

Panel inspires next generation of women

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Money, power and ownership were powerful themes at the Her Worth Her Wealth panel on Thursday, Sept. 25.

Inside the School of Business, speakers Petra-Ann Brown, Alana Dina, Catherine Latoya Grant-Alston and Rosalee Daley boldly encouraged women to claim their worth, take control of their financial futures and stop settling for less.

“I can stand in front of you as a business owner building a legacy instead of fighting for survival,” Brown, the founder of Brown Financial Solutions, LLC, said. “So I want you to know tonight: you have the power to rewrite your financial story. You just have to decide.”

Brown led the “Rewriting Your Money Story” section and shared her own testimony of overcoming debt and taking charge of her finances.

Brown recalled once being \$68,000 in debt and committing to paying it off in 15 months.

“I had to break up with debt,” Brown said. “I was like, ‘You are stealing my income.’”

She explained that it required strict budgeting, sacrifice and persistence, but in the end, she opened the doors to financial freedom.

Brown said that during that time, she drew strength from her grandmother’s determination to build a better life for her and those after her.

Brown explained that when her grandma

was in school, her grandfather ripped up her books to prevent her from attending class and succeeding overall.

“He knew once she got that certificate, she was gone,” Brown said.

Following the theme of strength and determination, Dina, the vice president and branch business relationship manager at KeyBank, led her segment: “How to Become the Most Dangerous Women in the Room.”

“When we’re talking about dangerous, we’re not talking about injury or harm,” Dina said. “We’re talking about being a force of energy. When you walk into the room, you command the room. You don’t shift. You do the shifting.”

Not only did Dina invite attendees to recite her powerful affirmations, but she also encouraged attendees to adopt intentional rituals.

One of these rituals included starting their day with clarity and purpose instead of chaos, in order to set the tone for the day.

“You win the morning, you win the day,” Dina said.

Rather than reaching for their phones and doomscrolling, Dina recommended listening to a positive podcast or reading a book.

Dina explained that waking up with intention helps set the foundation for success.

Dina’s message also emphasized balance and sustainability by reminding women to adopt rest and recovery rituals.

Dina said that this ritual is especially important in today’s culture, where women are often pressured to take on the unrealistic role of being “superwomen.”

“But rest is not weakness. Rest is a weapon,” Dina said. “Rest is rebellion in a culture of exhaustion. A rested woman is a dangerous woman.”

Along with this superwoman culture, Grant-Alston, the CEO of ART Financial Solutions, LLC, called out “hustle culture” in her “The Queen’s Code: Scale with Systems, Not Stress” segment.

“You don’t need to hustle harder. You need to automate smarter,” Grant-Alston said.

Grant-Alston emphasized that long hours of work do not equate to greater success and instead generate burnout. Through delegating and building systems to handle routine tasks, women can conserve their time and energy.

The conversation turned to securing financial resources afterwards, as Daley, the founder of Rose Affect, led the segment “Access Granted: How to Fund Your Dreams.”

Daley began by addressing the barriers women often face while entering the entrepreneurship industry.

Daley explained that women are less likely to receive investment compared to men due to bias within financial institutions.

“You’re judged on how you show up in the bank,



Her Worth Her Wealth panel featuring successful women Petra-Ann Brown, Alana Dina, Catherine Latoya Grant-Alston and Rosalee Daley in the School of Business on Thursday, Sept. 25.



Panelists Alana Dina, Petra-Ann Brown and Catherine Latoya Grant-Alston presenting financial advice to audience members.

how you present your business documents and whether they even think you’re worth the risk,” Daley said.

Since women are typically counted out, Daley encouraged women to pursue tools like grants, crowdfunding and private equity in order to secure funding.

Daley explained that free resources are available, but many entrepreneurs are not aware of them or are afraid to ask for help.

“Grants are free money you don’t have to pay back,” Daley said.

The panel, sponsored by the university’s School of Business and Women in

Leadership Academy, BFS, Rose Affect, Pretty Digital, Art Financial Solutions and KeyBank, aimed to empower not only the women in the room, but future generations as well.

“When you change your story, it does not only benefit you. It benefits the people around you,” Brown said.

Students reaction

Continued from Page 1

After seeing the post, some students said the photo only confirmed what they had already noticed about the campus Dunkin’s operations.

They pointed to the consistently long wait times, messy counters and short staffing as signs that cleanliness was not being prioritized.

“They seem very understaffed, so I’m not surprised that they’re not cleaned up,” Collins said.

Located in the Adanti Student Center, a space visited by hundreds of staff and students each day, it is no surprise that the campus Dunkin’ is one of the busiest dining spots at the university.

Collins noted that the high rate of business would sometimes influence how employees treated customers.

“I heard that the workers are rude to other people, but they haven’t been to me,” Collins said. “I get in, and I get out.”

While many were upset by the photo, others noticed it also brought attention to a concern that was once concealed from customers.

“We don’t know about what goes on before we’re handed our drinks and food,” sport management major Jeramiyha Brathwaite, a senior, said. “So, I’m just glad this got out.”

Brathwaite also said he is glad the app Yik Yak was used in a positive way.

While the anonymous app is often used for students to exchange unfiltered opinions, Brathwaite said this post served a more meaningful purpose by shedding light on real concerns.

“It’s good that students are using the app to bring these issues to light,” Brathwaite said.

Soulful Social celebrates Black culture

By Valentina Toro
Contributor

The Black Student Union hosted its annual Soulful Social on Sept. 24, bringing students and faculty together for an evening of culture, food and connection.

Organizers said the Soulful Social is more than just a celebration — it is an opportunity to create a space where students feel welcomed and supported.

“The BSU serves as an umbrella for all the multicultural organizations,” physics major Devyn Newton, a junior and vice president of the BSU, said. “We want every person to feel welcomed and show that there’s a community

here at Southern.”

The event held at the Multicultural Center in the Adanti Student Center featured soulful dishes, music and a “hot takes” segment that highlighted the richness of Black culture.

The students who attended echoed that sentiment. The evening provided guests with the opportunity to relax, connect with other people and celebrate their identity in a welcoming environment.

“I’d say the vibe was very comforting, energetic and fun — people felt comfortable just being themselves,” accounting major Eric Marowa, a freshman, said.

A central feature of

the evening was the “hot takes” segment, where students spoke candidly about topics ranging from everyday campus life to broader issues of representation and inclusivity.

The mix of humor, honesty and reflection created a space where participants could share experiences while also learning from one another.

“The hot takes have been my favorite part of the event so far,” Marowa said. “Everybody was really speaking their mind, and it was fun because everybody could say what they feel.”

The BSU has long been a cornerstone of student life by offering a platform for leadership, advocacy

and cultural expression.

The signature gathering brought together students from all backgrounds while centering Black culture and experience.

By weaving together elements of celebration, the event fosters both unity and awareness on campus.

“At the Black Student Union, we don’t discriminate. Everybody is open to come to any of our meetings. That doesn’t mean that we should put ourselves to the minority of Black people,” Newton said. “What’s the point of breaking each other if together we can really be stronger?”

For new students, the social offered an

introduction to the BSU mission and its role in shaping campus culture.

For returning members, it was another chance to strengthen bonds and reaffirm their collective voice.

The evening underscored BSU’s commitment to providing spaces that not only entertain but also empower.

“To me personally, seeing events like this on campus means that the people running it are putting real effort into making sure we feel welcomed,” business administration major Jayden Carty, a sophomore, said. “It shows that they care about creating a welcoming space for everyone.”



Students talking at the Soulful Social in the Multicultural Center on Sept. 24



Business administration major Jayden Carty, a sophomore, in the Adanti Student Center.



Physics major Devyn Newton, a junior, sitting at the event.



Black Student Union members serving food at the event.



Students waiting in line outside of the Multicultural Center.