Innovation Hub previews upcoming tech events

By Brandon Cortés
Features Editor

The Innovation Hub is gearing up for one of its biggest events of the semester: the Emerging Technologies Forum, set for Nov. 14 at 101 College St. in New Haven. Ahead of the main event, the office hosted an informational session on campus to help students understand what the forum will offer and why they should attend.

The purpose, Nina Musco, an adjunct faculty member for the Innovation Hub, said, is to bridge the gap between students, educators and industry professionals by focusing on how fast-evolving fields like quantum computing and artificial intelligence are reshaping education and employment.

"Our theme for this event is unlocking future pathways in quantum, AI and education," Musco said. "We want to show students what emerging technologies are available and how this can play into their career after they leave the university."

Musco said the Innovation Hub's primary goal is to foster engagement between students and the industries driving Connecticut's future economy.

The event will feature several state and local organizations including QuantumCT, BioCT and Gateway Community College, all focused on preparing the next generation for the demands of a technology-driven workforce.

"Our office focuses on workforce development opportunities, especially in STEM," Musco said. "We want students to know what opportunities are out there, as well as give them a chance to meet professionals who are already in those industries, so they can be prepared when they graduate."

Musco said that many of the companies connected through the Innovation Hub are looking for young talent with openings that range from research and data analysis to business operations. She emphasized that the tech sector is not limited to engineers or scientists.

"A lot of our partner companies are looking for talent, whether that's in HR, accounting, data science or research," Musco said. "Depending on the company, the needs vary, but there's room for almost every major if students are willing to explore."

The Emerging Technologies Forum will include a keynote address, a discussion panel, breakout sessions and a networking luncheon.

The panel will feature experts discussing how AI and quantum computing are transforming their industries, while breakout sessions will tailor the experience for students and professionals alike.

"For students, it's going to be about networking tips and best practices," Musco said. "For educators and industry professionals, the focus will be on how we can prepare students for AI, quantum and other emerging technologies."

After the sessions, participants will gather for a networking lunch — an opportunity Musco said is often the highlight of the day.

Musco said that while the November forum focuses heavily on technology, its broader goal is accessibility and ensuring that students from all majors can engage in conversations about motivation.

Musco emphasized that technology touches nearly every field, from business and healthcare to education and communication, and that the forum aims to show students how their skills can fit into these growing industries

Students will be able to connect directly with potential employers and mentors.

"To me, the biggest part is the networking aspect and learning from some of the leaders in the field," Musco said. "This isn't just about learning what AI or quantum computing are — it's about understanding how to apply these technologies like generative AI and how to meet the people who are making it happen."

Nailed It event celebrates queer expression

By Brandon Cortés
Features Editor

Tables lined with bottles of nail polish, brushes and color palettes filled the SAGE Center as students gathered for Nailed It: Queer Expression Through Color, an event hosted by the SAGE Center in celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month.

Graduate Intern for the SAGE center Serginho Walker said the event encouraged participants to use nail art as a form of expression, emphasizing empowerment, visibility and liberation within the queer community.

"What inspired this particular event is that October is Queer History Month," Walker said."

Walker said that- typically, during Queer History Month, other identities like bisexual and gay are represented.

However, Walker said there is rarely a space specifically for nonbinary or trans individuals.

Painting your nails is a form of self-expression, and for many nonbinary and trans people, that is an important part of who they are.

Walker said the event was designed to give participants a creative outlet to explore their identities while building a sense of community.

The idea of nail art as activism, Walker said, reflects a broader tradition of resistance within queer culture.

"Nail art is a form of resistance," Walker said. "It's about exploring yourself without judgment and celebrating liberation. For trans, drag and queer folks, makeup and color are ways of expressing who we are and claiming our space."

Beyond the artistic element, Nailed It also invited reflection.

Students were encouraged to think about how small acts of self-expression, such as painting one's nails, can carry deep symbolic meaning, particularly in communities that have historically faced stigma or exclusion.

"My hope for participants is that they leave with a feeling of pride, liberation and confidence," Walker said. "It's about understanding another part of your identity."

Walker said the SAGE Center was founded on exploring and accepting identity, and this event is another way to connect people to the community they're part of."

The SAGE Center, short for sexuality and gender equality, frequently hosts programs focused on inclusivity, education and empowerment.

Events like Nailed It aim to create affirming spaces where all students, can explore topics related to gender, sexuality and self-acceptance.

"Self-expression, for me, means freedom," Walker said. "It means self-exploration. Being able to do that without any form of judgment or self-hatred. Feeling confident in who you are is what liberation looks like."

Walker said that events like this one also help break down stereotypes about self-expression. They explained that something as simple as nail art can carry a powerful message about identity, confidence and visibility.

By creating a space that blends creativity with conversation, the SAGE center allows students to express themselves freely while learning about the deeper cultural meaning behind those choices.

The event also fostered connection among students who might not otherwise cross paths.

Between conversations, laughter and shared design ideas, participants found community in small moments.

The atmosphere was relaxed but meaningful, reflecting the center's goal of creating spaces where everyone feels seen and valued.

As the afternoon went on, more students stopped by to join in, some painting their nails for the first time, others simply watching and talking. What began as an artistic activity turned into a conversation about identity and acceptance.

Walker said they hope to make Nailed It a recurring event at the university, one that continues to grow each year. Improvements, such as better equipment and expanded participation, are already in discussion for future additions and future nail events.

"I definitely see this becoming a staple program within the SAGE Center," Walker said. "This year, even students who weren't part of the space came to get their nails done. It's something people connect to because at its core, it's about color, creativity and community."

Owls Decide: Do you prefer TV shows or movies?

By Brandon Cortés
Features Editor



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"TV shows because it's more entertaining."
-Business administration major Sam Sandler, a junior



"TV shows: I like being able to binge things."
-English major Zunera Raza, a sophomore



"TV shows because they are longer than movies."
-Communication major Geri Sarfo Darko, a sophomore



"Movies: they have more chance for runtime."
-English major Luis Moquete, a junior



"TV shows because they are just better."
-Communication major Saniah Wint, a senior



"Movies because they are longer."
-Political science major Nadia Clarke, a junior