

Cash Cobain announced at involvement fair

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Music, energy and anticipation set the tone on Jan. 28 as students gathered for the Spring Involvement and Resource Fair, eager to explore campus organizations and discover the spring concert act.

“I think Cash Cobain is a good vibe for this school,” communication major Jada Joseph, a sophomore, said.

The 27-year-old rapper from New York, will be taking the stage on April 25.

Joseph and other students said that they are excited for spring concerts to make a comeback.

“I’m excited because we haven’t had any special guests since I’ve been here,” Joseph said.

For the first time in six years, the spring concert act was announced during the fair.

After the announcement, students tuned into booths featuring clubs.

Daphney Alston, the associate director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development, said that beyond the concert buzz, the involvement fair continued to serve its main purpose by providing students with the opportunity to meet student leaders and find ways to get involved.

“We have over 125 clubs and organizations here at Southern, and there’s a lot of ways to get connected, find your sense of belonging and really create your full Southern story,” Alston said.

Alston said that she wants students that attended the fair to take full advantage of creating experiences outside of the classroom.



The spring concert headliner Cash Cobain on August 8, 2023.

PHOTO | ROLLING STONE



Students interacting with student leaders at their booths in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom on Jan. 28 during the Spring Involvement and Resource Fair.

PHOTO | WILLIAM GAGNE

“I hope they gain friends, community and have fun,” Alston said.

Student leaders made the most of the fair to showcase their clubs and

campus organizations. Each table was carefully set up with eye-catching posters, informative brochures and sign-up sheets inviting students to

get involved.

Whether it was spin-the-wheel or buckets of sweet treats, many tables also offered interactive activities for students to

win prizes.

The welcoming environment allowed students to explore new interests, ask questions and connect directly with

members who were eager to share their experiences and welcome potential members.

Nursing major Medjina Joseph, a junior and daytime programmer for Programs Council, said she hopes the fair will draw more students to their events.

“I want students to know that they’re welcome to come to all of our events, try new things and find their place on campus,” Joseph said.

Joseph also emphasized that by attending events like the involvement fair, students can enrich their college experience.

“It’s a good way to get involved with Southern and meet new people,” Joseph said.

For students who are preparing to walk the stage in the spring, the involvement fair is an opportunity to add titles to their resume, form connections and plant the seeds for opportunities that can help them after graduation.

“Students can use this as a way to network and gain leadership experience,” interdisciplinary studies major Chelsea Safo, a senior and the vice president of the African Student Association, said.

Business information systems Princess Adjei, a senior and the co-public relations officer of ASA, said she was looking forward to recruiting members. Adjei said that she hopes after the event, attendees found communities on campus where they feel supported and inspired.

“Events like this let students know that there are other people like them here that they can build community with,” Adjei said.

Puppies with a purpose

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Guide dogs in training are exposed to busy walkways, classrooms and residence halls, helping them adapt to real-world conditions while also increasing campus awareness about guide dog access.

“Especially when you have a program like this on campus, it becomes a staple of the university,” Bernegger said. “If you’ve got dogs living in dorms, and you’re raising with your friends or your roommates, or you’re interacting with this club at all, it really gets a positive association with this program out into the world.”

The presence of puppies tends to draw attention — something raisers use as a teaching moment.

Early on, interaction is intentional and encouraged so the dogs grow comfortable around people, noise and movement.

As training progresses, however, the rules change. Clear boundaries help prepare the dogs for professional guide work, where focus and consistency are critical.

“When they’re little, everybody wants to pet the puppies, and that’s okay because we need the puppies not to be afraid of people,” Hollis said. “As they get bigger, we ask people not to engage with them because they have to start ignoring people at a certain point when they’re out in public, just so they can do their job as a fully-fledged guide dog.”

Graduate students are granted UPass access

By Victoria Cruz
Features Editor

The UPass is a vital tool that provides unlimited access to trains, buses and other transit services in the state of Connecticut.

However up until this semester, only actively enrolled undergraduate students were eligible to receive a UPass on a first come, first serve basis.

“Public transportation should be more accessible for everyone,” English secondary education major Yesenia Acosta, a freshman, said. “This should have been implemented sooner. Everyone deserves access to reliable public transportation.”

Now, graduate students are also considered eligible for the same service.

All students are responsible for payment of the transportation fee as a part of tuitions and fees every semester. These fees go towards the UPass.

Despite graduate students also having to pay transportation fees as part of their tuition, they were not guaranteed a UPass. Their only option was to pay out of pocket for the same service.

Acosta also pointed out that graduate students pay higher tuition and fees.

“They are paying more than undergraduate students, and they have not been afforded the opportunity yet,” Acosta said.

Since the majority of graduate students are commuters, this change is one that many students deem extremely necessary.

English major Jennette Bouvier, a freshman and commuter, said that she relies on the UPass to

travel to campus.

“As someone who has used the UPass multiple times, it made it easier to make my classes on time when I don’t have a car,” Bouvier said.

Similarly, Acosta said graduate students should have reaped the benefits of the UPass sooner.

“I am very appreciative that we have an operating system and graduate students should have been able to utilize that in the same way undergraduates can,” Acosta said.

With rising costs of transportation, a single bus fare costs \$1.75. Many students believe it is unsustainable for many commuters.

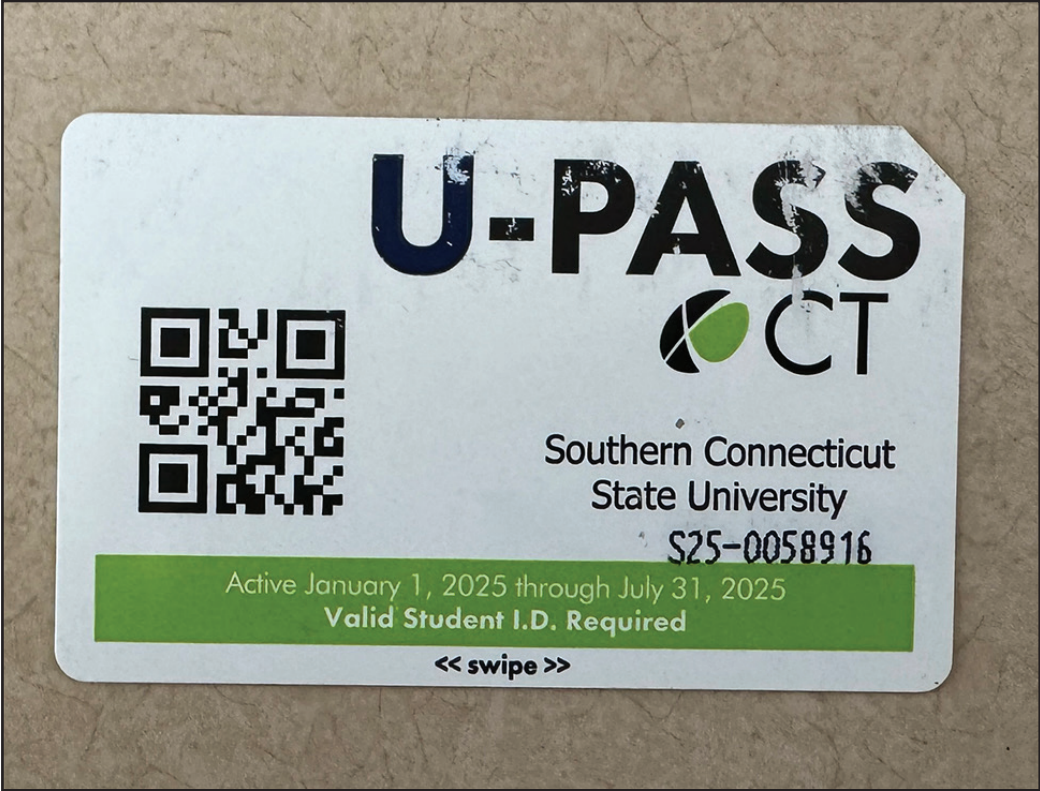
Communication major Jonathan Christiano, a senior, said that expanding access of the UPass can better support not only students but the community as well.

“I think systems should support people who are in them, so having them be supported will benefit not just them but the community,” Christiano said.

Christiano also said this new change can eliminate hurdles for those working to obtain degrees.

“If we can take away one less obstacle, I think that is worth it,” Christiano said. “Knowing they got the support will help with the schools reputations and refer them back to SCSU.”

The increased accessibility of the UPass is another way the university can support graduate students in our community. But it also raises the question of how the university can better support its current and incoming graduate students to guarantee their educational success.



A UPass Card that was given to students for the 2025 school year.

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT



The Card Services Office in the Wintergreen Building where UPasses are given to undergraduates and now graduate students.

PHOTO | SCSU WEBSITE