

Tornado touches down near North Campus

Mauricio Correa
North Bureau Chief

On Jan. 27, early in the gray Wednesday morning, the frigid winds of a tornado buffeted Broward College's North Campus. The tornado's 45 mph plus winds damaged vehicles, damaged property and caused traffic delays. The winds peaked at around 100 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service.

A car traveling on the southbound lane of the Florida Turnpike was carried to the northbound lanes of the highway. Cars in student parking were damaged. A white Ford pick-up truck lay on its side, while close by a silver Honda lay stacked upon a black Toyota.

"A tornado did hit and it flipped three cars," said Leo DeAraujo, Student Life Coordinator. Luckily, the vehicles were empty.

Class was in session during the twister, and students felt the roar of its swirling funnel. "You could hear the tree branches falling," said Ryan Cruz, a student of North Campus. "Security guards



The tornado was strong enough to put one car on top of another.

Mauricio Correa/The Observer

advised students to refrain from venturing toward North Campus. BC also sent a series of text messages, phone calls, and posted on social media and the Broward College website.

Just before 10 a.m., the Alert System sent a message

hour, and the "...development of funnel clouds..." in the area. The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning that remained in effect until 11:45 a.m.

After the tornado passed, all the streets leading to North Campus were closed

nature's most powerful storms and are known to rip through houses, damage property, and devastate entire areas with their powerful winds. An official website of the Department of Homeland Security states that tornadoes often appear as rotating,

Fujita Scale was developed by Dr. T. Theodore Fujita and scales tornados from EF 0 (Gale) to EF 5 (Incredible). The tornado that landed was an EF1.

Florida experiences a high number of tornadoes each year. The National Center for Environmental Information reports that from 1991-2010, Florida experienced an average of 66 tornadoes per year.

Experts say that during a tornado, it is best to find an enclosed space, such as a bathroom or a closet. Being outdoors is not advisable. The incidence of risk increases when outdoors during a violent storm. When inside, it is advised to stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.

Student Aaron Lacambra was in class when the tornado hit.

"I think it happened at around 9:40. Two minutes into class we learned about the [flipped] cars..." Lacambra and the rest of his class remained indoors during the storm.

Thankfully, no serious injuries were reported as a result of the tornado.

For more information on how to stay safe, visit the Department of Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness's website at www.broward.edu/safety

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The tornado also turned a truck over.

Mauricio Correa/The Observer

told me I had to stay inside a building until later notice."

North Campus closed down following the torando. All classes were cancelled to facilitate clean-up. At 5 p.m., classes resumed as scheduled.

BC made emergency calls warning students of the unstable weather and

stating, "A weather emergency has been reported at North Campus. Take necessary precautions. Seek shelter immediately."

As the weather remained conducive to the development of potential tornados, a subsequent BC alert reported winds in excess of 45 miles per

off. Security and police personnel managed congested intersections and directed drivers away from blocked roads. In the greater area, police cruisers sectioned off streets that suffered from fallen power lines and required attention from FP&L.

Tornadoes are one of

funnel-shaped clouds that extend from the thunderstorm to the ground. Winds can reach speeds of up to 300 miles an hour. The damage from paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

The intensity of the storm is measured on a scale similar to that of a hurricane's. The

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Central Campus

MARCH 4, 2016
STRATEGIES TO
SUCCEED
IN PHYSICS
W/ CALCULUS
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Building 3, Room 117
Central Campus

MARCH 18, 2016
STRATEGIES TO
OVERCOME C++
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Building 13, Room 130
Central Campus

FEBRUARY 5, 2016
WHAT IS COMPUTER
ENGINEERING?
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Building 3, Room 117
Central Campus

WORKSHOPS

APRIL 1, 2016
UNDERSTANDING
LOGIC GATES
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Building 3, Room 117
Central Campus

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FEBRUARY 12, 2016
CALCULUS AS IT RELATES
TO COMPUTER SCIENCE
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Building 48, Room 102
North Campus

MARCH 25, 2016
COMPUTER
PROGRAMMING
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Building 48, Room 306
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APRIL 8, 2016
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Amina Beharie
954-201-6827
abeharie@broward.edu

Wendy Godard
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BROWARD COLLEGE
STUDENT LIFE



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Internship program takes learning beyond classroom

Isabell Vasquez
South Bureau Chief

Every semester students wonder about their major and what it's like to work in their chosen job field. Internships are the ticket to seeing how the future might look. The goal is to land a job. Whether a student is aiming for an AA or AS degree, it is never too late or too early to find an internship. It does nothing but benefit the students in the long run. AS degree seeking students must have an internship under their belt because AS degrees are two-year degrees in which BC is training the student to get a job as soon as they graduate.

AA degree seeking students have a choice. Nevertheless, this would be great use of their time figuring out if this is a career path the student would like to work in. As long as the student has completed 24 college credits, then they are eligible to take on an internship since it will fill an elective credit. Shermone Mitchell is the Director for Academic Affairs who handles the Internship EDGE program, Prior Learning Assessments and Transfer Agreements. She is a firm believer in taking education beyond the classroom. "An

The CCN helps students find internships and jobs in their fields.

www.broward.edu

internship is a great gateway if you have no experience in your field at all...the main goal for our program is for students to continuously learn," said Mitchell. BC students are encouraged to look through the website called College Central Network (CCN), as it provides students with help on resumes and tools to search for jobs. "We provide the opportunity through CCN...our goal is to have the students go look. We want you to go search for what it is you're looking for because this is going to give experience of finding a job

because that's what it is," said Mitchell. Sometimes there are students who find internships on their own like BC alumni Kelsey Hinds who found a sports internship through her connections.

"I actually found it via a friend that already worked for the Strikers and she set the whole thing up," said Hinds. BC works with anyone willing to give an opportunity to students so long as the employer is willing to work with BC, too. In an internship, it's a two way street because the employer evaluates the

student and at the same time the student is improving on their skills and work ethic. Mitchell tells all students that there should be a window of 60 days in between prior to the term the internship will start. Once the internship starts, the employer will evaluate the intern and BC will give out small projects to see how far the experience has impacted the student.

In today's world, experience exceeds studies. Internships are giving students the hands on experience that no ordinary college credit class can offer.

Elisa Castellano is a student at BC who eagerly wants to work with children. "I look for internships to better my experience in my field and to better my chance in getting to my career," said Castellano. Everyone wants a peak into the future and internships are the key into seeing if the path is worth walking.

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Penny tax to improve public transportation

Kamilah Douglas
Contributing Writer

Broward County wants to alleviate traffic and improve public transportation by increasing the sales tax by a penny.

This could generate an estimated \$280 million or more to fund better rail, shuttle and bus services.

Village Square, a non-partisan educational forum, hosted a free event called 'Takeout Tuesday' at Broward College's Willis Holcombe Downtown Campus in which local politicians discussed the sales tax increase while citizens ate their takeout meals.

The moderator was George Burgess, who has been working in public service for 28 years.

He has served in a number of executive-level positions for Broward County, the City of Miami and Miami-Dade Public Schools.

The two panelists were Commissioner Richard Blattner of Hollywood, FL and Randall Vitale, Fort Lauderdale Market Executive of Gibraltar Bank and Trust.

In order to start the improvements in mass transportation that the increased sales tax will fund, it has to be put on the November 2016 ballot.

"The nine largest cities can put this on the 2016 ballot,"

said Vitale.

This initiative is dependent on support from voters, and the politicians in favor of the tax increase will market for support all over Broward County.

Improving public transportation and relieving traffic congestion is the inspiration for increasing sales tax by a penny.

But increasing the sales tax is a literal cost. Whether in favor of the possible tax increase or not, it is natural to wonder where the money will be going.

There are people who are concerned about the regulation of the tax money.

"The sales tax only applies to the first \$5,000 of any investment," said Blattner in regard to the potential penny tax increase.

He also stated that it "doesn't apply to anything that already has a tax."

"One hundred percent of transportation tax goes to transportation," Vitale said.

The concerns did not stop there.

It was also revealed that if passed, the penny tax will fund mass transit, but will not cover the costs of maintenance and labor.

Another concern is the length of time it will take for the improved transportation in Broward County to be available for public use.



President J. David Armstrong, Jr. greeted many of the guests who participated in the event. Alejandro Giraldo/The Observer

When asked outright, Blattner and Vitale could not provide a definite answer.

In 2006, Broward voters rejected having the tax increase from six to seven percent.

If the penny tax initiative is rejected this year, it may not be proposed again until 2020.

This is because the presidential election years are the ones that have the most voter turnout, and majority votes are needed to get the tax increase.

Tourists can also benefit from the improved transportation.

If all goes well, the public transportation system could make Broward County a national hotspot, generating more revenue by attracting more tourists and new residents.

The penny tax is a major proposal for Broward County and there are costs and benefits to consider.

Burgess, the moderator of Takeout Tuesday, believes that "having the discussion is better than not having the discussion at all."

Takeout Tuesday is a free event that is open to all BC

staff, faculty and students.

The next Takeout Tuesday will take place on March 22, at the Downtown Center.

dougko1@mail.broward.edu

Students take part in ambassador opportunities

Ana Cedeno
Staff Writer

With a new semester starting, Broward College is doing its best to welcome new and returning students to campus.

While events pop up every other day between classes, it isn't often students think of the organizations that make the effort to make their college experience a more rounded and enriched one.

One such organization, and one students might not always hear about is Student Ambassadors.

"We are the face of Broward College," said Jeremiah Carter.

"Not only here, but in the community as well. When the community has events, we go."

Student Ambassadors participate in charitable, social and civic events.

They also partner with Student Life to participate in school events such as breast cancer awareness luncheons as well as their second annual holiday show.

They recently participated in Coral Springs' holiday parade and worked with the leadership gala that happened at the Hyatt Regency.

Events for this semester are still in the works but Carter



The student ambassadors had a holiday party.

Broward College

said they at least had plans for a speaker series for Black History Month with some well-known people from Broward College.

Carter has been with Student Ambassadors since his first semester after he ran for student president and lost the election.

"They saw what I could do," said Carter.

"And asked me to join."

After a year of joining, Carter is now lead Student Ambassador as well as chief liaison for the college.

According to Carter, Student Ambassadors were originally formed to assist with college recruitment and New Student Orientation, something that they still assist with to this day.

"We go to the high schools whenever the high schools have registration or college fairs," said Carter.

"We go to the high schools whenever the high schools have registration or college fairs," said Carter.

According to Cassidy Goldberger, however, the organization is much more

than that.

"It's about being a leader," said Goldberger.

"And stepping out of your comfort zone in order to be the best you can be not just for yourself but for the college itself."

In order to join, students must fill out an application, and set up an interview.

The student's schedule, resume and a letter of recommendation are all required. Students must also go through an interview process prior to joining.

"I've always been a leader from infant stages until now; it's natural," she said.

"I moved back to Florida for college in June and was looking for ways to be involved and I came across the ambassadors and instantly wanted to join. I emailed Mr. Pickering and had an interview shortly after."

Both Carter and Goldberger say joining the Ambassadors is an extremely rewarding experience and encourage attending students to join its ranks.

"It's a fun organization to be in. It makes students into better leaders," said Carter.

"I get to meet so many different people I get to interact with students."

Goldberger expressed similar sentiments.

"I love my ambassador family," she said.

"I wouldn't trade the experiences for the world. I've learned a lot from them thus far and I continue to grow."

Student Ambassadors is a college wide organization.

For more information on Student Ambassadors, go to the Student Life office on your campus or email Joseph Pickering from North Campus at jpickeri@broward.edu.

cedeab@mail.broward.edu

Professor, Associate Dean, goes extra mile for students

Marc Edmond
Contributing writer

To have a successful career, it takes more than just having a college degree. It goes without saying, that the business industry is looking for students with certifications and degrees, but more importantly, experience.

Broward College Accounting Professor and Associate Dean of Business, John Cejka, has helped his students understand the concepts of accounting with his expertise and, of course, his experiences as a business owner.

Cejka has mentored and inspired his students to embark on their careers in business and accounting by equipping them with the best skills available.

"He gets involved with his students to learn accounting," current student, Franchesca Batista said.

"I registered with Professor Cejka because of his positive and high ratings on ratemyprofessor.com."

Throughout his lectures, Cejka teaches with passion, real life illustrations, practical understanding and with a sense of humor to capture the students' attention, especially at 6:30 a.m.

"We have to be more than an educator, we have to be a story teller and an entertainer," said Cejka.



Professor John Cejka always helps students succeed.

Marc Edmond/The Observer

"Because of the connection that I have with his teaching style, my current overall grade in the class is an A," said Russel St. Thomas, Cejka's mentee.

"Although the class is early, I enjoy being there."

Former student, Ian Ferguson said, "He's a brilliant communicator who never talks down to his students. Instead he treats them as equals, but with less experience. He sees it as his job---his mission, if you will---to share his experience and knowledge

with his students in a way that makes them want to learn."

Cejka is also a longtime soccer coach.

"I understand different personalities," he said.

Therefore, he utilizes his coaching familiarity to help students grow in the field of business.

"I always want my students to succeed and sometimes life teaches people through failures."

Cejka understands the students' language when

they can't comprehend a problem or an exercise, and understands that they can be very challenging.

"I decided to approach Professor Cejka after he substituted in a class of mine, and shared his personal experiences and successes as a businessman. Ever since then, he has been mentoring me to launch my fashion line, Kudeauxos. I am humbled to have him as a mentor," said St. Thomas.

Cejka is currently working

on his Doctorate Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Supply Chain Management.

He earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and his Master's degree in Accounting.

With all of Cejka's experiences and education, he continues to be a better professor, mentor, coach and father.

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Board meeting allows students to express concerns

Isabell Vasquez
South Bureau Chief

Every year, students have been asked to take a survey to see what is needed to improve on South Campus and partnership centers.

The Board of Trustees meeting for the student forum has arrived at Broward College's South Campus.

Faculty, students and members of the Board of Trustees were present in discussing major concerns across South Campus and the centers.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Francesca Sarmiento, Vice President Marshaad Gordon and Senator Jose Guzman spoke to the board members about the student's suggestions for improvement according to each campus they are representing.

Working closely with Student Life, Student Life Director, Carlos Parra, oversees everything that has to do with the students' experience at BC.

"We put out 1,500 paper surveys that are open ended questions for students to fill out and then I go through each and every one of them and tally them all out to see what

was the most mentioned," said Parra.

Starting with South Campus, where students have been complaining about the inconsistency of the air conditioning temperatures throughout the buildings.

The second was an additional entrance to 72nd Ave.

"Right now there is a lot of congestion, when students leave at prime time, there is a long line of cars," said Parra.

The biggest concern was food overall.

At South Campus, for the third year, students are asking for a Dunkin' Donuts, just like Central Campus.

In addition, they have asked for more diverse menu options, which incorporates new menu items for the cafeteria.

At the Miramar West Center, students have asked for more menu options since the main option that is offered is just Subway alone.

Guzman represents all of the partnership centers and listed Miramar West as a prime location to resolve.

While it is still considered a new campus since it was built in August of 2014, Miramar West students have found that the center barely offers any courses.

"It's a lot smaller and there

isn't much for students," said Rivera.

In addition, its problematic Wi-Fi and desire for a 145th Ave. entrance has been a constant concern. If a student drives from Miramar Parkway, they must make a U-turn in order to enter the center.

Other issues mentioned dealt with technology. In every BC class, technology is an asset to the education students are receiving.

So programs like D2L (Desire2Learn) can connect online to their class at any time. This system is a learning management tool that is critical to all classes.

Yet students have been complaining how it's not easy to navigate and learn how to use. So they proposed a user friendliness improvement for D2L.

By the end of student forum, the meeting was open to answering questions presented by students.

One student asked if there will be a space dedicated for student organizations on campus for club members. They are hoping to create the area soon.

Another student asked if the college has taken action about safety since there has been a lot of school shootings.



SGA members voiced suggestions to the Board of Trustees. **Broward College**

Currently, there has been active shooting trainings and a dispatch center connected to the entire BC properties.

Lastly, a student had asked if there will be a nurse on campus for students, which is something that the campus is working on.

Tim Brown, a student at BC South Campus, said he has felt nothing but satisfied.

"I've been happy since I came here," said Brown.

"The possibilities are endless of making BC greater than it already is."

The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on Feb. 16.

Each Board of Trustees meeting is open to all BC students, staff and faculty.

vasqic@mail.broward.edu

Students can join in campus read, enter essay contest

Sofia Gangotena
Central Bureau Chief

Have you ever met someone with the same name as you?

Perhaps you have wondered how your life would have turned out under different circumstances, if you made different choices.

Starting in February and ending in April, Broward College students will have an answer to the question "What could have happened?" and read a story about hardship as they read Wes Moore's "The Other Wes Moore" for the college-wide Campus Read event.

Students are invited to read the book at their own pace, discuss it at Book Club meetings or English classes, and join an essay contest for the chance to win prizes.

"The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates" is a non-fiction best-selling novel about two men who share the same name, grew up in the same neighborhood but have different fates as adults.

One man grows up to be a successful scholar and business leader and the other man is sent to prison for life for murder.

It is meant to be an example of how choices determine paths.

Jennifer Solley, reading professor at BC, said, "The book deals with a lot of

themes, like adversity, that a lot of students will be able to relate to."

Students interested in taking part in Campus Read can attend the Book Club meetings at Central Campus where they will discuss the book and its themes.

Those interested in signing up for the club attended the first meeting on Feb. 3, where they were able to pick up a free copy of the book, eat and meet new people.

The next two meetings will give students the chance to discuss "The Other Wes Moore" in parts.

"I think it is pretty cool that Broward College is giving the students a chance to socialize and interact with each other, all the while reading a book," said BC student Tal Bendahan.

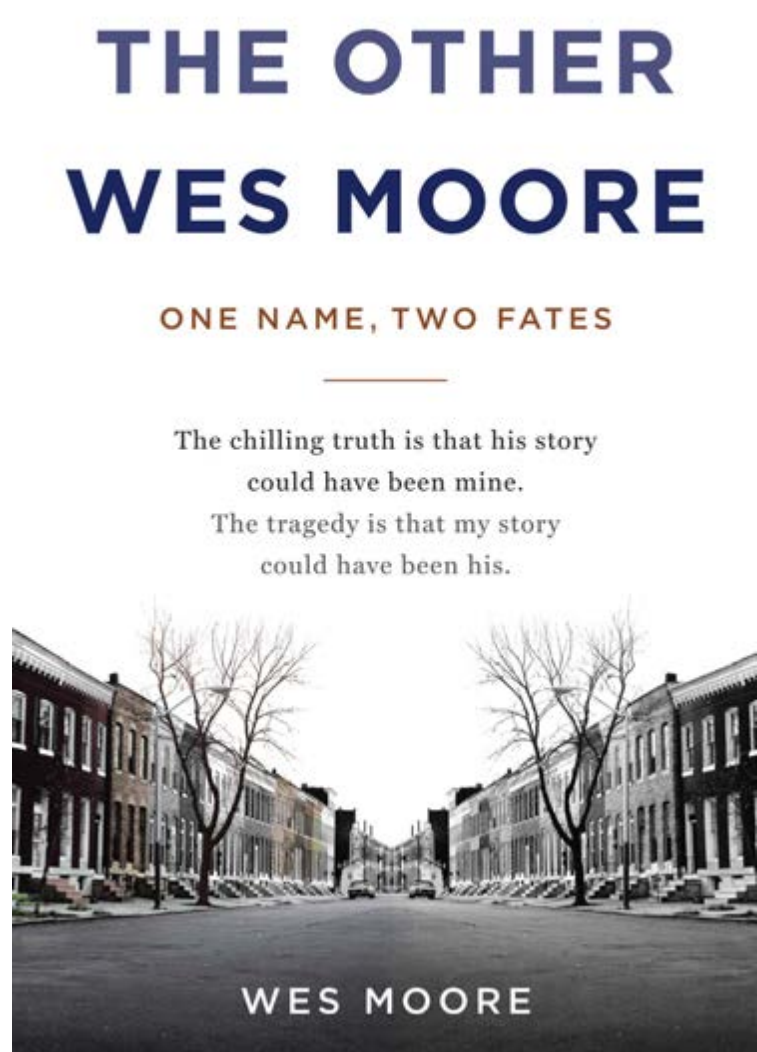
Some English professors will also be discussing the book in their classes, like Solley.

Students are also invited to take part in a writing contest.

The essay would have to center around five main themes and can be analytical, personal, or creative.

The essays must be submitted no later than April 1.

A select panel of instructors will read each submission and determine three winners through a rating process to win prizes at the end of the Campus Read in April and notify winners on April 8.



Broward College now has a campus read school-wide event. wordpress.com

Winners will get the chance to read their entries at BC's Spring Literary Feast on April 18 and will have their entries

published in the college's literary magazine, P'an Ku.

College librarian Andrew Dutka said, "By writing essays

and reflecting on the themes in the story, the message might stick a little better. There are challenges we have to face and we have to work hard to overcome adversity."

While Campus Read has been happening at various colleges around the country, this will be the first time that all BC campuses are getting involved.

Solley, one of the masterminds of the event, said, "I would say that the main goal of the Campus Read event is to get more students involved and to pull together to build a community."

gangsm@mail.broward.edu

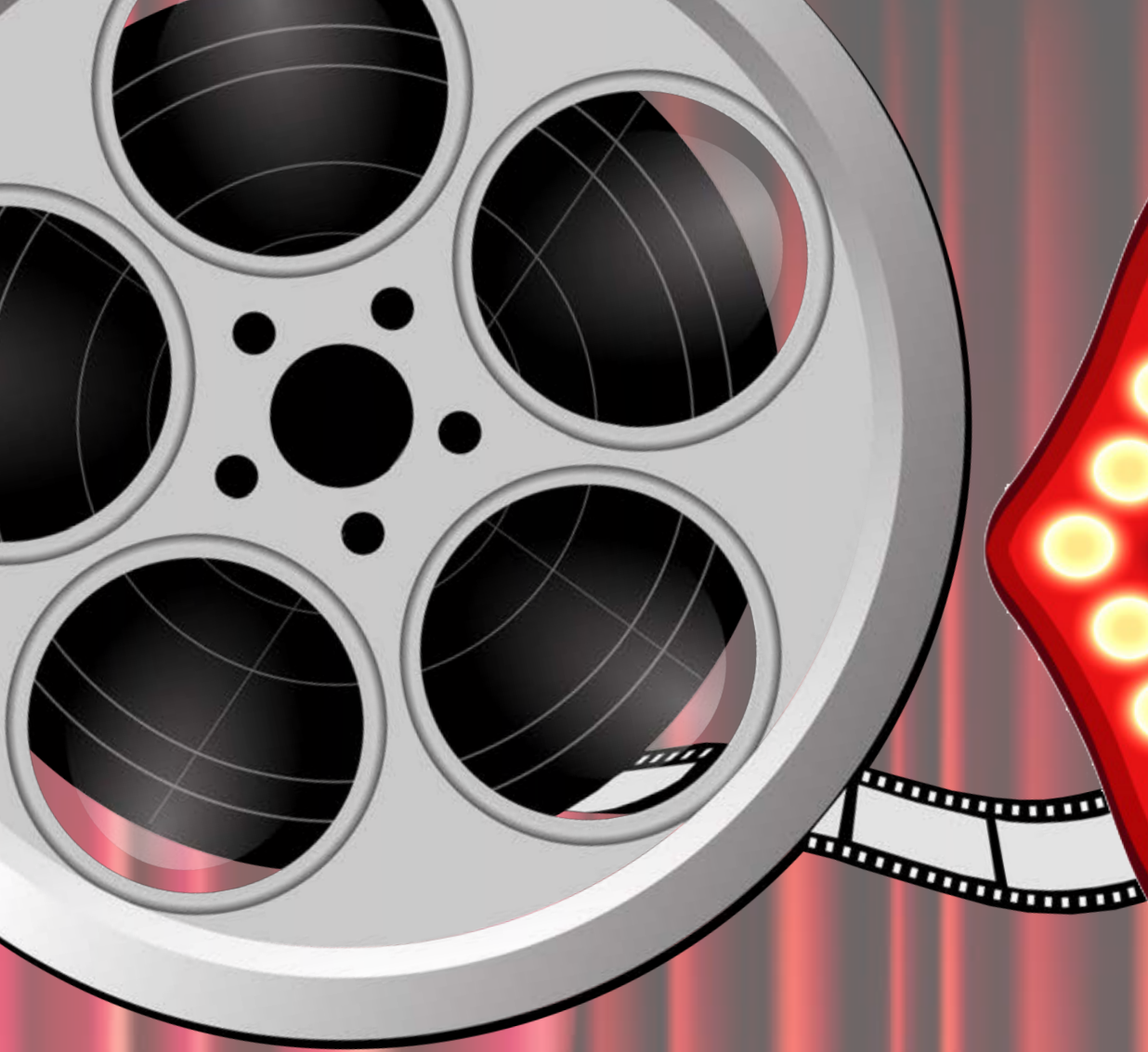


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MOST ANTICIPATED

MOVIES

2016

DEADPOOL

Ryan Reynolds will retake on his role as Deadpool on February 12. The film follows Wade Wilson, who obtains superpowers after subjecting to experiments to cure his cancer. The movie will become the eighth installment of the X-Men series.



FINDING DORY

Thirteen years after Finding Nemo, we have a sequel. This time around we will be seeing Dory's family and her suddenly remembering her childhood. The movie will be released June 17.



ALLEGIANT

The third film of the Divergent series is coming out March 18. This will be the first of the two-part final. Tris and Four go on an adventure to the outside world after defeating Jeanine and will soon realize that it might not be what they expected.



GHOSTBUSTERS

The remake of Ghostbusters, this time with an all-women cast, will arrive in theaters July 15. Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones are the ghostbusters that must save Manhattan when the ghosts invade the city.



ANTICIPATED MOVIES 2016

DOCTOR STRANGE

After his time searching for his wife, Doctor Strange will finally find her. This time, he's searching for his wife after she was killed in a car crash. Her movie will be released in 2017.



X-MEN APOCALYPSE

The sequel to X-men Days of Future Past and ninth film of the X-Men series will be released May 27. Charles Xavier and Raven, better known as Mystique, are in charge of leading the X-Men in their battle against Apocalypse, the first mutant that had been awakened after a thousand years.

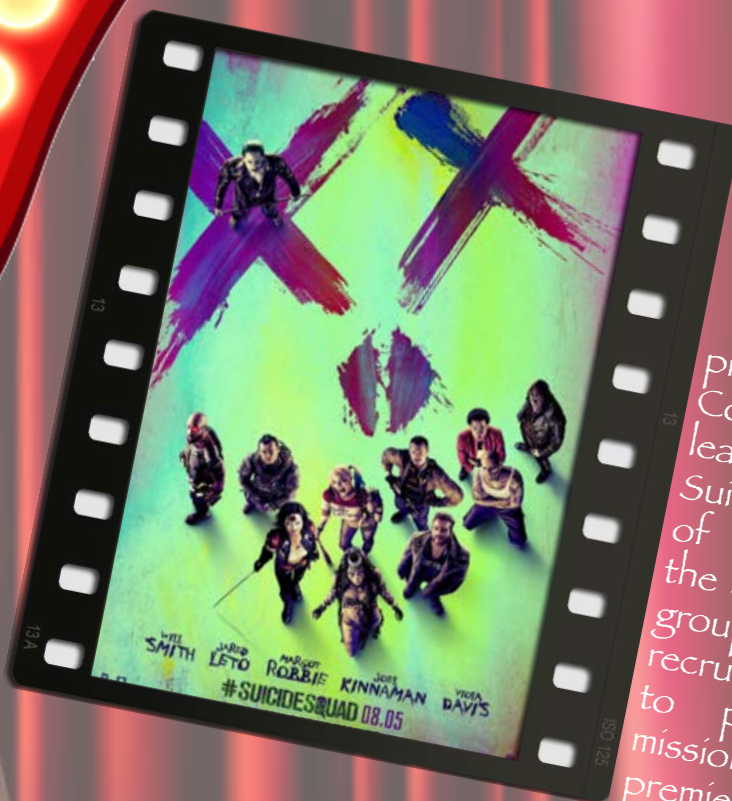
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Chris Evans will return as Captain America on May 6. This will be the third film for the Captain America series and the thirteenth in the MCU. Iron Man, Black Widow, Hawkeye, and other characters from the MCU will appear.



SUICIDE SQUAD

An exclusive trailer was premiered at the San Diego ComicCon and it immediately leaked. With an all-star cast, Suicide Squad is the story of the antihero group of the same name. They are a group of imprisoned villains recruited by the government to perform black ops missions. The movie will premiere August 5.



DOCTOR STRANGE

Benedict Cumberbatch will take on the role of Doctor Strange on November 4. Stephen Strange, a world-renowned neurosurgeon, is injured in a car crash and unable to go back to work, becomes Doctor Strange.



ROGUE ONE

The first film of the upcoming Star Wars Anthology series will hit theaters December 16. The film takes place shortly before the original Star Wars and it follows a group of rebel spies that try to steal the plans for the Death Star.



Intense Netflix documentary has everyone talking

Bella Riccitelli
Editor-in-Chief

There are a variety of factors that determine the fate of someone. One of these factors is someone's hometown. Usually, people who grow up and live in a big city can sneak through life unnoticed, considering their town's population. Typically with small towns, everyone knows everyone, from the family down the street to the police officers of the city.

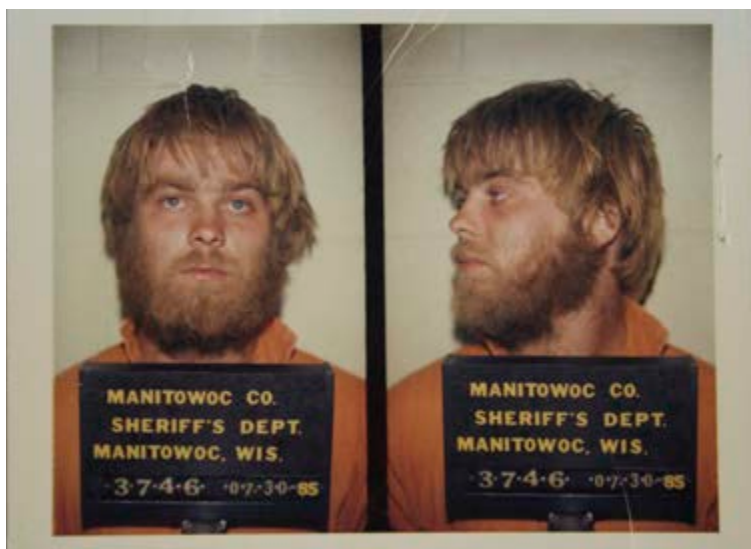
Netflix recently released a true-crime documentary that further demonstrates the life of someone who grew up and continued living in a small town.

As he got older, he became more of a household name to everyone in his city, except it wasn't in a positive light.

Over the course of ten years, directors Moira Demos and Laura Ricciardi followed the life of Steven Avery, a man living in a small county in Wisconsin. After ten years of filming, "Making a Murderer" was born.

Avery spent 18 years in prison for a rape and assault that he did not commit.

When he was finally let out, he was just about to finalize a settlement with the town's



"Making a Murderer" is an intense documentary.

thevox.com

county.

However, when you live in a small town, everyone knows everything – from who is at your house, to what time they leave town.

Avery was accused of murdering Teresa Halbach, a photographer who was working that day in Avery's town, taking photos of a minivan that the family had for sale on his family's salvage yard.

Avery's teenage nephew was also charged with the murder.

The documentary series includes interviews with Avery's family, interviews with Halbach's family, along with interviews with the lawyers as

well.

On top of that, "Making a Murderer" features actual courtroom footage, as well as police interrogation films and crime scene information.

One of the many points of making this film is to leave the conviction decision up to viewers: Did Avery commit this murder? If not, then who did?

It's probably safe to say that most of the people who watched "Making a Murderer" are not lawyers in any way.

However, you don't have to be a lawyer to binge watch a documentary that focuses so heavily on hard evidence.

Many viewers believe that

Avery was once again falsely accused and sent to prison as the wrong criminal.

In fact, according to Rolling Stone, a petition with almost 130,000 signatures was sent to President Barack Obama.

In contrast to those who believe Avery is innocent, there are numerous people who firmly believe that Avery is guilty.

Just like any documentary, the directors can leave out lots of footage in order to make the viewers believe in one thing rather than something else.

According to a lot of theories, many people believe that the directors left out lots of evidence and footage in order to make people think Avery is innocent.

Another theme that the series explores involves the justice system in general and whether or not it is corrupt.

In 2015, the justice system and police officers received a lot of heat from the public and media. "Making a Murderer" is just fuel to that fire.

The film includes countless interviews conducted by the family members of Avery stating that the police officers are corrupt and that they are out to get a lot of people.

While Avery's family is saying that, Halbach's family

can't be any more grateful for the police officers.

"Making a Murderer" is widely based on biased opinions.

It shows lots of photos of Avery as a child, as a husband and then as a father.

It makes viewers think to themselves, "How can a sweet man, who was already falsely accused, commit such a horrific crime?"

That is the main message sent out by the directors.

However, if Avery didn't commit the murder, then who did?

Some may believe that the case has been solved and a correct verdict has been reached, considering Avery is currently spending the rest of his life in prison for the murder of Halbach.

However, there are so many people who truly believe in their hearts that the real murderer is still among us.

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Ride Along sequel: setting, design best part of movie

Kamilah Douglas
Contributing Writer

Kevin Hart and Ice Cube are back at it again in this action-comedy not-so-stellar sequel, "Ride Along 2."

James Payton (Ice Cube,) a stoic Atlanta detective decides to take his soon-to-be brother-in-law Ben Barber (Kevin Hart,) an unrelentingly ambitious rookie cop, to Miami based on a lead he has about a drug ring to prove that Barber does not have what it takes to become a detective.

In Miami, they team up with detective Maya Cruz (Olivia Munn) and hacker AJ (Ken Jeong) to bust the charming drug kingpin Antonio Pope (Benjamin Bratt.)

I was initially unenthusiastic about seeing the movie, and rightly so due to the bombardment of stale jokes.

I felt like Hart was trying too hard. Needless to say, I didn't laugh for about the first half hour of the movie.

On top of the jokes being meager, they were predictable (typical short jokes) as was the next gag.

Let's just say, wherever Hart's character goes, he either accidentally hits something and it breaks, or something hits him just for laughs, and I totally saw it coming.

Although this movie is an original sequel, it doesn't put forth anything new.

I felt like it was too similar to the first film. On top of that, certain points were reminiscent of other popular franchises, such as "Fast and Furious."

So much so that Tyrese Gibson, a central actor in that franchise, makes a cameo appearance in one of the first scenes filled with colorful sports cars and beautiful women.

The second factor that kind of pulled me out of the reality of the movie was the fact that I couldn't differentiate Hart and Ice Cube as their characters and their real life personalities.

Is that why I didn't know the names of their characters for the first third of the movie?

The movie did begin to pick up for me once the "brothers-in-law" went down to Miami.

I must note that the musical composition throughout the film was excellent.

I liked how there were songs from popular artists such as Pitbull, which is so fitting for the Miami locale. I liked how I was able to sing along to a song or two and the music matched each scene well.

I also liked the overall design of the movie. The costumes flattered the actors and the settings really stood out.

From a high-end bikini store equipped with bikini-clad employees and an indoor swimming pool visible to those in the lobby underneath, to



"Ride Along 2" captures the bond between Ice Cube and Kevin Hart.

citizen-times.com

the backyards of the Miami residents with chicken coops, the setting was one of the realistic and best aspects of this movie.

The cinematography did not disappoint. I liked how Hart's character used his video game expertise to navigate through a car chase.

The method in which this was portrayed to the audience was by switching from real time to the actual events as if it were in the video game, which I thought was genius.

I'm not going to deny enjoying the rest of the movie. It turned out to be really funny.

Jeong performed well as AJ, hilariously irritating James Payton.

Although his character is a hacker-nerd, he was quite the player and it was entertaining.

The antagonist Antonio Pope was another notable character because of his double-life as a benevolent community philanthropist by day, and tricky drug lord by night.

Either that or his charming good looks.

If anyone is interested in watching this movie, I'd say watch it.

The clichés might make you roll your eyes, such as the bad guy doing a monologue right when he has the chance to kill the good guy.

A lot of the characters are one-dimensional. T h e

funny guy is always funny and cannot be taken seriously, and the serious guy is always serious.

But the plot drives the film forward, however simple it may seem.

I could not stop cackling at the final wedding scene even though it contained many gags. Perhaps it could have been attributed to the fact that James never showed any type of concern for Ben's well-being.

All in all, I give Ride Along 2 a three out of five star rating.

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Chilli Cookoff, not just a concert, but an experience

Jennifer Beardslee
Radi
Managing Editor

C.B. Smith Park was home to 99.9 Kiss Country's 31 annual Chili Cookoff, an event that took place on Jan. 31. The concert may technically start at 10 a.m. but concert goers were seen lining up outside of C.B. Smith as early as 8 p.m. the night before. One of the most memorable aspects of the annual festival is the huge tailgate party that happens within the gates of C.B. Smith Park, and while people need to purchase a \$10 parking pass to get in, they do not need to purchase a Chili Cookoff ticket to participate in the party.

For anyone who has never been to Kiss Country's Chili Cookoff, it is an event every country music lover should attend at least once, and the tailgate party itself features much more than just country music, and is appropriate for anyone above the age of 21.

Cars and trucks are parked side by side, beer pong tables are set up at nearly every pavilion, and almost everyone is grilling burgers or hot dogs, and drinking beer. Some people come just for the party, while others make their way into the concert to



Dan + Shay performs fan favorites at the Chilli Cookoff. Photo credit: wkis.cbslocal.com

watch the live acts, purchase memorabilia, scarf down a \$5 arepa and often leave with a sunburn. The event is general admission, and tickets were priced at \$52.

Chili Cookoff regulars bring lawn chairs and blankets to section off their spots. Some go as far as tying caution tape to their lawn chairs to create a barrier from other concert goers. The well-known conservationist and artist Guy Harvey teams up with Kiss Country every year to create a t-shirt designed for the event. This year's shirt had an Everglades theme. For anyone who might be looking for a more affordable alternative, they can find people selling

their own Chili Cookoff shirts for \$10 throughout the crowd or on their way out of the venue.

While I use to believe that the Chili Cookoff was just a concert where you get to try out chili, it is so much more than that. It's a music festival. It's one of South Florida's largest tailgate parties. This was my third consecutive Chili Cookoff and the experience gets better every year.

However, the headliners and other artists didn't seem to bring in as large of a crowd as the years before. Still, the Chili Cookoff fills up C.B. Smith Park. My friend and I waited nearly four hours from 4 in the morning to 8 to get into the

gates of the venue. Normally, when it gets to the headliner, people are standing nearly on top of each other with little room to breathe. While there was still an overwhelming amount of people, it seemed like there was less than years before. Not to mention having sat a little closer to the back this time I literally watched a large portion of people leave when the headliner Little Big Town took the stage. People may have just been going to get a drink or something along those lines, while others may have just been exhausted.

The Chili Cookoff is a long event and by the time 3 or 4 p.m. rolls around, I'm usually sunburnt and ready to head

out myself.

This year's lineup put on quite the show. The girl duo Maddie and Tae started the event, and Dan and Shay played their most famous songs while also treating the audience to new music that they were working on. They had an amazing energy and really hyped up the crowd.

Chris Young followed the male duo and had the crowd singing along to his hits the whole time. Jake Owen stole the show with the beach-themed set. He performed barefoot with his dog on stage with him and yet still delivered an amazing performance. He made his way into the audience, gave out drum sticks and really had the whole crowd involved throughout his performance. The soothing, and beautiful vocals of Little Big Town ended this year's Chili Cookoff on a relaxing note. The voices of Little Big Town all harmonize so well and they performed classics such as "Jolene" by Dolly Parton and fan favorites like "Girl Crush."

The 31 annual Chili Cookoff was one to remember and for anyone thinking about attending the event, they should go at least once.

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Stars Wars: The Clone Wars series popular on Netflix

Christopher Cruz
Graphics Editor

Star Wars has been around for many years starting in the 1970s, and since that time, the monumental legacy of George Lucas films of Star Wars has evolved dramatically.

From the uprising Jedi Luke Skywalker, to a Sith Lord of Darth Vader, and to a future Jedi in Rey. With all of that there hasn't been quite a series like the animated Star Wars: The Clone Wars. This series is like any other with emotion, determination, jealousy and betrayal.

Star Wars: The Clone Wars brings the pack from the prequel trilogy. If you were a fan of episode 1, 2 and 3 then this is something to love. The Clone Wars is a television-animated series that takes place between episode 2 and 3, broken up into 6 seasons as a Netflix exclusive and it talks more in depth about the clone wars.

A lot of fans were struck by not being able to learn more about the clone wars so it was good that Lucas Film decided to get more into that universe. This new journey introduces the returning characters, Anakin Skywalker played by Matt Lanter, Obi-Wan Kenobi played by James Arnold, Padme Amidala played by



Star Wars: The Clone Wars is a Netflix animated series.

Photo credit: www.thestarwarstrilogy.com

Catherine Taber, and the newest character in the series Ahsoka Tano who is played by Ashley Eckstein.

The Future Darth Vader, Anakin Skywalker, crosses the galaxy with his master Obi-Wan Kenobi and continues to follow his master's footsteps to also becoming a Jedi Master himself, before he was denied that promotion but eventually proved himself to be a reliable Jedi Master.

Ahsoka Tano, a youngling who was ordered to be trained by Anakin Skywalker himself, is a bit on edge in tasks as a

new master, Anakin, went on to teach what it takes to become a Jedi.

With all of the good sides of Star Wars, there is always a bad side. The returning characters of the dark side are Count Dooku played by Corey Burton, Cade Bane, a bounty hunter also played by Corey Burton. Chancellor Palpatine also known as Darth Sidious played by Ian Abercrombie, and the newest dark Jedi, Asajj Ventress played by Nika Futterman.

Many more of the dark side and many more of the Jedi and

the Republic collide to find the answer to seek the end of the Clone Wars, and for Anakin to see what lies in his future in becoming Darth Vader. This new journey of the Clone Wars is the most anticipating series to the Star Wars franchise and it also gives a few remarks towards our daily lives and how to live positively.

To the loyal fans of Star Wars and the fans of the prequel era, the series will blow peoples' minds to what it will deliver. The final rating for Star Wars: The Clone Wars is a 9 out of 10. It has the

combination of action, love and a compelling story to what happened between episode 2: Attack of the Clones and episode 3: Revenge of the Sith. It gives you the full scoop on how Anakin Skywalker's slow transformation to his loyalty to the dark side and why he chose to go towards that route. The Star Wars series grows every minute. Join the fans of Star Wars and experience the ride across the universe.

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Artists talks takes new, different path for students

Ana Cedeno
Staff Writer

The artist talks has once again hit Broward College's North Campus, this time with a new interesting twist.

This series of artist talks are dubbed STEAM talks, and attempt to bring together the fine arts and the areas of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematic.)

"This series, I want it to be more interdisciplinary and be relevant to more than just the fine arts department," said professor Lisa Rockford.

An art professor at BC, Rockford put together the student series, with funding and help from Student Life. For the first talk of the series, Rockford invited Marissa Schlesinger to talk about Egypt and their history in stem fields and the arts.

"Ancient Egypt is something that I teach about in Art Appreciation class, but the topic will be more about the different fields that were used in ancient Egypt," said Rockford.

The talk was given by art historian, Marissa Schlesinger. Schlesinger is an Egyptologist and Director of Academic Affairs at Kingsborough Community College.

In Kingsborough, she taught

Art History from 2002-2010, and from 2010-2015 served as Associate Director and then Director of Academic Affairs and de facto Chief of Staff to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. She received her B.A. in the Art and Archaeology of the Near East from Smith College, her M.A. in Ancient Studies from the University of Toronto, and is a doctoral candidate in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto.

Schlesinger was approached by Rockford to give the first talk of the series.

"I knew Broward College already and I admired the college," she said.

During her talk, Schlesinger went over Egyptian culture and the fields in science and technology present in ancient Egypt. She also touched on the cultural aspect of Egypt, mentioning the legends of Sekmet, Osiris and Eros, as well as the roles they played in Egyptian culture. She also went over medical remedies that found their origins in Egyptian culture.

"I hope students who were aware of Egypt maybe deepen their knowledge and those who weren't I hope that they learned something interesting," said Schlesinger

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Broward College encourages students to incorporate art and the world into their lives. **Broward College**

when asked what she hoped students would take away from the lecture.

"I'm hoping that they can apply and think about how some of these ancient cultures have aspects of engineering, a lot of the things they invented that we still use today," said

Rockford.

"I think a lot of things in our culture can be traced back to Egypt."

There will be two more artist talks held in February and April, both of which will have to do with STEM's relation to the fine arts.

For more information on the artist talk, contact Rockford at lrockfor@broward.edu.

cedeab@mail.broward.edu

Expression of freedom through art inspires self-discovery

Mauricio Correa
North Buerau Chief

The arts must be kept alive if our society hopes to progress. It is imperative we understand its importance with newfound vigor.

Art expresses for a society what a poem expresses for the individual. It comprises the exchange of experience, the sharing of ideas, and the imparting of emotion.

The issues of our day are captured in pens and summarized in pages, spoken aloud and shared in conversation, plucked on strings and sung with a tenacity indicative of a willful spirit intent on slowing deforestation, promoting individuality, or decrying discrimination.

The Civil Rights movement, the Gender Equality movement, the Feminist movement have taken place in streets and in acrylic, in front of federal buildings and in front of camera lenses, in peaceful petitions and in impassioned words. The seeds of change reside within poetry and prose, dance and music.

Within these forms, the arts teach the individual about himself. Carl Jung wondered at the integrity of the self. Where in the mainstream is the individual found?



Wynwood Walls offer visitors the chance to experience raw art. Rlmiami.com

Art is part of that answer, for involvement in self-expression leads to self-discovery and understanding.

As art guides us inward, it also guides us outward to connect and share. Indian-born British artist Anish Kapoor designed "The Bean," a stainless steel sculpture in Chicago.

Hundreds gather around to take pictures and look into its reflective surface. I wonder how it would be to sit within The Bean and take in all those faces—some smiling, some inquisitive, but all drawn like warped moths to a silver flame in celebration of the day.

The art walks in Wynwood and in Fat Village are outdoor gatherings where people ingest both the greasy mess of food trucks and the splattered nourishment of human

creation.

Moreover, the arts are an intricate form of communication. When creating his expression, the artist communicates his nature and his perspective.

Meanwhile, you may realize the parts of your nature that react. Lyrics find nooks within your experience; stories find room in your imagination; sounds find the vein in your emotions.

Art communicates lives and emotions, ideas and struggles. We relate to songs, to paintings, to poetry. It is instinct to seek what gives us peace or pleasure, may it be the conclusion of Star Wars: Episode Seven, or the sound of an older Kanye, a sound that brings with it a nostalgic twang of times and people long past.

Certain forms of expression

even transcend race and cultural boundaries.

They ignore time and location. The parables of decades past remain true whenever a mother scolds her naïve child, and the fables of centuries past hint at timeless truths that apparently know no age and no death and no one culture.

The arts teach us of the world, though not always directly.

At times it's as though with seeking hands we grope about in the dark, tracing shapes with our palms and making the formless definite.

Involvement in the arts also leads to an understanding of our interconnectivity. Experiencing our own culture and developing our own thought is important for our self-actualization, and it is equally important to experience the cultures of others, to experience the thoughts of others, and to understand how an individual is simultaneously independent and interconnected, simultaneously singular and part of a whole.

With the arts, we are invited to indulge in another's imagination, another's interpretation, and with their creation water our minds so we may be aware and knowing.

It this array of experience which makes a diverse life

possible, and it must be treated with care, never to be neglected.

We must understand that the presence of multiple cultures, that the variance of thought and belief, that the world canvas we inhabit is a wonder to be celebrated and taken into warm regard.

The arts calls us to speak of it at its best, but at its worst it's the spread of symbols that wrinkle the nose but appeal to a certain crowd—a small success in itself.

People who promote self-expression and who invite creativity are a necessity.

Art that vocalizes the internal world of the self and that allows glimpses into perspective must be woven deep into the fabric of our lives. Events that celebrate the arts must be present in our schools and throughout our society.

There will always be people who support the arts, and there will always be homes for it.

What I say isn't new. It's what always has been, but what ought to be readdressed with unabashed conviction from time to time.

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BC graduates boast highest earnings in the state

Jennifer Beardslee
Radi
 Managing Editor

A study recently revealed that Broward College graduates earn more money than students who graduate from any other college in the state. This study, "Labor Market Experiences after Postsecondary Education," reported that the average first year earnings of associate in arts (A.A.) graduates, state wide, is \$27,452. A.A. graduates from BC boast a median first-year salary of \$28,000.

BC offers a range of different degree and certificate options, including an associate in science (A.S.) degree. Out of those graduates that earned an A.S. degree, 83 percent are employed. Not only are they employed, but they are earning on average nearly \$2,780 more a year than other A.S. degree holders.

Associate in applied science (AAS) degrees in business administration, to be specific, are not just higher than others but they are actually the highest in the state for average first-year earnings. Practically \$8,000 higher, at a median first-year salary of \$40,564 as compared to the state average

of only \$32,116.

There are many different factors that can affect someone's earnings. Typically students focus on their major and believe that it has a direct correlation to a successful career. There is more to it than

students who may graduate and end up on a career path that is a little different from what they were originally intending.

BC graduates may boast the highest earnings in the state, but sometimes it is soft skills

students can gain hands-on experience while earning college credit. Not to mention every BC faculty and staff member and professor I have encountered is more than willing to connect students with the resources they need

I have sought out to discover what the skills are that employers are looking for. A 2015 survey done by the Association of American Colleges and Universities found that "employers are concerned about new graduates having a range of skills in areas like communication and team work." The study also revealed that employers were less worried about their major than communication and team work skills. The survey was completed by asking both employers and college students a series of questions about career preparation. While employers and students may have agreed on the importance of staying current with technologies, students are thinking they are adequately prepared, while employers beg to differ. When it comes to vital areas such as oral communication, written communication, critical thinking and being creative.

BC is taking the initiative and studying these skill and trends when it comes to employment, but it is up to students to take advantage of the resources BC offers and to pay attention during their communication courses.

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Academic success can change someone's fate.

casc.byu.edu

that.

Graduating with a specific degree and feeling prepared for the workforce isn't always all a student needs for a high paying career. This isn't always the case but, there are many

that can make a difference to an employer. These skills can be strengthened through extracurricular activities and involvement in different organizations. BC offers an internship program in which

to be successful. It's about going out there and seeking the opportunity, talking to professors, networking with industry professionals and gaining the confidence to go on into the workforce.

Make the most out of Valentine's Day this year

Bella Riccitelli
 Editor-in-chief

Suddenly, we can't leave our houses without seeing red and pink. We can't enter any stores without walking down aisles that are filled with flowers, stuffed animals and candy.

Some dread this time of year while others are counting down the days.

Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching us.

Personally, I love Valentine's Day. I always have.

For as long as I can remember, my sister, mom and I would always wake up every morning of Feb. 14 to candy, balloons and flowers from my dad.

At such a young age, I was taught the true meaning of Valentine's Day: Showing those you love just how much you truly love them.

Now that I am an adult with a boyfriend, I am still lucky enough to be showered with love and affection.

Valentine's Day is often dreaded by most people for reasons I will never be able to understand.

Some might say, "Why should I show my love today, when I show it everyday?"

To those of you who agree with that sentence, you are wrong.

Valentine's Day does not have to be the best day of the year, but it certainly doesn't

have to be the worst, either.

There are countless activities to do on Valentine's Day, especially while living in South Florida.

We are lucky enough to be 15 minutes away from restaurants, the beach and tourist attractions.

Take your loved one to a special place this year to show them you care.

Considering the fact that we are all college students, expensive dates this Valentine's Day aren't exactly at the top of anyone's list. Lucky for us, expensive dates can easily be avoided.

You can pack a lunch or even a dinner, in a picnic basket and eat it by the water on the beach. Nothing says "romance" quite like the salty air and crashing waves.

Another option is going for a movie day. Publix sells bags of popcorn separately and when you're checking out, be sure to stop by the RedBox to pick up some movies.

Some people are simple and don't need much in order to feel lucky and loved.

If the person you're spending this Valentine's Day with is one of those people, then don't panic.

I personally believe that one of the most romantic (and simplest) things someone can do for you is write down how they feel for you inside of a card.



Valentine's Day doesn't have to be the most expensive day of the year.

eddebevics.com

On the way home from work, you can stop by a drugstore to pick up the best card possible. Then, just write a few sentences that come straight from your heart.

Even if you aren't seeing anyone special, go somewhere nice and fun with a friend.

A good way to see what you can do this year is to Google it. It's that simple.

Couples are known to flock the streets and flood any public place on this specific day, so if you are in a relationship, be sure to make reservations anywhere that you might have in mind.

In contrast, if you happen to be single this year on Valentine's Day and you don't want to spend it in love with anyone, there are still many options for you.

Apparently, if you bring a photo of your ex to Hooters and shred it, you'll get free wings.

Of course, I wouldn't suggest that if you're going on a date with your current loved one, but if you are single and hate Valentine's Day, you probably have a reason that is related to a previous relationship.

And who doesn't love wings? Another activity to do this

year is to treat yourself.

That's right: Be your own valentine.

To avoid having to see couples on the day of love, you can always order to-go and enjoy your takeout food in the comfort of your own home.

Honestly, that almost sounds just as good as a date.

This year can be the best Valentine's Day you've had yet.

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Don't be afraid of relationships, falling in love

**Sofia
shares**



Sofia Gangotena
Central Bureau Chief

Until recently, I was afraid of relationships.

I was petrified of putting my trust in someone and just crossing my fingers that they won't betray it.

Perhaps it has something to do with my fear of not being in control, of not knowing what to expect.

Perhaps it has something to do with the growing divorce rate. I come from two parents who have been married for a really long time.

Still, I paid more attention to the failed relationships around me.

I was losing confidence in myself to be able to make good decisions in my future relationships.

A few days ago, I confided in my friend about my fears.

It was after I finished watching "The Last Five Years," a movie that follows Jamie and Cathy's relationship for the past five years, ending with their divorce.

As far as quality goes, the movie was horrible.

However, I couldn't help but allow the ending contribute to my relationship fears.

Jamie breaks up with Cathy

after cheating on her with many women and deciding that their relationship wasn't worth working for anymore.

After watching that movie, it made me pessimistic and angry.

How dare Jamie betray Cathy's trust?

How dare he just decide to give up on five years?

So, I told my friend everything I was thinking. I told her that I was afraid of relationships because trusting someone and crossing my fingers that they would be honest with me and love me made me nervous.

In response, she told me something that will stick me for a really long time, probably forever.

Sometimes, people think love is a feeling, but it's actually a decision.

You have to make the conscious decision to love someone the way they deserve to be loved.

You wake up every day and love that person, no matter what.

You might be angry with them sometimes, but it shouldn't make you fall out of love with them.

If it does, then that relationship isn't for you.

If that happens, that's okay. Sometimes, relationships don't work out.

It shouldn't make you fear relationships.

If you fall off your bike, should you not get back on instead of avoiding it for the rest of your life?

Since that moment, I've made a lot of realizations.

Just like you decide to love someone the way they deserve, you deserve to be loved the way you deserve as well.

Yes, relationships require trusting the other person, but you also have to trust yourself.

You have to trust that you



Letting love into your heart is a decision to make.

higherheartliving.com

will make the right decisions for you.

I've learned that I might make mistakes with some relationships.

But I'll learn from them.

Everyone shows love differently.

You might show love a different way than your partner, but that doesn't mean they don't love you.

Unfortunately, human beings can't read minds yet.

There might come a time when you'll know exactly what your partner is thinking, but that's not going to happen

anytime soon.

So, as much as I don't want to admit it, you have to put your trust in your partner. Realistically, not every relationship is going to end like "The Notebook".

Sometimes, it's going to end like "The Last Five Years".

It has taken me a while, but I've come to accept that.

While it may not be easy, love is worth working for. You just need to have a little faith.

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The Broward College

OBSERVER

Student Newspaper

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