thing to do," Ventosa said. "I wanted to challenge myself by getting out of my comfort zone."

Ventosa also said she does not have a Valentine this year and wanted to make a bouquet for herself.

"You are your own person and that is the most important person in your life," Ventosa said. "You are the one you can always depend on."

Biology major Dhruvi Patel, a senior, came to the event to explore her creative side and meet new people.

"It's nice to see everyone socializing and having a good time here," Patel said. "Everyone is being productive and making something that will make someone happy."

In addition to discovering her artistic abilities, Patel said she wanted to show herself some love and appreciation.

"Living on campus can be lonely sometimes and it can be hard to meet people," Patel said. "Being here I can get myself out there while also giving myself a gift with these flowers."



PHOTOS | LEXI WHITE

Nursing major Joselle Ventosa, a senior, showing off the bouquet she made.



Students creating their own bouquets at ProCon's event.

Freshman share exciting plans for the semester

By Eric Ruiz Jr
Contributer

The freshman are very excited about the spring semester. Their plans include joining new clubs and attending campus events.

Freshman prepare for the spring semester by setting goals to surpass those from the fall semester.

Computer science major Nik Shovkomud, a freshman from Ukraine, is pleased to be a student at the university. He had a successful first semester and expects to do even better this semester.

"My first semester was pretty well, much easier than I expected great teachers, great stuff, awesome students and friends,"Shovkomud said.

Establishing a solid friendship group and integrating into the university community is paramount for first-year college students, as this provides diverse opportunities to engage on campus.

Additionally, FLEX, or First-Year Leadership Experience, is a leadership program for first-year students that assists those aspiring to be student leaders in strengthening their leadership abilities.

Tourism, hospitality and event management major Mackenzie Broderick, a freshman, did not enjoy her first semester due to a few unexpected events.

"As a first-gen freshman it wasn't the greatest, getting used to Southern and what Southern has to offer," Broderick said. "And with their classes and the amount of workload from my classes."

Art and design major Sophia Close, a freshman, stated that she had an amazing first semester, but understands that she will be much busier during the spring semester but is up for the challenge.

"I am not going to be able to join FLEX since I have a lot to do for the spring semester, I have the six courses and I also have the photographer job in the athletic department, so that'll be a bit overwhelming," Close said. "But, for being already involved on campus by taking pictures for the athletic teams and maybe see if there are any other clubs I can join that involve graphic design."

Tourism, hospitality and event management major Alexa Henderson, a freshman, said she will have to balance taking six courses. Two of which are online and the rest of which are in-person, with the dream schedule of no classes on Fridays.

"I'm going to look into more clubs and hopefully join something that interests me; I just need to figure out my schedule for the spring semester and what time works best for me," Henderson said.

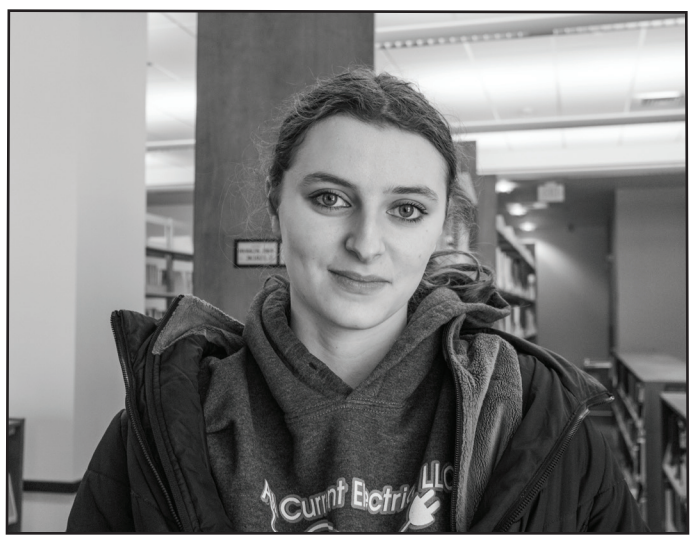
Owls Decide: Which team did you want to win the Super Bowl?

By Lexi White
Features Editor



PHOTOS | CARLY RUSSELL

"Taylor Swift was rooting for both teams, so I was rooting for both teams."
-Nursing major Madison Calvo, a sophomore



"I was rooting for the Eagles even though I'm not really a big football fan."
-History education major Justine Dobbin, a junior



"I'm a huge Taylor Swift Fan, so of course, I wanted the Chiefs to win."
-Nursing major Maddie Elmo, a sophomore



"I wanted the Eagles to win the Super Bowl because I don't like Taylor Swift and Patrick Mahomes."
-Physical education major Nick Cassella, a freshman



"I wanted the Eagles to win because they haven't won a Super Bowl since like 2018."
-Computer science major Latrell Kinlock, a freshman



"I'm a Giants fan so I was not really rooting for anyone, but the Eagles was who I wanted to win."
-Accounting major Michael Deveny, a junior