

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

Volume 39, issue 3

September 26, 2023

NEWS

STUDY ABROAD OFFERS
SCHOLARSHIPS

PAGE 3

NEWS

SEAHAWK MARKET-
PLACE HELPS STUDENTS

PAGE 3

SPOTLIGHT

LEARN ABOUT SOME
VALUABLE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE AT BC

PAGES 6-7

SPORTS

WEEKS 1 AND 2 OF THE
NFL

PAGES 8

ENTERTAINMENT

TAYLOR SWIFTS BREAKS
RECORDS

PAGE 10

OPINION

A STEM OBSESSED
WORLD

PAGE 11

SPOTLIGHT

CHECK OUT CLUB RUSH
ON CENTRAL

PAGE 12

New Pickleball complex on North Campus

David Gonzalez
North Bureau Chief

Diadem Sports Complex Relishes in Partnership with Broward College Pickleball is gaining momentum as millions of Americans are flocking to the courts to take part in a game that is part tennis, part ping-pong, and part badminton. Because the sport is easy to learn and doesn't involve a high magnitude of impactful bodily movement, a social component has emerged within the pickleball world which separates it from its peers, causing its popularity to explode in recent years. In the summer of 2023, Diadem Sports opened South Florida's only indoor pickleball facility at Broward College's North Campus.

The association between the college and the sports company began when Diadem entered a ten-year lease as a tenant of the school's Coconut Creek location (building 60) and has provided mutual benefit among

the parties. Shannon Schell, Director of Operations at Diadem, says that the relationship is, "...a great opportunity for Diadem to work with Broward College and bring exposure to both the college and the Diadem brand."

Additionally, the building was already well-suited to accommodate gameplay. "The facility itself is great for indoor pickleball due to its high ceilings, lighting and acoustics," Schell said. With these factors in place, Diadem's portion of the renovations consisted mostly of converting the old gymnasium floors into the appropriate court surfaces, the costs of which were wholly absorbed by the company.

While pickleball can be played on any surface, the ability to accurately predict the action of the ball's bounce in relation to its spin is one of the finer points that serious players cherish. This is one of the main reasons that an indoor facility is ideal; maintaining a pristine court surface can wreak havoc

for outdoor venues. Diadem's court surface, with its multilayered design, is touted as having a perfect amount of grip.

Like any other sport, an indoor venue also comes with the advantage of negating the effects of weather on games. Pickleballs are similar to wiffleballs; they are light and perforated, so wind will affect the trajectory of one more so than that of a baseball. As for the athletes, any outdoor activity in South Florida can be torturous for large parts of the year, let alone the dogdays of summer, so having an air-conditioned experience with pickleball can extend game lengths by a great deal.

Players of the game describe it as infectious, referencing the ability for a person who has never played to quickly be engaged in competition with a high-level athlete and still have fun (players are ranked on a system of 1.0 through 6.0). This quality contributes to its socialness; anyone can show up, alone, for an open play session



Diadem Sports Complex on North Campus. Photo by David Gonzalez

and end up befriending people from outside their immediate social networks.

The success of Diadem's complex has been rapid, buttressed in part by ease of access to the North Campus via Florida's Turnpike. "Typically, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., it's packed," said Ben Sosville, an employee of the facility who works the front desk. Sosville credits the game's continual growth in popularity in simple terms,

succinctly saying, "It's really accessible, and it is super fun."

For more information, or to make court reservations, visit Diadem's complex website at www.diadempickleballcomplex.com www.diadempickleballcomplex.com.

Gonzr221@mail.broward.edu

Conversation with Raphael Bostic: Economic perspectives and more

Swami Hinojosa
Central Bureau Chief

Early this month, some students had the honor of attending an exclusive conversation with Raphael Bostic, the current President, and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Bostic, an American economist with an impressive academic and professional record, shared his views on today's economy and the Federal Reserve's crucial role in the US economy.

Bostic took over his role at the Atlanta Fed in June 2017 and has led the institution ever since. His mandate covers the supervision and regulation of financial institutions, implementing monetary policies, and providing payment services to banks and the US government. His impressive record includes a distinguished academic career at the University of Southern California (USC) and a solid economics and urban planning background.

One of the central topics of the conversation was the essential role of the Federal Reserve in the United States

economy. Bostic explained that the Federal Reserve manages interest rates to maintain price and financial stability. Additionally, they regulate and supervise financial institutions to ensure that they operate safely and soundly. The Fed is also responsible for managing the US payments infrastructure, ensuring the fluidity of financial transactions.

Bostic emphasized the importance of banks reinvesting in their local communities. In his opinion, it is essential to understand the needs of the people who live in those communities and be willing to listen to their concerns and perspectives. This connection with everyday reality makes economic policy more effective and meaningful.

Regarding the current economic outlook, Bostic addressed several vital topics. He discussed how the economy is being impacted by unexpected events, such as the pandemic, which triggered uncertainty and required an immediate response.

Bostic mentioned that one

of the Federal Reserve's main objectives is maintaining price stability, with an inflation target of 2%. However, current inflation is around 4%, indicating an imbalance between supply and demand in the economy. The Federal Reserve's policy focuses on reducing inflation and restoring balance.

He also touched on the importance of productivity in economic growth and how technological innovation, including artificial intelligence, is transforming the economy. Bostic highlighted that these technological advances can be disruptive and significantly affect specific employment categories. With the constant increase in processing power, the acceleration of technology requires continuous adaptation.

Bostic emphasized leadership and vision's importance in addressing current economic and social challenges. He highlighted that a collective approach is needed to understand the opportunities and challenges we face as a society. Additionally, he



Raphael Bostic.

Photo courtesy of Broward College

mentioned the need to work on infrastructure at the national level to ensure that all communities have access to resources and opportunities.

The conversation with Raphael Bostic provided valuable insight into the current economy and the fundamental role of the Federal Reserve in managing the United States economy. His focus on connecting with local communities, the importance of price stability, and the need to adapt to technological innovation underscores the complexity and importance of economics in our daily lives. As we con-

tinue to face economic and social challenges, the wisdom and leadership of leaders like Raphael Bostic are essential to navigating an uncertain financial future but full of possibilities.

hinos2@mail.broward.edu

What's happening around campus



Arts
Humanities
Communication
Design



HISPANIC HERITAGE ESSAY CONTEST

STEP #1 – SELECT ONE PROMPT

OPTION 1: WHAT DOES HISPANIC HERITAGE MEAN TO YOU?

OPTION 2: INDICATE A HISPANIC ROLE MODEL WHO HAS IMPACTED YOUR LIFE.

STEP #2 – FOLLOW GUIDELINES

STANDARD 12-POINT FONT DOUBLE-SPACED

WORD COUNT 500-600

JUDGED ON CONTENT, CREATIVITY, & MECHANICS

STEP #3 – HOW TO SUBMIT

VIA EMAIL IN AN ATTACHED WORD DOCUMENT OR PDF

EMAIL TO STUDENTLIFE@BROWARD.EDU

INCLUDE NAME, STUDENT ID NUMBER, & PHONE NUMBER

DEADLINE

ENTIRES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 9TH

WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL OCTOBER

PRIZES

1ST PLACE - \$300 AMAZON WISH LIST

2ND PLACE - \$200 AMAZON WISH LIST

3RD PLACE - \$100 AMAZON WISH LIST



DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START? GET HELP FROM THE ASC WRITING CENTER TO BRAINSTORM IDEAS, REFINE YOUR GRAMMAR AND GET INSIGHTFUL FEEDBACK FOR A WINNING ESSAY!

Seahawk Marketplace: Broward College's food pantries help students

David Gonzalez
North Bureau Chief

Food insecurity in Florida is far-reaching, with an estimated 10.6 percent of the state's population being afflicted, per Feeding America's official statistics. This number includes well over three million residents, and unsurprisingly many college students, as well as their families, are among those who do not have access to enough food. While awareness remains sparse, there are measures already in place to help remedy such a serious dilemma.

Broward College students are encouraged to take advantage of the Seahawk Marketplace for themselves as well as for their families (who are eligible by proxy) to receive free food and hygiene products at any BC campus.

The North Campus location opened its doors this past August, filling out the trio of pantries, but it has yet to see the amount of foot traffic that the workers and volunteers there would like. "I do not feel that enough students know about us, whatsoever,"

said Dana Bartholomew, Food Insecurity Coordinator. "The kids can shop once a week, they can pick any day... and they can also pick any campus, so wherever they are at, that is most accessible to them that week, they can go shop there."

The Seahawk Marketplace, which operates under the banner of Student Outreach Services, requires a one-time registration by the student, and any type of student can sign up. Once registered, the student can choose to have a family member pick up the supplies in lieu of doing the shopping for themselves. Additionally, students do not have to register to take advantage of the snacks and drinks which are available inside the pantries for a quick pick-me-up in between classes.

Currently, the focus is on getting the word out to make sure the food does not go to waste, "Our goal is to collaborate more with the professors, you know, the faculty and staff, to get the message out to all the students," Bartholomew said. Large weekly shipments

come in consisting of perishables, such as fresh produce, which must be spoken for before they expire. "We work with local farms, Costco, Publix, Sam's Club, Walmart, and every week we get a huge veggie and fruit order... so if the kids don't want to come shop, they can put someone to shop for them. So, it's great."

"Yesterday, I had two (students) and they're like, 'we don't need it,' and I said, 'let's call your mom right now and ask her if she wants to save about six hundred (dollars) a month on groceries,'" Bartholomew beamed. The reality of food costs may be unfamiliar to some students if they do not see the bill for themselves, so a full appreciation of what could be accomplished with so much money saved might be difficult to grasp. But for the grocery shopper in any household, lowering these costs can cause the eyes to dilate.

Not having to spend money on bare necessities can relieve plenty of burden, and the Seahawk Marketplace carries many of these

SEAHAWK Marketplace
NEW SCHEDULE

Effective in Fall Semester

Central Campus Bldg 19 Room 128 Hours Of Operations	
Monday	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tuesday - Thursday	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday	CLOSED

North Campus Bldg 46 Room 113 Hours Of Operations	
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday - Wednesday	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Thursday	11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

South Campus Bldg 68 Room 101 Hours Of Operations	
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday - Friday	11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Phone Number:
954-201-FOOD (3663)
Contact Us
seahawkmarketplace@broward.edu

SCAN ME!
To Register

BROWARD COLLEGE

products. "The biggest things that people look for, typically speaking, is meat... The other one is hygiene items... people come for those all the time, obviously those (items) can rack up a decent amount of money."

For more information on campus-specific hours and days of operation, visit <https://www.broward.edu/students/seahawk-outreach/>.

Gonzr221@mail.broward.edu

Study Abroad program offers scholarships

Camille Villa
Staff Writer

On Sept. 7, 2023, Broward College celebrated the achievement of three brilliant Seahawks: Aliana Morales, Trinh Huynh Phuong Linh and Joshua Johnson. These students are all the winners of scholarships pertaining to studying abroad.

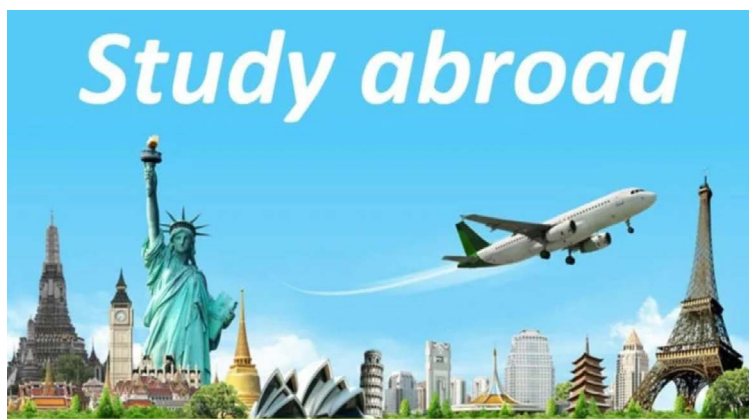
Morales and Johnson are the recipients of the competitive William E. Greene Scholarship; they will spend the fall semester studying at the International College of Seville. Linh is the recipient of the prestigious Presidential Scholarship and will be leaving her native Vietnam to continue her studies at Broward College. The recognition of their achievements took place at the International Scholar's Reception, which this year was hosted by Café Seville, a Spanish restaurant in honor of our fellow Seahawks' next academic stop.

So, what exactly is the William E. Greene Scholarship and what makes it so competitive?

What is the Presidential Scholarship and what makes it so prestigious? The William E. Greene scholarship is very competitive because it covers an entire student's tuition while studying abroad in a foreign institution. The Presidential Scholarship is very prestigious because it covers an international student's education for them to study in the states. Even though these scholarships may seem difficult to win, Morales and Linh offered their perspectives and advice for any student interested in them as well as their experience in applying:

Q. What was the process like for you? Linh: "The process is long and challenging. It took a lot of patience to wait for each round."

Q. Why did you apply? Morales: "Earlier this year I felt like this burden in my heart to leave my fall semester open because I am ready to go into nursing school. I got all my credits done I am ready to apply, to get in and go but I knew I wanted to take a gap semester for whatever



reason, and I was like 'Oh this could be a very interesting concept, of me going,' and so I wrote down everything. I was looking for a change. It landed perfectly on my lap and the door was wide open."

Q. Any goals that you aspire to accomplish through this scholarship? Linh: "My upcoming goal is to study hard to finish my Bachelor's degree with good grades. Then I want to apply for OPT to be in an internship for a front-end developer to gain experience. My long-term goal is to build a proficient team of software developers after graduation and accumulate practical experiences. This team will provide assistance to students in Vietnam who

are in need of guidance in their academic pursuits and professional pathways."

Q. The William E. Greene Scholarship offers a chance to study in Spain, Costa Rica and Austria, why did you pick Spain? Morales: I want to see more of where I come from, dive into that aspect of my ethnicity. I'm so excited to speak Spanish.

Q: What advice would you give any student interested in applying for this scholarship? Morales: "The biggest thing is where your heart is at when filling out [application] papers and talking to professors. If you try to be any other person than yourself, then they're not going to see your motive behind why you want to do what you want to do. Share the heart

of who you are with the professors, even in your writing. Remember why you want to do it."

Linh: "Believe in yourself. If you plan to apply for this scholarship, you start joining school activities and outside of school activities relating to either as a participant or a leader of an organization as many as you can and as soon as possible. Then each time you join an activity, make sure to have a picture of yourself doing it and take note on the date, name and description of that activity."

villc96@mail.broward.edu

Meet the Central Campus Student Government President and Vice President

Swami Hinojosa
Central Bureau Chief

In an effort to get even closer to the student community on Central Campus, we had the privilege of interviewing President Juan Galindo and Vice President Booseong Seo of the Student Government on Central Campus. Their vision and passion for student representation are noticeable. They are committed to making every student proud to belong to this community. This article will include their objectives, approaches, and current challenges. Additionally, I invite you to actively participate in their activities to strengthen the connection between faculties and students.

The heart of the Student Government vision under the leadership of Juan Galindo and Booseong Seo is simple but powerful: “Inform, Connect, and Motivate.” This approach is broken down into three fundamental objectives:

1. Inform, listen to the voice and act: Committed

to students’ concerns, ideas, and desires. To this end, they plan to conduct regular surveys to understand the needs of the student community.

2. Connect the community: They recognize that, at times, the student community can feel fragmented. To address this issue, they seek to create strong connections between faculties and promote unity.

3. Motivate and rebuild: Lack of information about events and available resources can lead to disconnection between students. Provide accessible and relevant information to ensure all students know what is happening on campus.

In terms of representation and advocacy, both leaders are focused on having a strong presence and understanding the needs and desires of students. The student government emphasizes the importance of understanding student clubs’ needs and wants to advocate for them effectively. Additionally, they plan to

proactively create strong connections between faculties, ensuring that all students are heard and to work collaboratively with a dedicated team regarding financial management and student fund allocation. They have already been working on these aspects over the summer, and the process is based on a solid structure that involves students and senators. Their goal is to ensure efficient allocation of funds to promote activities that benefit all students.

One of the biggest challenges facing the Student Government is rebuilding the structure affected by the pandemic; almost everything is new, which requires working with students to shape a shared vision and develop new initiatives. The Student Government welcomes student feedback through direct communication and surveys. It is essential to connect students to campus resources and effectively channel them to address problems and challenges. They aim to create an environment where all



Student Government meeting on Central Campus.
Photo by Swami Hinojosa

students feel supported and cared for. To conclude our interviews, we wanted to know the personal motivations that led Juan Galindo and Booseong Seo to run to lead the Student Government. Seo spoke of his passion for giving students a voice and his desire to connect with the community. At the same time, Galindo highlighted his activist experience and commitment to creating positive change on campus.

Ultimately, Galindo and Seo have a clear message for all students who want to participate in student life or Student Government. Seo

urges us to find a community where we feel included and get involved in the change we want. Galindo encourages us to get out of our comfort zone and take the risk of talking and connecting with other students. Their focus on listening, connecting, and representing the student community is inspiring, and their commitment to positive change is evident. We invite you all to actively participate in their activities and share your voice in this exciting stage of student life. Together, we can build a more inclusive and vibrant campus.

hinos2@mail.broward.edu

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

WANTS



Writers



Graphic Designers



Photographers



Videographers

jshapiro@broward.edu

@thebcobserver

STUDY HARD, EAT WELL.

In-café offer. Come in and see us!

\$5 OFF

any full-size lunch
or dinner entrée

**Must show coupon and valid
Broward College Student ID
to receive offer.**

Only one offer per person.

Valid at participating Covelli-owned and operated bakery-cafes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. While supplies last. Valid in-café only. Not valid for Rapid Pick-Up or online ordering. Not valid on ordering kiosks, small order delivery, or catering. Limit one coupon per student, per visit, per day. Must present coupon when ordering. Entrees include full-size salads, sandwiches, and bowls of soup, you pick two, single flatbread pizza, flatbread pizza meals, and warm bowls. Not valid with any other coupon or offer including \$5.99/\$6.99 Value Duets. Void if modified, copied, reproduced, transferred, purchased, traded or sold. Applicable taxes paid by bearer. Cash redemption value 1/20 of one cent. Offer may expire without notice due to error, fraud or other unforeseen circumstances. Offer expires 9/30/23. ©2023 Panera Bread. All rights Reserved.

50% OFF

your next online order

Order online at panerabread.com or download app.

Must be logged into an active MyPanera account to receive discount (No MyPanera account? No problem. Simply register online when placing your order.)

Enter this code at checkout:

STUDENT23

Valid at participating Covelli-owned and operated bakery-cafes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Receive 50% off online order for Delivery or Rapid Pick-Up® exclusive of taxes or delivery fees that may apply. Max discount of \$10. Order minimum of \$5 required for delivery, exclusive of taxes and delivery charges that may apply. Our delivery fee is not a tip or gratuity provided to the driver. Gift card and catering orders excluded. Order must be placed online with credit card or valid gift card. Limit one redemption per MyPanera account. Offer not valid in-café. Delivery hours may vary. Limited Delivery area. Visit panerabread.com/deliveryinfo to determine if you're in a delivery area or for more information. Not valid with any other coupon or offer. Void if modified, copied, reproduced, transferred, purchased, traded, or sold. Applicable taxes paid by bearer. Cash redemption value 1/20 of one cent. Offer may expire without notice to due error, fraud, or other unforeseen circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. Offer expires 9/30/23. Offer code: STUDENT23



Panera
BREAD®

NOW HIRING!
TEXT BREAD TO 242424 TO APPLY

Resources Here to Help You, for a Good School-Life Balance

Starting off the semester strong results in a productive academic year. At Broward College, the lives of students are of utmost importance, so resources are made accessible to anyone in need. As the Fall 2023 semester progresses, it is good to familiarize yourselves with the resources available to assist you in not just academics but also other aspects of your life. Do you ever feel in need of help? From Accessibility Resources to the Academic Success Center, reaching out whenever you feel like help is needed assists in maintaining a good school-life balance and guarantees success.

Accessibility Resources aims to create a welcoming and empowering environment that is inclusive of and provides equal opportunities for students with disabilities. With proper documentation, accommodations can be provided for students throughout their studies. There is a staff to work with students to determine the accommodations and services they will need to excel academically in addition to developing independence. To find more information or apply for their services, visit <https://www.broward.edu/accessibility/resources.html>



photo by: <https://news.broward.edu/>

The Peer Mentoring Program involves Peer Mentors who provide guidance for their mentees by providing them with support, mentorship, and resource connections to aid with their time at Broward College. They provide a support system based on trust and positivity that enforces personal, professional, and educational growth. You may learn about scholarship opportunities and participate in social and educational activities while building a network in and outside of school. There are many benefits to being involved in the Peer Mentoring Program whether as a mentor or mentee. To find additional information or to become a mentor or mentee, visit <https://www.broward.edu/students/peer-mentoring/>.

Throughout your time at college, many obstacles may come to deter you from your goals, but **The Seahawk Outreach Services (SOS)** is here to assist with staying on track. SOS provides services to assist students with any economic or mental challenges they may face. Available to students are laptop and webcam loans, which are yours for an entire semester. There is also the Seahawk Marketplace which is an on-campus food pantry with the aim of reducing hardship in the Broward College community by providing food, personal hygiene care items, and education on the value of a healthy lifestyle. Mental health is also very important because it can affect all other aspects of one's life and so SOS offers student counselling services to help through mentally challenging times. Students can get six free sessions with a therapist, and four free sessions with a psychiatrist during a 12-month period which helps maintain mental well-being. For additional information on all SOS has to offer or to apply for any of their services, visit <https://www.broward.edu/students/seahawk-outreach/> or contact them by email at sos@broward.edu or via phone at (954)-201-4767.

The Academic Success Centers (ASCs) are here to assist you with advancing your academic achievement. With one located at each main campus, they provide support and quality service for students who are being encouraged to utilize these services. Have you ever struggled with a course? There are free one-on-one and group tutoring sessions from certified tutors in a variety of courses. There is an open computer lab with computers for educational use, and printers for printing, copying, and scanning. Taking a mathematics course that requires a graphing calculator? We know how expensive that can be but at the ASC you can get a calculator loan on a first come first serve basis for the duration of your course. There are also study rooms available on a first come first serve basis to either study on your own or collaborate with others and in-house textbooks and laptop reserves are available to get some work done before, after, or between classes. To schedule an appointment with a tutor, access the loaner calculator form or more, visit <https://www.broward.edu/students/asc/>

More stringent NBA resting rules and punishments

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

One of the most discussed, scrutinized, and controversial topics in the NBA community the past couple of seasons has been healthy players resting, while involving teams' load management strategies. The controversial discussions around players resting and the many different load strategies needed immediate clarity because it could possibly affect the NBA's "bottom line." Also, the NBA's current media rights contract with Disney and Warner Bros is about to come to an end in the next couple of seasons. For the current salary cap to continue gradually trending upwards, like it has been projected, they definitely have to acquire a new media rights contract with Disney and Warner Bros as soon as possible.

NBA Senior Insider, Adrian Wojnarowski (WOJ), reported early last week that the NBA was definitely expected to pass extremely more stringent rules and punishments for star players specifically on important games like national televised games as well as In-Season Tournament games, etc. The NBA's competition committee consummated a specific game plan and proposal, that the league's Board of Governors

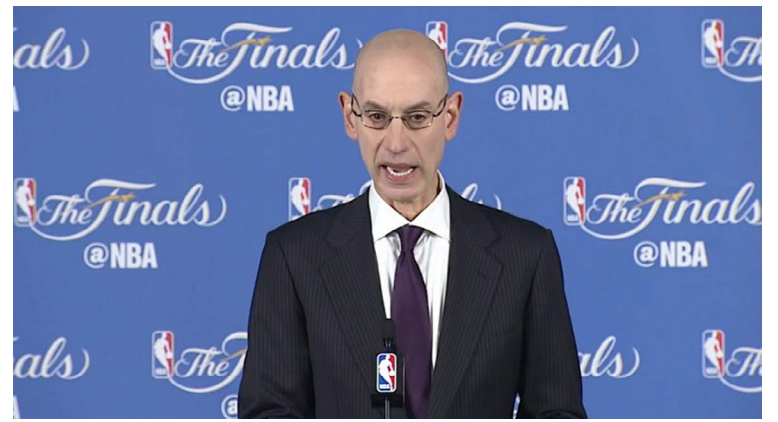
will review and vote on. WOJ reported that the NBA Board of Governors voted to officially approve the more stricter resting policies, with specific rules and punishments for star players; the vote outcome was a unanimous vote. The new rule essentially gives the league autonomy and authority to fine teams \$1 million plus, for each violation of the detailed rule.

NBA Commissioner, Adam Silver said, "The Player Participation Policy is something that the NBA, the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA), individual players and teams all want to return to that principle that is an 82-game league." The NBA's main goal is to basically strengthen the 2017-18 resting policies. Also, the new 65 or more games played rule to be ultimately eligible for postseason awards. Like I mentioned earlier, all of this is being done so that the NBA's "bottom line," which is to ultimately agree to a new media rights deal, is upheld by having consistent star player participation on national televised games. Silver said, "I think we'll state this principle, see how teams react and see if more needs to be done, but I think, most importantly, there's a sense from all the different constituent groups in the league that this is ultimately

about the fans and that we've taken this too far."

The NBA's definition of a star player basically is a player who has made the All-Star and/or All-NBA teams in the past three seasons. Research was applied, the information that was found out was that 25 team and 50 players will be affected by this new rule, which is essentially around 11 percent of the league players. 15 teams have multiple players, who have made the All-Star and/or All-NBA teams in the past three seasons. After the 2024 All-Star game, the lists of the potentially impacted players could definitely be updated because new All-Stars could be selected. The fine system that the NBA will incorporate consists of \$100,000 for 1st offenses, \$250,000 for 2nd offenses, and one million dollars more than the previous penalty, for each additional fine.

Silver said, "We're trying to deal with some of the most egregious examples where multiple star players for example, healthy all out on the same night. We're letting down the fans, we're letting down our partners by doing that." Silver also said, "We're stating a principle in terms of an 82 game league and saying let's all work together, and I think I thought the best news coming out of this policy,



Silver speaking to media. Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

whether it was with the Players Association, individual players or with our teams over the last two days. Everyone is acknowledging that this is an issue for the fans, so the adoption of the policy was unanimous." In a memo sent by the league to all teams, which highlights a few imperative and important things to adhere to: no more than one star can be unavailable unless injured, which the league office will investigate thoroughly, star players must be available for nationally televised games unless injured, player shutdowns are not allowed, healthy players who are resting have to be visible for fans, etc.

The NBA memo also details specific player exceptions. A team can basically seek an exception for a star player to miss back-to-back games. Another important exception is if a player is 35

plus years old, or has 34,000 minutes played, or 1,000 plus regular and postseason games combined, has a pre-approved designated back-to-back allowance. Some other exceptions include personal reasons, multi-game absences for a bona fide injury, rare and unusual circumstances, end of season flexibility, etc.

stepj39@mail.broward.edu,

NFL Week 1 & 2 Recap

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The NFL season has been extremely exciting and thrilling, with many upsets and disappointments of good teams along the way through week one and two of the season. On Sept. 7, the NFL season officially started with Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs having their Super Bowl banner ceremony and defending their championship vs the up-and-coming Lions. Sadly, they were without two of their top three players in Travis Kelce because of a hyperextended knee. he suffered in practice, and Chris Jones because of a lingering contract dispute issue.

The Lions won against the Chiefs in a low scoring close game, with a score of 21-20, with Jared Goff passing for 22/35 for 253 yards, with a touchdown, their defense stifling them and Kadarius Toney dropping multiple passes from Mahomes. The Chiefs received good news last week when Kelce was cleared to play vs the Jaguars. Also, Jones was finally able to settle his contract dispute for one more year, which meant that Mahomes would have some help now. The Chiefs defeated the Jaguars in a low scoring defensive game, with a score of 17-9, with Mahomes

passing for 29/41 for 305 yards, with two touchdowns. Also, on to the aforementioned Kelce, Jones and the defense holding Trevor Lawrence and the Jaguars to no touchdowns, while accumulating four sacks.

There are currently nine teams that have started with a 2-0 record. Three of these 2-0 teams are definitely top five teams right now in the NFL, which I will discuss below. Definitely the best defensive team statistically and with the "eye test," are the Cowboys. On Sunday Night Football, they completely demolished their division rivals, the Giants, by a shutout of 40-0 with Micah Parsons and that defense stealing the show, with seven sacks, two interceptions, with one interception resulting in a defensive touchdown, and a blocked field goal for a touchdown. Then they played the Zack Wilson-led Jets, and stifled them as well, with a score of 30-10; they accumulated three sacks, three interceptions, a fumble recovery by Parsons, with Dak Prescott passing for 31/38 for 255 yards, and with two touchdowns.

Definitely one of the most consistently all-around teams the past few years, but definitely the best all around team right now, offensively and defensively, is the 49ers. They won both of their games



Tua and Hills epic statistical game. Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

on the road. They defeated the offensively challenged Steelers, with a score of 30-7, by Christian McCaffrey having 169 scrimmage yards, with a rushing touchdown, Brandon Aiyuk having eight receptions for 129 yards, with two touchdowns, and with their defense accumulating two interceptions. They then played their division rivals, the Rams, defeated them by a score 30-23 by McCaffrey again having over 100 plus scrimmage yards (135 yards), with another rushing touchdown, Deebo Samuel and Brock Purdy each having a rushing touchdown, and their disruptive defense again accumulating two interceptions.

Definitely the best offensive team, with the fast offensive weapons, is the Dolphins.

They won both of their games on the road, against formidable teams. They revenged themselves from last year, by defeating Justin Herbert and the high-powered Chargers offense, in a closely contested epic high scoring game, which was without a doubt the game of the year already, with a score of 36-34. Even though Austin Ekeler had 164 scrimmage yards, and the Chargers had 233 rushing yards, with three rushing touchdowns, Tua Tagovailoa passed for 28/45 for 466 yards, with three touchdowns, with Tyreek Hill having 11 receptions for 215 yards, with two touchdowns. Then the Vic Vangio led defense, accumulated three sacks, also sacked Herbert twice in clutch, on back-to-back possessions. They then defeated their division

rivals, the Patriots, with a score of 24-17, with Raheem Mosert rushing for 121 yards, with two touchdowns, Tua and Hill connecting on a touchdown, then their defense accumulating four sacks, and one interception by Xavien Howard. The Dolphins were able to win in different ways, which is definitely a sign of a Super Bowl contender.

Some underperforming playoff contenders, who have started 0-2 are the Bengals, Chargers, Vikings, etc. The Bengals had started 0-2 for the 2nd straight year, but the difference is they've lost two important divisional games, and Joe Burrow has re-aggravated his calf injury. The Chargers offense has scored 50 points with zero turnovers, but Brandon Staley's defense brutally underperformed, by basically being last in most defensive categories; then Ekelers' status to return from an ankle injury is currently unknown. The Vikings have lost two straight one score games, and Justin Jefferson has two straight 150 plus yard games (150 & 159 respectively), with no touchdowns, so, they have essentially regressed back to the means from last year.

stepj39@mail.broward.edu

Coconut Creek Multicultural Circle Art Festival

Sara Fuentes
Staff Writer

The City of Coconut Creek and the Coconut Creek Multicultural Circle recently presented their annual Art Festival event. The location was at the Community Center, 1100 Lyons Rd, Coconut Creek. “The event offers a family environment,” said Mikkie Belvedere, founder of the Multicultural Circle. The Activities the community could do while attending the event included viewing and purchasing crafts made by local artists, children’s area, food trucks, live music, etc.

The art festival’s theme this year was Mexico and featured food, traditional music and dances and additionally, the local crafters and artists displayed their own creative side. For instance, the sellers who had taken part



A table of different items for sale at the Multicultural Art Circle Art Festival- Photo By: Sara Fuentes

during the occasion sold their own specialties.

The festival included various activities where families and younger children could follow their own innovative side by making different sorts of works of art and creative activities. The children could also get their face painted with special designs. Additionally, all through the Community Center where the event was occurring, there were

many banners where the individuals from the community of Coconut Creek could study Mexican history.

The members of the Coconut Creek community could find on display an “Altar de Muertos,” which is a practice within the Mexican culture, done to commemorate family members or loved ones who had already passed away.

The event was attend-

ed by many community members who came to have fun, take part in the community, and bring the community together as well as support small businesses and volunteers from the Multicultural Circle that made this event possible. Belvedere said that “this event was a fundraiser for the club, and the club donates all the proceeds to deserving non-profit organizations.”

Belvedere also spoke about the background of the Multicultural Circle and how the idea of an art festival came about. She said, “The Multicultural Circle is a club which brings residents of Coconut Creek from different cultures to interact. The multicultural circle is a club that meets regularly and learns from each other.”

Belvedere said, “The idea of the arts fest was a group project to feature different countries. The

event started with India and then featured many countries some of them being the Caribbean, Germany, Greece and lastly but not less important Japan. This year’s theme was Mexico.”

The most significant thing people can learn from this project is that the Multicultural Circle has much to offer the community in terms of finding ways to make the community more and more engaged with the different cultures that exist in Coconut Creek. Also, it brings different cultures together to learn from each other and understand that there are many things that unite us that no matter what culture we come from that is what makes us unique and special, but more importantly that is what makes us one community.

Fuens15@mail/broward.edu

A.I. Music Might Have the Potential to Steal Grammys

Gabriella Small
Staff Writer

A.I. music has lately been making tumultuous waves in the music industry and shows absolutely no signs of stopping. The technology has run amok all over the social media sphere, with it being extremely easy to run into a meme of Patrick from SpongeBob singing to gospel music with every bit of his soul on Twitter or a beautifully song cover of a Spanish R&B song by singer Ariana Grande on TikTok, only for both to be revealed as a product of voice synthesizing technology. While those instances can be brushed off as fun & games, ghostwriter977 has decided to push the limits of the medium with their viral song “Heart on My Sleeve” released on April 4th, 2023, featuring the synthesized vocals of Drake and The Weeknd, gaining massive

notoriety across the web and garnering 600,000 streams on Spotify and 15 million views on TikTok before a multi-platform takedown by UMG on April 17th. This has not stopped ghostwriter, however, as

they have gone on to submit the song to the Recording Academy in hopes of a Grammy. Many believe there is no hope for the song to pass the submission stage, however, recent news has put a damper on those doubts.

On September 5th, a report by New York Times writer Joe Coscarelli broke out about ghostwriter’s new song that utilizes the synthesized voice of Travis Scott, along with a statement that shocked music fans across the world. When questioned about the eligibility of ghostwriter’s submission, Harvey Mason Jr. of the Recording Academy said that “As far as the creative side, it’s absolutely eligible because it was written by a human,” according to the article. Furthermore, he stated that “We know A.I. is going to play a role in our business. We can’t pretend to turn our back on it or ban it.” Music fans erupted in a mixture of confusion and anger with many questions being thrown out left and right, such as questioning if someone could create an A.I. generated album of a popular singer and sweep the Grammys, why enter-

tainers are being thrown under the bus while the A.I. users can profit from what many consider theft, and even casting doubt on the Recording Academy’s integrity.

Seeing the online outburst his statement caused, Mason quickly walked back his statements on a September 7th Instagram video post, saying “Heart on My Sleeve is not eligible for Grammy consideration. Let me be extra, extra clear: Even though it was written by a human creator, the vocals were not legally obtained, the vocals were not cleared by the label or the artists, and the song is not commercially available, and because of that, it’s not eligible.” The Recording Academy also released a ruling, saying that although work featuring A.I. technology can be submitted to award categories, it must meet some strict guidelines to be eligible for

nomination, such as the human authorship component must be meaningful and more than the minimum, and the human authorship component must be relevant to the category it is submitted to.

Though “Heart on My



Drake and the Weeknd

Image Courtesy of billboardtop100of.com

Sleeve” was delegitimized in the 66th Annual Grammy Awards, this does not mean that music featuring A.I. has no future to win awards or produce money for producers using the technology. If Mason could so easily say that the song was eligible for a Grammy when first asked, it could mean that the Academy could change their mind in the future as A.I. voice technology that utilizes voices without consent heightens in popularity among producers. A.I. is giving creators in all mediums a reason to fear losing jobs, and lawmakers need to

catch up with the technology before being a creative is made completely unviable.

smalg5@mail.broward.edu

Taylor Swift breaks records for most attended concert by female artist

Tiffani Plumber
Staff Writer

In an era marked by uncertainties, Taylor Swift's Eras Tour emerges as a shining beacon of triumph, setting unprecedented records and redefining the concert experience. Swift's musical journey, spanning over a decade, has culminated in a tour that is poised to become the highest-grossing of all time, with estimates suggesting it could rake in a staggering \$520 million from its 52-city itinerary.

The tour kicked off with a bang in Glendale, Arizona, as Swift commanded a crowd of 69,000, shattering the record for the most-attended concert by a female artist in U.S. history. This historic moment not only underscores Swift's immense popularity but also reaffirms her status as an iconic figure in the music industry.

The passion surrounding the Eras Tour was palpable from the get-go. A staggering 3.5 million fans scrambled to register for the verified presale

on Ticketmaster, marking the largest registration in the platform's history. On the day of the sale, over 2 million tickets were swiftly snatched up, setting a new benchmark for single-day ticket sales by any artist.

Swift's dominance extended beyond the concert venue and into the digital realm. Her album "Midnights" triggered a tidal wave of streaming activity on Spotify, amassing an astounding 184.7 million streams in a single day. This feat not only solidifies her connection with a global audience but also cements her as a force to be reckoned with in the digital music landscape.

"Midnights" notched another historic milestone by securing all top 10 spots on the Billboard Hot 100, a first in music history. Additionally, Swift's foray into vinyl sales with the same album saw her move over 500,000 units, a testament to her enduring appeal across various formats.

As the tour progresses, industry experts are forecasting an

unprecedented financial windfall for Swift, with estimates surmising that the tour could generate over \$1 billion through ticket sales, merchandise, and marketing opportunities.

This projection not only eclipses Elton John's previous record but also underscores the sheer magnitude of Swift's impact on the entertainment industry.

The tour's economic resonance has even garnered attention from financial circles, with The Wall Street Journal coining the term "Taylornomics." Fortune, on the other hand, christened it the "TSwift Lift," while the Federal Reserve acknowledged Swift's tour as a boon to the country's economy.

Swift's tour expansion, which now spans continents and extends well into 2024, has substantially revised earnings projections. Pollstar, a concert data tracker site, now anticipates gross revenue to reach an astonishing \$1.4 billion. This surge in revenue is accompanied by an additional economic boost of \$5 billion, stemming



Photo Provided By: Tiffani Plumber

from fan expenditures on accommodations, dining, and transportation.

While the journey to securing tickets for the Eras Tour was not without its challenges, Ticketmaster has responded by implementing measures to ensure genuine fans have fair access.

The introduction of the Verified Fan system seeks to thwart scalpers and bots, aiming to provide an authentic experience for Swift's dedicated following.

As Taylor Swift's Eras Tour continues to captivate audiences worldwide, it stands as a testament to

her enduring influence and the unparalleled connection she shares with her fans. Breaking records and reshaping concert economics, Swift's tour is a defining moment in music history, leaving an indelible mark on the entertainment industry.

Plumt6@mail.broward.edu

Pinky Doll, newly discovered Tik Tok star, rises to fame

Alyssa Ulysse
Staff Writer

What started off as a TikTok trend has created an internet sensation. PinkyDoll, newly discovered TikTok star, is on the rise. Who is she? A 27-year-old woman by the name of "Fedha Sinon" has recently joined the TikTok scene and has blown up instantaneously.

In the span of her 4-month internet career, the self-proclaimed "Queen of NPC," has already secured a brand deal with Fashion Nova, presented an award at the annual Streamy Show, and is rumored to have a new song in the works with producer, ATL Jacob.

A creator originating on TikTok is working with the same producer as A-list artists like Future and Kaliiii. How did she get here? She seemed to have appeared out of thin air, but her fame actually began with an AI trend. Yet, ever since her appearance, she has made it clear to her audience that she plans to reach fame of a higher level.

The idea behind this trend was to act out an emote for every digital "gift" that a creator received from a fan. Some were confused by the idea, but others became intrigued and enjoyed the distinctiveness. It was unlike anything we have seen on the platform before.

She did not at all think that she was going to go viral from these AI streams. She had recently lost her job prior to joining TikTok and needed a way to support her and her son. She said in an interview with James Charles that she originally started live-streaming simply to "look cute" to see if this could generate income.

During one of these live streams, a commenter stated that she resembled an NPC (non-player character) because she had lost her train of thought and blanked out, similar to a computer having a system overload. From this point, she had begun to capitalize off this.

Whenever she would move as if she were an animated character, fans watching the stream would send gifts worth money,

leading her to continue with the act. She claims to now be making \$2,000 to \$3,000 per stream.

The only time where she would be caught breaking character would be to interact with her son, soon snapping back with the phrase, "reset mode." Since taking on being a content creator as her newfound career, she has had to hire a nanny as her son's secondary caretaker.

What made her stand out from the rest of the creators partaking in this trend? Some claim that she may have used a skin lightening filter in order to use colorism to her advantage. Others see this as an attempt to undercut her achievements.

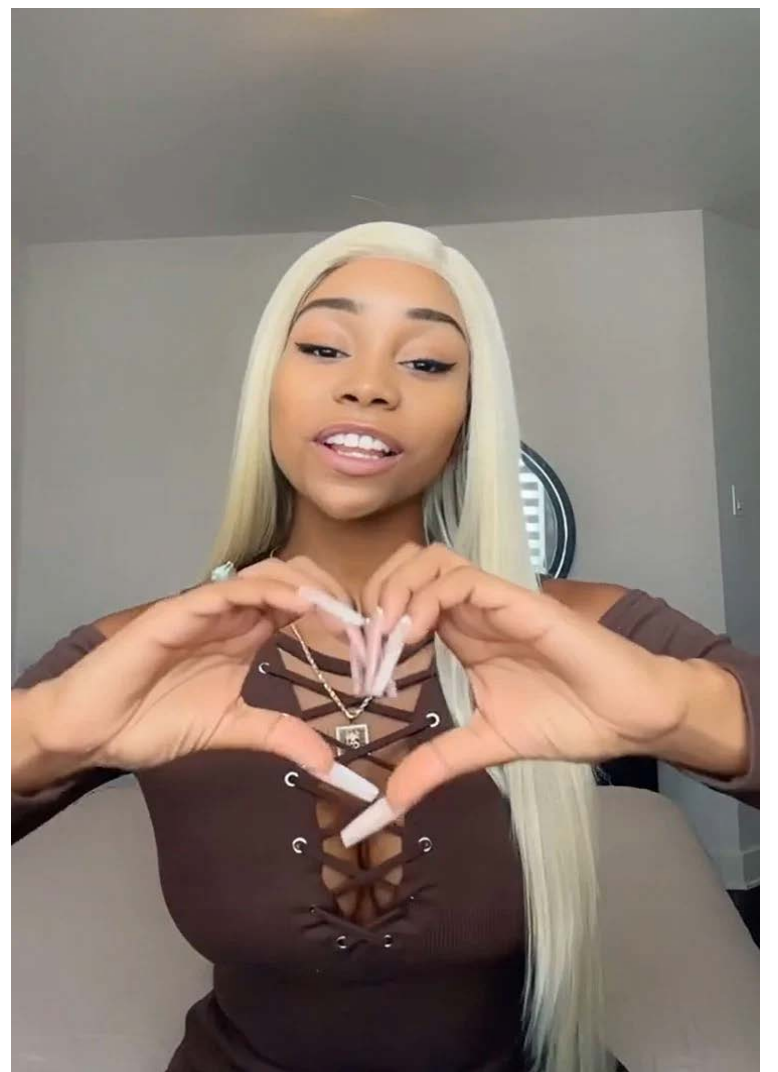


Image credits to <https://www.the-sun.com/tech/8636894/pinky-doll-npc-trend/>

ulyssa5@mail.broward.edu

A STEM Obsessed World: In Defense of Liberal Arts

Keynaya Thompson
Editor-in-Chief

In a world that is well-defined by vast advancements in technology and economic pragmatism, liberal arts majors and programs are largely relegated to the abyss of ‘pointless’ or ‘impractical passion degrees.’ Aspiring scholars are usually pushed by peers, family and counselors towards degrees in STEM fields. It would be near blasphemy to say science, technology, engineering and mathematics is invaluable in education. However, it’s important to acknowledge the liberal arts and its unique value in education.

The existing notion surrounding liberal arts suggests that degrees in the field lead to nothing but unemployment and student debt that the wages of liberal arts careers will not be able to pay off. This sentiment makes the assumption that every student pursuing a higher education degree is doing so for monetary gains solely. It also fails to notice the indispensable qualities and skills that are gained

through education in the liberal arts. Programs in this field equip students with qualities like critical thinking, interpersonal communication, creativity and adaptability, all skills that are invaluable in any field, including STEM.

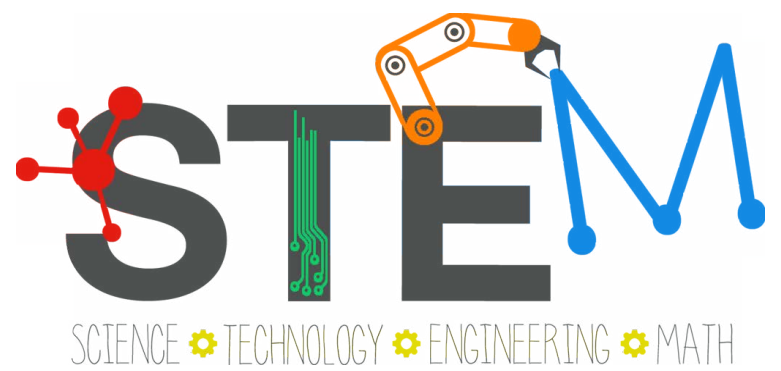
Furthermore, liberal arts degrees provide all-around education to its respective students that fosters empathy, cross-cultural sensitivity and a sense of social responsibility. These accompanying skills are essential in today’s world where global challenges present themselves in everyday life, challenges that necessitate cooperation, empathy and ingenious solutions.

The sentiment that holds STEM degrees as the only tried and true path to financial stability has led young students to narrow their choices when it comes to their aspirations. When these students mention they may want to pursue a career that aligns with their passion for literature, creative arts, philosophy or history they are oftentimes discouraged because of a projected

fear that they won’t be able to find a lucrative career in the field. This limited way of viewing success not only minimizes creativity, diversity and free-thinking in the workforce, but it also deprives many from the opportunity to pursue their individual passions.

What can colleges do to bridge the gap between STEM and AHCD? The encouragement of interdisciplinary studies can help. These degrees are composed of two areas of studying and are ideal for the scholar who would like to forge their own path. It’s essentially the best of both worlds, so why is this option not the first one mentioned when deterring a student away from liberal arts? Even STEM students will reap benefits with education in the liberal arts such as better ability to convey complex ideas, access ethical implications and liaise with the social factors of their work in a broader way.

Moreover, if a lucrative career is the end-goal of a college degree, the contemporary job market places an emphasis on the val-



ue of adaptability. Those most likely to adjust in ever changing environments are liberal arts graduates. Their abilities to access, unify and properly interpret information from varying sources allows them to excel in these environments. Liberal arts teaches students how to navigate ambiguity and take on complex issues.

Referring to a liberal arts degree as pointless or useless in today’s society is a naive take and disregards the multifaceted advantages that a well-rounded education provides. Young creative students should be encouraged to follow their passions in the arts while interdisciplinary approaches to education are suggested as well. This creates a workforce that is not just inventive and proficient in STEM but also empathet-

ic, culturally understanding and equipped with the skills to handle the diverse issues of our world. It is time to recognize the arts as a complementary field to STEM. By doing so, students can achieve an enhanced education as opposed to having to choose between individualism and capitalism.

Thomk335@mail.broward.

The Observer

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keynaya Thompson

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Jennifer Shapiro

CAMPUS EDITOR

Swami Hinojosa Blas

ONLINE EDITOR

Daniela Iregui Silva

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Tabetha Martin-Howard

CAMPUS EDITOR

Jordan Stephenson

LAYOUT EDITOR

Brigdet Borge

DESIGN EDITORS

Tearia Molden, Maria Arango

CAMPUS EDITOR

David Gonzalez

STAFF

Scarlett Valencia Pulido, Latrice Harris, Isabella Mendez-Bedoya,
Jessica Cinalli, Leslie Matos

2010-2013, 2022 FCSPA General Excellence Award

The Observer is a bi-weekly college wide newspaper produced by students of Broward College. Our office is located on South Campus bldg. 68, room 268, 7200 Pines Blvd, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024. The newsroom can be reached via email at TheObserverbc@gmail.com. Letters to the editors are encouraged. The writer’s name must be included, although request for anonymity can be honored at the editor’s discretion. Emails must not exceed 300 words. The Observer upholds the right to edit for style of length or to reject publications deemed inappropriate. For information regarding editorial policy or advertising rates, call (954) 201-8035. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of BC students, staff, faculty and administration, and the content has not been reviewed or approved by the College.

Broward College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, genetic information, national origin, marital status, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities

Exploring the Vibrant World of Club Rush at Central Campus

Broward College's Central Campus was filled with excitement and energy during the annual Club Rush event, where students gathered and celebrated their interests, forming friendships and creating lasting memories. Over 60 diverse clubs were displayed at Club Rush, each representing a unique facet of student passions, making it a vibrant celebration of student life.

The heart of Club Rush was undoubtedly its wide array of clubs, each representing a unique facet of student passions. Sports enthusiasts found a haven in clubs like soccer and skateboarding, where skills were honed and camaraderie flourished. For those inclined towards rhythm and dance, the dance club beckoned with irresistible beats and graceful moves. Club Rush provided a platform for students to nurture their dreams and find collabora-

tors for exciting ventures. This highlighted the event's role in fostering intellectual growth and appreciation for the arts.

Club Rush was more than just a display of existing clubs; it embodied the spirit of unity through diversity. It brought together students from various backgrounds and interests, reminding everyone that Broward College was a place where everyone could find their niche.

The event showcased Broward College as a place where students could explore their interests, discover new horizons, and create memories that would last a lifetime. It was a celebration of the vibrant spirit of Broward College's Central Campus, where students came together to embrace their passions, uncover new talents, and leave an indelible mark on their college experience.

