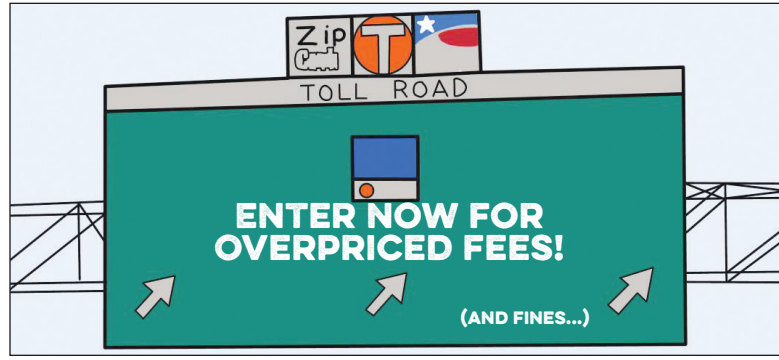


Bears Baseball A play-by-play from victory to loss, *Page 6*



Toll Roads (Why) toll roads suck, *Page 2*



The Last of Us Video game adaptation tests positive among fan base, *Page 4*



THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

Award-winning student news since 1978

Fentanyl continues to kill students

Early College High School at Brookhaven Campus informs parents and students of the dangers of fentanyl March 4.

By Andrea Olan
Managing Editor

Three deaths and 10 overdose cases have been reported in students from the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District since September 2022, according to the Department of Justice.

Parents and students attended a presentation on March 4, held at BHC and hosted by the Early College High School Parent Teacher Student Association, seeking explanations and answers about the rising

cases of fentanyl overdoses.

Fentanyl is an opioid used for pain relief and anesthesia in hospitals. Fentanyl is 100 times more powerful than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Eduardo A. Chávez, special agent in charge with DEA Dallas, was the speaker for the presentation. "Fentanyl is unlike any drug we have seen in past years," Chávez said. "This is a topic that is very important to us."

Chávez has 23 years of experience with ongoing leadership in

investigations on recent overdose cases in the area. Chávez said it is important to inform vulnerable family members of the dangers of fentanyl. During his presentation, Chávez switched between English and Spanish to accommodate all attendees present.

"In a medical situation they'll put it in an IV, they'll liquify it and give it in small dosages," Chávez said. "But its natural form is a white powder." The most common form in which fentanyl is sold is pills. Illegal manufacturers are producing them

with indistinguishable differences to oxycodone or Xanax pills.

Chávez said fentanyl's effect on the body is relaxation and pain relief. Unlike cocaine or methamphetamine, fentanyl causes sedation, respiratory depression and decreases heart pulsations. "It blocks the pain receptors to your brain," Chávez said. "You

won't get the typical high you get from methamphetamine."

Illicit fentanyl is manufactured in China. The raw product is then shipped to Mexico, where drug trafficking organizations convert them into pills, according to the DEA. Chávez said the profit margin is attractive to resellers, since the price range for one pill is \$10 - \$30.

"We have never seen any drug with such a small dose causing this many deaths," Chávez said. According to a report published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 77% of adolescent drug overdose deaths in 2021 were related to fentanyl.

Chávez showed a two gram packet of sugar to the attendees. He said with two grams of fentanyl, illicit manufacturers could make up to one thousand pills. "One thousand people could die if this was fentanyl," he

• **Fentanyl, Page 7**



Photo by Trennt Rhea

The Early College Center construction site on the east side of Brookhaven Campus March 28.

ECCHS to receive new V Building

By Gabriela X. Zuniga
Copy Editor

New construction at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus continues. W Building, previously Brookhaven's workforce building,

is being renovated, and additions are being made. V Building will be a new addition to Brookhaven Campus.

Construction began in February 2022 on the northeast side of Brookhaven for the use of

Early College High School students. These buildings were named the Early College Center. ECC will house Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Early College High School

• **ECHS, Page 7**

International student enrollment soars by 84%

By Andrea Olan
Managing Editor

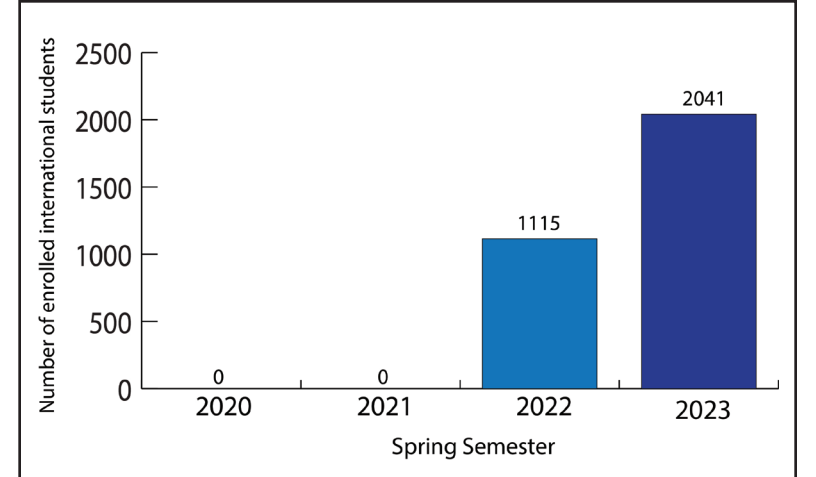
In Spring 2023, 2,041 F-1 students were enrolled in a certificate or undergraduate degree at Dallas College. This was an 84% increase from the previous year, according to a report provided by Quenton Lowery, a Brookhaven Campus designated school officer for registration and admissions. In Spring 2022, 1,115 F-1 international students were enrolled at Dallas College.

The F-1 visa allows international residents to enter the U.S. as full-time students at a certified college, university or other academic institution. After earning their degree, students must return to their home country or find a job that will sponsor them to work in the U.S. after graduation.

Dallas College experienced a decline in F-1 students seeking a certificate or degree in Fall 2020. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2020, 0% of enrolled students at Dallas College were F-1 visa holders.

Lowery said the COVID-19 pandemic halted enrollment for F-1 students, bringing it to 0% for three semesters during lockdown.

The Department of State suspended embassy services



Source: Quenton Lowery

worldwide due to travel and sanitary restrictions in March 2020, creating backlogs and extended waiting times for those applying for visas, especially international students.

"Starting Summer and Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, there were a few transfers, but [there were] pretty much no additional [international] students," Lowery said. Dallas College F-1 students currently account for approximately 3% of the student population.

According to the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers' economic analysis for the 2021-2022 academic year, international students contributed \$33.8 billion to the U.S. economy, in addition to creating

335,423 jobs in the academic year. Lowery said international and F-1 students are important for the enrichment of Dallas College programs and culture, adding different perspectives and interests. Lowery said regardless of being pressured to fulfill certain requirements, F-1 students excel in their chosen programs.

Sofia Reyes, a Dallas College international student, said Dallas College has provided her with resources to navigate the enrollment process and make connections on campus. Reyes said she appreciates Dallas College providing international students with a Designated School Official, or DSO, that assists F-1 students

• **Enrollment, Page 7**

College students face housing insecurity

By Leonardo Rosas
Contributing Writer

Dallas College students who are evicted are more likely to drop out and not return than students who are not evicted, according to a 2022 study by Dallas-based nonprofit Child Poverty Action Lab, or CPAL, and the

Labor Market Intelligence Center at Dallas College.

Housing insecurity is a problem for many community college students. According to a 2020 survey by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, 52% of students at two-year colleges reported some form of housing insecurity.

CPAL's study found that market rent prices are too steep for a typical college student's income. Dallas College students would need to earn at least \$60,000 annually to afford market-asking rent prices as of the second quarter of 2022. The median annual income for Dallas College students is \$28,000.

Camile Gilchrist, Director of GIS and Data Visualization at Dallas College, said Dallas College students who are evicted not only fail to complete their credentials but also lose money they have invested, as well as the potential to earn a higher wage.

• **Evictions, Page 7**

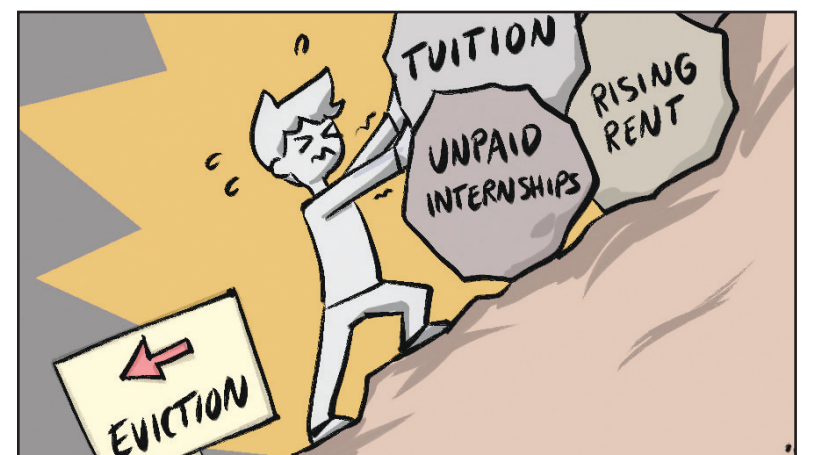
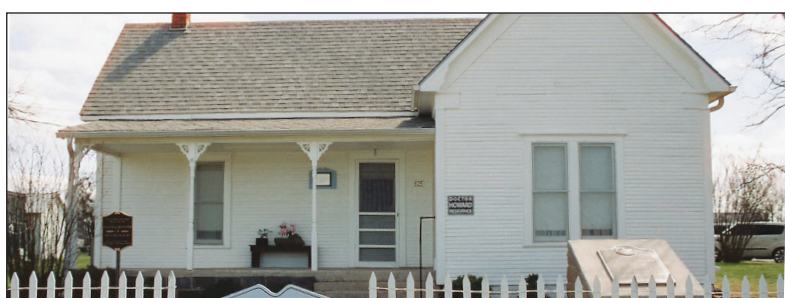


Illustration by Maria Elena Franco



Robert E. Howard Discover the home that housed the creator of Conan the Barbarian, *Page 5*

Holocaust Collection
Library holds more than 500 books about the Holocaust, *Page 3*

Name Change Form
New form introduced, *Page 6*

Brightspace
Blackboard dropped for Brightspace, *Page 7*

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Bits & Bites Diverse cuisine presented at annual Dallas College fundraising event, *Page 5*



Voting Your voice matters, *Page 2*



Chaz Hafey Brookhaven astronomer shares his love for the stars, *Page 8*



THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

Award-winning student news since 1978

Brookhaven names Student of the Year

By **Kamila Vargas-Gonzalez**
Contributing Writer

A student strolled into the hallways of the Dallas College Brookhaven Campus she courses through daily. A smile creeps onto her face. "I don't regret any of it," she said about her experience as a student.

Gisselle Lopez, president of the Student Government Association and a Phi Theta Kappa member, has been selected as the Dallas College Student of the Year for Brookhaven Campus. She took a few seconds to translate her gratitude into words. "It's definitely a

rewarding feeling," she said.

RECOGNITION

Lopez is part of organizing campus cleanup projects, reconstructing the SGA constitution and creating a survey for students to voice their concerns. "I kept pushing through," she said. "I kept doing what I love, which is helping others."

"I never see her sit down and relax," Oscar Lopez, a Dallas College student and Gisselle's brother, said, chuckling. "At home, her's also working."

At home, Gisselle sits on her bed with a laptop across from her. Her laptop fan runs as the computer overheats. Gisselle finally wraps a meeting with other SGA members across Dallas College, letting her laptop rest. She begins winding down for the night, but chimes from her phone prevent her from doing so. Gisselle checks her phone and sees an email congratulating her for receiving the Student of the Year honor.

• **Gisselle**, *Page 7*

Photo by Trennt Rhea

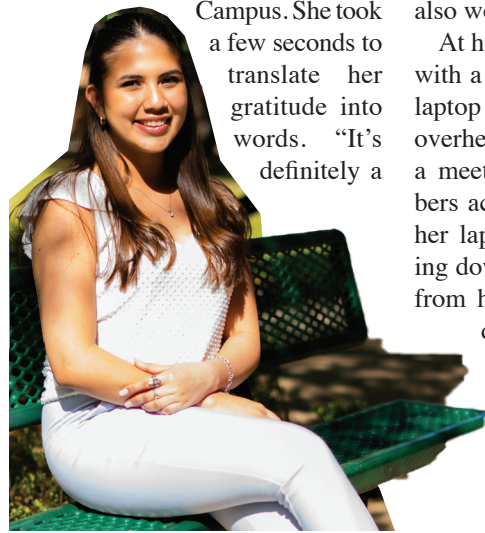


Photo illustration by Edgar Palacios and Elizabeth Zuniga Galindo

AI seeps into coursework

By **Leonardo Rosas**
Contributing Writer

In less than six months, ChatGPT has become a household name. The AI service can write paragraphs, essays, speeches and fill in exams. So many people have flocked to the chatbot for a glimpse of its power that the servers have to be shut

down at times. It is a tour de force of artificial intelligence.

ChatGPT was developed by OpenAI, an artificial intelligence company founded in 2015 with a mission to ensure that artificial general intelligence benefits all of society, according to OpenAI's website.

The human-like chatbot can

answer almost any question the user provides, and it has been trained to respond as a human would.

When asked about its pros and cons, ChatGPT said, "It's important to note that while I can be a helpful tool for certain tasks, human judgment and critical thinking should always be exercised when interpreting and using the information

generated by AI systems like me."

With ChatGPT's capabilities, it comes as no surprise students have been tempted to consult it for assistance with their assignments, especially in English courses. However, some Dallas College faculty warn students of ChatGPT's downsides.

• **Chat GPT**, *Page 7*



Photo by Trennt Rhea

SGA leads campus cleanup

Student **Caroline Simpson** (left), **Jason Hopkins**, senior head athletic coach, and student **Kelsie Trevino** throw away litter at the Brookhaven Campus cleanup on April 18.

SGA works to integrate campus constitutions

By **Kamila Vargas-Gonzalez**
Contributing Writer

Student Government Association members are working to scrap, reword or rephrase drafts of their constitution to present a final draft to Dallas College. This is part of an ongoing effort by SGA organizations across Dallas College to advocate for student interests.

Gisselle Lopez, president of SGA at Brookhaven Campus, said an increase in engagement across the seven campuses is the primary reason for streamlining the constitution. Lopez said it works as a base to be in a position where they can advocate for students' rights, interests and resources.

She said: "Before the pandemic, SGA was very active. They were constantly getting awards from state recognition. But since then, we lost a lot of engagement."

In 2018, Brookhaven SGA won seven first place awards at the Texas Junior College Student Government Association Convention.

Lopez said a few ideas to get

engagement rolling at Brookhaven include surveys and class visits. She said: "The survey gives the ability to voice five concerns, and it is completely anonymous. The idea is to come into first-year classes to advocate for students to voice their concerns and speak with them for five to 10 minutes about how SGA is there to represent the student body."

Lopez is student-driven when it comes to her goals for SGA. "We are sticking to the student agenda and making sure that students are the main voice of this campus," she said.

Frankie Ward, director of student life at Dallas College, said: "On Feb. 25, 2023, I, 14 SGA leaders and Dr. Stephanie Hill, the assistant vice chancellor, met to discuss the future of

SGA as it relates to the one-college approach. Then we decided that streamlining the SGA constitution is necessary for future growth."

In 2020, Dallas County Community College District received approval to become Dallas College, which merged all seven formerly independent campuses. This meant the SGA organizations from each campus had to find a way to merge as well.

Previously, Ward worked as an adviser for SGA at Tarrant County College and helped develop their constitution. She said: "I got them acknowledged by the TCC board of trustees as a student union in the TCC board of trustees policies and procedures. My priority

"We are sticking to the student agenda and making sure that students are the main voice of this campus."

— **Gisselle Lopez**,
Brookhaven Campus SGA
President

• **SGA**, *Page 7*

First four-year grads toss caps

By **Jayline Quintana**
Contributing Writer

As graduation season approaches, Dallas College prepares to graduate its first cohort of the four-year Childhood Development/Early Childhood Education program. Students will graduate with a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education and teaching.

Although students will have to return the following fall semester to complete their one-year alternative teacher certification program, they will be able to work as the "teacher on record."

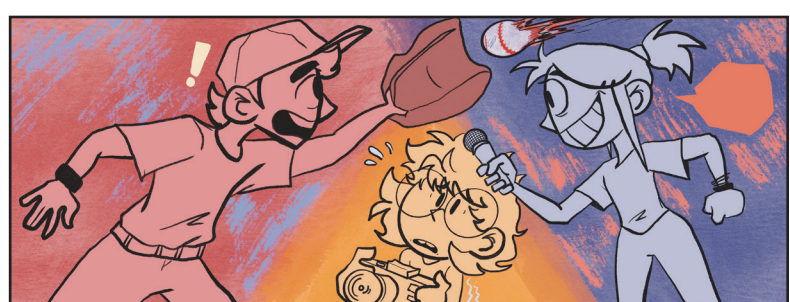
Dallas College's education program initially offered associate degrees in teaching and was expanded to a four-year program in the Fall 2021 semester. The program

currently has around a thousand students enrolled, and is expected to continue growing.

Robert DeHaas, the vice provost of the School of Education, said, "From this spring to last spring the program experienced about 75% enrollment growth."

The apprentice program is a

• **Graduates**, *Page 7*



Athletes Q&A Get to know Brookhaven baseball and soccer players, *Page 6*

Student Awards
Brookhaven Courier brings home 40 awards, *Page 3*

Mental Health
Resources for suicide prevention, *Page 7*

Meow Wolf
New art exhibit to open in Grapevine, Texas, *Page 4*

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NEWS

Courier scores big at TIPA convention

By **Emmy Hardy**
Copy Desk Chief

The Brookhaven Courier editors and staff earned 40 awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's annual convention.

The convention took place March 23-25 and was held at the Hilton Hotel at downtown Fort Worth. Approximately 285 student journalists and 65 advisers attended this year's convention.

Students competed in live contests categories ranging from news, editorial and public relations writing to photography, design and broadcast.

One of the contests was Copy Editing where contestants competed in copy editing sentences and news story.

With 24 entries submitted, the News Writing competition was one of the most competitive contests. Contestants were packed into buses and shuttled off to Joe Pool Lake, where they were tasked with reporting on a staged drowning.

Other contests that comprised the News Event included Spanish, TV and radio writing, as well as photo and live video news production.

Other students had the opportunity to critique a photograph a live concert in the Critical Review and Two-Person Photo Essay contests. Contestants attended the event in Fort Worth, for a concert headlined by Rosegarden Funeral Party, and preceded by openers Ester Shank and Over-share.

Andrea Olan, managing editor with the Courier and a contestant in the Two-Person Essay, said, "Being my first year attending TIPA, it has been an important learning opportunity for me. The live news event taught me about breaking news reporting, and how to react in those situations."

Olan, said she was proud of the effort The Courier staff put into the live competitions. "Events like TIPA give us students a chance to network and create connections that will help us throughout our personal and professional lives."

In the Best of Show categories, The Courier earned third place in Division 3 for newspaper and second place in website. The Courier earned over 25 awards in the previously categories.

The Courier staff also earned first place for both newspaper and website in the Overall Excellence category, along with third place in general magazine for the second edition of the Texana Magazine.

Brandon Donner former photographer and managing editor with The Courier earned an honorable mention in Individual Overall Excellence for Photojournalist of

the Year for Two- and Four-Year Schools.

Workshops included Law-suit-Proofing Your Newsroom, hosted by Frank LoMonte, a CNN legal counsel, and Finding Sources and Stories with Diverse Voices, hosted by Rebecca Aguilar, a freelance reporter and former president of the Society of Professional Journalists, and many more.

On March 24, a career and trade fair took place. The event hosted several Texas colleges and media outlets, which advertised job opportunities for students.

This TIPA convention marked a special promotion. Julie Reed, outgoing TIPA president, was elected as the new executive director. When asked what she hoped students learned from TIPA, Reed said, "I hope the biggest thing they take away is encouragement/inspiration."

A luncheon was held, where Lo-Monte gave the keynote speech.

Eddy Gallagher, a longtime adviser with Tarrant County College, received the 2014 College Media Association Distinguished Adviser award, as well as the 2005 TIPA Adviser of the Year award, and was inducted into the TIPA Hall of Fame.

In a conversation later in the day, LoMonte, in reference to student journalists, said: "I think it's



Photo courtesy of Rory Moore

Jubenal Aguilar (left), student media advisor, Maria Elena Franco, Sheree Peart, Leonardo Rosas, Daniel Rodrigue, faculty advisor, Andrea Olan, Trennt Rhea and Emmy Hardy hold individual and group awards.

important to recognize that you may very well be the most reliable and trusted news organization in your entire community. The law is a very powerful tool that is very often on your side."

The convention was funded in part by Diamond Sponsor Baylor University, Gold Sponsor Sony and others. Van Nguyen, senior pro imaging support for Sony, said, "This is a big part of Sony's push to support schools and student journalism."

TIPA LIVE CONTEST AWARDS

Place	Contest	Winner(s)
2nd	Spanish Radio Announcing	Andrea Olan
2nd	Critical Review	Emmy Hardy
3rd	Print News Writing	Leonardo Rosas
3rd	Spanish News Writing	Andrea Olan
HM	Editorial Cartoon	Maria Elena Franco
HM	2-Person Photo Essay	Andrea Olan & Trennt Rhea

Dallas College tours civil rights sites

By **Jayline Quintana**
Contributing Writer

Nearly 100 Dallas College students traveled to historical civil right movement landmarks March 23-26 across Mississippi and Alabama.

Students accompanied by Dallas College faculty, a licensed counselor and a nurse visited sites such as the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Legacy Museum, National Voting Rights Museum and Institution, and Foot Soldiers Bridge.

This year the excursion was preceded by the Civil Rights Speaker series at North Lake Campus. The series featured presentations by North Lake faculty on topics such as Martin Luther King Jr., the women of the civil rights movement, as well as a documentary centered around last year's trip presented by Sharie Vance, a video technology professor at North Lake Campus.

On the first day, students heard from Jerry Mitchell, a journalist famous for his work with cold cases from the civil rights era and getting authorities to reopen them.

Roy Vu, a history professor at North Lake Campus said, "It was just an honor and a privilege to have Mr. Jerry Mitchell, an award-winning journalist, to speak with our students on the very first day of our trip."

Students visited the 16th Street Baptist Church, where they learned more about the church bombing, as well as a Black boy killed by police officers that day.

Xavier Chancellor, a Mountain View Campus student, said, "It just stuck with me because it is something that we face today as African American men and minority males in general."

Chancellor, who has now attended the trip twice, said visiting Dexter

Avenue Baptist Church, where students learned more about King's life was another key moment of the trip for him.

After the exhibits, students participated in small group discussions led by faculty.

"We broke out into small group discussions, and each adviser was assigned to four to six students," Vu said. "It was quite powerful and insightful to see, a lot of tears were shed but it was beautiful."

Rory Etienne, North Lake Campus SGA president, said: "I feel like it is paramount that trips like this are done with the college because it is history that is not told in the traditional classroom. There is just not enough time in a traditional classroom to cover these topics."

Moore said he hopes to expand the trip in the future. He said: "Our hope is that we no longer have waiting lists. That we are able to have anyone that is interested from Dallas College to attend and then have this great educational experience."

Vu said he feels the same way. "Unfortunately, a lot of history has been ignored, erased, neglected and just forgotten," Vu said. "So as a historian, it is important to make sure those stories are told and heard and therefore shared."

The first trip was offered the Spring 2019 semester.

Although it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trip was officially brought back last year in 2022.

Vu and Shanee' Moore, senior director of college administration at Dallas College, helped plan this year's trip.

Previous guest speakers have included individuals such as Dale H. Long, a survivor of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, an attack by the Ku Klux Klan that killed four Black girls.

"I feel like it is paramount that trips like this are done with the college because it is history that is not told in the traditional classroom."

— Rory Etienne,
North Lake Campus SGA
President



Photo by Trennt Rhea

Dallas College student Maria Mendoza donates blood at a Carter BloodCare mobile blood drive on March 29.

Brookhaveans donate blood, save lives

By **Gabriela X. Zuniga**
Copy Editor

Dallas College hosts Carter BloodCare mobile units to collect blood that goes to patients across north, east and central Texas.

The blood drives held at all Dallas College Campuses are open to anyone in the community as long as they meet the eligibility requirements to donate blood.

Cynthia Carreon, a registered nurse and Dallas College blood drive coordinator, said, "It is really important that the donor is in good general health." She said donors must be 16 years or older and weigh at least 110 pounds and feel well the day of their donation.

The list of eligibility exceptions to donate blood with Carter BloodCare can be found at: tinyurl.com/

eligibility exceptions

Carreon said the list of eligibility restrictions and rules for donating blood is extensive. "It is important to keep those who donate and those who are receiving the blood safe," Carreon said. "So, donors' eligibility is checked every single time they donate."

According to the Carter BloodCare website, around one pint of blood is drawn in every donation. The human body has 10-12 pints but the one-pint loss can be replenished within two to three days of a donation.

At the mobile units, only plasma and blood can be donated. Other types of donations would need to be done at Carter BloodCare centers. Before donating blood, make sure to have a good breakfast and be hydrated.

Carreon said the donation process is safe, especially for healthy and eligible adults. "After donating the body will actually begin to replenish the lost volume in red blood cells," she said.

Many other benefits can be obtained from donating blood. Carreon said donors get a free health screening. With their blood pressure checked, pulse checked and blood tests done, it allows them to screen for different infectious diseases.

Carreon said volunteering and helping others is linked to overall positive health outcomes such as lowered risk of depression. Another benefit of regularly donating blood is a healthier heart and cardiovascular system.

Graduating students are eligible to receive a graduation cord from

Carter BloodCare if they donate twice or more a year. Early College High School students are also eligible to receive this cord. Occasionally, gift cards are given out at drives. At times Carter BloodCare will provide goodies on the site of the donation such as socks, water bottles, T-shirts or blankets.

Students who are interested can help by getting people to sign up. More information can be obtained at the Health Center in S Building.

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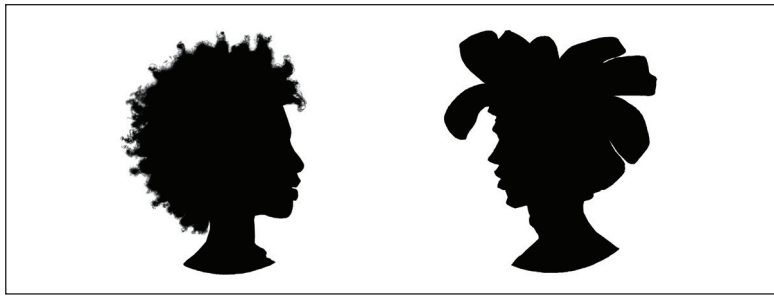
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Donald Mowat Oscar-nominated makeup artist demonstrates live on campus, *Page 5*



CROWN Act New Texas law prohibits discrimination on hair in the workplace, *Page 2*



Midway Take a look behind the Brookhaven Courier printing process, *Page 3*



THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

Award-winning student news since 1978

Brookhaven Campus faces COVID 'uptick'



Photo illustration by Tania Kaufmann

By Lynn Grant
Contributing Writer

Although the coronavirus crisis may feel like a worry of the past for some, students, staff, and faculty preparing for a new semester at Dallas College campuses are being asked to continue taking the necessary precautions to protect themselves and others against the spread of COVID-19.

In a college-wide email, Sharon Davis, chief business continuity officer, said Dallas College has seen "a small uptick in cases and

questions." Davis said the colleges' current recommendations coincide with those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which includes washing hands thoroughly and regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water throughout the day, maintaining a social distance of at least 6 feet, and staying at home to monitor health if symptoms begin to occur. Should a college employee or a student test positive for coronavirus, they are advised to adhere to the CDC Isolation and Precaution Guidelines. Davis noted that

while masks may be worn "as a precaution," they are not required on campus. While Dallas College opened to the public on June 1, 2021 with no mask mandate. However, by the beginning of the Fall semester, Dallas College had reinstated a mandate in order to comply with orders from Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins. Davis has assured that masks have been "recommended but not required" since April 8, 2022.

Taylor, a student at the Brookhaven campus, said that she "would understand" if a mask mandate

was reimplemented "to look out for us." Analle, another student at Brookhaven, said although she personally doesn't like wearing one, she "wouldn't mind" if the college required masks, for the sake of "preventing the spread [of coronavirus]."

Dallas County Health and Human Services is currently reporting "58 new cases" of COVID-19. According to Simone Carter of the Dallas Observer, Dr. Philip Huang, the director of the Dallas County

• COVID, Page 7



Photo by Emmy Hardy

Danielle Johnson

New athletic director molded by grit over talent

By Henry Emmanuel III
Multimedia Editor

Danielle Johnson is Brookhaven Campus' new athletic director. Johnson, known as "Coach D" by her peers, said she attributes much of her success as an athlete and a coach to her Detroit upbringing, support from family and friends, and an internal drive to succeed. Johnson was inspired by her father, as well as Pat Summit, Hall of Fame women's basketball coach, to pursue her basketball career. Her coaching career began when she coached a high school basketball team on the Amateur Athletic Union circuit. She has coached volleyball, softball, basketball, bowling and tennis programs, in addition to mentoring of high school students.

Johnson's first experience as an athletic director began at the age of 23. Johnson's main priority with coaching is teaching students about themselves and affording them the opportunity to learn from life lessons she has earned through her own experiences.

• Coach D, Page 7

V Building nears completion

By Sheree Peart
Contributing Writer

Construction of the new V Building continues. Significant progress has been made since the start of the project in February 2022. The new building, which will be dedicated solely to the Early College High School students on campus, is set to open in the Spring 2024 semester.

Ivan Villegas, superintendent with Manhattan Contractors, said the construction team varies from 50-100 workers onsite at a time. Workers, as well as any visitors to the site, are fitted with reflective vests, eyewear and hard hats.

The project involves intricate elements, including storm drainage for the rooftop, a fire sprinkler system and Intelligent and Virtual Future in Communications which is essential for both intercom systems and general communication throughout the building.

Upon entering the first floor of the building, workers can be seen sanding down the once coarse walls which blocked off part of the student commons area. The building is being supplied with modern features such as energy efficient double pane windows that stretch 74 feet wide from the student common area which itself spans 5,530 square feet. The area will host up to 369 occupants. Outside of those windows is an outdoor greenspace view. New students will also find two classrooms, two study rooms, a computer lab, a physics lab, and a fully equipped kitchen.

The second floor of the building will feature five classrooms, along with biology and chemistry labs, providing a hands-on learning environment for students. Open wires in the ceiling and circular holes in the ground mark where labs will be stationed. There are a total of eight

bathrooms in the building. Some other features of the building include the slanted silver surfaces beneath the sinks in the bathrooms, designed to facilitate easy washing for individuals with mobility challenges.

Vincent Price, construction manager at Brookhaven Campus, has been a part of Brookhaven's construction projects since 1992. Price has seen the campus change drastically over time.

Price said the construction process involves large lift trucks and cranes to handle various tasks. "All this," Price said, "comes from a piece of dirt."

Satcha Espinoza, an ECHS student, said she likes being able to walk around campus and find her own spot, but she is still excited for the new building. "I'm pretty sure that other people will like the cafeteria since they like being

• Construction, Page 7



Photo by Sheree Peart

Bricks are laid on to the outside of Building V on Sept. 1



Fitness Lab New fitness equipment arrives at Brookhaven fitness center, *Page 6*

Skills USA
Brookhaven college students earn awards, *Page 7*

Student Clubs
New policies for student clubs, *Page 6*

Gallery Preview
Former professor's art show, *Page 4*

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ARTS & CULTURE

'I'm A Virgo' stands tall with an important story

By Amber Adefope
Contributing Writer

'Prime Video's summer sensation was a show called "I'm A Virgo." The show follows Cootie, played by Emmy Award winner Jharrel Jerome. Cootie is a 13 foot tall young Black man from Oakland, California. He discovers the world for the first time as a giant with hopes to make an impact.

Director Boots Riley, known for 2018's "Sorry To Bother You," combines live action elements as well as animation to convey Cootie's stories and viewpoints of society throughout the first season of "I'm A Virgo." Cootie has an eclectic comic book view of the world that is reflected in a fun and charismatic way through colorful visuals.

Raised by his adoptive parents, Cootie is sheltered throughout his youth and hidden away to be protected from dangers he could face for being 13 feet tall. Cootie goes on a journey with his three

friends, and through this journey he finds himself. Along the way, Cootie realizes everything can not always be perfect.

The show depicts Cootie going through average adult woes in a giant-sized body, which can be a relatable experience for some viewers. In an interview with Time Magazine, Jerome said: "I think as a Black man, when you walk around the street, you kind of already feel like Cootie: You feel a little too big, or you feel a little too intimidating, even though you're pure hearted."

Cootie was an outcast for so long, he craved acceptance from others in the outside world. He is idolized for his size and taken advantage of.

Underneath the wacky visuals, the show has great social commentary and leaves the audience considering how young people perceive the world. The show takes a deep dive into conversations about capitalism, racism and the healthcare system in America.

He said: "What superhero shows and what cop shows do is not only promote this idea of the police being the good guys. It's also to sell us this idea that poverty and crime come from bad choices of the impoverished. And what this show points out is that poverty and crime are built into capitalism in the sense that we don't have any kind of safety net."

Roger Ebert reviewer Peyton Robinson said, "Cootie idolizes The Hero's comics but learns that with real-world implications, The Hero is not a protector of the people but of America's classist, capitalist rhetoric."

Life lessons can be taken from "I'm A Virgo," as well as valuable insight from the perspective of young Black adults in marginalized neighborhoods.

CNN writer Brian Lowry said, "'I'm a Virgo' operates from an admirable place of trying to get its audience to identify with, or at least think about, the deeper origins of that discomfort, using the



Illustration by Linley Nyirenda

grand absurdity of its concept as a jumping-off point."

"I'm A Virgo" is a creative and innovative coming-of-age story. It is

the perfect watch.

If you are a young person trying to make sense of the complexity of American society and are interested

in social commentary that is easy to digest, I highly recommend "I'm A Virgo." This show is larger than life literally and figuratively.

Blood donor discusses decades of donations

By Gabriella X. Zuniga
Contributing Writer

Mark Ammann, coordinator of residency admissions at Brookhaven Campus, has been a consistent blood donor since the 1970s. He earned a certificate naming him a 50-gallon blood donor. He shared his thoughts about blood donations.

How many years have you been donating blood?

I started in the 1970s. But, they did not have computers to keep up with it until like way into the '80s and beyond. My early donations were actually typed in on a little card but the records that they are keeping now on the computer go back to the '80s. That is where the 53 gallons comes in. There are actually more donations early on, but I have no idea how much.

Why do you encourage being a blood donor?

I care about people and there is a need out there for all different blood products. There is whole blood and plasma. Some people sell plasma for money, and they do that on a fairly routine basis, but there are also

platelets. Carter BloodCare identified me as a candidate for a platelet donation. Platelets help cancer victims, and so I can donate. In fact, I donate every two weeks, and I try to do a triple platelet donation, which is three times the normal donation amount. And because I am a big guy, I am able to do that.

You can see I have got so much scar tissue in there, you can see it. I stopped using this arm now. But it helps people. I have had people in my family who have had cancer and friends, and I do not like cancer.

I want it gone. I want it eradicated. So I am gonna donate as often as I can just for that. I started out only donating blood because there was a need for blood, but when I found out I was a platelet donor, I shifted over to that.

How long does the process take?

The regular blood donation does not take long at all. It is a few minutes – You are in, you are out. With the donation I do – it is called apheresis – and they hook me up to a machine. So the machine draws the blood out and

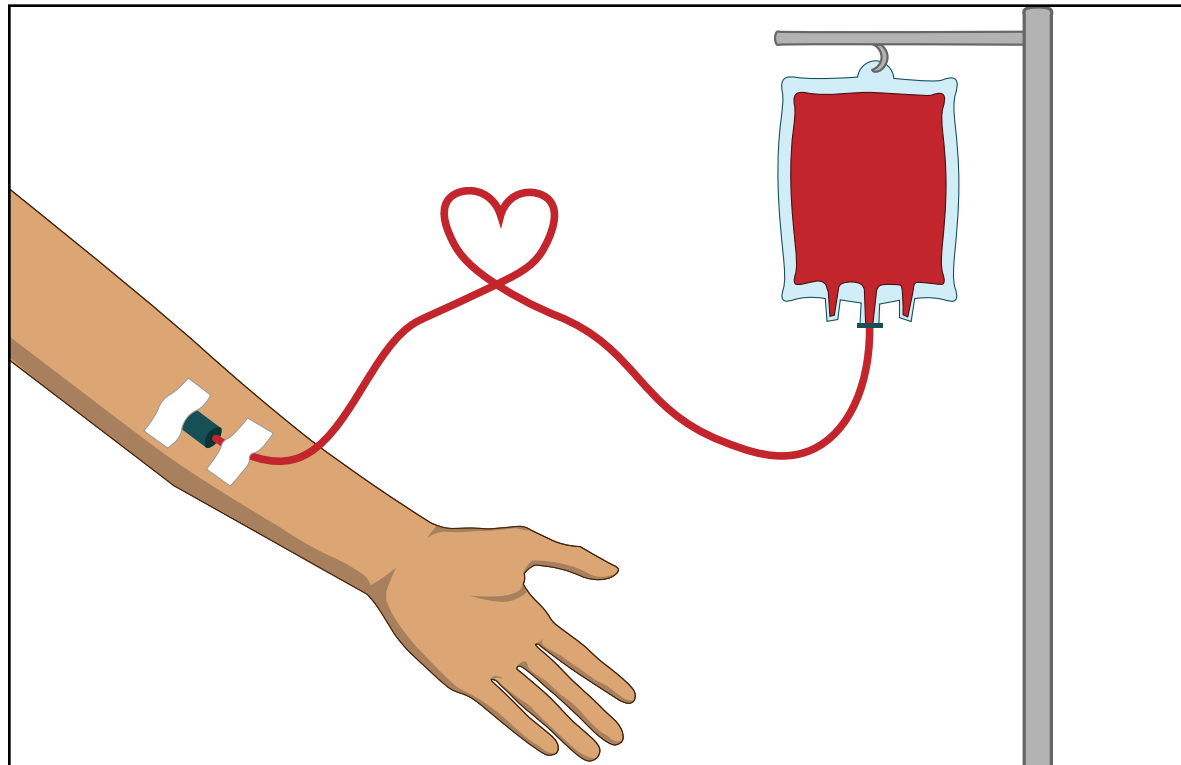


Illustration by Ivy Nguyen

then it pumps saline back in and it is a cycle.

So from the screening to the time I have my juice and cookies and then leave it's usually about two and a half to three hours. That is why I do it every two weeks.

Have you had any negative experiences donating blood?

No. Donating with apheresis gives you fluid back in. You do not lose volume so you do not have the lightheaded feeling with a regular blood donation. Sometimes people

go away woozy and lightheaded and they do not like that. That will stop people from donating again. And it is like, "Hey, try the apheresis thing."

I was scared of it at first. I did not want to do it and somebody talked me into it. I said I will try it once.

And after that it is like, "Well, I wish I had was that every once in a while for a frequent donor, you will have a bad stick. Either somebody does not know what they are doing, or you get a needle that is a little wonky. But in all the donations I have done, it has happened twice.

The only negative experience that I had was that every once in a while for a frequent donor, you will have a bad stick. Either somebody does not know what they are doing, or you get a needle that is a little wonky. But in all the donations I have done, it has happened twice.

What are some positive moments you recall from donating?

The coolest thing for me is the recognition banquet, which they do every year. Because although I am a 53-gallon donor, I see donors, they recognize them around the room and have them stand up, and I see donors that are over a hundred gallons that, you know, it is like, wow. It's pretty amazing to see a room full of people that do what I do.

Understanding that we are a very small group of people. That is the kind of thing that excites me.

I like seeing all those other folks that are as involved as I am and make a difference.

BHC hosts mother-daughter art exhibition

By Alexandra Parker
Copy Desk Chief

Lisa Ehrich was an art professor at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus for 44 years and has been retired for one year. She now takes art classes at Brookhaven. She is also the creator of the "Like Mother Like Daughter" art show in the Forum Gallery, which showcases Ehrich and her mother Leah Ehrich's works. The gallery is open Aug. 21 through Oct. 6.

Growing up, many forms of art were an important part of Lisa's life and were introduced to her through her mother. "She believed that to be a well-rounded person you had to take art lessons," Lisa said.

As a result, Lisa took dance and piano lessons as a child. But this was not the only form of art which was prominent in Lisa's upbringing. Lisa has several cherished memories of her family frequently viewing different forms of art in the Memphis, Tennessee area. Lisa said: "We would go to museums, galleries and to the orchestra symphony. They loved to take us to performances."

Leah's passion for art is what inspired Lisa to become an artist, Lisa said. Whenever she wasn't working or taking care of the children, she was taking art classes or working on a project. Leah encouraged Lisa and her sister to help her with art projects she created at home. Lisa

developed a deep love and appreciation for art. She aspired to become a professor, teach art and to share her gifts with others.

"I started as a part-time adjunct faculty in the art department," Lisa said: "I was kind of at the right place at the right time when the following year one of the full-time faculty moved away and they had a position available. I applied and interviewed for the position and got it." Similar to her daughter, Leah's love for art started at a young age. Lisa said Leah's parents encouraged and nurtured her creative interest in art once they noticed she had a passion for drawing. It all started with the chalk pad she received as a child.

But one of the paintings which signifies the beginning of Leah's career as an artist is a painting of the art department at Louisiana State University, the school Leah attended. Lisa said: "It feels very reminiscent of the late 1930s and early 1940s. We've always loved this painting."

Lisa and her mother were not the only artists in the family. Lisa's sister, Stella Ehrich, is a full-time painter and created the portrait of Leah displayed in the art show. When Stella is not creating portrait paintings, she is often painting landscapes or interiors. The painting to the right of the portrait of Leah is a portrait of Leah's great-grandmother, created by Leah. Leah was dedicated to becoming a better artist, Lisa said. At the end

of every week, Leah had a stack of drawings ready for critique. Leah would find Lisa's partner. Lisa said: "He used to be the dean of fine arts here. She wanted his feedback every Friday night and she would have a stack of drawings for the week for him to go through."

During the last years of her life, Leah developed macular degeneration, a condition that significantly blurs the eyesight. "You start losing your vision in the center of your eyes so you can see the periphery of objects but you can't see the details of what's inside," Lisa said.

But Lisa said this did not stop Leah from getting up every day and doing exactly what she loved – creating works of art, some of which are even in the Forum Gallery at Brookhaven. Many of the still-lives that can be found in the gallery were inspired by the objects and surroundings on Leah's dining room table, which was also her art studio at one point. She metaphorically described these paintings as having their own personalities, and being in conversation with each other.

Lisa said Leah's artwork was Leah's pride, as well as a part of who Leah was as a human being. Lisa said, "What I think is remarkable about her work is the dedication, the passion, the joy and excitement she had. It's a testament to what art means to individuals and who it impacts."



Photo by Linley Nyirenda

Lisa Ehrich points to one of her pieces in the forum gallery on Sept. 6.

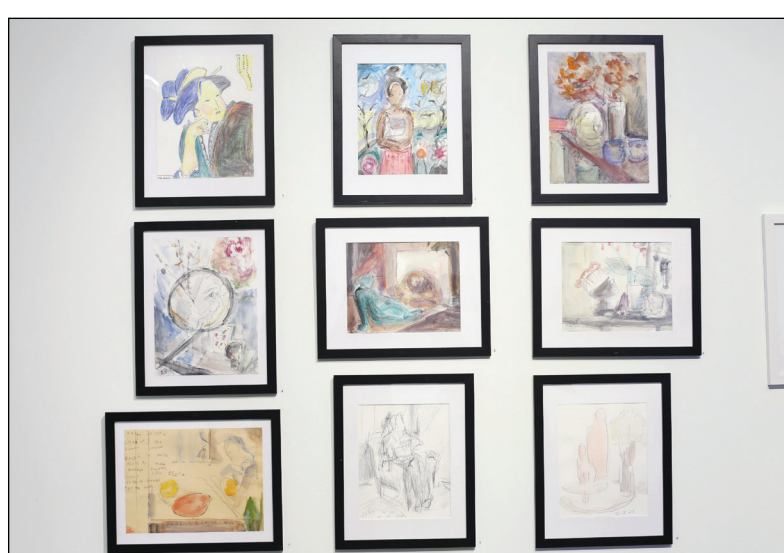


Photo by Emmy Hardy

A collage of nine paintings by Leah Ehrich.



A painting by Leah Ehrich, addressed to her daughter Lisa.



A painting of Leah Ehrich by her daughter Stella Ehrich Brownstein.

Photos by Emmy Hardy