Students mingle at festive Garden Tea Party

By Lexi White
Features Editor

Vibrant colors, the sweet smell of goodies and various flavors of tea filled the Business Building lobby.

On March 4, the Women in Leadership Academy hosted a tea party to attract the eyes of students who want to build connections with businesswomen in the community. Business administration major Muajiha Ali, a senior, said she has been involved in the academy for over three years.

"I wanted to join the academy because I thought it would be a great way to sharpen my skill set and just learn how to become a leader," Ali said.

The Women in Leadership Academy partners students with a mentor, a current businesswoman working in the New Haven area. These role models help guide students to finding the confidence and integrity they need to become successful.

Renee Miller is a mentor for the academy and said she was excited to meet students who were interested in joining.

"I think this gathering is important because students get to see their peers in the same boat as them," Miller said. "These girls are putting their best foot forward and investing in their future by learning from professionals in the community."

Miller said she thinks the Women in Leadership Academy is a great resource for female business students and urges more to be involved.

"It speaks volumes that the university is helping students make connections and build their brand while still in school," Miller said.

Ali said organizing the tea party helped her to practice her project management skills as she put the whole event together. She said she wanted to host a fun and interactive event for students on campus.

"I feel like there's a lot of professional development opportunities, but there's not so much just fun stuff on campus," Ali said. "We wanted to have a fun spring social, where people can come hang out, grab a snack and be creative."

Students had the opportunity to color, eat lunch, drink tea and create their own chocolate candies.

Interdisciplinary studies major Sarah Khan, a senior, said she enjoyed creating her own desserts and she joined the academy because she wanted to surround herself with ambitious women and be successful.

"I love being able to network with this program because there is so much to learn and gain from this experience," Khan said.

Khan said she thinks it is important to be around people with the same values as herself.

"When you are with people who always want to do better and want more in life, it makes you become that way too," Khan said. "Being in a supportive environment like this truly helps to make a well-rounded individual."

Business administration major Ellie Naniatis, a junior, is another member of the academy. She said she was eager to make connections with new members and to tell them of her experience with the group.

"Being in the academy has completely enhanced my experience here and it's helped me get involved in the community," Naniatis said. "It's amazing to broaden your horizons and get internship opportunities through this program."

See photos on page 5.



PHOTOS | CARLY RUSSELL

Members of the Women in Leadership Academy telling students about their group.



Students making their own chocolate candies at the event.

Professor aims to change stuttering perceptions

By Larry Freeman
Contributor

Sujini Ramachandar is a clinical speech pathologist eyeing to change people's perceptions on stuttering.

Ramachandar, communication disorders professor at the university, aims to share her teachings with students to shift perceptions on stuttering.

"One of the reasons I gravitated towards stuttering is because it's more collaborative which allows for a more back and forth and one-on-one conversations," Ramachandar said.

Ramachandar first started to understand stuttering at the University of Pittsburgh where she got her PhD, which was the accomplishment she felt the most strongly about.

She was interested in the sensory and motor acts inside the brain and mouth and the feedback they send to perform different activities.

Using her research and studies, she looked at the neurological differences in people's brains to explain the causes and effects of stuttering for different people.

Her main focus was on sensory and motor neurons and the part they play in relaying information to and from the brain in performing various activities.

Ramachandar concluded that people not receiving proper sensory information from neurons could be a cause of stuttering.

"I want to find evidence that backs up trends with children who stutter having a difference in the way they respond to different instructions such as sitting, reading, listening and recommend therapy for children to find out what's wrong," Ramachandar said. "If you're not getting the feedback, you stutter."

Through sharing her work about individuals who stutter, Ramachandar hopes to quell some of long held myths and cliches those who are uneducated may hold.

"Stuttering is a part of them, but it's not all of them," Ramachandar said. "Stuttering is a side dish at the buffet, not the main dish."

Slowly but surely, Ramachandar believes that people are becoming more accepting of stuttering and speech disorders in general.

She encourages her students to become speech pathologists themselves and to not be afraid of stuttering; it is just a different way people speak.

Owls Decide: What are you doing over spring break?

By Lexi White
Features Editor

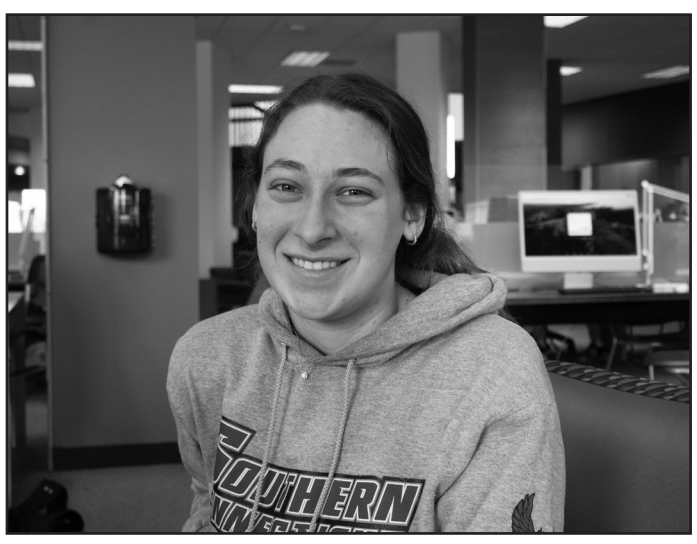


PHOTOS | CARLY RUSSELL

"I'm going home and I will be working."
-English major Sara Castonguay, a junior



"I'm going to visit my family in New York."
-Business administration major Dante Riley, a sophomore



"I will just be working over the break."
-Nursing major Ashlyn Tranquill, a junior



"For spring break, I will be going to the gym and hanging out with friends."
-Business management major Vaughn Highland, a junior



"I will be working and hanging out with my friends."
-Art and design major Paris Santiago, a freshman



"I will be celebrating my birthday over break with my friends and family."
-Interdisciplinary studies and English major Peter Borzillo, a senior