

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

Volume 36, issue 13

April 20, 2021

NEWS
IMPROMPTU SPEECH
CONTEST

PAGE 3

NEWS
WHAT'S HAPPENING
WITH THE STUDY
ABROAD PROGRAM

PAGE 4

FEATURES
TAKING CARE OF OUR
OCEANS

PAGE 6

FEATURES
MUSIC, FILM, LITERATURE,
ART FESTIVAL

PAGE 7

SPORTS
NFL GREAT JULIAN
EDELMAN RETIRES

PAGE 8

ENTERTAINMENT
OLIVIA RODRIGO'S HIT
SINGLE, "DRIVER'S
LICENSE"

PAGE 9

OPINION
EDITORIAL

PAGE 10

Success Resources and tips to help you through finals, your school career

Gabriella Small
Layout Editor

With the Spring Term ending, many students are scrambling about to try and squeeze out those last few assignments and look for ways they can properly digest all the content they need to know for their final exams. Although it may seem impossible to catch up now, there are many resources provided at Broward College and tips to help the average struggling student get work done on time and pass their projects, tests, and exams with flying colors.

One important resource provided by Broward College is the Academic Success Center. Here, at no extra cost, one can schedule remote tutoring services for Math, Science, Writing, Computer Science, and many other subjects.

If need be, a student could also set up group study sessions with their peers. They could also attend virtual workshops for certain subjects and exam review sessions that are usually held near the end of a few select courses.

If a student is having any trouble with understanding a chapter of Calculus or is wanting to have their end-of-term paper reviewed before turning it in, this is where

to turn to. To schedule an appointment with a tutor or access any of these different features, register for an account on bc.mywconline.net and book a tutoring session under any available slot.

Karen Magnus, Associate Dean of the Academic Success Center on South Campus, recommends that students should "get help early and often by utilizing the Academic Success Center and Library services," so that they are not left to struggle with their material alone.

One overlooked, but important resource that Broward College provides is Tutor.com. Although students are only given 10 free hours of tutoring time to use on the website each semester, it should be an essential tool to many students.

With Tutor.com, a student can take part in a tutoring session with no prior planning. Simply open the website from OneLogin or D2L under "Resources > Online Tutoring," search for the subject being worked on in the "Topics" and "Subjects" Tabs, enter whatever question you have, and start up a session.

A student can even compile a word document with quiz questions they may have gotten



Photo Courtesy of Getty Images/iStockphoto/

wrong and go over them with a tutor quickly. This resource is a great one to use if a student is having trouble, needs help quick, but does not have enough time to set up and appointment with the ASC. It is easy to run out of time if used for multiple subjects, though, so one should use Tutor.com along with the ASC to conserve the free time that is given.

Some quick and effective tips one should keep in mind throughout their academic career are, 1) "Schedule specific times throughout the day to study, cramming is not advised and most do not re-

tain information that way," -Fortin Jean Pierre, District Director, Career Services 2) "Meditate and clear your mind before studying; avoid distractions -Fortin Jean Pierre. 3) Go over work and create study sessions with classmates. 4) Avoid procrastination at all costs since it "causes unnecessary stress and gets in the way of you achieving your goals of being successful", -Karen Magnus, Academic Success Center. Finally, 5) Do not wait until the end to change your ways and seek help in academics. It is never too late



Photo Courtesy of clipart-library.com

to develop good study habits and seek out tutors to ensure your academic success.

If you need more information on how to get ready, visit <https://news.broward.edu/tips.html> for more tips and tricks to adopt this finals season.

smalg5@mail.broward.edu

Students excel at College Academy at Broward College

Evana Brenelus
Staff Writer

College Academy (CA) is a two-year full-time dual enrollment public high school with grades 11 and 12. The high school whose motto is "Where a High School Goes to College" is located on two Broward College campuses: North and Central.

Bardetta D. Haygood is the principal of CA and it is her first year at the school. With the COVID-19 pandemic going on, her interaction with the students has been limited. "I'm enjoying the interaction, even though limited, that I have with the students," she said. She gets to see students and help them (seniors) reach their final step. She has been working in schools for about 27 years. "The

Haygood would encourage students to attend CA if they want to experience the smallness after being at a large school and a more in-depth experience. "CA prepares students for a level of rigor in a way that I don't think other schools can compare," she said.

She believes that CA professors are part of the school's uniqueness. "I think that the teachers at CA are very committed to the work that they do," she said. She also loves the high expectations that they set.

Michael O'Neill, the political science professor at CA, has been

working there since 2014. Back then, there was only one campus and seniors (the population he teaches) took 5-day-a-week classes, he said. He works alongside Professor Aiken (who teaches macroeconomics) as a senior professor.

He thinks one of the best aspects of being on the CA staff is working with talented and driven young adults. In addition to that, another great aspect is the collegiality they share together as a faculty, he said. The ability to bounce ideas off each other, grow professionally and come up with a plan that helps the student population succeed is invaluable. O'Neill is proud to be a College Academy family member.

Makenzy Bowerman, 18, is a senior at CA North Campus. She wanted to attend CA because she struggled to get out of bed and motivate herself to finish school due to the tragedy that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas on Feb 14, 2018. Not only was College

Academy an opportunity for new surroundings and a fresh start without the reminders, it was also very beneficial to her future, said Bowerman. She felt surrounded by a lot of immature classmates at a school that had about 3,000 students where she did not feel important. "I was just a number," she said. She feels that CA definitely prepared her more for the real world.

Samantha Husar, 17, is a senior



Photo Courtesy of browardschools.com

who attends CA North Campus and getting into CA was a fresh start for her. She also attended MSD and felt that at CA she would stand out more because there were less students. "One of the things that stands out to me is definitely the amount of one-on-one time you have with your teachers and guidance counselor," said Husar. For her, it would have been hard applying for colleges and scholarships if she stayed at a traditional high school.

Andrew Smith, 17, is a junior at CA North Campus. COVID made his transitioning a bit tough because he would be on a new online schooling system. Apart from that, he liked having classes at times he chose and having more free time. "Everyone applying at College Academy wants

to get into College Academy," said Smith. Being surrounded by students who are higher achievers is very encouraging to him.

Stacya Dimanche, 18, is a senior who attends CA Central Campus. She wanted to go to CA to get her Associate of Arts Degree early. "The independence" is what she said she enjoys the most about CA. When she was not in class, she could go where she wanted to, and she was responsible for her own education. At the traditional high school, everything was so scheduled and there was no free time.

Barbara Ruiz, 18, is also a senior at CA Central Campus. Getting into College Academy was an advantage for her because it would help her family save money. The best aspect

about being a CA student to her was the constant encouragement around her. "I have people who inspire me to be better every day," she said. "It was great when I came to CA." Ruiz will miss CA a lot, it was like a second family to her.

If you want to find out more information about College Academy at BC, feel free to visit their website: <https://www.browardschools.com/collegeacademy>.

brene7@mail.broward.edu

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



we're Hiring

Join Our Team

The Observer is a bi-weekly college wide newspaper produced by students of Broward College.

✓ Photographers

✓ Writers

✓ Video Editors

✓ Graphic Designers

✓ Artists

Contact us at:

theobserverbc@gmail.com

www.thebrowardcollegeobserver.com

First BC Impromptu Speech Contest held

Jessica Kladerman
Staff Writer

In the spring of 2017 Broward College's BC Talks committee held its first annual college-wide Speech Contest. Four years later in late March 2021, is their first time attempting an Impromptu Speech Contest with no planning or rehearsals as the event has gone completely remote.

In this three-round contest, contestants must be able to discuss each topic appropriately, develop and plan their speech within 20 seconds and deliver it with cool confidence and clear critical thinking skills.

"One thing that is revealed, is student's language use; their vocabulary, can they articulate their ideas," said Professor Rosena Beniste about what she looks for in each contestant.

On this year's BC Talks committee are Professor Rosena Beniste, Professor Victoria Ng and Professor Laura Raymond from Central Campus, Professor Kimberley Kamuca from North Campus and Professor Cornelius Brownlee from South Campus.

For the first round, A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words,

12 contestants were introduced and asked to interpret a photo and give the moral or message of the story within the photo. Some students gave thoughtful analyses, one used half his time to plug various organizations he has been involved with over the years and another sounded like he was narrating for a commercial and ended up having a clever ending.

The round ended with an audience driven voting poll while a powerful performance of Together began by Jalila Patterson.

"The mystery is killing me because I love to know and plan and have time to think about it," said contestant Brianna Barrett about having to come up with a well thought out speech in 20 seconds with no idea what the topics will entail throughout the competition.

Eight students, including Barrett, went on to Round 2, It's Storytime. This round was a bit more fun as contestants were given the first half of a story and had 20 seconds, again, to develop and plan the rest of the story.

Some had significant twists, and others struggled to fill in

the time, though there were two or three that stood out showing clear critical thinking. Round two ended with the second audience poll and an up-tempo piano solo by Emmanuel David.

Camille Plummer, James Espada and 14-year-old Joshua Ostergaard finally made it to the third and final round, Speak Your Mind on Social Justice. In this round, each contestant was given a topic of social or political injustice and must explain their knowledge and stand on the topic, as well as explain how it may directly or indirectly affect them.

"What's your stand? What are you going to say to back it up? And why is what you're saying important?" asked Barrett as she went through the questions one must ask themselves when discussing topics about social and political injustice.

Ostergaard was given the topic of the Electoral College and transparently shared he was not familiar with the logistics of the topic and was gracefully given a new topic to which he made a comeback with. Espada was given the topic of political lobbying and



Photo Courtesy of clipart-library.com

Plummer spoke on workplace harassment.

When the final voting poll began student, Katherine Manarang gave a moving spoken word performance called The Grain of Rice, sharing her experience being a young Asian-American in today's society.

Plummer's performance won over the audience and guaranteed her the 1st place prize of a \$50 Barnes and Nobles gift

card.

Young Ostergaard's recovery landed him in 2nd place receiving a \$25 Barnes and Nobles gift card, and Espada won 3rd place receiving a Broward College "swag bag."

kladjl@mail.broward.edu

Black History Month: Knowledge is Power Trivia Contest

Leonardo Lopez
Contributing Writer

Gerald Ford, the 38th president of the United States, officially recognized February as Black History Month in 1976. Since then, the month has been dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the contributions and accomplishments that African Americans have had on the nation. However, with the Covid-19 pandemic and the current practice of social distancing, Broward College has found a creative way to provide an educational and entertaining way to celebrate Black History.

Continuing BC's celebration of Black History Month, Student Life organized the Black History Month: Knowledge is Power Trivia Contest, which was virtually held on Feb. 16.

Hosted by Tiffany Irving, the Student Life coordinator at the South Campus, the trivia event was presented in a Kahoot! Format.

"My goal was to pick a [Kahoot quiz] with questions that I hoped students could answer... I liked that [this Kahoot!] gave an explanation after it asked the question. The students could learn from it and could see [graphics]," Irving said about selecting the quiz.

During the event, 33 BC students put their knowledge of Black History to the test. The trivia game featured 42 questions which had topics that ranged from sports, literature, history and music. The



One of the winners of the contest: Lizette Powell, | Photo Courtesy of BC

top three students who received the highest points would then go on to win their choice of either one of two paintings, a framed poster of rapper Nipsey Hussle or Student Life items (t-shirts, bottles, etc.).

"Throughout February, I wanted to have programs for Black History Month that were fun, but they also provided history, knowledge and touched on social justice," Irving said. "[With this trivia contest], I hope that students got to test their knowledge and if they didn't know an answer, they would learn about that particular [topic] and are able to capture and retain [the information]," she

added.

Lizette Powell, senior student and secretary of the Broward College Paralegal Eagles Club, heard that BC was hosting Black History events from her fellow officers.

"I was so interested to learn more about it. I would love to learn more about my heritage. When I found out there was also going to be a trivia contest, I wanted to see how much I knew about my history," she said.

Earning her title as the second-place victor, Powell said that she really enjoyed discovering that she knew more about Black History Month than she had previously



Lizette Powell, | Photo Courtesy of BC

anticipated.

"I believe that Black History is valuable information to learn because it will always be a part of the History of this country... in our history, we have a culture filled with love and hope. For [African Americans], when there was a dream that [they] wanted [to fulfill], they would always work hard to make sure that those dream could come true...People need to know all of the struggles [African Americans] had to face in trying to [fulfill] their dreams," said Powell.

Though Broward College has presented similar events that were held virtually in the past such as

the comedy and trivia contest last August, this is the first to do so on the topic of Black History Month. The college also presented another virtual competition in honor of Women's History Month called: Women's History Month: Leading Ladies trivia contest.

lopel26@mail.broward.edu

COVID-19 suspends study abroad programs

Kayla Gayle
Staff Writer

The travel moratorium Broward College implemented in spring 2020 due to COVID-19 has deferred many programs throughout the institution. In regards to the Study Abroad Program, all faculty-led programs and some programs sponsored through College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS) have been suspended.

The college offers two study abroad pathways: faculty-led programs and CCIS programs. Faculty-led programs are experiential learning opportunities connected to courses a student is taking. They are short-term, one to three weeks, trips that differ every year due to professors' proposals. CCIS programs are long-term learning experiences that last between a month to a semester-long. Students are able to choose from 25 countries and multiple programs aligned by one's major or interests.

Each program has its own individual requirements. However, faculty-led programs' two baseline requirements are for students to have a 2.5 cumulative GPA and be at least 18-years-old.

Due to the sudden travel ban, one of the last trips help by the college was the Spring Break 2020 trip to Belize.

"We were really happy that we got to see the people just before COVID. But it was really unfortunate that we returned to it because we left when nothing existed, we returned when everything was just getting really bad," 21-year-old Malkia Higgins said. "It was just night and day; we left the world when it was normal and returned when it was crazy."

Higgins and recent Broward College graduate Sofia Hoyas were two of the groups of students on the trip to Belize.

"I've always wanted to do Study Abroad. I am Jamaican and I felt like I needed to see more of the world; I've seen a lot of the parts of the US and I've seen Jamaica but I really wanted to see other parts," Higgins said. "I was really happy to have seen Belize. I saw the opportunities and there are plenty of other places that (Broward College offered) but the Belizean trip really fit into all my needs."

The international Belize trip, as well as all the others offered, was both intellectually and culturally educational. For instance, the students involved studied Belizian history while interacting with natives and respectfully participating in their culture.

"I don't think in my entire life heading forward will I ever have an experience so rewarding. I met the most beautiful souls, I saw the most beautiful sights, I had the



Photo Courtesy of Malkia Higgins experienced it myself in Columbia (where I was born), but it also showed me how a community can live peacefully and respectfully."

The two-week trip had a packed schedule ranging from snorkeling and making chocolate through an ancient Mayan technique to visiting Lubaantun and volunteering at schools in the remote village Barranco.

In such a short amount of time, the trip was able to help students expand their mindsets and develop their knowledge.

"I thought (the trip) was life-changing. It's one of those things people have to do once in their life, they have to look to the other side. I feel like we spend a lot of time complaining; we aren't appreciative of how privileged we are and everything we have," Hoyas said. "So going to Belize kind of showed me a little bit of the other side, even though I have

The Belize trip left a deep impression on the students that were able to participate in the program.

Faculty and program coordinators hope for improvements in the world's current circumstances in order for more students to be able to experience this opportunity.

The travel moratorium led to discussions about implementing an online Study Abroad Program.

"It has to be well structured," Higgins said about a possible remote Study Abroad Program. "(Faculty) will have to have a great interactive interface for (students) to feel like they're interacting with the guests, not just having it over Zoom. (There should be) a video where the guest is, where the locals are talking, seeing the Belizeans

and the Belizean money, seeing how different the soil is, seeing how still the water is, seeing how the natives speak and hearing their different dialects; learning about their culture."

"Now, of course if it's just a couple of videos and so it may be okay for some people but for the person who yearns physical contact and has to struggle with online learning for study abroad, they'd have to create a really immersive interactive interface," Higgins said.

Faculty and staff share the same beliefs as Higgins.

"We do understand that for a lot of students the main experience would be actually traveling abroad and getting the experiential learning part of the program because in the faculty-led programs they are taking a class," Study Abroad and Global Engagement Program Coordinator Violeta Rivera said. "What is interesting about the programs is that on top of that class that you could take any other given semester, you are going to a different place to see how the content of the knowledge of the class that you're taking, it's applied in the real world."

For more information and updates on the Study Abroad Programs please visit broward.edu/studyabroad.

gayl6@mail.broward.edu

International internships being held virtually

Kayla Gayle
Staff Writer

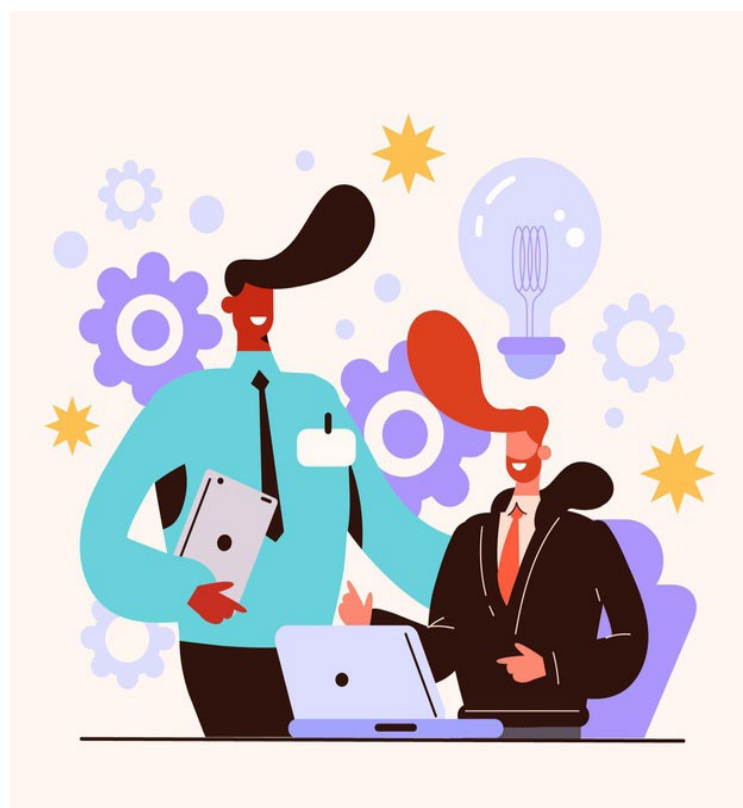
International internships have been suspended due to the halt in travel-related activities set by the college provost with the advice of the legal counsel team. However, students have the option to apply to remote internships offered by CRCC Asia and its sister company Virtual Internships.

For the past two years, the company has hosted one, two, or three-month-long

virtual internships. There are two focus tracks available for participants: International and Career Field.

Through the International Focus Track, students are able to intern with companies based in China, India, Japan, South Korea, United Kingdom and Vietnam. This option allows students to focus on "building networks and experience in a specific country."

The Career Focus Track leads students to select one of the 18 available career



fields: Business, Engineering, Finance, Healthcare, Hospitality, Marketing, Media & Communications, etc. This track provides participants to focus on their career goals while gaining global experiences.

"We do recommend to our students that they do it by career field because it's a little bit more specific; however, it is up to them to choose which one they want to do. If they just want to do it spe-

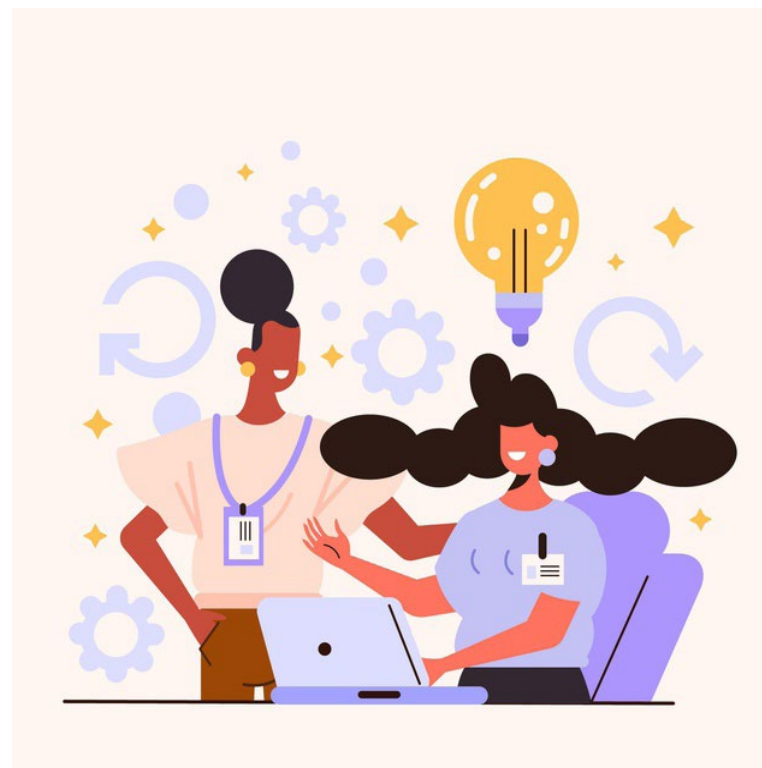
cifically by the country, they can also do that," Violeta Rivera, the Study Abroad and Global Engagement Program Coordinator, said.

The virtual internship includes project-based work, Intern Global Community, a 360° professional development support, access to language courses and CRCC Asia's custom-developed internship curriculum Career-Bridge.

For more information, stu-

dents should visit broward.edu/studyabroad or contact the program directly at abroad@broward.edu.

gayl6@mail.broward.edu



FIU | Online

**REAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THE REAL YOU.**



ONLINENOW.FIU.EDU/BC

South Florida Oceans and Beaches as we transition into Summer

Gabriella Small
Layout Editor

OUR BEACHES NEED OUR HELP



Miami Beach before a day of Spring Breaking



Miami Beach after a day of Spring Breaking



For more information on how to participate in local beach cleanups, visit miami.surfrider.org/volunteer-in-miami/.

Arianna Allen
Editor in Chief

The summer is typically a time for individuals to indulge in some serious rest and relaxation while enjoying South Florida’s ocean waters and beaches. The palm trees dancing to the rhythm of the wind while the sun floats in the blue skies and the waves crash ashore make it a perfect beach day. However, some people do not realize that their extracurricular activities can come at the cost of the safety of the oceans. According to <https://oceanconservancy.org/>, it states in 2017 there were 119 million tourists who traveled to Florida. Oceanconservancy.org goes onto state that in 2016, “visiting a beach or waterfront area is the top activity for Florida’s tourists...” Florida has the second-largest coastline of 8,436 miles in all of the United States, allowing any individual to only be 60 miles away from any coast of Florida at any location per oceanconser-

vancy.org. When it comes to healthy oceans and clean beaches, the criteria should be met, according to oceanconservancy.org, which includes:

- Distanced buildings
- Dune Systems that do not have a presence of infrastructure
- Activities that humans can enjoy that do not put the environment at risk
 - o EX. Sunbathing, swimming, wildlife viewing
- No trash pollution on the beach
- Limits of nighttime lights
- A place for the wildlife to thrive
- Walkways

Oceanconservancy reiterates the importance of a functioning beach that allows for humans and animals to thrive. There is also an emphasis on safe water because of the heavy water presence in Florida. “The interconnected nature of water resources across the state means

that the health of freshwater systems is critical to maintaining the health of our ocean environment,” according to oceanconservancy.org. According to a Local10 News report posted on YouTube 11 months ago, there have been many residences who live in South Florida that have said since the pandemic started and beaches were closed, that the water seemed to be thriving with a magnificent and magical blue color. In connection, the wildlife presence was more heavily seen as well. The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the “reduction of plastic pollution, ensuring clean water, ocean protection, coastal preservation and fair beach access,” according to miami.surfrider.org. “From testing our coastal waters to ensuring that runoff stays in your garden to reducing plastic pollution, Surfrider’s programs help ensure that our marine ecosystems are protected.” The Surfrider Foundation states.

As evidenced by the ridiculous amount of waste found on Florida beaches during spring break, it is a necessity to address the issues Florida oceans and beaches are facing. The Ocean Conservancy illustrates the environmental issues that Florida has been experiencing, specifically pertaining to the ocean. These environmental issues include: “harmful algal blooms, water quality and quantity, ocean acidification, coral disease and bleaching, oil and gas drilling and pollution, ocean trash, coastal development, sea-level rise and flooding and extreme weather.” The ocean and beaches are filled with fascinating information that allows humans to make memories. As humans who live on this Earth, it is incredibly important to recognize and educate ourselves on what we share with animals and other ecosystems. Here are some local initiatives that advocate for ocean protection, conservation and education:

- smalg5@mail.broward.edu
- <https://miami.surfrider.org/volunteer-in-miami/>
- <https://www.surfrider.org/webapps/ofr-map/>
- <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral/content/bleachwatch>
- <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral/content/awareness-and-appreciation-focus-area>
- <https://oceanconservancy.org/protecting-florida/2020-miami-super-bowl/>
- <https://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/cwci/>

Buffet inspires anthology during recent Music, Film, Literature & Art Fest

Kayla Gayle
Staff Writer

Broward College's two-week annual Music, Film, Literature and Art Festival was held virtually this year with the theme "Amidst the Chaos: Rise Up & Move Forward." The festival allows for students and the community-at-large to be exposed to free academic lectures, panels, discussions, live performances and author readings.

From the diverse list of events, one of the panels "Authors Inspired By Music" was held on March 11. The Zoom meeting, with about 40 participants, was hosted by Professor Neil Plakcy and the English Faculty.

The panel allowed for the authors of the crime-fiction anthology "The Great Filling Station Holdup" to discuss how their writing processes were inspired and shaped by music.

"Music inspires us; it inspires of to sing, dance, to work harder and faster and better," author and editor Josh Pachter said. "For some of us... music inspires us to write."

The anthology is heavily influenced by the discography of musician Jimmy Buffett. Each chapter of the book is a story based on a Buffett song, where



MFLA Festival Banner

Photo from Broward College Website

each song is from a different album.

"I had people suggest other artists (to base the anthology on)... as an editor I knew this was going to take a year of my time," Pachter said. "If I'm going to devote a year of my time to a songwriter, I wanted it to be someone I could listen to for a year."

The Parrot Head, a name for Buffet fans, invited 15 other authors to create this anthology: Leigh Lundin, Rick Ollerman, Michael Bracken, Don Bruns, Alison McMahan, Bruce Robert Coffin, Lissa Marie Redmond, Elaine Viets, Robert J. Randisi, Laura Oles, Isabella Maldonado, Jeffery Hess, Neil Plakcy, John M. Floyd and M.E. Browning.

All the authors are fans of Buffett and Buffett's music. They were able to choose which of his songs they wanted to create a short story based on.

"When Josh first asked me to write a story I panicked, I find it

hard to do stories on demand yet I still wanted to," Lundin, who wrote "Truckstop Salvation" based on the same-titled Buffett song, said. "I remembered hearing a Jimmy Buffet song off of his very first album... I found that there were a number of things on that first album that were very interesting... the one that finally caught me was this one called 'Truckstop Salvation'."

"It was a tricky song," Lundin said. "I found it interesting and challenging to bring those elements of mystery and romance and evil together (for the short story)."

The authors present at the panel all discussed their feelings throughout the writing process and why they wrote the stories they did.

"As soon as I sat down and printed out the lyrics, so that I can refresh my memory, I immediately found myself in the Arizona desert with an idea of where I wanted to take

the story," Coffin, author of "Incommunicado," said. "For me, one of the things I enjoy about the short story is that it was a very short period of time to do the set-up and I enjoy taking the reader down a road that will (make them) feel comfortable that they're heading in a certain direction. And as I wanted to pull the rug out from under them and have things go entirely different than (the reader) might imagine."

It was revealed that all the authors printed out the lyrics to their chosen song to refer back to while writing their short stories. Many also played their respective songs during their writing process.

"I definitely printed out the lyrics and I referred to them often," Maldonado, who wrote "Smart Woman (in a Real Short Skirt)," said. "I wanted to make sure that I stayed true to the spirit of the song and often did those clever turns of phrase that Buffett often puts in there."

Pachter had three important requirements for the authors to follow: they could not quote lyrics "because who wants a lawsuit from copyright violation", they should include imagery from the song and from the reader's perspective

it should be clear that their story was inspired by its respective song.

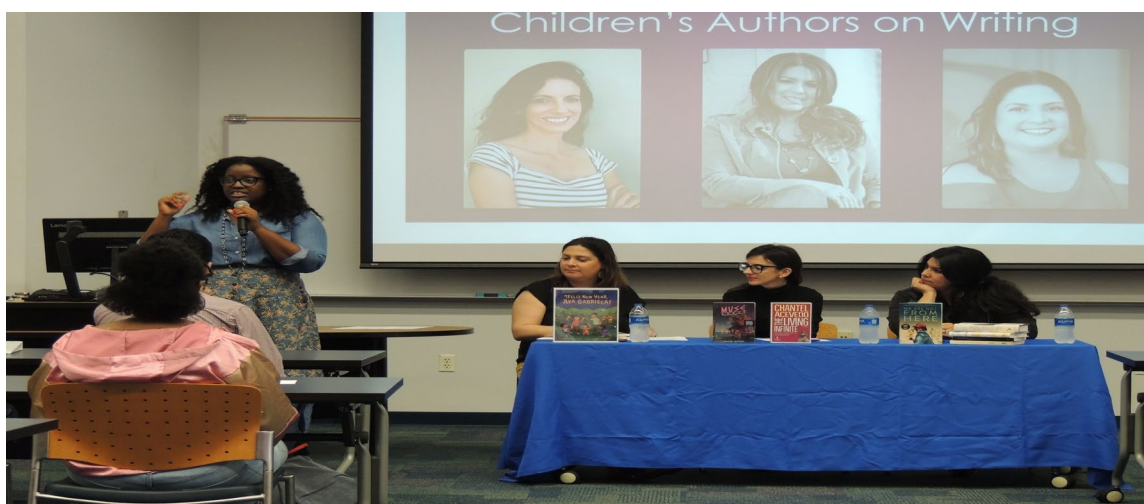
With these conditions, the authors were still able to create immersive and interesting stories while enjoying the process of writing them.

"A lot of the authors just had a great deal of fun writing their stories for this book and I think it really shows. The stories were fun to write but are also fun to read," Pachter said, repeating the sentiments previously stated by the other authors.

Maldano was even greatly amused by a challenge Pachter asked of her, to include the phrase "bimbo limbo" somewhere in her story.

"I've edited a dozen and more anthologies over the years, and I think that the quality of the work in this one is as strong as anything else I've ever done. Looking back, I've not always been proud of every book that I've edited but this one I'm proud of. That's entirely thanks to the contributions of (the co-authors) that have really given their all for this book," Pachter said.

With one-third of the royalties to be donated to charities that Buffett supports: Singing For Change and Save the Manatee Fund, "The Great Filling Station Holdup" is now available for purchase on online retailers such as Down & Out Books and Amazon.



Seahawk Writing Conference from a few years ago.
Photo from Broward College Website

Why LeBron James the greatest of all time

Chase Cone

Contributing Writer

There have always been talks about who the greatest basketball player is, but there is no doubt when LeBron James retires that there will be talks about how he will be the greatest basketball player of all time.

Over the last 15 years, James has advanced to the playoffs 14 of those 15 times and only missed the playoffs once. He has made it out of the first round each time and has been to the NBA Finals 10 times. This shows how great of an impact he has on the teams he plays for.

James knows how to lead his teams to victory and turns every franchise into a winning franchise, and is known to have winning in his blood. He has never missed a postseason game and has always been his team's leader in pretty much every category.

He has also been known to be clutch in the playoffs



LeBron James

Photo Courtesy of marca.com

with having more game winning buzzer beaters than any other player in NBA history. When it comes to elimination games and game 7's, he has the NBA highest career scoring average with 34.9. When it comes down to the wire, he shows up to play and proves why he is clutch and is proven to win games.

James has 12 NBA final stats with more than 25 points, more than 10 rebounds and more than 5 assists. Nobody in NBA

history to play this game has more than four times. Also, he has been named to four finals MVPs, second just shy of Michael Jordan, and is the first player to win NBA finals MVP with 3 different franchises.

With just the postseason stats, this just shows you how great James is and what he does to change the culture of a franchise to a winning franchise. He is a 16 time all-star, 16 time all NBA team, 6 time all time defensive player, 4 time

MVP, and lastly he received rookie of the year in 03-04.

With plenty in the tank still, he is 3rd in the all-time scoring list and is moving up that list quickly. People are saying he is at his best at the age of 36 and is aging like fine wine, and plans to be in this game until his body tells him that is enough, but that does not look like it will happen anytime soon.

Even at age 36, he is averaging over 30 minutes per game and is still putting up numbers averaging

25.4 points per game, 7.9 rebounds and 7.9 assists. These numbers are what the young people in the NBA are putting up, and just to think at age 36 he is still putting up numbers like this.

James also ranks fourth in all time for triple doubles with 99 and definitely can add more to that and move up the list. Putting the statistics and his postseason statistics away, he is destined to put a franchise into a winning culture, because he tends to make people around him better.

His basketball IQ is one of the greatest and that's why he is so successful. When his time is up in the NBA, that's when the talks will start to begin about who is definitely the greatest basketball player of all time. At age 36, let's see what else James can accomplish before his time

conec8@mail.broward.edu

New England Patriot Julian Edelman retires

Chase Cone

Contributing Writer

On April 12, 2021, Julian Edelman announced his retirement with a spectacular career. Edelman was in the NFL for 12 years and spent all of his years with the New England Patriots

He will definitely go down as one of the greatest Patriots wide receivers of all time.

"It was a hard decision, but the right decision for me and my family."

He also mentioned that he is honored to have spent all of his years as a Patriot and

that he gets the opportunity to retire as a New England Patriot.

Last season, Edelman was limited to only 6 games due to a chronic knee injury. This was basically the big deciding factor on which led to his retirement.

He put up great stats throughout his career such as ranking second in NFL history with 118 postseason receptions, which he only trailed Jerry Rice.

Edelman's most memorable play in his career was the most amazing and most improbable diving

catch to help the Patriots comeback in Super Bowl LI from a 28-3 deficit against the Atlanta Falcons to come back and win.

Edelman is a 3 time Super Bowl champion all with the Patriots. In Super Bowl LIII, he was named the MVP with 10 receptions for 141 yards. He has been a great impact towards the Patriots organization throughout his whole career.

After his retirement, Edelman received praise from his quarterback for pretty much his whole career as a Patriot and for all his Super Bowl wins. Tom Brady posted on Twitter that, "on the biggest stage and in the biggest moments you always came through. You never lost that chip on your shoulder and you never let anyone define you as a person or player. I'm proud of you Jules. Love You."

To receive praise like that from the greatest quarterback in the NFL definitely shows us the impact Edelman had on the game.

He was so quick off the line, and his quickness in his cuts and his elusiveness after the catch made him one of the hardest receivers to defend throughout his



Julian Edelman.

Photo Courtesy of Bleacher Report

career. He capped off his career second in the all-time Patriots list for receptions with 620 and fourth in receiving yards with 6,822.

He has stated that nothing has ever come easy in his career and he won't be surprised that this won't make it any easier.

Edelman always told himself that he was going to go until the wheels fell off, and they finally have fallen off. The injury he sustained in his last season was the deciding factor on when his wheels have fallen off and that was his decision to announce his retirement.

He did all of this in his career as a seventh round

draft pick, just like as he stated nothing has ever come easy.

He has proven himself throughout his whole career and could have possibly led his name into the hall of fame category. As his career came to an end, the Patriots organization will never forget what he has done for them and will forever be thankful for the great slot receiver they had for 12 seasons.

conec8@mail.broward.edu

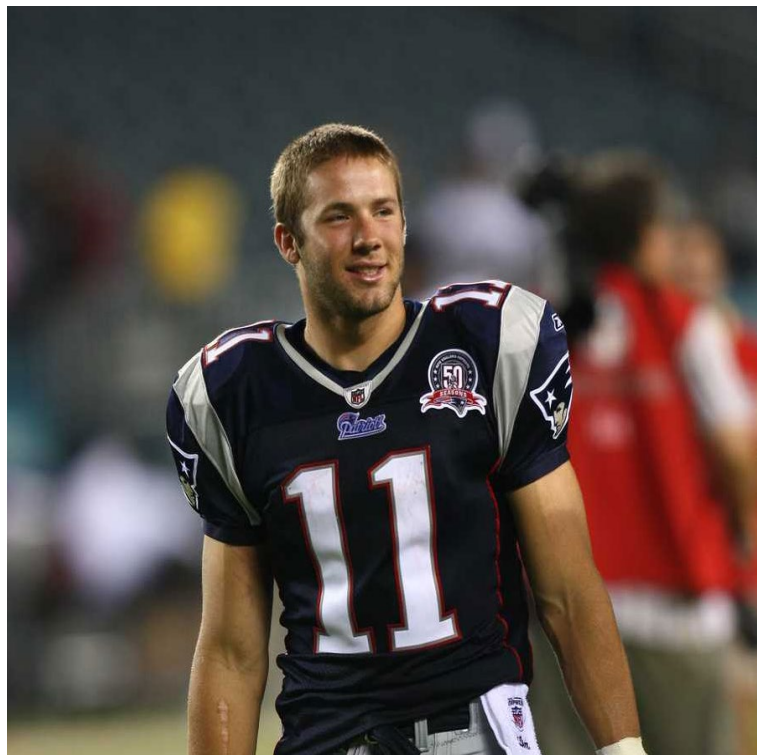


Photo Courtesy of wcvb.com

Driver's License new hit single breaks the internet

Sarah Leyva

Features Editor

Olivia Rodrigo broke the internet with her first hit single "Driver's License" becoming the most streamed song on Spotify in a week.

The 18-year-old began her rise to fame after her single debut and it gained great love from the fans overnight putting her at the top of Billboards top 100 for over eight weeks.

Rodrigo started her way into Hollywood starting in the acting field in Disney Channel in a couple shows then landing herself a lead role in, "High-School Musical the Series" she sang her own solo in the series, "All I Want", which opened up doors for her in the musical world as well.

Interview magazine interviewed the young artist asking her what she felt as her fast fame is happening and how she thinks she can improve and this was her response, "I feel like I'm



Olivia Rodrigo and her new hit single+

Photo Courtesy of vevo.com

constantly growing. I'll be a developing artist until I'm 85. I think the best songwriters are like that. I always listen to my songs and try to think of ways I can strengthen them. But yeah, I just turned 18. I truly don't really know who I totally am yet. I don't know the way I like to dress. I don't know the way I like to act around certain people. I don't know what my purpose is. I don't know what people are my

true friends. I'm just going to keep on making music and I'm probably going to be really confused along the way, and I think that's the beauty of it. I'm trying not to pretend like I have everything figured out because I sure as hell don't."

Many were curious as to why this song gained so much traction so quick and it has been speculated to be about her ex-boyfriend, Joshua Bassett, who was also

her co-star on the show on Disney Channel, who is now dating someone else. Shortly after Drivers License came out Bassett released his song which people believe to be his response to Driver's License, "Lie Lie Lie".

Then right after his now girlfriend, Sabrina Carpenter released what fans believe to be her response to the song, "Skin". Referencing lyrics of Rodrigo's song, making fans speculate there

is Drama. Although all three of the people involved in the controversy have made it clear that none of them have any drama with one another, the fans still stick to their theories.

She has now since released another single, "Déjà vu", which has had 28 million streams in a little over week, which means she won't be a one hit wonder and has already gained a big fanbase already.

The artist also announced that her first album will be coming out on May 21st, "SOUR" which will be featuring her singles "Driver's License" and "Déjà vu" along with nine other new songs. So, if you loved Drivers License make sure to listen to her new album coming soon.

leyvs3@mail.broward.edu

Xbox has finally become a competitor to PlayStation

Ryan Marin

Staff Writer

Ever since the Xbox One and the PS4 launched in 2013, Sony has owned the console market. Whenever you asked someone what gaming console they owned, the answer was usually a PS4.

The Xbox One was originally marketed as an entertainment device, while the PS4 was marketed as a console made for gamers. During the entire PlayStation 4 generation, PlayStation put out critically acclaimed and commercially successful exclusives such as God of War, Horizon Zero Dawn, Ghost of Tsushima, Bloodborne, Spider-Man and more.

Xbox's exclusives were few and far between, and none rose to the level of the PlayStation exclusives. Most importantly, the PS4 undercut the Xbox One by \$100, with the PS4 starting at \$399 while the Xbox One was \$499.

All these mistakes by Xbox made buying the PS4 an easy decision for consumers. As of the end of 2020, PlayStation has sold over 110 million consoles while Xbox stopped releasing console sale numbers because they were beaten so badly by the PS4. (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/651576/global-ps4->

console-unit-sales/)

Microsoft was almost ready to abandon the Xbox brand, but they made the smart decision of putting Phil Spencer at the head of the company. Under Spencer's leadership, Xbox has acquired prestigious game studios such as Obsidian and Ninja Theory.

Most recently, Xbox acquired Bethesda, one of the biggest publishers in gaming. Xbox focused on beefing up its exclusives and now has 23 first party studios, more than doubling PlayStation's 12.

Spencer and his team also created Xbox Game Pass in 2017, a monthly subscription

service akin to Netflix where subscribers have access to a curated list of games and all future first party Xbox titles. This service has become Xbox's focus, as it has expanded beyond Xbox consoles and put the service on PC.

The company also has long term plans to use its cloud gaming service, Project xCloud, to allow game pass subscribers to stream games over their phones and televisions.

Subscribers have access to all Xbox first party games, the EA play catalogue and other quality titles. They have

also made deals to bring huge third-party titles to Game Pass on the day of release such as Outriders and MLB the Show 21.

It is often called "the best deal in gaming" for a reason: It provides a tremendous amount of value for a relatively low price of \$15 a month. Xbox revealed in January that game pass has surpassed 18 million subscribers.

That is not to say Xbox has been perfect. In January, Xbox tried to raise the price of Xbox Live Gold, their multiplayer gaming service, from \$5 a month to \$10. This

Photo Courtesy of xbox.com



was met with outrage, and to Xbox's credit, they quickly retracted while changing their stance and no longer requiring Xbox Live for free to play titles like Fortnite and Warzone.

With Xbox's improvement, PlayStation can no longer simply stick to the status quo and risk losing ground to Xbox. PlayStation is currently creating their own gaming subscription service and given out great games to PS5 owners for free on their multiplayer gaming service, PlayStation Plus, as a response to Game Pass.

With Game Pass, exciting new exclusives, and a long-term plan to reach millions of new customers through their phones and televisions, the outlook for Xbox has never been more positive. The increased competition means Xbox and Sony will be competing for years to come, which greatly benefits consumers. Gaming is better when Xbox is in it.

Marir34@mail.broward.edu

How Broward College inspired hope through the time of COVID-19

Editorial Observer Staff

Walking through the courtyard in the direction of our first classes, anticipation awaits as we prepare for a new semester with each step we take. The sun is beaming, there are barely any clouds in the sky, and we can feel the wisp of the cool air dancing through our hair. It is spring 2020 and the questions fill our minds about the seating arrangements in the classrooms, the upcoming deadlines and getting to know our new professors.

From the long line inside the Dunkin Donuts in the library and the computer lab filled with students studying-- we would never expect that a few months later, we would be in the midst of an ongoing global pandemic.

One year later, Broward College, students have yet to have a 'normal day' on campus. One year later, and some Seahawks have never walked into their professor's office hours. One year later, our hearts long for human interaction without needing to be in front of a screen.

We miss it. We miss being able to experience the magic of writing articles in the newsroom, collaborating on new ideas for upcoming issues, and meeting one another in person. Our hearts long for that experience.

Although there is a hole in our hearts from what once was pre-COVID, the Broward College community that stretches through South Florida has worked

tirelessly, with unity, to ensure that its students are properly equipped in all areas of their lives.

Broward College's mission statement says, "Transforming students' lives and enriching our diverse community through academic excellence, innovation, and meaningful career opportunities," according to broward.edu. BC has lived out its mission statement.

There have been drive-by food and hygiene distributions that students in need can participate in; partnerships with Feeding South Florida, and progression in the plans of the Seahawk Marketplace, BC's newest edition of an on-campus pantry.

In addition, there have been virtual initiatives to get students plugged into the community through social media and YouTube. Student Life has created ways for students to remain actively engaged in physical fitness through the Wellness Wednesday videos released weekly on their YouTube channel.

Among the list of programs for student access, Student Lingo provides opportunities for students to develop academic and professional skills with virtual lessons. The online library services offer research appointments with librarians, the Academic Success Center, and online tutoring.

As Broward College offers these programs, for those who don't have access to a computer, there is a "laptop/webcam loaner

program" that students and staff alike have benefitted from, as well as wifi access on each campus that can be used, while maintaining social distancing of course.

Going above and beyond, Broward College has been an active member of the community when it comes to healthcare resource outreach. On February 25, 2021, Broward College's North Campus, in Coconut Creek, opened its auditorium doors as a COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing site open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with no appointments necessary.

At the time of its opening, people over 65 years old were eligible; around North Campus alone there are over a dozen 55 and older communities, granting easier access for anyone in that age bracket who may have faced difficulties finding access to vaccines.

"The college is engaging community partners to create awareness and support residents who most need to access vaccinations," said President Haile, via school-wide email, Message from the President.

A couple of months later the vaccination and testing site is still operating at 7 days a week with new eligibility for anyone over 18 years of age, people determined to be extremely vulnerable by a physician (form required), health care workers with direct patient contact and long-term care facility residents and staff. We are so proud to be a part of this community enrichment.



Photo Courtesy of broward.edu

In a survey conducted by Boston University, published February 2021, 83 percent of 33,000 students across the country say their mental health had negatively impacted academic performance in the fall semester of 2020. Furthermore, at least two-thirds of college students are struggling with loneliness and isolation, which is at an all-time high reflecting the toll of the pandemic and the social distancing necessary to control it.

Broward College has also ensured students have access to counseling services to take care of their mental well-being so they are mentally prepared to handle class loads. The counseling services offered to students, "... during a 12-month period of 6 free sessions with a therapist. Four free sessions with a psychiatrist and additional sessions can be arranged as needed and/or based on a payment sliding scale," according to Seahawk Outreach Services.

This pandemic has caused not only physical, emotional and

mental stress but also has created financial stress. Members of the BC community have also had the opportunity over the last year to apply for the Cares Act Grant to provide financial assistance. Application for the Cares Act Grant will be available at least through the 2021 fall semester.

According to @bccentralsl via Instagram, "last year Broward College awarded more than a million dollars to its students to assist in paying for their classes, books and supplies."

While it has been challenging and risky to collaborate with peers, mentors and professors in person, the college has provided a multitude of ways for students to receive extra support. We long for life pre-pandemic, we, at the Observer, are grateful to attend a college that stays true to its mission to transform students' lives and enrich our diverse community.

theobserverbc@gmail.com

The Observer

**COORDINATOR OF
STUDENT
PUBLICATIONS**
Jennifer Shapiro

**ONLINE
EDITOR**
Arianna Allen

FEATURES EDITOR
Sarah Levya

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arianna Allen

**SOCIAL MEDIA
EDITOR**
Arianna Allen

LAYOUT EDITOR
Gabriella Small

STAFF
Ashley Brittanica, Kayla Rodriguez, Evana Brenelus

NEWS EDITOR
Camellia Baki

BUREAU CHIEF
Ryan Marin

2010-2013 FCSPA General Excellence Award

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

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