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New program Owl Links for student interests

By Christian Schloemer
Contributer

The office of Orientation, Transition and Family Engagement has started a new initiative.

This academic year called Owl Links, meant to bring together new students with similar interests.

Sal Rizza, the director of Orientation, Transition and Family Engagement, was one of the key players that helped to put this program together along with Graduate Intern Kyra Catubig.

“We wanted to

create opportunities where students could meet people,” Rizza said, “make friends with interests that are similar to the ones they currently have.”

According to the Owl Link catalog, the program has 22 different Owl Link programs, each with its own student leader facilitating the group and lasting anywhere between four to six weeks.

Catubig was tasked with overseeing the program, and she was met with various challenges for getting the

program off the ground. Catubig said the turnaround time was “really quick” when starting this program.

“A lot of the Owl Link leaders are current student leaders, and many of them at the time were in training, so it was very difficult to get consistent participation,” Catubig said.

The student leaders brought up their own ideas for topics in each of the groups they would run, including Roblox, anime and hiking.

One of the students leading a group was

psychology major Catherine Vu, a sophomore, who ran the Owl Link “Craft Corner” Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center in Room 309.

“We’ve done origami, scrapbooking, script stickers, clay,” Vu said.

Vu also said that she had a hard time promoting her Owl Link and getting people to come to meetings.

“When it first started, I don’t think they advertised very well,” Vu said. “Then, it slowly started going around, and in the end, people started going.”

One first-year student that attended the Craft Corner Owl Link was elementary education major Faith Lally, a freshman, who like Vu mentioned found out about the program very late.

“I saw it on the student center TV, and it said there was a crafting corner,” Lally said. “I also kind of heard about it when we were in orientation, and I kept it in the back of my mind.”

Lally says she enjoyed the people and liked “chilling and making stuff.”

Feedback such as

Lally’s is crucial for Rizza and Catubig, who are looking to improve on the first year of the program.

“This is year one; we learned a lot,” Rizza said. “Year two, we’re going to refine and see where this takes us.”

Rizza and Catubig both agree that overall, they are satisfied with how the first year went.

“If students— one, two, seven, I don’t know— felt like that were able to feel happy and feel they are a part of Southern, then there’s some success in that,” Rizza said.



PHOTO | CHRISTIAN SCHLOEMER

A group of students relaxing and participating in arts and crafts



Elementary Education major Faith Lally, a freshman, in Adanti Student Center Room 309.

Crescent Players anniversary SGA swearing in new officers

By Solé Scott
Editor in Chief

The Crescent Players have officially reached their 70th anniversary and are celebrating this milestone.

On Friday, Oct. 18, Crescent Players hosted an Alumni night, 70 Years in the Making, in Lyman from 6-8 p.m. The celebration reunited previous actors with newer members, as the latest play “The Prom” showcased at 8 p.m.

The first group was started in 1953 when the university pivoted from classical theatre to modern. The play “Back to Methuselah” kicked off the first of 400 plays and counting.

Alumni that made a name for themselves include a slew of performers such as Dan Lauria who portrayed the father in the TV classic “Wonder Years.”

R. Bruce Connelly was the voice of Barkley on the popular children’s show

“Sesame Street.”

Michael Skinner is a chairperson and associate professor in the theatre department. Skinner is also the current advisor for Crescent Players who helped organize the coming together.

“The Legacy of the Crescent Players is a testament to the resilience and life-changing power of the performing arts,” Skinner said.

“The Prom” will conclude production on Saturday Oct. 19 at 8 p.m.

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

On Oct. 14, the Student Government Association had their swearing in meeting.

Swearing in is important because being sworn into SGA symbolizes a formal commitment to uphold the responsibilities and standards of the association.

It also serves as a meeting to solidify the legitimacy of the role

each new member swore themselves into.

Psychology major Riyanna Singleton, a senior, is the president of SGA. She said the swearing in was a success for the association.

“We were able to fill all 11 spots of representative at large,” Singleton said. “We had many new members join who represent many different areas of campus, including transfers, first years and even D9 Greek

life members.”

Singleton said the main talking points during this meeting were about making sure the newly joined members were assigned to committee and boards.

On Nov. 1, SGA is hosting a civil dialogue event from 12:30-2:00 p.m. which will feature guest speakers and free lunch. Singleton encourages students and faculty to come to this event.



PHOTO | JAY’MI VAZQUEZ

Wall of all the plays that Crescent Players have done since 1954 until now.



Playbills of some of the shows that Crescent Players produced over the years.



PHOTO | JAY’MI VAZQUEZ

Student Government Association E-Board conducting the swearing of officers.



New officers waiting to get inducted into their roles in student government.