The annual event hosted by SpectrUM raises money for the LGBTQ+ community amid glitter and song

Story by Shea Halpenny Design by Mia Rivas

The DragOut event, hosted by student organization SpectrUM, brought the art of drag to campus, allowing members of the LGBTQ communities and allies to express themselves. Famous drag queens, kings and students put on drag and performed in typical drag fashion: with lip-syncing to songs and over-the-top dancing. The stage was set up in the Shalala ballroom for performances and fundraising for both SpectcrUM and SAGE, a non-profit organization that supported elderly people in the LGBTQ community.

Participants and organizers of the event spoke about the intent of holding DragOut. Sam Hinds, a sophomore and the Secretary for SpectrUM, said DragOut “helps educate students, but also lets queer students know that they’re not alone and helps them find a sense of community.” Hinds, along with the rest of SpectrUM, provided students with the opportunity to explore their sexuality and identity, helping them build bonds with other queer students.

DragOut was known as an event full of self-expression for performers, a facet of entertainment for peers and an opportunity to raise money for charities.