

Voter registration table makes voting accessible

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

As the 2024 election creeps up, it is important for college students to participate.

According to Tufts University.edu, College students, with a population of 18 million, make up a sizable enough voting cohort to influence election results as well as the future and wellbeing of an informed, fair and participatory democracy.

For this reason, the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility set up a voter registration table.

On Sept. 11, students learned about the voting process.

Graduate Intern for the Dean of Students and Student Conduct Angelina Ovalles was present at the event.

Ovalles said that the event was a way to reach out and inform students on how they can fulfill their democratic duty.

“It’s to educate students around the topic of voting and also just the importance of voter registration in general,” Ovalles said.

Ovalles said that displaying on-campus resources can make voting easier for students.

“It also makes things a little bit more accessible for our students given the importance of this election,” Ovalles said.

Ovalles, who graduated

in May, is also a part of the college student demographic.

For this reason, she said she hopes that her peers exercise their right to vote.

“It’s important for our demographic of students to vote because of our age and diversity,” Ovalles said. “I think it’s just really important that all students have their voice and be heard.”

Voting allows citizens to voice their opinion on various issues that are important to them and can overall enhance civic awareness.

Ovalles wants students to know that “voting is their opportunity to kind of just exercise the things that they kind of hold valuable to their rights and like their morality.”

While it is crucial to encourage college students to vote, it is important to also recognize the hurdles in their way.

For many students, this is their first time voting. As a result, they can be left in the dark about ways to register and cast a ballot.

For healthcare studies major Elise Ryan, a sophomore, the upcoming election will be her first time voting. While Ryan said she is thrilled to do so, she expressed some confusion.

“I’m excited, but I haven’t decided how I’m going to do it,” Ryan said.

Ovalles shared various ways both in-state and



Graduate Intern for the Dean of Students and Student Conduct Angelina Ovalles in her office at Engleman Hall on Sept. 13.

out-of-state students can cast their ballot.

Connecticut residents can do in-person voting near their home address or vote via mail.

Out-of-state students can vote ahead of time through an absentee ballot instead of traveling to their hometown. Ovalles

also acknowledged that voting is very new and fresh to her demographic.

“It being so new that we can vote, it’s really important to educate ourselves around the topic of voting and understanding that if you don’t vote, that’s kind of exempting your voice

within the election,” Ovalles said.

Even though voting is a new practice to most college students, voting in the upcoming election can allow them to implement that practice early on.

“I think all college students should go out and vote so it’s easy to do

in the future,” communication major Alan Brockman, a sophomore, said.

It is also important for students to recognize that registering to vote is just the first step.

“The next biggest hurdle is just voting, like, just vote,” Ovalles said.

The Hartford visits campus in a Meet and Greet event

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The university provides ample resources to set students up for success outside of campus.

Meet and greets hosted by the university with local companies seeking fresh perspectives and prospective employees like The Hartford are some of the most valuable of those resources.

“It’s always nice as a student to hear these different perspectives from people in the industry,” computer science major Miraj Jara, a senior, said.

Thanks to various companies visiting campus, the opportunity for students to attend events and gain internships or jobs is at their fingertips.

Founded in 1810, The Hartford is an insurance company based in Hartford, Connecticut. The company is currently recruiting a new generation of future leaders at the university.

“There is a plethora of opportunities for new grads to get their foot in the door,” University Relations Consultant at The Hartford Alex Martinez said.

From business and liberal arts majors to computer science majors, Martinez said the company has available spots for every student to fulfill and develop new skills.

“We make sure you guys are growing and keep you guys growing and developing,” Martinez said, “and blossoming into leadership roles.”

Employees from The Hartford served as panelists, where they shared their firsthand experience working for the company.

Cloud Engineer Tom Stoeher and Data Engineer Kaira Ramon shared advice on what they wish they knew as a senior in college.

“Use your alumni network and career center, along with making sure your resume is up to date,” Stoeher said.

Ramon said she did not have a resume by senior year, so she recommends students start making one immediately.

“Be proactive and use the resources available on campus to help you,” Ramon said

When creating a resume, Ramon said that “important projects” in class that show “results and valuable skills” can be listed as experience.

The data engineer also said it is crucial that students get comfortable in practicing effective communication.

“It is important to convey your experience to show how it gives value to the company,” Ramon said. “If you can do that, you’re going to stand out.”

With approximately 18,500 employees, Ramon said that The Hartford gives workers flexibility.

“You’re learning something new every day and wearing multiple hats,” Ramon said.

By exchanging roles, employees can gain experience in different departments and develop new, vital skills that they can contribute to the team.

Through these many advantages, students are encouraged to apply to The Hartford.

There are various programs for students to get involved.

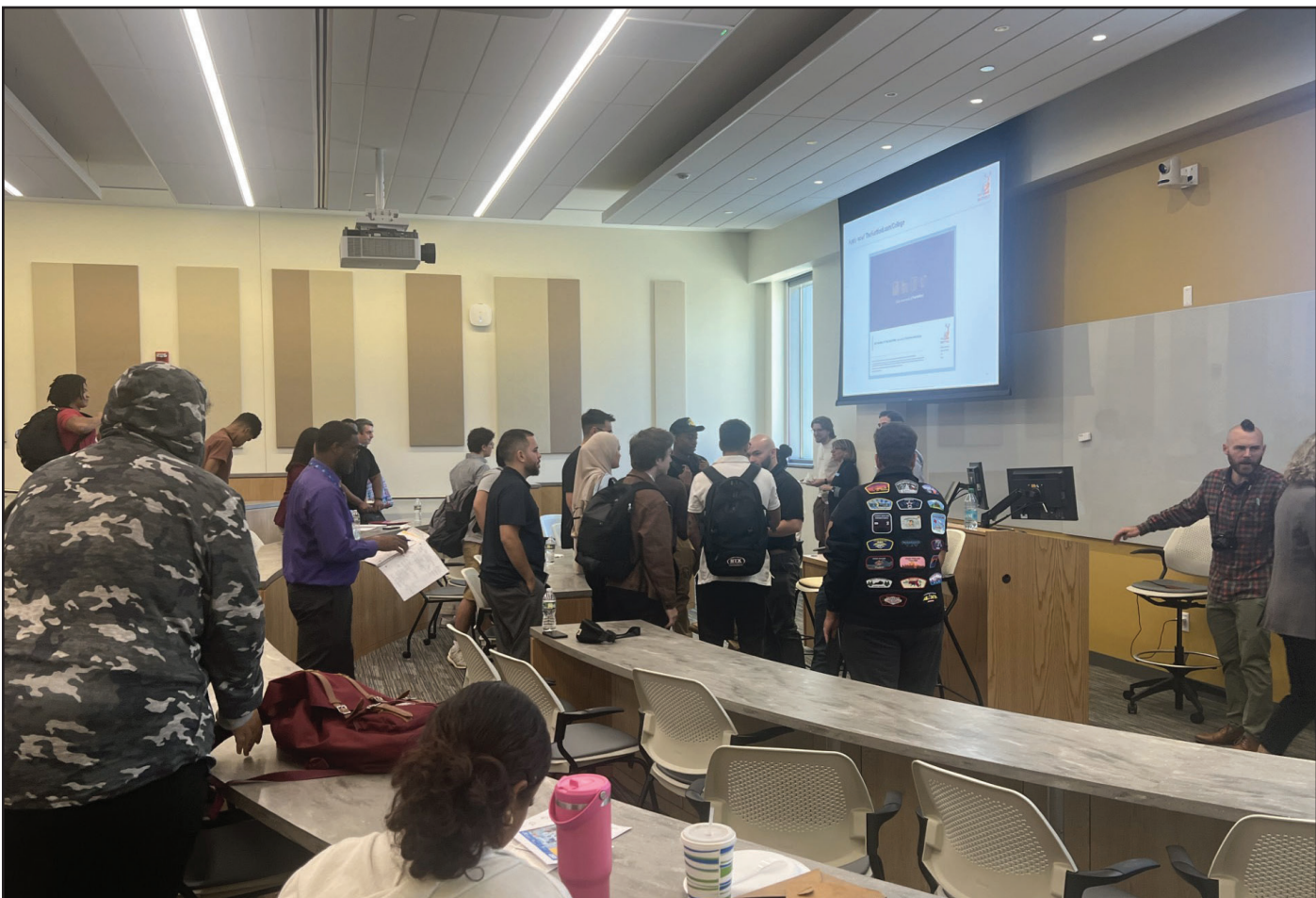
From first years to seniors, the company is recruiting for endless programs and internships.

Starting with the Freshman Experience Program (FEP), freshmen can get exposure to the insurance industry and connections with employers.

Sophomores can apply to the Early Immersion Program for resume building and networking opportunities.

For upperclassmen, juniors can apply to the Summer Internship Program while seniors can apply for full-time employment opportunities to get hands-on experience in the industry.

If interested, visit www.thehartford.com to apply and learn more.



Kaira Ramon, Tom Stoeher and Alex Martinez discuss their roles at The Harford on Sept. 11 in the School of Business.



Students having open conversation and ineteractions with panelists.