

THE OBSERVER

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NEWS
MEET A PASSIONATE
ANTHROPOLOGY
PROFESSOR

PAGE 3

NEWS
LEARN ABOUT CERTI-
FIED LEADER PROGRAM

PAGE 4

SPOTLIGHT
CELEBRATING HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH

PAGES 6-7

SPORTS
WEEK 4 UPDATES OF THE
NFL & NBA MEDIA DAY

PAGES 8

ENTERTAINMENT
THE ORIGINS OF GIRL
GROUP BLACKPINK

PAGE 9

ENTERTAINMENT
OLIVIA RODRIGO'S
NEW ALBUM WOWS

PAGE 10

SPOTLIGHT
CHECK OUT PHOTOS ON
CENTRAL CAMPUS

PAGE 12

New scholarship helps Broward County high school graduates

David Gonzalez
North Bureau Chief

An ongoing impediment for high school graduates who are considering secondary education has always been costs, and not all graduates are eligible for enough financial aid to cover tuition, and some will not receive any. This puts the student in a bind, if, while their family income exceeds the limit for aid, there is no surplus to contribute toward a hefty tuition bill. Many will find themselves choosing to enter the work force directly out of high school rather than assuming debt before their professional careers have materialized.

Near term, this is a logical route, and no one can be faulted for opting to go in this direction with their life. But down the road, it may have diminishing returns. Still, the prospect of amassing large amounts of debt while bare-

ly scraping by financially for several years is in no way appealing. Enter Broward College's Pledge2Success Scholarship, a promise program designed to fill the gap in tuition costs for Broward County high school graduates, with a minimum 2.0 GPA, who don't qualify for enough financial aid.

According to Vice President of Student Services, Janice Stubbs, "We know that a certain percentage of our students are ineligible for financial aid, but they still don't have the funding to support their tuition." The margin is thought to be great enough to dissuade potential full-time students from enrolling, "We're seeing (promise programs) making a difference in terms of students making a decision in terms of starting college," Stubbs said.

In effect, the scholarship incentivizes students to maintain a full-time class schedule,

with the desired outcome to produce more higher education graduates. "We know, with students, the more courses they take... the quicker they finish, somehow success follows all of that."

Currently, there have only been around 500, 2023 Broward County high school graduates (one of the main criterium) who have submitted applications, and not all the applicants are fully eligible. With a total of \$1.6 million of funding available, it is likely that scholarships will still be available for next year's high school graduates, those who are willing to pledge to stay enrolled at a full-time capacity.

The allure of the program is in its diversity, as Stubbs notes, "It's really an opportunity to start at a college that provides high quality programs... they (awarded students) will have an opportunity to trans-



Photo courtesy of www.broward.edu

fer to just about any university in the country, as well as we have quality workforce-based programs that lead to high paying jobs. This is an opportunity for them to come to the college tuition free."

The students who are awarded the scholarship will have the luxury of their tuition being covered for more than two years, a cushion included with the acknowledgement that not all young students are

certain of what professions best suit them. "It's an age-old problem; it takes some time for students to figure out what they really want to do, and we expect that," Stubbs said.

More information on the Pledge2Success scholarship program can be found on Broward College's website at www.broward.edu.

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Student Government learns the power of connection

Swami Hinojosa
Central Bureau Chief

The significance of community, service and influence cannot be overstated in an ever-changing world. These concepts are closely interrelated and are essential for positive change and progress. Recently, the student government attended a workshop that focused on these crucial personal and professional development aspects.

The workshop aimed to explore the meaning of service, the importance of understanding our "why," encourage community participation, create impact and improve our credibility as leaders.

During the workshop, the idea of service was redefined. It was explained that service extends beyond mere actions and encompasses our values and purpose. Service is about giving back to our community and positively impacting it. It requires empathy, genuine care and a commitment to improve the world around us. Understanding the motivation and purpose behind our service gives us direction and fuels our passion, helping us overcome challenges. Connecting with others locally allows us to un-

derstand their needs, challenges and aspirations, fostering a sense of belonging and unity. Participating in our communities is not just about belonging; it has a higher purpose of making an impact. The workshop highlighted that our collective efforts could lead to transformative change, making us catalysts for personal and social progress.

To be influential leaders in our communities, establishing credibility is paramount. One way to do this is by providing background information contextualizing our actions. Sharing our experiences, qualifications and knowledge can increase the trust others place in us as leaders. The workshop introduced us to the four pillars of fair leadership: voice, transparency, impartiality and equity.

These qualities are essential for leaders to create a fair and equitable environment. By embodying these principles, we become advocates for integrity and justice, inspiring trust among our peers. A recurring theme throughout the workshop was the importance of connection. Staying connected helps us better understand our community and amplifies our



Photo by Swami Hinojosa/The Observer

impact. It allows us to collaborate with others, influencing decisions and shaping outcomes.

Connection naturally leads to influence. When we build relationships with others, our decisions and actions carry more weight, and people are more likely to trust and interact with us. The workshop taught an unexpected lesson about the power of kindness.

Being empathetic and kind can create positive outcomes and open doors for opportunities and collaborations that benefit everyone involved. Balancing high- and low-achieving students in a community can be delicate. The workshop emphasized the importance of finding a middle ground that suits the

needs and aspirations of all members. Building bridges between different groups fosters unity and harmony.

Trust was identified as a crucial element in community participation. To build trust, we must set aside our egos and truly consider the thoughts and perspectives of those around us. It's essential to recognize that our own ideas are only sometimes the best and that collaboration can produce superior results.

It is essential to identify common ground to establish trust and cultivate a sense of unity among individuals. The workshop provided practical tips for achieving this objective, which include being available, asking questions, being receptive to

diverse points of view, demonstrating humility, engaging in active listening and approaching discussions thoughtfully.

Effective communication can often be impeded by complexity, and this is where the workshop emphasized the importance of keeping messages simple, speaking slowly and wearing a smile. By doing so, communication gaps can be bridged, and intentions can be expressed clearly and well-received.

Students gained valuable insights into the transformational power of connection, service and influence during the workshop. We can create significant impacts and positive change by understanding our "why," actively engaging in our communities and fostering just leadership. Essential tools in our quest to create a more connected, empathetic and united world include being friendly, finding common ground and simplifying our communication. As we reflect on the notes from the workshop, let us remember that the seeds of change are sown through the power of our actions, connections and shared purpose.

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What's happening around campus



STUDENT LIFE

-CENTRAL CAMPUS EVENTS-

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 15- OCTOBER 15

Thurs, Sep 14th 2 pm

SG: Civic Literacy
Exam Workshop
BLDG 19, RM 104



Wed, Sep 27th 12 pm

Certified Leader Seminar
BLDG 19, RM 104

Mon, Sep 18th 12 pm

SG: Constitution Day
Kahoot challenge in
celebration of Constitution Day.
BLDG 19, RM 104

Thurs, Sep 28th 12:30 pm

Open Mic
Express yourself through
poetry, music, & more.
BLDG 19 Patio

Tues, Sep 19th 11 am

National Voters Registration Day
Be civically engaged & make a
difference!
BLDG 19 Patio

Mon, Oct 2nd 11 am

Seahawks Vote
Letter writing and pizza party.
BLDG 19 Patio

Wed, Sep 20th 12 pm

SG: Landing a Scholarship
Learn about different ways
to get paid for school.
BLDG 19, RM 104

Tues, Oct 3rd 1:30 pm

Certified Leader Seminar
BLDG 19, RM 104

Thurs, Sep 21st 11 am

ThinkFast: Hispanic Heritage
Month Themed Gameshow.
BLDG 19 Cafe

Wed, Oct 4th 12 pm

Wellness Wednesday
Improve your flexibility &
strength through Yoga.
BLDG 19 RM 104

Mon, Sep 25th 12 pm

All Club Meeting
Mandatory meeting for all
clubs & orgs.
BLDG 19, RM 104

Thurs, Oct 5th 4 pm

Sabor Latino
A taste of Latin music, art,
and food.
BLDG 19, RM 104

Tues, Sep 26th 11 am

Student Appreciation Day
Grab a snack, enjoy games,
and win prizes.
BLDG 19 Patio



Tues, Oct 10th 11 am

Cafe con Amigos
Take a load off and enjoy a
cafecito and a pastry.
BLDG 17, 2nd Floor

Wed, Oct 11th 11 am

National Coming Out Day
Come celebrate who you
are or support as an ally.
BLDG 19 Patio



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Professor discusses his passion for teaching

Sara Fuentes
Staff Writer

At Broward College, many instructors are excellent in their areas of expertise. However, a few other instructors have also had a powerful impact on the students and their development within the community. A perfect example of this is Professor Owen Gaither.

For all students and staff members who don't know Gaither or even if some of the BC community already had the pleasure of meeting him, there are some interesting facts about Gaither:

Gaither teaches two different but at the same time very similar subjects. The subjects are Sociology and Anthropology, both of which are part of Social

Science.

"Sociology studies the more modern side of human conditions while Anthropology allows students to go into the past and present at the same time while also learning about different cultures, languages and religions," said Gaither. "The subject that I enjoy the most when it comes to teaching is Anthropology because it lets me touch my nerdy side."

Gaither has been working at Broward College as an educator for almost 12 years now. Gaither was also asked to talk about his experience as an educator, and he said, "that his experience as an educator in BC has been perfect and the involvement in the students and staff from Broward College is perfect." He also said that this job has been "like a

dream come true."

Gaither expressed which parts of his ongoing job as a teacher and anthropologist are the most fulfilling. "I love teaching because professors have the special opportunity and ability to give students the tools for critical thinking."

The professor was questioned if he ever thought about having another job which Gaither

said, "he had but this had always been his main goal since he figured out what Anthropology was, and that he immediately fell in love with his job."

Gaither additionally communicated an enormous love for Anthropology. He said that "in

his young life, he was angry for several reasons but also had a lot of questions. Anthropology helped him find the proper answers to



Professor Owen Gaither. Photo by Sara Fuentes/The Observer

those specific questions, which is why by teaching anthropology he tries to give students the correct tools that way students can find the answers needed to their questions."

He was also asked for one recommendation as a professor at Broward College that he would give our community of students attending BC, and he kindly

said to "always keep an open mind, and never be so quick to judge others around because everyone has a unique way to view things in general. But for all those who are just getting started with college life, take as many different classes as possible so that way students can figure out what are they interested in."

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Broward College celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Swami Hinojosa
Central Bureau Chief

Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from Sep. 15 to Oct. 15, is a time for celebrating the rich and diverse cultures that form the Hispanic community. It is a period of reflection, appreciation and learning where we recognize the contributions of Hispanics to our society and the world in general.

During this month-long celebration, we pay tribute to the Hispanic individuals who have made significant contributions to art, science, politics, literature, and entertainment, among others. We take this opportunity to learn about the histories, traditions and customs of the Hispanic people, which are as diverse as the countries and regions they come from.

Broward College invites people to participate in the Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest in the spirit of unity and celebration. This contest serves as a platform for self-expression and provides an opportunity to explore one's identity through thought-provoking suggestions.

It is not only a means of showcasing the beauty and talent of Hispanic people but also a way of promoting cultural awareness and understanding. We wel-

come everyone, regardless of background, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hispanic heritage is a topic that holds great significance for many people. The first prompt students can choose to base their essay on is, "What does Hispanic heritage mean to you?"

This question invites individuals to reflect on their personal connections to their cultural roots and to gain a deeper understanding of the traditions and values passed down from generation to generation. In today's world, understanding one's heritage is more critical than ever, as it plays a vital role in shaping one's identity and outlook on life. For many Hispanics, heritage is a source of pride and a deep appreciation for the family ties and traditions passed down from generation to generation. It is a celebration of warmth and unity often expressed through gatherings where food and music take center stage.

At its core, Hispanic heritage is a feeling of honoring the resilience of ancestors who faced challenges and persevered. It is about remembering and celebrating the struggles and triumphs of those who came before us and recognizing their contributions to our shared

history and culture. It is a way of embracing a strong sense of community and solidarity and realizing that we are all connected by a common thread of heritage and history.

For non-Hispanics, exploring what Hispanic heritage means can be an opportunity for cultural enrichment and understanding. It can be a great way to broaden the perspective and gain new insights about the world. Recognizing and appreciating shared values across cultures can build connections and strengthen relationships with those around us. It can provide information about the lives and experiences of Hispanic friends, neighbors and colleagues.

It is an opportunity to recognize shared values that transcend cultural boundaries, such as the importance of family, the love of art and the joy of celebration. Exploring Hispanic heritage is a great way to celebrate diversity and learn from each other.

The second prompt for the essay contest suggested by Student Life is to identify a Hispanic role model who has positively impacted your life. This prompt invites participants to reflect on individuals within the Hispanic community who

have inspired them regarding their personal qualities and actions. Role models can be found in various forms, including historical figures, celebrities and everyday people making a difference in their communities by demonstrating leadership, passion and commitment. When we identify and celebrate these role models, we gain valuable insights into the characteristics and values we admire, which can help us become better individuals. We can learn from their experience and wisdom and use that knowledge to help us navigate our challenges. By recognizing the contributions of Hispanic role models, we can also promote greater understanding and appreciation of the Hispanic culture and its rich history.

These role models can be activists who have dedicated their lives to social justice, artists who have used their creativity to inspire change, educators who have empowered generations of students, and many others. By sharing their stories, we pay tribute to their achievements and highlight the potential for positive change within us all.

To make this celebration even more unique, Broward College has prepared a series of awards and recog-

nitions to honor those who submit an essay responding to the prompts. These awards are not only tokens of appreciation but also symbols of commitment to recognizing and celebrating the significance of Hispanic heritage.



Photo courtesy of <https://www.woodsholediversity.org/hispanic-heritage-month/>

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Broward College's Certified Leadership Program: A Path to Excellence

Tiffani Plumber
Staff Writer

If you're a Broward College student looking to enhance your leadership skills, build a professional network, and bolster your resume, then the Certified Leadership Program is your ticket to personal and professional growth. Offered by the Institute of Leadership and Civic Engagement at Broward College, this program is an exceptional opportunity for students to embark on a transformative leadership journey.

The Certified Leadership Program comprises a series of Leadership Seminars, each offering valuable insights and skills development. These seminars are conveniently scheduled throughout the fall semester, making it accessible to all students. The remaining dates for the seminars are as follows: Oct. 18, 12 p.m., Oct. 26, 1:30 p.m., Nov. 6, 12 p.m. and Nov. 14, 1:30 p.m.

The program's flexibility is highlighted by the fact that there is no need to register in advance; students can simply show up ready to learn. The seminar locations are equally convenient, with sessions taking place at the North Campus in Building 46, Room 14, the Central Campus in Building 19, Room 4, and the South Campus in Building 68, Room 19104.

The Certified Leadership Program is a three-step certification process. First, students must attend three leadership seminars, providing them with a strong foundation of leadership knowledge. Next, students are required to complete eight leadership journal entries, fostering personal reflection and growth. Finally, participants need to complete soft skills training, a valuable asset in any professional setting.

The benefits of this program are substantial and can significantly impact a student's personal and

professional development. Participants will receive a graduation stole, a Leadership Certificate, and gain access to professional development opportunities. Moreover, the program encourages personal exploration and provides a platform to build a robust professional network, an invaluable resource in today's competitive job market. Additionally, completion of the program will enhance your resume, making you a standout candidate for future career opportunities.

Promoting leadership and civic engagement is at the heart of Broward College's mission. The Institute of Leadership and Civic Engagement (ILCE) was established as part of the Florida Civic Literacy Excellence Initiative and Career Pathways Grant. One of the ILCE's key initiatives is to establish Civic Career Academies at high schools. These academies offer high school students the chance to explore careers in public service, creating a clear pathway for pursuing such positions post-graduation. The curriculum for these academies covers critical topics such as Public Service Leadership, Communication, Project Management, and Experiential Learning in Public Service, and Research.

Importantly, high school graduates who successfully complete the Civics Career Academy curriculum may be awarded up to six college credits upon entry at Broward College, providing them with a head start on their higher education journey.

The ILCE also offers professional development opportunities for educators teaching within the Civic Career Academy program. These include travel opportunities, online pedagogical training, and resources to prepare for the Project Management Ready certification. Broward College has already

hosted its first Leadership and Civic Engagement Conference in September 2023, engaging high school and college students, and faculty in topics related to leadership, civic engagement, and careers in public service.

Moreover, Broward College provides numerous opportunities for students to engage in leadership development, public service, and career exploration. The Student Ambassador Program serves as a mentorship platform for middle and high school students, guiding them towards a career in public service. The Service Learning Program offers real-world experience in various fields of study while making a positive impact on the community. Additionally, the Peer

Mentoring and Leadership Program provides essential support to students, facilitating their journey to success.

The ILCE is dedicated to fostering leadership and civic engagement among Broward College students. It serves as a resource for students to become leaders, learn about careers in public service, and engage in civic projects and activities. Specialized programs, such as the Student Ambassador Program and the Service Learning Program, aim to nurture leadership skills and create civic-minded individuals.

All in all, the Certified Leadership Program offered by Broward College is an outstanding opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills,

expand their network, and enhance their resumes. With a flexible schedule, convenient locations, and a myriad of benefits, this program is a gateway to personal and professional excellence. So, mark your calendars for the upcoming seminars, and take the first step towards becoming a certified leader in your community. You can also find posters promoting the program all around North, Central, and South Campus, providing you with easy access to more information. Don't miss out on this chance to unlock your leadership potential.

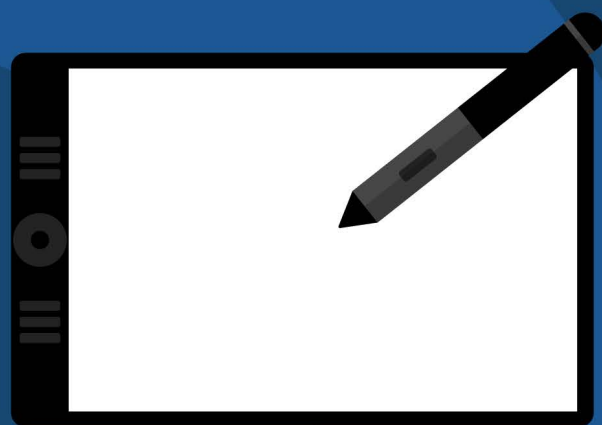
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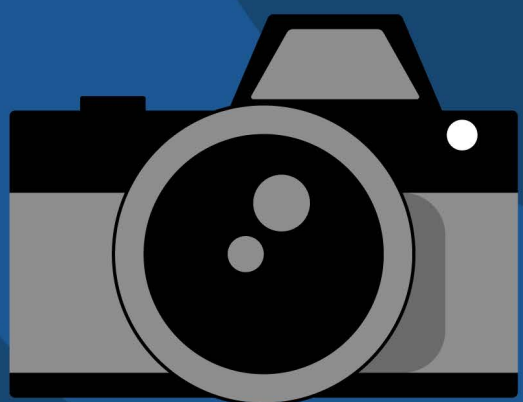
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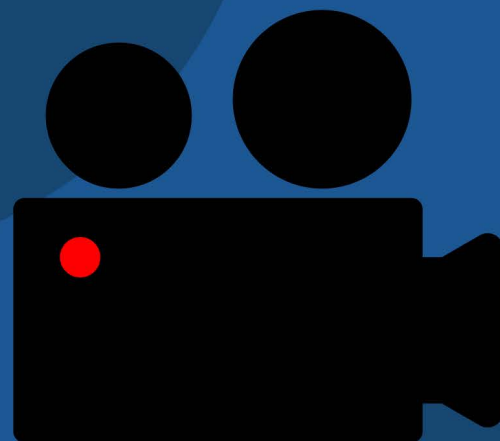
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Hispanic Heritage Month

Diana Cowan
Staff Writer

It is important as individuals to celebrate our culture and give recognition to the many contributions our ancestors have made, whether it be food, clothing, artwork, or making the way for us to live the lives we do now. Have you ever wondered how life would be now if no one advocated on our behalf in the past? Taking the time to honor these people and their works in any way possible is meaningful and one way of doing so is acknowledging our heritage.

It is Hispanic Heritage Month and even though Hispanic Heritage is a year-long celebration for many, Hispanic Heritage Month is a month-long celebration from September 15 to October 15, when the Hispanic and Latino culture in the United States is given extra recognition. There are influential Hispanic people such as Sylvia Rivera, Cesar Chavez, and Ellen Ochoa who are a few of the many Hispanics who have made significant contributions to the United States by shaping the nation's rich history. Sylvia Rivera was of Venezuelan and Puerto Rican descent, born in New York City in 1951. Rivera proceeded on a path of activism and was one of the two to form Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries in support of LGBTQIA+ youths. Thereafter, Rivera went on to be the co-founder of the Gay Liberation Front, and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project was created in honor of Rivera to provide legal representation to transgender, non-binary, and non-conforming communities, according to a Reader's Digest article by Sara Alvarez Kleinsmith.

Cesar Chavez was born in Arizona in 1927, worked as a manual laborer, and served in the Navy in 1946. However, he was drawn to activism and became involved in the San Jose Community Service Organization, an important civil rights organization for Latin people. He then co-founded the National Farm Workers and went on to lead peaceful marches and protests to advocate for the civil rights of the Latin community. Due to his works, Chavez was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and his legacy lives on, according to a Reader's Digest article by Sara Alvarez Kleinsmith.

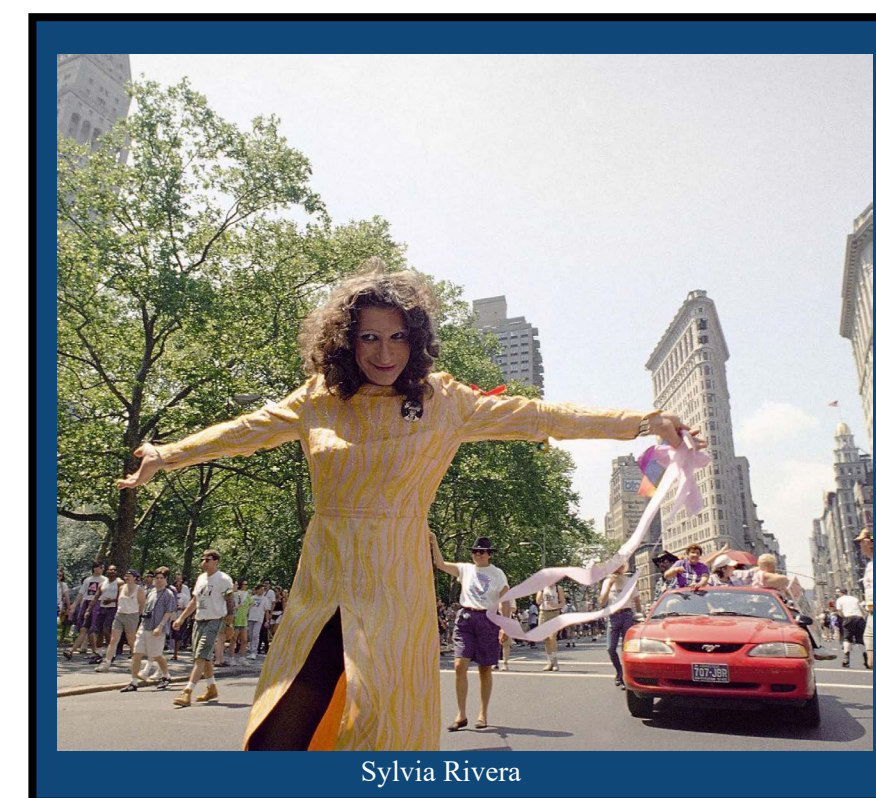
Ellen Ochoa's grandparents emigrated from Mexico to the United States where she was born. Ochoa earned her PhD in engineering and then joined NASA in 1988 as a research engineer where she was then selected to be an astronaut in 1990. Thereafter completed her first mission in space in 1993 and has gone down in history as being the first Hispanic American woman to go to space, according to a Reader's Digest article by

Sara Alvarez Kleinsmith.

Broward College also acknowledges Hispanic Heritage Month and has special events planned throughout the month of celebration. Previously held by all campuses was the Think Fast: Gameshow for Hispanic Heritage which served as a fun way of exhibiting and acquiring knowledge on Hispanic Heritage. Additionally, the Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest involves selecting a prompt, expanding on it while following the guidelines, and emailing it to studentlife@broward.edu by the Oct. 9 deadline with prizes to be won for the first to third place winners. Lastly, upcoming is Sabor Latino which will be hosted at the North Campus on Oct. 9, at the South Campus on Oct.12, and at the Central Campus on Oct. 15. All these activities serve as a way for the community to be interactive and acknowledge the rich Hispanic and Latino heritage.



Broward Collage - Hispanic Heritage Month



Sylvia Rivera



Cesar Chavez



Ellen Ochoa

NFL Free Agency impact so far this season: the first four games

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

So far through four games of one of the most anticipated NFL seasons, there have been many great wins by good teams, and putrid losses by bad teams. Also, there has been many teams and players to overachieve and underachieve expectations. Expectations were formed by the different offseason moves that these teams initiated to eventually make the playoffs, and hopefully win multiple playoff games.

The biggest and most impactful signing or trade was when former MVP QB Aaron Rodgers finally after a month long plus, was being traded to the Jets from the Packers. This trade engineered a ripple and snowball effect because some of the AFC teams started enacting impactful acquisitions to their respective teams. Sadly in 1st quarter vs the Bills, Rodgers tore his Achilles, but they were luckily able to rally and win that game. Since then, the Jets have lost three straight games (1-3), but their game vs Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs brought them a glimmer of hope. The reasons are Zach Wilson played his best game by going (28/39 for 245 yards with two touchdowns), their loaded defense played up to their capabilities, also

Rogers was in attendance and reiterated that he plans to return later this season.

After receiving the non-exclusive franchise tag, after 2-3 years of negotiations, Lamar Jackson finally signed his five-year \$260 million extension with the Ravens (including a \$185 million in total guarantees, and a no-trade clause). The Ravens are currently 3-1, even with injuries to key acquisitions like Odell Beckham. Lamar Jackson is essentially carrying them every game by completing 74.3% of his passes, with eight total scrimmage touchdowns.

To steer the Broncos and Russell Wilson in the right direction, the Saints traded HC Sean Peyton and a 2024 3rd round pick to the Broncos for a 2023 1st round pick and a 2024 2nd round pick. The Broncos were 0-3 before this week, gave up 70 points, 726 total yards, 10 touchdowns (five rushing and five passing), and lost by 50 points to the Dolphins. That was one of the most historically putrid performances ever, but they were still favored to beat the lowly Bears this week. They were down 21-0, but luckily Wilson led a comeback to beat the Bears 28-31, to finally get a win.

After making the playoffs for the 1st time in several years, the Dolphins were poised to

continue building a Super Bowl contending team. They executed another blockbuster trade by acquiring all-pro CB Jalen Ramsey (currently has a torn meniscus injury) from the Rams for a 2023 3rd round pick and Hunter Long. To enhance over defensive players talent and abilities, they signed one of the most vaunted DC's and schemes in the modern era, in Vic Vangio. The Dolphins started 3-0 again similar to last season, highlighted by scoring 70 points vs the Broncos, and having a chance to break the all-time scoring record. Tua Tagovailoa and Tyreek Hill are 1st and 3rd in the league with 1,306 passing yards, and 470 receiving yards respectively. They also lead the league in majority of the offensive categories. They got demolished by their division rivals the Bills (48-20), their defense isn't playing that great after that embarrassing loss, so they definitely miss Ramsey, but they are 3-1.

Jalen Hurts signed a five-year \$255 million contract extension, with the Eagles, which also included a \$179.304 in fully guarantees, and a no-trade clause. The Eagles are currently 4-0 with the 49ers as well, even though all their wins weren't as easy. The Eagles and 49ers are definitely top five Super Bowl contenders. Daniel Jones re-signed with the Giants, for a four-year \$160 million



Dolphins historical 70 point game Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

contract. After receiving the franchise tag, Saquan Barkley re-signed with the Giants for a one-year \$10 million deal, with incentives. The Giants also traded for Darren Waller from the Raiders, for a 2023 3rd round pick. The Giants are currently having a disappointing season so far. They got shutout 40-0 at home to the Cowboys, Daniel Jones was sacked 10 plus times in the loss vs the Seahawks last night (24-3), and Barkley is currently recovering from a sprained ankle.

Some training camp contracts include Justin Herbert signing for a five year \$262 million extension with the Chargers (with \$133.7 in fully guarantees, and a no-trade clause), Trevon Diggs signed a five-year \$97 million extension with the Cowboys, but sadly Diggs tore his acl in practice around a week

plus ago. Some key contract holdouts were Chiefs Chris Jones, Raiders Josh Jacobs, 49ers Nick Bosa, Cowboys Zach Martin, etc. All of these players that held out received a relatively new contract and are currently playing games.

The top four teams from each conference, through four games are the Chiefs, Dolphins, Bills, Ravens (AFC); 49ers, Eagles, Cowboys, and Lion's (NFC). The top underachieving teams through four games are: the Patriots, Jets, Raiders, Bengals, Vikings, Giants, Broncos, and Bears.

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NBA Media Day: news and notes

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

NBA Media Day officially started for all NBA teams on Oct. 3. NBA Media Day is essentially self-explanatory, but it entails NBA players and coaches taking part in team photos and promotional videos, combined with them speaking with the different media outlets available, as well as front office executives. The only exceptions for an early media day was the Mavericks and Timberwolves because they were scheduled to travel to Abu Dhabi, to play in their preseason games against each other. The things that transpired a few days before NBA Media Day immediately altered the balance of power for championship contending teams.

Adrian Wojnarowski (WOJ) reported last week that Damian Lillard was finally being traded; not to the team he wanted to in the Heat, but to a surprising team in the Bucks. The Trailblazers executed a blockbuster three team Lillard trade that included the Bucks and the Suns. The Trailblazers received Jrue Holiday, Deandre Ayton, Toumani Camara, a Bucks 2029 unprotected 1st round pick, also and unprotected Bucks swap rights in 2028 and 2030. The Suns received Jusuf

Nurkic, Grayson Allen, Nassir Little, and Keon Johnson. Once contending teams found out that Holiday was made available for a lesser price, multiple contending teams started sending in their best offers to essentially acquire an All-Star and All-NBA defensive 1st team caliber of player in Holiday. On Sunday afternoon, one day before NBA Media Day began, WOJ reported that the Trailblazers traded Holiday to the Celtics. The Trailblazers received Malcom Brogdon, Robert Williams, a 2024 Warriors 1st round pick, and a 2029 unprotected 1st round pick. After these two great trades, the Celtics and Bucks have definitely solidified themselves as top five championship contenders with the Blazers feeling satisfied with their rebuild with Scoot Henderson and Ayton, even though I believe if they had engaged with the Heat wholeheartedly, they could've definitely come close to the same package that they ultimately received.

At the Bucks media day, there was definitely heartfelt buzz felt around the Giannis Antetokounmpo and Dame duo. This is the first time that both of these superstars have played with another respective superstar. Lillard said yesterday at media day, "My whole career has been off-the-

dribble 3's, contested [shots]; double teamed and trapped." Lillard also said, "I'm curious to see how that can be possible with a player as dominant as [Antetokounmpo] is. I'm excited for an opportunity to play with him; I'm excited for an opportunity to be freed up and the opportunity to have more space and opportunity to play; it's going to be fun." Giannis then said, "We got to stay locked in, there's going to be so much hype around us, lot more tv games, lot more conversation about us, but at the end of the day, you don't win a championship by making a move." Giannis also said, "Money is not important, but a lot of f---ing money is important, so I'm going to sign it next year; it doesn't make sense right now, I want to be

a Milwaukee Buck for the rest of my career, as long as we are winning. It's as simple as that."

Holiday wasn't able to be present at Celtics media day, because of his physical and other intricate parts of being traded. Jayson Tatum reacted to the Holiday trade by saying, "I'm excited about Jrue, one of the most well-respected guys in the league, great talent on both ends; he's a champion, we won a gold medal together, happy to have him." Jaylen Brown reacted to his longtime teammates and friends be traded during the offseason by saying, "Smart, regardless of what he has on, that's still my brother and I feel the same way about Rob. I spent so much time with those guys." Kristaps Porzingis

said, "We're going to put our [personal] stuff to the side, it's not what we're here for and we're going to figure it out; It's a lot of talent, a lot of players that can put up crazy numbers."

First overall pick Victor Wembanyama said on Spurs media day, "Man, it's just been so comfortable to have people welcome you like this, and I'm very thankful; I'm a very lucky, lucky human." Bradley Beal's reaction to being at Suns media day, "It's hard to explain, like a kid in a candy store, you're just embracing every single moment, that's my approach, very open-minded." Kevin Durant said about player trades, "This is absolutely normal, it's the NBA; it's been happening for years and years and years, it's normal to me." Tyler Herro reacted to his trade rumors for Dame at Heat media day by saying, "This one felt a little more real than any of the other trade rumors in the past, but it's part of the business and at this point in my career, I'm really just wanting to play wherever I'm wanted. A great player was on the market at the time, and whatever happened happened."



Giannis and Dame at Bucks media day. Photo courtesy of NBA.com

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Miami, Broward celebrates Caribbean Carnival

Latrice Harris
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Throughout the year people everywhere in the States celebrate Caribbean Carnival, which originated in Trinidad and Tobago. This year, Miami and Broward County celebrated the 39th annual Miami Carnival on Oct. 6-9. This event will bring people from around the world to take part in a well-known event during this time of year.

Every year people get together and celebrate the rich culture of the art and music of the Caribbean. It has been known that the Carnival culture originated in Trinidad and Tobago in the late 18th Century when French settlers brought the Fat Tuesday masquerade party tradition to the island. The history of the



Photo courtesy of: bahamianista.com

costumes originated years ago when the masters of slaves allowed their slaves to express themselves through visual arts for recreational and therapeutic purposes. According to the Caribbean Views, Carnival celebration has origins based on colonialism and religious conversion as Europeans settled in the Caribbean Region. It has

now become a festival and celebration tied to freedom and the emancipation of slaves.

Miami Carnival is a cultural celebration that takes place every year in October, coinciding with the Columbus Day weekend. It is a festival of Caribbean culture, music, dance, calypso, Soca, steelpan music, and cuisine, featuring

colorful costumes, vibrant parades, live concerts, and competitions. Miami Carnival attracts thousands of visitors from around the world who come to enjoy the festive atmosphere and experience the diversity of the Caribbean diaspora. During this time of year, you will see parades, costumes, masks, and dancing festivities. Men and women dance in the streets with custom-made costumes and nicely hand-made headpieces that are usually made of feathers, beads, and other decorative pieces. Participants who participate in the festivities normally prepare in advance, like a year in advance preparing costumes, and music for the grand events.

During the Caribbean Carnival, the CarniGals, which is a sorority of wom-

en from all walks of life come together to promote their heritage and participate in the Caribbean Carnival events. These groups of women stated that CarniGals united them, but they are built on community involvement, cultural expression, and fun.

The Caribbean Carnival closed out on October 8, 2023, at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds with parades and concerts. Thousands of people attended this yearly event participating in different functions on the fairgrounds for visitors to partake in. It was a social event that was full of fun, food and excitement. In different parts of the country the Caribbean Carnivals last for weeks celebrating the Caribbean freedom.

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The origin of the girl group Blackpink

Melissa Eugene
Staff Writer

Ever wonder what it's like to be a part of an all-girl music group? It's an essence of certain sisterhood we've all longed for. Over the years we've seen examples like Destiny's Child, Little Mix, and Fifth Harmony, but all hold a common ending to all the practical girl's groups listed -one leaves, and the rest falls apart so will the same faith be left for Blackpink?

How long do you think this fan system will last until one takes the solo road? For this reason, we need the origin story of who is BlackPink and why are they so popular now in so many countries worldwide. Back in 2010 when the Blackpink story began the foundation in which all the girls met each other is said to be YG, an entertainment firm based in the K-pop industry in South Korea.

According to a 2019 Billboard profile, The YG system is said to be based on the recruitment of selected young musicians to become the next "idols" or in other words, the next Beyonce, carved and shaped in their image. This process was experienced and felt deep-



Photo courtesy of www.youtube.comBlackpinkofficial

ly with all members of Blackpink.

Through their auditions, they sought to make it through the many tests or rounds given by YG. After several rounds, the young musicians then went through an intense schedule of training which included music, dance, and more. This is said to have gone on for years until Blackpink was fully announced in 2016. You could say they wanted a return on their investment how many years were spent forming this group for perfection

but in the end, it was ultimately a success.

During the years of training is when all four members of Blackpink clicked and bonded; they all wanted the same outcome and put forth the work to accomplish their own goals that have been set from the moment of the auditions. There's a quote that says, "People aren't lucky, they just work hard." From 2010 to 2016 is six years of dedication put into the making of Blackpink and from that point of view they deserve all the love they're

getting.

On June 29, 2016, is when YG fully revived the names Jisoo, Jennie, Rosé, and Lisa. Korean websites took this media by storm of the complete band and only months later Blackpink revealed their first album, Square One, which led to their careers blossoming to becoming an international hit and one of the most popular music acts in the world. That's where the years of dedication leads you.

Blackpink was also chosen by Netflix to be the

subject of the first K-pop program. Blackpink was the first K-pop group to perform at Coachella in April 2019, with albums placed on Billboard charts and several hits. It's no wonder that Blackpink has fame and fortune, and in the end, if there were to be a slip up of this group, our hearts will always remember how Blackpink was then, now and later on.

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Olivia Rodrigo's "GUTS" album doesn't disappoint

Janyne Langlois
Staff Writer

On Sept. 8, 2023, Olivia Rodrigo released her sophomore album "GUTS." The album consists of 12 songs and a run time of thirty-nine minutes and twelve seconds.

Compared to her debut album, "SOUL," this one has more of an early 2000s pop rock feel to it. Her previous album was filled with more ballads and emotional songs that went over the stages

my place and this is it"

And in the Bridge when she sings:

"I don't get angry when I'm pissed, I'm the eternal optimist

I scream inside to deal with it"

These lines made me think about the "perfect" American woman, who is irresistible to the male gaze and never talks out of place, only speaking when she is spoken to.

Bad Idea Right?

This song was very

And at the end of the song, a part that goes:

"Lacy, oh, Lacy, it's like you're out to get me You poison every little thing that I do"

And one thing that can poison and ruin someone's life is drugs.

ballad of a homeschooled girl

I've never been homeschooled, but I find it funny how I can relate to some parts of the song- like the lines in Verse 2 when Olivia sings:

"I laughed at the wrong time, Sat with the wrong guy, Searching how to start a conversation on a website"

Sometimes trying to fit in or seem cool can cause us to be the most awkward versions of ourselves. We mess up and say something dumb or way out of context, or we laugh at a comment that wasn't even funny to begin with and then we can't stop thinking about it over the next few days.

Making the Bed

"Making the Bed" has to be my favorite song on the album. When there's turmoil in your life sometimes you want to blame other people, when really, it's been you causing these problems all along.

There's a line in the chorus that goes:

"Pull the sheets over my head,"

Pulling the sheets over your head is a form of hiding yourself away. When a kid is afraid of the monster in their closet, what do they do? They pull the covers over their heads and hide.

Now think of yourself as that child, and the monster all the problems in your life. You'd want to hide away from it, too, wouldn't you?

Logical

When I hear this song, it reminds me that not everything in life is logical; like love. Sometimes you can't explain things that happen, or things that don't. It shows how when you're in love you turn a blind eye to certain actions or situations.

The lines that really made me believe this is in the outro when she sings:

"Two plus two equals five And I'm the love of your life

'Cause if rain don't pour and sun don't shine

Then changin' you is possible

No, love is never logical Logical, logical, love is never logical

I know I'm half

responsible and that makes me feel horrible

Oh, logical, logical, love is never logical

I know I could've stopped it all, God, why didn't I stop it all?"

Get him Back!

"Get him Back!" is the epitome of contradicting feelings. On one hand, you want to go back to a previous relationship; but on the other, you remember all the trashy things they did and want to get revenge. A prime example of these contradicting thoughts is in the bridge when she sings:

"Oh, I wanna key his car, I wanna make him lunch, I wanna break his heart, Stitch him right back up, I wanna kiss his face, With an uppercut, I wanna meet his mom, And tell her, her son sucks"

Love is Embarrassing

This song is pretty self-explanatory: A teenage girl telling her friends all about her crush and how they'd "give up everything" just to be with them; the awkward experience of navigating love and self-worth, as well as the emotions you feel; and the utmost embarrassment you feel after being out of a relationship with this person and you realize that they were not worth the time and effort you put into being in a relationship with them.

The Grudge

Have you ever held a grudge against someone who just hurt you so badly that you're just forever defeated and upset, but a small part of you still loves them? That's what this song is. There are so many lines in the song that I can reference, but then I would end up writing out the whole song. I would say a few of my favorite lines from the song are:

"And we both drew blood, But man, those cuts were never equal"

And a line in the bridge where she says:

"You built me up to watch me fall,

You have everything and you still want there"

Then, a line in the outro that goes:

"I try to be tough

I try to be mean

But even after all this, you're still everything to me

And I know you don't care, I guess that's fine

But you know I can't let it go

I've tried, I've tried, I've tried for so long

It takes strength to forgive, but I'm not quite sure I'm there yet "

Pretty isn't Pretty

The meaning is in the title itself. No matter how much you try to change your appearance, people will still have something to criticize you on. If you gain some weight, you're fat; if you lose some weight, you've got an eating disorder; if you wear baggy clothes, you need to show more skin and stop dressing like a boy; if you wear short skirts and crop tops, you're showing too much skin. People will never be satisfied with the version of pretty you put out into the world, so don't worry about what they say. As long as you think you're pretty, then that's okay.

Teenage Dream

"Teenage Dream" makes me think about wasted years- the teenage years specifically. The chorus makes me believe that Olivia felt that she wasted her teen years and is always asking herself if there's a chance to go back. It's something a lot of us wish we could do; go back to our younger years and live our best lives instead of living it the way we already had.

Overall, I enjoyed listening to "GUTS" and I'd recommend this album for anyone who wants to listen to a modern take on early 2000's pop punk music, with a few ballads in the mix.

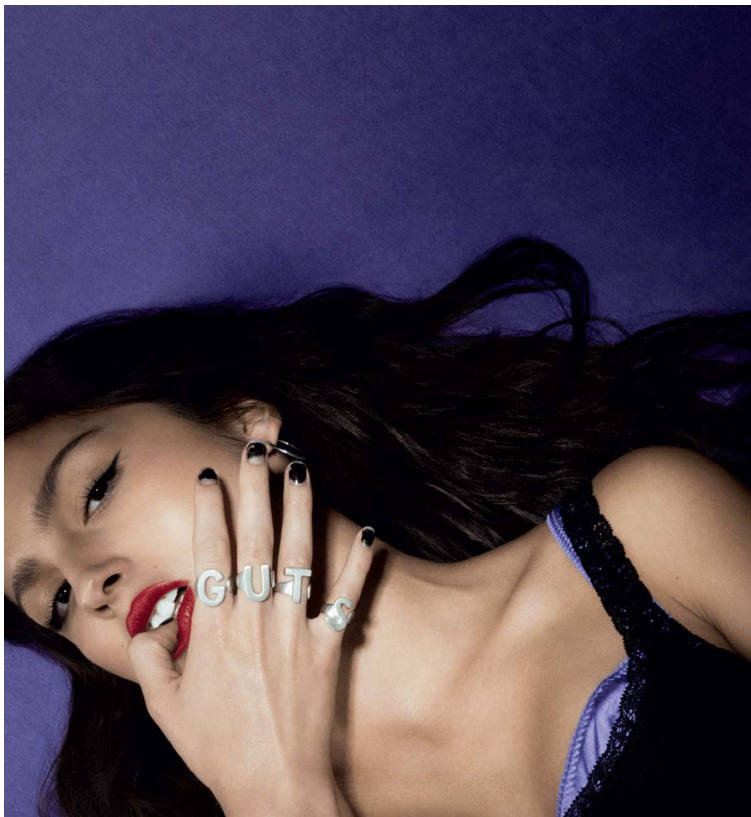


Image by: .amazonaws.com

of reminiscing and getting over a past relationship, while "GUTS" is filled with more pop rock and upbeat songs that go over more of her life as a nineteen-year-old girl and the thoughts that went through her head.

The track list for Rodrigo's sophomore album goes as follows: 1. All-American bitch, 2. bad idea right? 3. Vampire, 4. Lacy, 5. ballad of a homeschooled girl, 6. making the bed, 7. Logical, 8. get him back!, 9. love is embarrassing, 10. the grudge, 11. pretty isn't pretty, 12. teenage dream

After listening to the album a few times, I've come up with my own interpretations of each song and what I think they mean.

All-American Bitch

When I listen to this song, it makes me think of the "perfect American woman." I got this idea from the lines in the chorus that go:

"I know my age and I act like it

Got what you can't resist I'm a perfect all-American bitch

With perfect all-American lips

And perfect all-American hips

I know my place, I know

explanatory: meeting up with an ex. The recurring thoughts of seeing your ex again run all around your head until you finally decide seeing them one last time shouldn't be that bad.

Vampire

was the first song off the album Olivia released. To me, this song is about a young girl being with an older guy and thinking it's love- when really the guy is just using her for fame.

Alternatively, this song could be about anyone using someone younger than them for fame or money- a friend, a spouse, even a family member.

Lacy

Upon my first listen of the song, I thought this song was about obsession over an ex's new partner. Obsessing over how they look and act and wondering if that's how your ex wanted you to be. Wondering if the new partner was everything you couldn't be. But when I listen to it now, it reminds me more of addiction.

In the first verse, there's a part that goes:

"Dear angel Lacy, eyes white as daisies

Did I ever tell you that I'm not doin' well?"

Higher Education should foster relationship with emerging technologies

Yestin Arvin Gochuico
Staff Writer



Image courtesy of Shutterstock

The release of ChatGPT, a revolutionary AI-powered chatbot, left the world in awe with its capability to coherently interact with a person conversationally and generate responses to complex questions and prompts. In Higher Education (HE), students saw the potential of ChatGPT to answer complex problems, produce elaborate essays, and help with research-based queries—essentially revolutionizing how students learn. However, some educators perceive it with doubt and resistance. While warranted, this perception reflects the shortcoming of HE to embrace technological change. The negative portrayal of ChatGPT in the context of education shows that there is a need to shift how the current HE system interacts with emerging technologies.

Before demystifying the concerns surrounding ChatGPT, it is crucial to understand what it is first. ChatGPT is a language

model chatbot developed by OpenAI, an AI research and deployment company. It can interact conversationally and provide detailed human-like responses. Specifically, ChatGPT utilizes a Large Language Model (LLM) algorithm, trained with extensive data, that accurately predicts and generates high-quality text. In simple terms, ChatGPT mimics how humans communicate in written language.

University educators are worried that students will abuse ChatGPT to cheat and plagiarize. In a WSVN

news report, Dr. Carol Bishop Mills, Director of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) School of Communication and Multimedia, shared her concerns about ChatGPT and the threat ChatGPT poses to academic integrity. To quote Mills, “[We’re concerned] every single day. A lot of it right now centers on, ‘I think the student might be using this, and it’s cheating, but we can’t demonstrate conclusively that it is, so what do I do?’” ChatGPT generates unique responses for a prompt, so it will be difficult for professors to detect

if a student used it to submit an essay or answer a homework problem.

However, the problem does not necessarily stem from ChatGPT, the AI itself, but rather stems from the inflexible and rigid classroom dynamics in HE. There is a stark disconnect in the relationship between HE to technology, and it curtails students’ digital competence and capacity to adapt. The reluctance of HE to accept technological change in the curriculum limits the potential of finding new ways of learning.

In a campus report, Yale

Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning highlighted both opportunities and challenges that ChatGPT brings to education. Rather than facing it with resistance, faculty experts at Yale wanted to understand the implication ChatGPT brings for teaching and learning. To quote Yale faculty member Owen Miller, “... students often have a lot of questions as they try to sort and organize foundational physics ideas ... ChatGPT can serve as a tutor, helping the students probe, be curious, and cultivate interest in a subject.”

ChatGPT does not threaten education itself but threatens education that stems from traditional classroom dynamics the current HE is trying to maintain. Rather than seeing ChatGPT and other technology as “disruptive” in classrooms, we should see them as powerful tools to facilitate education and enhance the learning experience—a tool to help shape the future of education.

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