

Magic in Montevallo: The return of the renaissance and fantasy faire

By Ashley Williams

MONTEVALLO, AL — All were invited to an evening of free food, crafts and roleplaying at the Renaissance and Fantasy Faire on Wednesday, April 23.

The event started at 3 p.m. and took place at the Student Activity Center. The Montevallo Organization of Gaming, also known as MOG, was the host.

Located in Harman Hall, the club promotes a welcoming atmosphere for all gaming activities such as board, tabletop and video games.

Renaissance faires are medieval-themed events started in the 1960s, where people can wear costumes and enjoy arts and crafts. There are usually musical and theatrical performances as well.

This is the second year MOG hosted the Renaissance and Fantasy Faire on campus.

MOG Vice President Aspen Striegel was in attendance as one of the organizers. She said what inspired them to make this event happen on campus was bringing people together.

For this event, goals they aimed to achieve were providing entertainment as well as trying to build community.

Not to mention, the Game Studies and Design department, SGA, Phi Gamma Delta and other clubs and organizations helped MOG bring this event to life.

People outside of these organizations were also able to volunteer helping with the event by filling out a Google form.

According to Aspen, they made sure everyone could come this time, not just people involved in MOG but people in the Cosplay Club and everybody else so they can be a part of the event.

Inside, there was medieval-style music playing in the background as people joined the festivities. Attendees had a range of activities to participate in, from figurine painting, potion making and playing fantasy video games.

However, there were some challenges in bringing the renaissance faire to life. Aspen said they had to make sure all the clubs and organizations who were involved were on the same page when planning.

Additionally, she said they had to relocate the event to the Student Activity Center due to the possibility of bad weather. This year's faire was originally going to be on Main Quad, where the previous one took place.

To Aspen, hearing people say they loved the first renaissance faire is what motivates her and the other organizers to keep having the event.

She said many people do not know what MOG is even though they are one of the most active clubs on campus and so the faire helps bring attention to them.

Furthermore, Aspen said she thinks many attendees are drawn to events like renaissance faires and it can be special to them.



About Attendees.mp3

To her, she and the other organizers made sure the faire was engaging for a wide audience by incorporating shield painting, flower crown making and other activities to give everyone a chance to get involved.

At around 5:30 p.m., a costume contest took place inside, where the judges and contestants had a chance to tell the audience more about their costumes and characters.

Best Makeup, Best Costume and Best Character were just some of the awards given to the contestants. Prizes given were ORLY nail polish collections.

After the contest, there was a shield dodgeball game that took place on the racquetball court.

Aspen said she personally felt passionate about bringing the faire to life this year.



Passion.mp3

Overall, many attendees had fun. The event concluded at around 7 p.m.



Video With Text.mp4