

New business chapter hits the course catalog

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

A new organization is making its mark on campus with a mission to elevate business students and strengthen their path from the classroom into the professional world.

The National Association of Black Accountants, a national nonprofit with more than 150 student and professional chapters across the country, has officially launched a chapter at the university.

“It offers an opportunity for students to transfer into the professional world,” accounting major Ernest Nyangwila Mulomba, a senior and the chapter’s vice president, said. “It offers great internship and scholarship opportunities, and it helps transition students from student life to professional life.”

Although NABA’s name reflects its origins, the organization is open to all students interested in business.

The organization emphasizes leadership development, networking and its motto: “Lifting as we climb.”

Nyangwila Mulomba said the chapter was inspired by a visit from NABA leaders at the University of Connecticut, which encouraged students at the university to establish their own.

After multiple semesters at the university, Nyangwila Mulomba explained that the organization fills a gap that he has taken note of: the need for more direct, personalized professional support for business majors.

“I brought NABA here because, for me, there was a lack of resources,” Nyangwila Mulomba said. “Teachers do have opportunities, yes, but other times, students have to go

out of their way to find a path into the professional world.”

Despite various career fairs that foster networking opportunities, Nyangwila Mulomba said that these fairs rarely offer the opportunity for students to master the skills needed to apply to firms, create personal connections or be successful throughout the interview process.

“At fairs, I feel like I’m just a number to them,” Nyangwila Mulomba said. “NABA will bring that connection where it’s more personal. You go to their firms, you communicate with them, learn what they do on the job and hopefully keep that connection.”

NABA’s national mission focuses on the ‘Five Es’: Engage, Empower, Educate, Enhance and Elevate.

While the group was founded to support Black accountants who faced systemic barriers in the industry, the organization has since then expanded to include all business disciplines and students of all backgrounds.

“It all started from four Black accountants,” Nyangwila Mulomba said. “But as it evolved, many people became interested in it, and they opened doors to overall different opportunities, different businesses. So, it’s for all majors, not just accountants.”

Even as inclusion efforts widen the door, Nyangwila Mulomba said the organization continues to shine as a powerful source of role models for Black business students.

“Professionals talk about the struggle of being the only Black person in a firm,” Nyangwila Mulomba said.

Due to white men’s historical domination

of the business field, Nyangwila Mulomba said it is important for Black business students to have a supportive community that can uplift them and allow them to thrive.

“We’re able to get in there and open doors and even help our younger self lift as well,” Nyangwila Mulomba said. “So, we help people climb up to where they are from the struggle that they had to face.”

Nyangwila Mulomba revealed that the chapter’s upcoming programming includes resume and LinkedIn development workshops, professional headshots, interview practice, networking events, firm visits and guest speakers.

Officers also hope the organization will help students adopt a more professional mindset, as it will allow them to be prepared for their career.

“It starts with dressing professionally,” Nyangwila Mulomba said. “If we can dress ourselves to look the part, then the character will follow.”

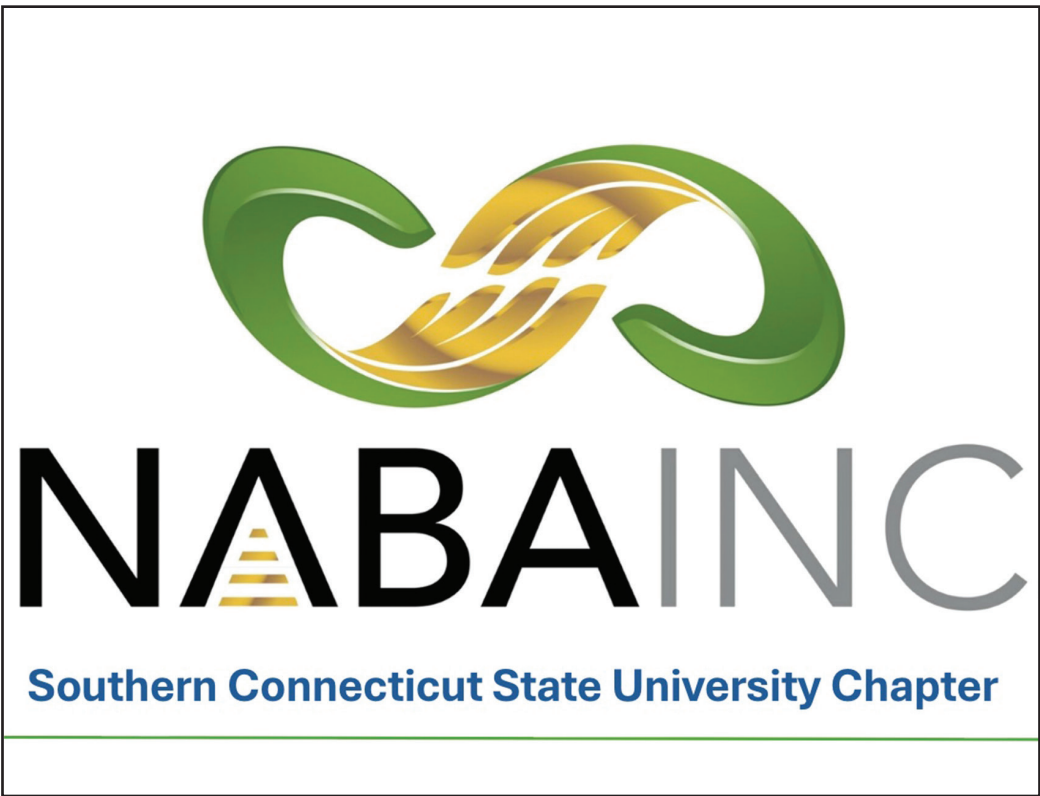
Mulomba hopes that students will invest in their future by taking advantage of this opportunity.

“We open it up to other students who come and see what the business world is like,” Mulomba said. “Freshmen who are undecided can come to NABA and see if business is something for them.”

For Mulomba and the rest of the founding team, the long-term goal is simple but crucial: build something that lasts.

“The plan so far is just to grow it,” Nyangwila Mulomba said. “I want people to feel the impact and see the impact of it.”

For those interested, NABA meets every Wednesday from 5–6:30 p.m. in Buley Library Room 204.



PHOTOS | SCSU NABA INSTAGRAM

The official logo of the National Association of Black Accountants Chapter at the university.



The 2025-26 executive board of the National Association of Black Accountants Chapter at the university.

Study Abroad Fair highlights worldwide learning options

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Interest in studying abroad drew a crowd to the Adanti Student Center Ballroom, where the Office of International Education hosted its annual fair on Nov. 18.

Maps, brochures and travel swag filled the room as guests learned about international internships, spoke with faculty leading upcoming trips and connected with representatives from partner schools.

“I got to see everything and learn about the different opportunities,” nursing major Elise Ryan, a junior, said. “It is important to experience different cultures and see new people.”

Ryan said the event helped her understand how studying abroad can expand her perspective and experience as a student.

“You get to immerse yourself in experiences that you could never have at home,” Ryan said.

Computer science major Alison Escobar, a junior, echoed this by stating that exploring new places and engaging with different communities can shape both personal and academic growth.

“People should take any chance they get to have new experiences,” Escobar said. “You get to meet new people, get out of your comfort zone and learn new skills you can’t gain in a classroom.”

The event gave those who are interested in traveling an opportunity to hear directly from



PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

Attendees at the Study Abroad Fair getting food from various countries in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom on Nov. 18.

peers who had already taken the leap.

Social work major Alyssa McGregor, a junior, was one of those students representing the Liverpool table.

Fresh off a semester abroad, McGregor described it as one of the most eye-opening experiences of her college career.

“It was a very reflective time. I got to learn about myself but also to embed myself in these different cultures,”

McGregor said.

While traveling to multiple countries like France, England, Portugal, Romania and Spain, McGregor said each destination felt welcoming in its own way.

“It’s very accessible to get around since everything is in walking distance. All of the people are very kind and welcoming to you,” McGregor said.

For students who may be hesitant to

study abroad, especially students of color, McGregor shared her experience to offer some reassurance.

“I know it can kind of be a little bit scary with being in Europe, but overall, with my experience in the UK, I didn’t experience any racism at all,” McGregor said. “Everybody’s very welcoming to people of all different ethnicities, backgrounds and abilities, which was something that is so

beautiful to me.”

For those who already booked their tickets, the fair inspired excitement for upcoming trips.

Public health major Evie Mathanool, a junior who will study in Prague in the Czech Republic next semester, said that studying abroad allows students to understand the world through a broader lens.

“I think traveling gives people the chance to experience life outside of the bubble they are living

in,” Mathanool said.

“Seeing how different countries go about life enriches your worldview and gives you a better understanding of yourself and how the world works.”

For Mathanool, studying abroad is less about checking off destinations and more about experiencing the world beyond campus.

“I’m looking forward to meeting people, hearing new languages and learning about different upbringings and customs,” Mathanool said.

After undergoing the study abroad process, Mathanool also revealed a common misconception that can deter students from participating.

“I hear a lot that studying abroad is very expensive, and that’s a big misconception because I’m paying more here than studying abroad,” Mathanool said.

Along with showing how accessible studying abroad is, the fair also connected domestic students with international students already studying at the university.

Psychology major Esme Rippon, a junior, who started her first semester in America in August and is originally from Liverpool, said she encourages students to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way.

“Liverpool has so many opportunities to meet new people and try new things, and studying abroad here has helped me see how much the world has to offer,” Rippon said.