Autumn festival showcases Asian culture

By Emma Gonzalez
Contributor

With autumn coming around, popular traditions emerge such as pumpkin spice, scary movies and apple picking, but it is also a good time to see how other cultures celebrate the season.

Around 30 Students at were able to decorate lanterns, eat moon cakes, and try mocktails while learning about the "Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration" with the Asian Culture Society on Sept. 30 in Adanti Student Center in Room 217.

"We wanted to bring this tradition to Southern," communication major Catherine Vu, a senior and president of ACS, said. "We wanted to include everybody that wants to learn about the Mid-Autumn Festival, and bring a little part of the celebration here, even if they've never celebrated it before."

Students were given lanterns and a variety of crafting paper and paints to start their designs. Vu projected an inspiration page of different lanterns as the students began to paint.

"I saw the lantern decorating stuff, and I thought it looked interesting," psychology major Holly Gottmann, a senior, said.

As the decorating went on, a themed drink menu went around with mocktails for students to choose from, including red lantern, moonlight mist and autumn blossom.

The drinks had a variety of ingredients including sprite, lemonade, lychee, cherries and whipped cream.

With the drinks, students were given mooncakes, a traditional Chinese pastry eaten during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"Mooncakes are one of the symbols of the Mid-Autumn festival, along with jade rabbits, and lantern making, which is what we're doing right now," Vu said.

Throughout the event, Vu played various videos teaching students what the Mid-Autumn Festival is, who celebrates it and what traditions they perform.

"The Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional Asian festival that celebrates the full moon and family togetherness. There's a lot of Asian countries that celebrate it outside of China," Vu said.

Students created lanterns of various designs, some painting animals, some cutting out shapes and some doing solid colors.

"I wanted to make some Asian friends," computer science major Anh Ly, a freshman, said.

Ly and many other students used the event as a way to connect with each other.

"I liked sitting down and chatting with other people who were the same age," Ly said.

According to Asian Americans United, an organization based in Philadelphia that aims to build community and challenge oppression, the Mid-Autumn Festival began in ancient China, where the moon was seen as a source of life, which started many traditions such as the lantern-decorating, and the eating of the mooncakes.

"I think it's a great community building event, and we can learn about other cultures," Gottmann said.

Towards the end of the event, students were able to finish their lanterns and bring them home, bringing a piece of learned tradition and culture.



PHOTOS | EMMA GONZALEZ
Freshman and computer science major Anh Ly sits next to his lantern.



Students decorating lanterns and grabbing mooncakes on Sept. 30.

Future Educators club promotes membership

By Vincent Distasi
Contributor

Future Educators club wants to remind students that they have an education club.

Future Educators looks forward to making its presence known this semester with co-presidents special-elementary education collaborative major Madison Selander and elementary education major Cole Brown, seniors, taking the wheel and steering toward their goals: higher membership, building connection through focused meetings and activities and implementing a new committee system.

"As soon as we get that committee up and running," Selander said. "I have a very strong feeling that that's going to be what puts our club aside from others."

The club is trying something new by starting a committee of "pre-leaders," members who are working toward being a club leader in the future, where they get to engage more with fellow members and send surveys out to peers asking what they would like to see from Future Educators.

"In the two weeks that we've been running this so far, it's already worked more than previous things that we've done," Selander said.

Future Educators seek to grow aspiring educators' skills in the field such as how to manage behaviors, how to look at an IEP, presentations, etc.

They also want to bond more with one another and grow their community.

"The biggest key element is a sense of community," Brown said. "We're constantly trying to get people to talk, mingle and share their stories."

Future Educators have received additional support toward some of their activities from the dean of the College of Education, Christopher Trumbly.

According to Brown, the club has collaborated with numerous other clubs on campus such as the American Sign Language Club and Best Buddies.

They also have a partnership with the Connecticut Education Association. Through the CEA, Future Educators hold a lot of free events and membership involvement activities.

"That's Connecticut's largest state union in part of the National Education Association, or NEA," Brown said, "which is the country's union."

A primary goal of Future Educators is to grow in membership, something that has been achieved according to the club's adviser, professor Sherry Mitchell.

"Every day there seems to be more and more names," Mitchell said. "Which makes me happy because that also means there's more up-and-coming educators."

This is Mitchell's first semester as Future Educator's adviser, who seeks to allow the student executives to call the shots and stated that they are "so independent."

Future Educators meets every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. in Room 201 at the Adanti Student Center or online on some Fridays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

"You're always going to leave feeling connected to people in the room."



PHOTO | CONTRIBUTED
Future Educators club executive board.

Owls Decide: Magazines or newspapers?

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor



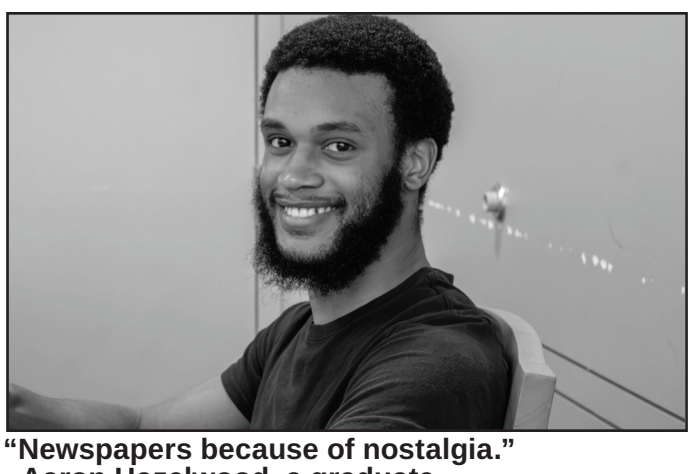
PHOTOS | LILY RAND
"Magazines because they write more in depth."
- Nursing major Aylin Estrada, a sophomore



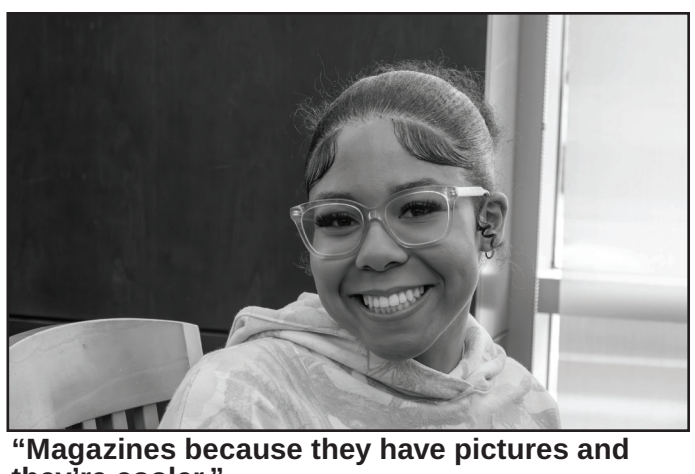
"I prefer newspapers because they're more informational."
- Nursing major Maya Balamurugan, a freshman



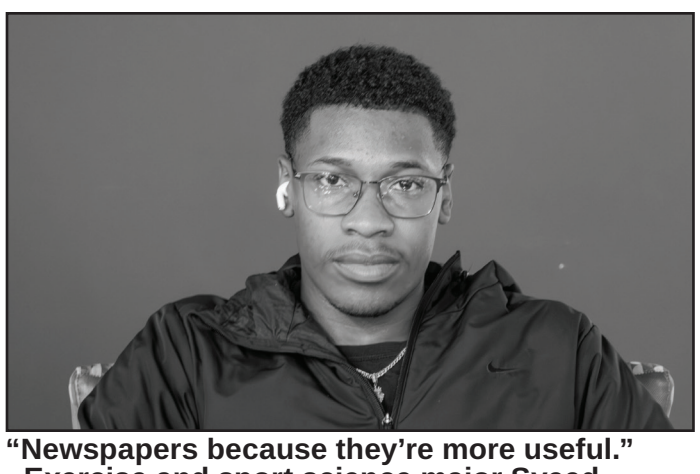
"Magazines; they stick out more because of the color."
- Biology major Jayden Colon, a freshman



"Newspapers because of nostalgia."
- Aaron Hazelwood, a graduate



"Magazines because they have pictures and they're cooler."
- Nursing major Mya Arias, a sophomore



"Newspapers because they're more useful."
- Exercise and sport science major Syeed Muhammad, a junior