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THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

Award-winning student news since 1978

Brookhaven names Student of the Year

By **Kamila Vargas-Gonzalez**
Contributing Writer

A student stares 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, she'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.

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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.

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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 prior

"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

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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."

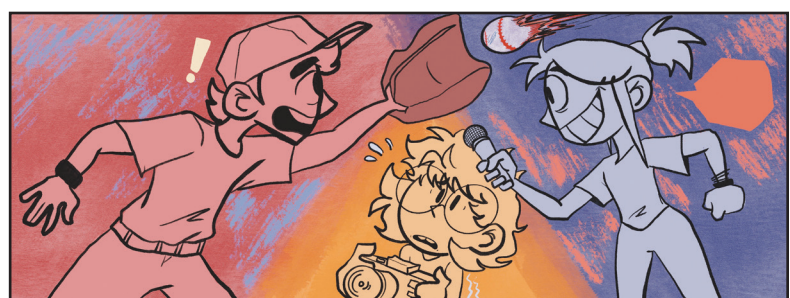
Dallas College's education program initially offered associate degrees in teaching and was expanded to a four-year program in the Fall 2021 semester. The program

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

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Student Awards
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Resources for suicide prevention, *Page 7*

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

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