



SPORTS

eSports ready to expand



Gaming setup in Room M1158.

By Ashley Padron
Copy Editor

The sensation of gaming has taken over the sports league, and Dallas College is not falling behind. All seven campuses are preparing for a new season of competitions. Skylar McCort, a Dallas College eSports Coach and better known to her players as Coach Glitch, said eSports will only continue to grow at Dallas College in the future.

McCort has been with the program since its early beginnings when she was a student, and eSports was a simple club. Although there is no clear eSports pathway internally at Dallas College, McCort said she hopes players in the program can pursue eSports at four-year colleges like The University of Texas at Dallas, which

offer scholarships, or get in the spotlight of professional gaming organizations such as Envy Gaming and Complexity.

Mark Cuban and Jerry Jones, known for participating in other Texas sports, are big names in eSports. Arlington even has an eSports Stadium.

While not new to Dallas College, the esports team is gearing up with new plans for the semester. The heads of eSports are ready to break the social stigma around competing in video games. McCort said: "It's sometimes stigmatized as just sitting around playing games, again, so some people don't understand it. Or don't see the value sometimes. But our students, you know, they work very, very hard. They train very long hours, and they go out there and they really do represent

Dallas College"

McCort said she is ready to expand from participating in the National Junior College Athletic Association to building a pathway for students to get their foot in the door toward a future in esports.

Various games in their respective leagues offer tournament circuits specifically made for collegiate teams and tier-two organizations. Involvement in these tournaments can put players in the spotlight to be scouted by professional organizations, similar to how other college athletes get scouted for pro-play.

"The only requirement is that you try out, eligibility is 12 credit hours, that generally equals four classes, and have a 2.0 GPA," McCort said.

Glitch said she would love to

expand toward events like in-house tournaments in various games to expand student involvement as the program grows.

McCort said, "Currently, it's still scholastic. But we are hoping to start hosting in-house tournaments where we can invite other schools, other players and create that local grassroots program where people can come and participate."

All campuses offer games most of their players want. Brookhaven offers League of Legends, one of the most popular games in the world.

There has been an increase in student interest in eSports at Dallas College. McCort said: "This semester, we had an influx so the first couple semesters it was, you know, anywhere from 30 to 50 students per semester. This semester, we had an influx of about 300.



Photo by Alejandro Murillo

Smith machines located in Room T123A.

Fitness Lab receives new equipment

By Alejandro Murillo
Photographer

The Brookhaven Campus Fitness Lab has received new fitness equipment for the Fall 2023 semester.

The lab is located in Room T123A, in the basement of T Building. Updated hours of operation this school year are 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Previously, the fitness lab was open 7 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The fitness lab is accessible to all current Dallas College students, staff and faculty during normal hours, excluding specific hours for student class time. Jorge Rodriguez, fitness center manager, said peak hours for the facility are 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Rodriguez said new equipment in the Fitness Lab includes three recumbent bikes, one elliptical, one multifunctional system, one vertical abs machine and one rower.

Brookhaven student Jackie Cano said the Fitness Lab is an important resource for students. Cano said, "A lot of teenagers are insecure about their bodies, and it helps them get in shape or just come and feel better about themselves."

Brookhaven student Kaden Roberson said he praises the Fitness

Lab's convenience because he is able to get a workout session in for at least 30-40 minutes between classes.

Students hesitant to use the Fitness Lab for the first time are presented with an inclusive setting. Rodriguez said: "[The facility offers] a safe and welcoming environment, where everybody feels comfortable working out regardless of their fitness goals or experience. It's a space where you can hang out with friends and workout at the same time."

Brookhaven is not the only campus with its own Fitness Lab. All Dallas College campuses include fitness labs. Hours may vary across each campus.

Other pieces of exercise equipment available for use in the lab include treadmills, stationary bikes, bench presses, dumbbells and barbells, among others.

Students who prefer an outdoor setting are not limited to the indoor Fitness Lab. Brookhaven offers both a two mile jogging trail and outdoor tennis courts for students to use.

Students who are unfamiliar with any piece of equipment are welcome to ask for assistance. Rodriguez said he encourages students to seek help when needed. "Feel free to ask any questions to our staff," he said.

College introduces new clubs policies

By Emmy Hardy
Editor-In-Chief

The Office of Student Life and Engagement and the Student Government Association are implementing changes across all Dallas College Campuses regarding to student clubs. The push for these changes began within student leadership. Student leaders from all campuses worked through the spring and summer to create a new constitutional charter for SGA. Tony Ramirez, student body president at Richland Campus said, "With the school broadening their degrees and becoming a lot bigger and a lot more official, we decided that the student government also has to follow that path as well."

SGA members met with Frankie Ward, student life director at Dallas College, over several Saturdays to draft the new charter, which is currently under review and pending approval. It was decided SGA would become a bigger presence within student clubs, now known as Registered Student Organizations. This comes in the form of the new student officer RSO position of Senator. RSO senators will sit in on SGA meetings in addition to attending their club meetings. Every RSO is required to appoint a senator.

"They'll have a chance to speak and talk about the initiatives that the clubs are starting," Ramirez said. "Kind of like a public forum."

Kelly Sonnanstine, student life coordinator, said, "The student government is governing the clubs overall not to control or to hinder anything, but more to create more collaboration, create more availability for change, create bigger voices."

In order to be recognized as an official RSO, officers and advisers must meet a list of requirements. All requirements must be met before a club can meet. A club must have one full-time faculty or staff member at Dallas College serving as club adviser. Part-time faculty or staff may serve as co-advisers. In addition to the senator role, RSOs will need to fill three other positions: president, treasurer, and secretary. Six regular members will also be required for official recognition. The adviser and officers must create an RSO constitution, then submit a petition for recognition form to their respective student life coordinator. All club recognition forms are due Sept. 29.

Other forms, such as rosters, membership attendance and fundraising, must also be filled out and presented to coordinators



Photo by Emmy Hardy

Student club members set up their tables at the Club Expo on September 6-7.

throughout the semester. All RSO forms can be found within Dallas College's Microsoft Sharepoint site. Forms must be filled out virtually via PDF format, not handwritten. RSOs must attend club expos and other campus events in order to show proof of recruitment efforts.

A virtual RSO orientation meeting was held on Sept. 15 for club advisers and student officers across Dallas College. The meeting was attended by over 170 people. Frankie Ward, student life director for Dallas College, opened the meeting. "We will be introducing new RSO procedures to ensure that our organization

operates smoothly and effectively," Ward said. "By adhering to these procedures, we will create an environment where our organizations can thrive, innovate and make a lasting impact." Each policy section of the meeting was covered by one of the student life coordinators across Dallas College, all members of the RSO Thrive Committee, a group of student life coordinators who work to modify to RSO policies.

One student hoping to start a new RSO is Shanelle Tennyson, who has been at Dallas College since 2020. Tennyson said she wishes to create a gardening club at Brookhaven. She attended the

Club Expo on Sept. 6. "I was surprised to see the garden club didn't exist because there's a garden five minutes away from here," Tennyson said.

Tennyson said she wants to collaborate with the Farmers Branch Community Garden, as well as the food pantry at Brookhaven. Tennyson was previously involved with the garden through the church it is planted next to, Chapel Hill United Methodist. At the club expo, Tennyson said she got immediate interest from students, staff and faculty when she mentioned a potential gardening club. "Every person I've mentioned it to, their eyebrows went

up and their ears perked up," Tennyson said.

Tennyson is far from the only student interested in starting an RSO. Over 11 prospective clubs, known as provisionals, are currently seeking official recognition. Chris Schlarb, student life coordinator at Brookhaven Campus, said, "The new Registered Student Organization policies will benefit our student organizations in the long run because it will require students to plan ahead," Chris Schlarb, student life coordinator at Brookhaven Campus, said, "We're gonna have more quality programs over perhaps quantity and last-minute programming."