

THE OBSERVER

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BC celebrates Fall 2020 graduates via Virtual Commencement Ceremony

Arianna Allen

Editor in Chief

Broward College held the Fall 2020 virtual commencement ceremony on Saturday Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. via YouTube live to celebrate this semester's graduating students.

Broward College President, Gregory Haile, opened by addressing the students with "Graduates, commencement is an exciting time when we celebrate your years of hard work."

The virtual event was a way to ensure the safety of the students, spectators, faculty, and staff during the unprecedented time of COVID-19 while also celebrating the accomplishments of the 2020 fall graduates.

In an interview with Carlos Parra, Distinct Director of Student Engagement, he discussed The Winter 2020 graduation resembling a similar format to the Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony as the efforts of the graduation team sought out available resources to make the virtual process as personalized

as possible while recognizing the hard-working achievements of the students.

The virtual format of the commencement ceremony did not lack any celebration or recognition of the graduate's accomplishments, as the virtual format was conducted in a formal order of events, including a personalized slide for each graduate, said Parra.

The personalized slide for each graduate included their name, degree-type and a picture of themselves.

"...This is our second commencement ceremony in 2020. And while we miss our traditional motive celebration, we are excited to celebrate your success in this virtual format," Pres. Haile said during the Commencement Ceremony.

Prior to the graduation, the College held a socially distanced, masked, and RSVP only "Grad Fest event" for students to take a professional head shot picture with their cap and gown that could have been used in their power point slide, Parra said.

He said that "just under 370" students participated in the Grad Fest event.

"... it gave students that opportunity to get that photo of themselves in the cap and gown..." Parra said.

During the Commencement Ceremony, Pres. Haile reflected on the previous in-person graduations pre-COVID by stating, "What I miss most about being in-person is the opportunity to celebrate our diversity. Twice per year, commencement allows us to look out at the thousands of students, employees, and family members who make this college and our community beautiful, unique, and strong. We personify the coexistence of diversity and unity," he said.

He went on to say, "Our 63,000 students and close to 5,000 full-time and part-time faculty and staff together represent more than 150 countries and speak more than 50 languages. Together each of you contributes to the innovative, cultural, and academic experiences that we offer."

"Because of you and others who have gone before you, Broward College has for 60 years been recognized both locally and nationally as an institution which offers high quality programs, focused on the success of all of our students."

According to news.broward.edu, it breaks down the 5,000 students eligible for graduation based upon degree specification.

- 3,913 Associate of Arts graduates
- 7 Associate of Applied Science graduates
- 833 Associate of Science graduates
- 132 Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates
- 328 Bachelor of Applied Science graduates

The graduates and their families had the opportunity to hear from, Erika Noel, A. Hughes Adams Campus Student Government President. The graduates and families also had the privilege of hearing from Commencement guest speaker, Thasunda Brown Duckett, the CEO of Chase



Photo Courtesy of @BrowardCollege via Instagram

Consumer Banking who shared an inspiring message to help motivate the graduates in this next season of their lives. While including the National Anthem performed on the piano by Dr. Jure Rozman, Associate Professor of Music.

If you did not have the opportunity to watch the graduation live, you can access the recording through bcfallgrad2020.com

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Tools and resources to help new and returning students

Ryan Marin

Staff Writer

While many students may attend Broward College, many of them may not know of the vast resources that the college provides to help students. From your professional life to your personal life, these tools can help and benefit you. Due to Covid-19, most of, if not all these services are provided remotely.

You can schedule advising appointments with your academic advisor in BC Navigate, which is located on the myBC app when you log into the Broward College website. Your advisor is based on your current major, and if you are new to Broward College, you will receive an advisor after the New Student Orientation.

Advisors help with selecting classes, deciding your major, planning your next move after you graduate and/or transferring from Broward College, and more. The school also provides financial aid advisors to help you with any struggles you may be having with FAFSA. You can access this by going to myBC and clicking ad-

vising appointments under the advising tab at the top of the screen. Then you are moved to a new screen where you will click the three lines on the left side of your screen, click appointments, and schedule an appointment.

The Academic Success Center is a place where students are provided certified tutors that work in both group and one-on-one environments. Tutors provide help in science, math, writing and more. All of this is provided to you at no extra cost. Simply create an account, pick which campus you are on, the subject you need help with and a time a tutor works for you. It is an incredible resource and should be used by every Broward College student. You can access the center by clicking the tab on the link in your myBC homepage.

Student Outreach Services, known as SOS, provides students with resources and helps with issues students may face such as food and housing insecurities, stress/mental health challenges and financial obstacles.



Photo Courtesy of gradereports.com

They have programs to help students in need such as the food and essentials distribution program to provide food and hygiene to students in need and a webcam and laptop loaning program.

The college also provides mental health services to students in need, as you can receive 6 free sessions with a therapist, 4 free sessions with a psychiatrist and additional sessions can be arranged on a payment sliding scale. You can apply for these different programs at this link: <https://students.broward.edu/resources/seahawk-outreach/index.html>

Broward College also provides access to health and wellness services for students

in need. The college has fitness centers where they provide access to a variety of cardio machines and strength training machines and equipment. Students can work out at any of the fitness centers located on different campuses for free when the colleges re-opens.

The college also has a vision clinic and a dental clinic where students can have routine checkups that are affordable.

For more information on these resources, go to the resources tab on BC navigate and scroll down to the health and wellness page.

The college also has other programs such as a work study program, internship program,

student life, career services, and more. It is impossible to list every resource, so if you want more information go to the resource tab on the Broward College website. These resources can help in a multitude of different ways, and hopefully students take advantage of these various programs.

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Keep up with BC: what’s going on around campus?



EVENT KEY:

CONNECT

DEVELOP

SOAR

TYPE	PROGRAM	DATE	TIME
	Student ID Pickup at South Campus	January 5th-8th	9am-4pm
	Safe Return to Campus Kickoff	January 6th	10am
	Weeks of Welcome: Instagram Live	January 11th	12pm
	Student ID Pickup at Central Campus	January 12th-15th	9am-4pm
	Central Campus Virtual Tour	January 12th	12pm
	North Campus Virtual Tour	January 13th	12pm
	MLK Day Celebration	January 14th	11am
	South Campus Virtual Tour	January 14th	12pm
	Student ID Pickup at North Campus	January 19th-22nd	9am-4pm
	Welcome Back: Meet Your Student Services Lifelines	January 19th	12pm
	Welcome Back: Meet Your Student Services Lifelines	January 19th	5pm
	Welcome Back: Meet Your Academic Affairs Lifelines	January 20th	12pm
	Welcome Back: Meet Your Academic Affairs Lifelines	January 20th	5pm
	Welcome Back: Meet Your Community Partners	January 21st	12pm
	Welcome Back: Meet Your Community Partners	January 21st	5pm
	Club Rush: Central Campus	January 26th	12pm
	Club Rush: North Campus	January 26th	12pm
	Club Rush: South Campus and Partnership Centers	January 26th	12pm
	Club Rush: Central Campus	January 27th	12pm
	Club Rush: North Campus	January 27th	12pm
	Club Rush: South Campus and Partnership Centers	January 27th	12pm
	Ignite Your Passion	January 28th	12pm



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Mariana Vejar, a student with a passion for education

Camellia Baki

News Editor

Mariana Vejar is who anyone would describe as the quintessential American college student. She has just turned twenty, is studying full-time, and has big plans for her future. However, there is something that makes Vejar distinct from her peers.

“My mother is very independent and strong, like a boss, while my father is like a philosopher,” said Vejar, the youngest child of two Venezuelan immigrants. She is the first person in her family to be born in the United States. Over 18 million people in the U.S. have at least one foreign-born parent, which is a phenomenon that is integral to the cultural fabric of this country and its citizens.

Regardless of the decades-long civil unrest within Venezuela, Mariana’s father persisted with his education. “Obviously it is harder in Venezuela to get an education, but my dad graduated with a law degree and became a lawyer.”

Vejar has mirrored her father’s passion for education, as she has enjoyed the depth of her college classes thus far and is planning to attend



Vejar, left, with her family.

Photo courtesy of Vejar.

the University of Central Florida to study marketing following her BC graduation this semester.

In reflection of her achievements, Vejar said, “I am most proud of how I have handled school. I have never failed a class and am an A and B student. I think education is my biggest accomplishment because I’ve really focused on that.”

The trend of academically high-achieving second-generation immigrant children in the United States is not

new. Research from John Hopkins University found that children of immigrants tend to outperform their American peers significantly, with second-generation immigrants making up 60 percent of the growth in university enrollment since 2000.

Although Mariana inherited certain values and habits from her parents, being raised in the United States has also caused cultural clashes, regarding her family’s traditional religious be-

liefs and her own political beliefs. “I am Catholic, but I am a die-hard Democrat. I am pro-choice and I try not to bring my faith into politics.”

This conflict of ideology and cultural identity is very evident within second-generation immigrant children. “Some of my morals are different from my parents. Obviously, growing up they taught me what they were taught was right,” Vejar reflected. “For example, crime is pretty intense in Venezue-

la so when I would stay out late it would be a big deal for them because of that fear, even though America is much safer.”

The cultural identity crisis that many second-generation immigrant children face calls into question the long-term impacts of being torn between conflicting cultures.

“Maybe I would change the way that my parents chose everything for me,” said Vejar. “I feel like I’ve never known what to do.” This speaks to the protective nature of immigrant parents, as many left their home countries to ensure their children have a successful future.

However, on the lessons she has learned from her parents, Vejar concludes, “I have learned to be extremely independent and hardworking because things will not be handed to you.” Thus, Vejar exemplifies not only the cultural conflicts that many second-generation immigrants may face but also the way that many leave their cultural legacies in the U.S., by imparting the best of both worlds.

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The Writing Center and how it can help you succeed

Kacie Doran

Copy Editor

Drafting a college paper, getting it reviewed, proofread and submitted by the deadline can be a challenge, especially with remote learning. As a result, many Broward College students have been taking refuge in The Writing Center. The Writing Center (TWC), a staple department in the Academic Success Center, is covered by tuition expenses that BC students at every campus have access to at no additional charge.

With ongoing remote safety measures in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, TWC is available remotely, with tutors offering one-on-one zoom sessions. With virtual accessibility now being an option, more students are using The Writing Center than when it was offered in-person.

For the first two weeks of December, the writing tutors at Central Campus alone had about 160 appointments, an average of 80 sessions per week.

Twenty-four-year-old BC Freshman Alimah, was nervous when writing her first college paper. “Collegiate composi-

tion is very challenging and thought-provoking, especially when increasing your composition level.”

However, she found a sanctuary with her favorite tutors at the TWC. Alimah loves that she got to work with a variety of tutors before finding her favorite. She likes being able to have one-on-one zoom sessions to ask questions and get feedback while her papers are being reviewed and proofread.

Michelle Almonte, Writing Center Coordinator, claims that students who use TWC regularly see significant improvement in their writing.

The process is pretty straightforward. A student makes an account on WCO and chooses a day and time that works for them from a list of available tutors. There are two options given, an online session or a paper submission appointment.

The benefits of an online session are that students are able to have a conversation about their paper and ask questions, receive feedback and depending on the tutor, make on-the-spot collaborative revisions.

With a paper submission, they upload their paper and re-



A tutor in the writing center.

Photo courtesy of BC

ceive feedback and corrections concerning what they need to revise on their own. The benefit of the paper submission is that with TWC, it’s got a much faster turnaround time than other proofreading services.

Unlike other online editors, students can always make a live follow up appointment with the tutor who reviewed it. Almonte says that it’s not only students who struggle with writing who come to the TWC lab, but also advanced writers who want a second pair of eyes on their work before they submit it.

“My tutor has helped me a lot with tone. I’ve been especially helped when it came to narra-

tive writing. I wasn’t sure about the in-depth detail required. My tutor asked detailed questions about what I experienced to help illustrate the details of my memories. I feel like I am more of a descriptive and critical writer now because of my tutor. Getting the perspective of a writing tutor with a comprehensive knowledge of collegiate composition who gives solid advisement helped me write in correlation to my professor’s specifications. It has helped me notice errors in my writing that I didn’t even know were there. Receiving perspective from a tutor like mine has helped me critically think on how to write

an assignment and carefully use each word that I choose to incorporate in my assignments,” said Alimah, a BC freshman.

The surge in the student use of academic services like The Writing Center isn’t expected to slow down. Technology has paved the way for a higher quality one-on-one experience between student and tutor through a virtual setting. The longer we stay in remote learning, the more fine-tuned these programs and services are becoming and thus, their usefulness to the BC student body continues to climb.

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Club Rush, come discover new organizations and meet new people

Evana Brenelus
Staff Writer

Club Rush is an event that has been hosted across all colleges and universities in the United States for many years. It usually occurs during weeks of welcome at the start of a school year.

Club Rush, which will take place on Jan. 26 and 27 at 12 p.m., serves as a way for schools to connect with their students by showing them the different clubs and organizations available to them, said Student Life Director Stephanie Repaci.

She has been working as the Student Life director for three years and has been working in Student Life for seven years at Broward College Central Campus.

To summarize whether she believed Club Rush has been effective, Repaci used one word: “absolutely.” She describes the event as a ‘marquee program,’ which students look forward to because it is bound to happen.

When COVID-19 began to spread in the United States, many schools became virtual, but going virtual did not seem to affect the Club Rush events.

“We still have seen a great turnout across all campuses,” said Repaci. Students have not lost interest in wanting to become mem-

bers of new clubs and organizations despite everything happening remotely.

When asked what a student should expect during Broward College’s upcoming Club Rush, Repaci explained that it would occur virtually at the moment. Students should also expect to get the opportunity to meet current members and officers of the different organizations that plan on being active during the spring semester.

“They’ll be able to join breakout sessions to learn about the purpose and vision of the different organizations and see if it is the one for them,” she said.

Although Repaci does not have any specific interesting Club Rush stories, she found the interest level during the remote period quite interesting.

“To me, honestly, I think the thing that is the most interesting right now for Club Rush is that there hasn’t been a decline in interest, even though everything is happening remotely.”

She believes Club Rush is one of the best ways students can still form connections outside of the classroom.

As a college student, Repaci did participate in Club Rush and found it to be very beneficial.

“It helps early on in a col-



Photo of inTech Club

Photo Courtesy of csit.broward.edu

lege student’s journey,” she said. “It’s not just the community piece and the connectivity piece, it’s the exposure piece.”

She believes exposure to different initiatives and being able to give back to one’s community is a positive to being part of a club.

The volunteer work can help with creating an impact for the community, as well as self-development.

It also helps create better leaders, teaches one how to communicate professionally and one gets to learn team dynamics.

Repaci always looks forward to seeing highly engaged clubs participate in Club Rush. Highly engaged

refers to the clubs that hold meetings regularly, look for opportunities to host meetings for the students and constantly give back to the community.

Repaci has advice for the students looking to become a member of a student organization or club.

“I know for a lot of students, there is a hesitation for being part of clubs/organizations because of the fear of having to balance school, work etc. alongside extra-curricular involvement,” she said. “I want to reassure the students that the schools have so many different opportunities in these clubs and resources so they can balance being involved in a

club. By being in a club, it is a network of support.”

She highly encourages students to join at least one club or organization during their time at Broward College.

If you are a current Broward College student looking for a new club or organization to join, keep a look out for the upcoming Club Rush.

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Spring Term sees many returning to campus; How do our professors feel?

Gabriella Small
Layout Editor

With Spring Term starting, many worries have spawned in the minds of students and their families. One common concern I’ve heard among students is “how will returning to campus affect my family and me?”

Others have doubts about continuing their education at all due to the need of completing in-person lab classes to progress in their degree. Although there are many concerns that have been raised, one concern that hasn’t been realized is: How do our professors feel about returning to campus? I have gotten into contact with three professors at BC, Professor Stephen Muniz (Speech Professor), Professor Karen Hoban (Medical Professor) and Professor Susan Martin (Dental Professor), to gain some insight.

To start off, I asked them how the pandemic affected them as professors. Hoban and Muniz reported that being thrust into a Remote Learning environment has benefitted their creative thoughts for teaching. Hoban



Broward College Central Campus

Photo Courtesy of Mobilize.us

said that “[Teaching] has been a lot more work, but the payoff is the success of the students,” showing that although the situation has inconvenienced many professors, countless helpful ideas came from the sudden need to improvise.

When asked the main question, “Do you have any worries about returning on campus?”, Hoban and Muniz answered with a resounding “no.” Hoban even stated that, “I would have all my classes return in person if we had enough space to distance our-

selves socially.” They have full confidence in the safety measures at BC.

This wasn’t an idea shared among all three, though. While Martin does feel less worried with all the precautions put in place, she stated, “Deep down, I still worry about bringing home COVID-19 to my family.”

I then asked them what measures they would take to ensure the safety of their students and themselves. Muniz responded with, “I will be sure to make every effort to follow CDC, State,

County and College guidelines.”

Furthermore, Martin, who taught classes on campus during the fall term, said that she and her students completed COVID-19 questionnaires and took temperatures daily. There are countless amounts of measures being put into place to ensure everyone’s safety.

Finally, I asked professors if they thought things will ever return “back to the way they used to be.” Hoban responded with a thought provoking, “Things will never ‘go back to the way they

used to be’; however, there will be a ‘new normal.’”

Martin added, “The impact of COVID-19 has created innovative ways to deliver courses -- Information we thought had to be delivered F2F (face-to-face) can be simulated online.” Of course, we’ll never go back to our old routines, but we’ll still be able to walk along our paths to success.

Although the pandemic situation is quite depressing, it has possibly changed the learning landscape forever. We now have more control over where we want to learn and when we want to do it. You can also feel safe knowing that your choice to learn will not be detrimental to your health. The professors here at BC are working their hardest to make sure that every student will remain healthy and safe. Hopefully, we can all succeed and reach new heights of excellence during our “new normal.”

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Black Lives Matter: From 2013 to Now

Camellia Baki
News Editor

In June of 2020, it took eight minutes to reignite a movement that would cause millions of Americans to take to the streets, demanding change. The man at the center of it all, George Floyd, had his death caught on film after his neck was knelt on by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for eight minutes.

Over eight months later, many activists feel as if there has been no justice for George Floyd and many other victims of police brutality.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) was created in 2013 by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi following the acquittal of George Zimmerman, who murdered 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012.

The movement forced the public to come face-to-face with the forgotten victims of racial and police brutality, including that of Eric Garner, Michael Brown and Philando Castile.

"You just killed my boyfriend," uttered Diamond Reynolds, after Officer Jeronimo Yanez shot Philando Castile five times, while her four-year-old daughter watched in the back of the car. Reynolds live streamed the event to Facebook, allowing the haunting last moments of Castile's life to be broadcast around the



People march after death of George Floyd in Washington D.C.
Photo courtesy of PBS.org

world.

Some of these high-profile cases even involved children, such as that of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was executed in a park for playing with a toy gun. The two officers responsible have faced no criminal repercussions, with the Justice Department recently deciding they will not pursue criminal charges. This case is reminiscent of the lynching of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old child executed in 1955 by two white men who were later acquitted.

Over five years after the deaths of Castile and Rice, it appears police brutality has not slowed. In 2020 alone, over 1116 people were killed by police, with over 28 percent being black. The World Population Review finds that

U.S. police disproportionately kill more civilians than any other comparable developed country.

"It's, again, a reminder that police officers can't continue to be judge, jury and executioner," said Minnesotan representative Ilhan Omar. Last year saw public approval of BLM rise to over 67 percent, according to Pew Research Center. These numbers are reflected in turnout at events, as recent BLM demonstrations have been some of the largest organized protests in U.S. history. Civis Analytics estimates that between 15 million and 26 million people participated in protests across the country.

Along with Floyd's murder, protests have focused on other

high-profile cases such as that of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. Opposers to the movement have tried to cast a shadow by highlighting the supposed widespread violence of protestors. However, 93 percent of the protests have been reported to be peaceful, according to the US Crisis Monitor, with many violent encounters being incited by the police. Forensic Architecture has been collecting and studying thousands of incidents of police brutality at BLM protests.

Since June, fewer people have been taking to the streets, but the movement is not dead. Protests have brought about many municipal and national changes. Cities like Los Angeles are reallocating millions in funding from their police department to other areas that directly benefit citizens.

There have also been laws put in place that limit police brutalization and unnecessary force, such as the restriction of chokeholds and Breonna's Law, banning forms of "no-knock" warrants.

Many have called for the institution of reforms that mirror other successful criminal justice systems around the world.

Nordic countries have smaller police forces with less allocated funding, yet they still have some of the lowest crime rates in the world.

The U.S.'s murder rate more

than triples that of these nations. Crimes are also solved more, as murder in Sweden will result in an arrest 83 percent of the time, while in the U.S. that number is only 62 percent. These countries attribute their low crime rates and police success to expanded access to education and generous welfare programs that decrease inequality across the board.

Many are determined to keep fighting until there is wholesale criminal justice reform, with many BLM activists bringing light to the systemic issues in place that were highlighted in the recent execution of Brandon Bernard, that sees that black offenders are more likely to be given harsher sentences than their white counterparts.

Until true justice and equality are achieved within the U.S. criminal justice system, it appears Black Lives Matter will not be going anywhere anytime soon.

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What's your New Year's Resolutions this year?

Sarah Leyva
Features Editor

Every year most of us always have our own New Year's resolutions, although a majority of us don't end up finishing them we still set them every year. After talking to some peers here at Broward College I was able to ask them what their New Year's resolutions are and what they are going to do to make sure they accomplish those goals.

After asking, Sarah Hansen, a student at Broward College, what her New Year's resolution was she told me the following, "This year I really want to start going to the gym and not just getting fit, but starting to eat healthier as well."

This is one of the most common New Year's Resolutions, and also one of the hardest to stick to because of the dedication it takes to really work out consistently. I asked Sarah what she was going to do to make sure she stays on track with this goal for herself this upcoming year and she said, "I've tried to start working out in the past but I never stick to



List of some of the most popular New Years resolutions.

Photo Courtesy of Stevetoback.com
theconversation.com, Loudonchamber.org

it because I get so busy with school, but this year I'm going to start working out with my friend to keep me accountable to make sure that we are both on track and setting a schedule so that I can work it around my classes and hers as well."

Another New Year's resolution from Camilla Guzman was, "To stay consistent and focus on my mental health."

In a year with so much hectic noise around us it is so important to keep our mental health in check.

I asked her how she was going to make sure she would accomplish this goal and she said, "I want to start going to counseling and making sure that I am keeping calm in this period of a lot of uncertainty."

"I want to get all of my

classes done on time, and manage my time better with virtual learning," Chase Cone told me that was his goal this New Year.

For many of us getting our classes scheduled can be very stressful especially when we are stressing out about graduating on time, but the best thing we can do is meet with an advisor and coordinate our classes

to make sure we are taking the right ones and not taking more than we have to.

I asked Cone what he was going to do to make sure he managed his time better with virtual learning and he said, "I want to organize a schedule to do my assignments because it's so easy to get side tracked when you aren't actually going to school, so I want to make sure I get everything done on time and not wait till the last minute."

These are some of the resolutions we can have for ourselves too but most importantly, it's making sure we follow through with them to be able to look back at the end of the year and see how far we have come.

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National College Football Championship to take place on Jan.11th: Ohio vs. Alabama

Arianna Allen
Editor in Chief

The Ohio State Buckeyes will face off against the University of Alabama Crimson Tide in a battle of the offenses at the College National Football Championship on Jan. 11 in Miami Gardens at Hard Rock Stadium.

The Buckeyes and the Crimson Tide are both two offensive minded teams with expectancy that this will be a high scoring game filled with pressure on the defense for key stops.

Senior quarterback, Justin Fields, leads the Buckeyes offense with 1,906 passing yards, while senior running back, Trey Sermon, leads the rushing yards with 868 yards according to espn.com.

Fields is also a former 2019 Heisman Finalist, as well as a 2020 top 10 Heisman finisher, according to heisman.com.

Ohio State has been ruled the underdogs of the College Football Playoffs, with many individuals questioning the legitimacy of this team, playing only six regular season games. However, they are no stranger to adversity.

Prior to the College Football Semi-final, Head Coach Ryan Day said to the College Gameday hosts “... One night we have to all come together and execute at a high, high level...”, discussing the challenges and disruptions that COVID-19 related issues have presented this

season.

Day went on to discuss the importance of each player knowing their role, and executing while on the field for their teammates.

While preparing for Clemson, Day talked about the importance of the defensive lineman performing well.

“...You have to control the line of scrimmage, you have to get pressure, you know, on the quarterback...” Day said. He went onto state the “veteran linebackers” would help lead this defense with their experience.

With Ohio State making a statement against the number two team in the country, the Clemson Tigers, one question remains.

Will Ohio State be able to keep

up with Alabama’s passing game to Heisman Finalist DeVonta Smith while containing the running game to defeat the Crimson Tide?

Alabama football is known for powerful offenses, coached by arguably the best college football coach, Nick Saban. The number one ranked team in the country is led by quarterback Mac Jones who sat behind current NFL starters, Tua Tagovailoa and Jalen Hurts.

The Tide are known for having a fast-paced offense that is explosive on the run and dynamic in their passing routes having two offensive weapons in Wide Receiver DeVonta Smith—who has 20 touchdowns, and Running back Najee Harris—who has 24 touchdowns, according to espn.com.

After the Rose Bowl win over the number fourth ranked team, Notre Dame, Jones stated, “...take what the defense gives you, and obviously we have the best offensive line, so we have plenty of time to take shots down field, and then plenty of time to hit the quick game stuff to our receivers, tight ends, and running backs...”

According to heisman.com, the offense has three of the top ten Heisman finishers in Jones, Smith and Harris.

When asked in a post game interview about what it means to be the Offensive Player of the Game, Rose Bowl Champs and headed to the National Championship, Smith said, “it means a lot but we (are) not done yet.”

According to rolltide.com, they average 48.17 points per game and allow an average of 19 points per game.

With Defensive-minded coach, Saban, there is no question that Alabama’s defense will step- up against a dynamic offense.

As of right now, according to ESPN’s Football Power Index, the Crimson Tide have a 61.5 percent chance of winning the National Championship. However, do not count out the Buckeyes as their eyes look hungry as they can taste victory on the tip of their tongues.

There is no doubt that Hard Rock stadium will be rocking even with limited capacity on Jan. 11 as the battle for the National College Football Championship continues.



Photo Courtesy of @CFBPlayoff via Twitter



Photo Courtesy of @sugarbowlnola via Twitter



Photo Courtesy of @CFBPlayoff via Twitter



Photo Courtesy of @CFBPlayoff via Twitter



Photo Courtesy of @CFBPlayoff via Twitter



Photo Courtesy of @rosebowlgame via Twitter



Photo Courtesy of @CFBPlayoff via Twitter

Disney's "Soul" movie review

Sarah Leyva

Features Editor

Disney's Pixar Studios released their latest film, "Soul," on Christmas Day, giving everyone something to watch during the holidays. This was definitely not your average children's movie, with a much heavier storyline with the concept of the before and after life. Jamie Foxx plays the protagonist in this new Pixar film, playing the role of an aspiring yet to be, jazz musician, "Joe," who finally gets his dream gig that he had been waiting his whole life for. Until he is faced with the biggest inconvenience, death itself.

Joe ends up in a place where souls leave and come from and has his mind set on going back to Earth to make it to that gig. When Joe is in what they call, "The Great Beyond," he is assigned to a new soul to be her mentor, who just happens to not want to go to Earth and he has to help her find her spark in order to get a ticket to Earth for himself.



Disney's latest Pixar film comes to Disney Plus on December 25

Photo Courtesy of popsugar.com

They end up getting help from a mystic group who gets them back to Earth, but when they finally find their way back to Earth, Joe gets stuck in the body of a cat and the new soul is in his body.

I was very intrigued by the idea of finding our purpose and seeing that played out in the character of the new soul who also goes by "22." I thought it was so interesting watching Joe finally get his big break and to think that it wasn't everything he thought it would be.

He finally realized the

difference between what it meant to have a spark and a purpose, he thought his whole life that playing the piano was his purpose but didn't realize how obsessed he became with this one gig that he made "22" feel like she had no purpose on Earth.

The idea of a soul having a spark is something that interests them, not that they can only do one thing in their life. I feel that this is so relevant now more than ever especially as college students, sometimes it's so easy to feel like we are so young to decide

what we are going to do for the rest of our lives and to have that pressure on us can be stressful.

Joe really developed a passion for music but when it took over he became selfish and told 22 she had no purpose, she then became obsessed with this idea that she had no purpose and it isolated her from the people around her and it became an obsession and an anxiety disorder that made her turn into a lost soul.

People with these lost souls are depicted as these sluggish

monsters that mope around until they are shaken back to reality when they realize the state they are in. For so many people an addiction can be the reason why they isolate themselves from other people and even at a young age I feel like we can feel the pressure to feel like we have to be obsessed to look like that celebrity or be like that athlete and we become so obsessed with this idea we forget to live for ourselves.

I really think this movie gave a nudge to many of us to take a deeper look at ourselves and to look around us and see if we are happy where we are right now to truly feel like if we were to die tomorrow we wouldn't regret the life we are living today.

If you haven't already seen it, it is definitely worth the watch and quite the conversation starter.

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Law & Order: SVU and COVID-19

Evana Brenelus

Staff Writer

When the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by a whirl, everyone had to adapt to the future ahead, including the entertainment businesses.

Television shows, more specifically Law & Order: SVU, have started off their new seasons incorporating the pandemic.

In Season 22 of Law & Order: SVU, not only is the New York Police Department (NYPD) working on regaining trust from the public due to racial tensions and police brutality, but they are following the COVID-19 policies while trying to carry out justice.

Season 22's first episode, titled 'I'm not one of Those Karens,' aired on Nov. 12,

2020. The scene opens with a Black man getting harassed by a 'Karen,' while exercising in Central Park; she then ends up calling the police on him.

A similar real-life event to the fictional episode took place earlier this year in June when Amy Cooper, a white woman, called the NYPD on an innocent Black man, Christian Cooper. Christian posted a video of the incident and it had gone viral on social media which brought attention to him being racially targeted.

In contrast to the real life event, Olivia Benson and the rest of the SVU squad were called to investigate a rape that occurred in the park. When the police show up, a few of them are wearing a facial covering mask. As



Mask wearing is now being implemented in tv shows such as Law and Order.

Photo Courtesy of Cinema Blend

a crowd gathers around the scene, they are asked to keep a safe distance.

During later episodes, when potential suspects are being interrogated, the detectives are seen wearing masks, giving masks to those that do not have one in their possession or creating at least a six feet distance between them. Some episodes also discuss the concerns characters had for the corona virus.

In the third episode, titled 'Remember me in Quarantine,' an Italian foreign exchange student had gone missing and on the search for her, people

were telling the detectives how she mostly stayed in her room because she was afraid to catch the virus or end up like her father, who had already caught the virus because of how bad things were in Italy.

Olivia Benson also tells Sergeant Finn "Hey, mask up" as he goes out to pursue a lead on a case. Instead of handing him a piece of paper with the address, she goes "I'll text you the address."

Law & Order: SVU and many other shows have been showing how different the world is now that COVID-19 is here. Maybe seeing how real the

pandemic is on television could possibly have an effect on the audience and show them more ways to be cautious.

This is just the beginning of COVID-19 affecting more than just one's daily life.

If you would like to check out a few episodes, Law & Order: SVU is available on a variety of streaming apps such as Hulu, NBC, Peacock, YouTube and many more.

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Masks being worn on set of Law and Order, Special Victims Unit.

Photo Courtesy of Ny1.com

2020- 2021 NBA Season: Miami Heat Take

Arianna Allen
Editor in Chief

The Heat are on the quest to find their rhythm as a team after having a slow start to the 2020-2021 NBA season, having a 2-3 record thus far.

On opening night, fans witnessed a six-point loss to the Magic. The Heat then went on to give fans the Christmas gift of a dub on Dec. 25, defeating the Pelicans 11-98. Then split the following two games with the Milwaukee Bucks at the American Airlines Arena. Shortly after they traveled to Dallas, losing by 10 points to the Mavericks in a game where they only led by two points the entire game.

While the Heat’s 2019-2020 season finals appearance set the standard high for Miami Heat basketball, there are a few things that need to be fine-tuned, starting with the offense.

When asked about the slow offensive start in a press conference, Spoelstra said, “... Yeah I am not going to grade it, (Anthony), it is so early. You know what we did today? We worked on it. It’s going to get better; we know it will...”

The thing about Miami Heat basketball is that fans can expect that each player will be the hardest worker while being fully invested in not only their personal success, but also the organization’s success. It’s the culture that is engraved in every aspect of this team.

My dad has always told me that “basketball is a game of sudden change.” Through the offseason, the Heat have experienced the sudden change of free agency, losing key players such as Jae Crowder, Derrick Jones Jr., and Solomon Hill-- all who contributed to Miami’s success last season.

However, they have adjusted by adding personnel like Maurice Harkless (forward-guard), Avery Bradley (guard) and Max Strus (guard-forward), per [nba.com/heat/roster](https://www.nba.com/heat/roster). In addition to adding another 6’8 forward to the mix from their first-round draft pick, Precious Achiuwa, to assist starting center Bam Adebayo.

While adjusting to the adding and subtracting of players in the locker room is crucial, it is critical to adjust to injury.

Jimmy Butler, one of Miami’s key Leaders on and off of the floor suffered an ankle injury, missing two games, according to [the miamiherald.com](https://www.miamiherald.com).

Later in the press conference, when asked about Butler missing a few games due to injury impact on the Heat 2-3 start, Spoelstra said “No, we are not going to back any excuses for it, we are better than what we have shown, and our guys know that we are better than this but this league is tough, you know. There’s really good teams (and) great defenses out there. We have to play better together (to) generate the kind of looks that fit our team the best, and that takes some real intention.”

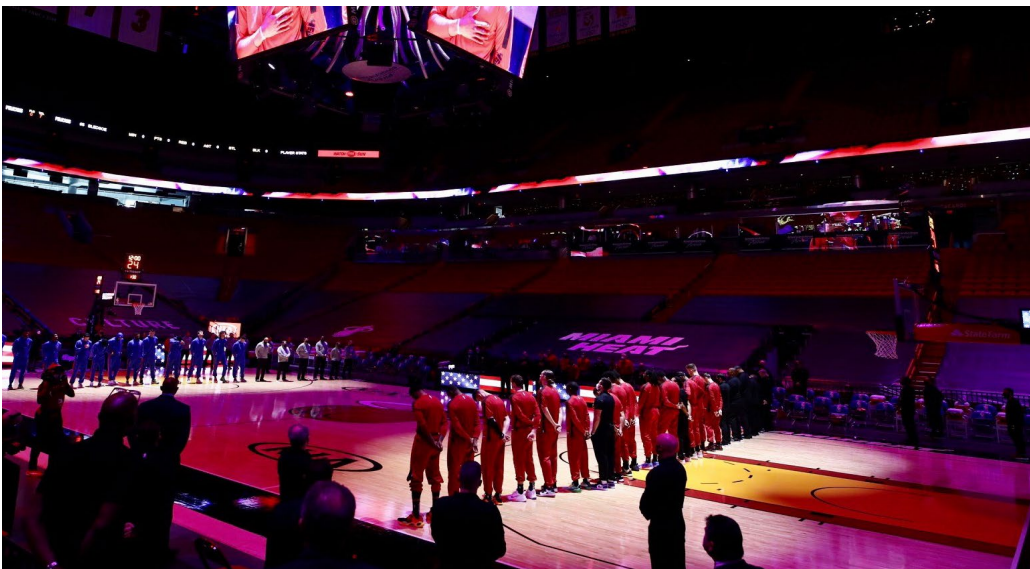


Photo Courtesy of @MiamiHEAT via Twitter

The “real intention” that Spoelstra discusses is evidenced in the heart of the Heat when faced with adversity. There is a need to execute on both ends of the floor, night in and night out. There is a desire to evolve as a team. There is a common theme that each player has-- it’s their heart in believing in one another.

In the game 5 loss of the Eastern Conference Finals against the Boston Celtics that would have advanced the Heat into the finals, Bam Adebayo was displeased with his performance.

In his post-game press conference he said, “...I put that game on me. Not my teammates’ fault. Not my coach’s fault. Me.” In the Heat’s game 6 redemption win over the Celtics sending them to the Finals, Adebayo played lights out scoring 32 points, having 5 assists, and rebounding the ball 14 times, according to [espn.com](https://www.espn.com).

Or when veteran Udonis Haslem rallied up his teammates during a time out in the third quarter of game two of the 2019-2020 NBA finals when losing by nearly 20 points to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Or when Butler arrived at training camp in 2019 at 3:30 a.m. to workout, according to bleacherreport.com. The article went onto state that practice did not start until 10 a.m. while setting the lead for his teammates to follow in his footsteps.

Despite the early three losses, people tend to forget the level of professionalism that the Miami Heat organization expects from their team. There is no mediocrity here. The expectations are clearly communicated, and they will be met. It just takes time.

Miami is in the process of raising the temperature so that everyone can feel them.

Tyler Herro said it best in his

article in the Players Tribune when discussing the finals defeat and the potential “short turn around for the season” when he said, “ So when I get asked about the shorter turnaround and all that, and how it might impact us, and if we’ll be ready? It’s like — there’s no if about it. I know we’ll be ready. We’ll be ready because we’ve been ready. We’ll be ready because we’re all putting our work in while thinking the same damn thing: Someone beat us. Good for them. That’s over now. Let’s run it back.”

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