



Men's Basketball Bears pummel Jaguars in decisive victory, *Page 6*



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Ardy's Grill Alumnus opens Middle Eastern eatery in Addison, *Page 8*



THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

Award-winning student news since 1978

Lady Bears win 3rd consecutive title

Brookhaven women's soccer team sets new record in their division with "threepeat" win and five national titles overall.

By Aimee Morgan
Contributing Writer

Brookhaven women's soccer team, the Lady Bears, have won their third consecutive national title and their fifth national title, setting a record for the National Junior College Athletic Association for Division III women's soccer.

Jimmy Elder, head coach of the Lady Bears, said he was incredibly proud of this championship, and this win was exceptional because the Lady Bears not only made a new record for themselves but also won against the No. 1 undefeated school, Delta College.

This season was full of firsts. It was the first time a coaching staff won the national title five times. Elder said this was the team's first "three-peat," winning the last three years in succession, and only the second team ever in Division III to accomplish this. The Lady Bears ended their season 15-2-1.

Elder said: "We had a combination of great young student athletes. Our freshmen blended right in. We

became a nice family during the last three months of ups and downs, juggling tough practices, travel, work schedules and demanding academic schedules."

Dallas College Executive Athletic Director Sadiya Jones in a press release on Nov. 14 said: "It is an honor to watch our athletes' hard work and dedication, on and off the field, payoff on a national stage. To watch them do what they love, learn life lessons and earn a degree is inspiring."

Elder said each player had their role in the Lady Bear's success.

Elder said: "Our captains: Whitney Newbill, who provided us with a serious and motivated and fearless competitive spirit, and Bailey Clarke, whose tenacious, intelligent, and composed nature held the defense together when being assaulted by tough opponents."

Elder also mentioned Kaley Robison. He said, "An on-field warrior, fearless and ready to take on any opponent, even if it meant doing it by herself." Elder highlighted freshman goalkeeper Emma Garces, who he



Lady Bears team members and their coaches pose proudly with their award.

Photo courtesy of Jimmy Elder

said was key in the championship game with several saves. Elder also spoke of Meah Perez and Kenya Reynolds, two defenders. He said,

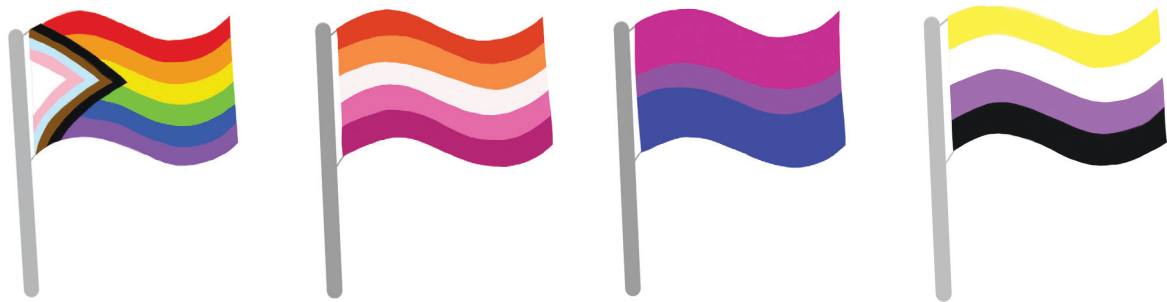
"They showed mature leadership and performance qualities all season."

He also mentioned Gracie Murillo,

as the team's "dribble king."

Finally, Elder highlighted Sayre Taylor. He said, "who created so many great opportunities but

struggled to collect her goals until the final when she won the game for us by once again getting free and then scoring the winning goal."



Illustrations by Ivy Nguyen

Dallas College observes LGBTQ+ History Month

By Amari Starks
Contributing Writer

While October is usually associated with Halloween and the fall days growing shorter, it is also LGBTQ+ History Month. This year, Dallas College's Multicultural Affairs office hosted a slew of events for LGBTQ+ students

and allies to participate in. Dallas College wrapped up the last of its LGBTQ+ History Month events on Oct. 27.

Events such as the mixers that kicked off festivities and the annual "LGBTQ+ Student Summit" served as opportunities to mix and mingle in a safe environment, build community and learn about

various resources offered at Dallas College. Students also learned about community resources such as where they can find HIV testing. After a day of community building and breakout sessions, the summit closed with a performance by queer artist Spencer LaJoye.

• **LGBTQ+**, Page 7

Hispanic employee resource group Adelante given new life



Photo courtesy of Alexa Pujol

By Emmy Hardy
Editor-in-Chief

Adelante, Dallas College's employee Hispanic resource group, has experienced significant growth this semester. Alexa Pujol, Adelante chair and Brookhaven Campus success coach, said the group was formed before the COVID-19 pandemic but did not take off in popularity until recently.

"We just really formed the re-birth of the group," Pujol said. "We're starting from the ground up."

Adelante currently has 226

members. Pujol said the group previously had just over 100 members, before a significant spike at Adelante's conference day in August.

Pujol said: "We were able to do a membership drive at the conference, and we are now at 226 members. So that number doubled in almost a single day."

Pujol said she wants Adelante to be a safe space for Hispanic employees and their allies. "As a minority group, we go through a lot of things that we don't usually talk about," Pujol said. "As a leader of a group from a younger generation, I have a lot of ideas

about what we should be talking about versus what we've always been talking about, which is completely different."

Some topics Pujol said she hopes to emphasize are mental health and networking.

"We have had a lot of programming," Pujol said. "We did a mental health session with Counseling and Psychological Services, and we're also hosting a recurring Cafecito time, which is basically a session where we offer professional development of some kind."

• **Adelante**, Page 7

Dallas College holds event for Transgender Remembrance

By Alexandra Parker
Copy Desk Chief

Dallas College held its first Transgender Day of Remembrance event

in honor of transgender individuals who have lost their lives due to bigotry and violence.

The event took place Nov. 20 at Cedar Valley Campus and was

accompanied by a virtual livestream through Microsoft Teams. The event started in 1999 as a vigil to honor

• **Transgender**, Page 7



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OPINION

— Staff Editorial —

New policies are killing student clubs

What is the purpose of student clubs? If you ask us, it is to provide students with a fun, productive and low-stakes environment to socialize and share their interests. We also believe student clubs should, as is implied by the name, be under the management of students.

So we at The Courier wonder why Dallas College has introduced policies that work directly against the purpose of clubs and the interests of students.

At the beginning of the Fall 2023 semester, the new policies were introduced. These policies, according to the people who created them, were introduced to streamline the orientation process for clubs.

Frankie Ward, student life director at Dallas College, said, "By adhering to these procedures, we will create an environment where our organizations can thrive, innovate and make a lasting impact."

Some of the new policies include a requirement of six members, four student officers including a Student Government senator and one full-time staff or faculty adviser. Each officer position comes with responsibilities. For example, the SGA senator must attend student government meetings.

In addition to these position requirements, there is also a large amount of paperwork to be filled out before clubs can officially meet. Group rosters, officer signatures

and account renewal forms are just a few of the lengthy forms that must be completed. A club cannot officially meet, nor are they even considered clubs by the college, until all of these requirements are met.

This seems like the opposite of what clubs should be. Enforcing rules that require people to jump through multiple hoops just to make a student club official defeats the purpose of clubs in the first place. It makes even joining a club an intimidating prospect, which directly opposes the inclusive environment community colleges are supposed to offer. These rules will slowly but surely eliminate student life at Brookhaven, something that can already be difficult to find for some students at a commuter school.

These policies only make things more difficult for everyone involved, from the students in the clubs to the Office of Student Life and Engagement employees who must wade through ridiculous amounts of paperwork. None of this is conducive to a productive environment.

Maybe these policies work for universities, but we are a community college. On average, students spend about one to two years here, meaning we do not have a consistent student population to meet these requirements. Students do not have the time to navigate endless forms and confusing guidelines.

"Requiring clubs to have officers before they can meet discourages new student clubs from forming and kills established clubs whose officers graduate or opt out when the new year begins," Aaron Clark, an English professor at Brookhaven Campus, said. Clark was the adviser for the Creative Writing Club for over a decade. With the new policies in place, Clark was unable to meet the requirements and the club died.

Longstanding clubs are not the only thing endangered. Shanelle Tennyson, a Brookhaven student, told us at the beginning of the semester she was looking to create a Brookhaven gardening club. She enticed many students, staff and faculty with the idea. However, like Clark, Tennyson was overwhelmed by the strict guidelines and the gardening club was dead in the water before it had a chance. People such as Clark and Tennyson are who Dallas College should be supporting.

Even clubs that turned in paperwork on time have not had an easy path this semester. PRISM, the LGBTQ+ student club at Brookhaven, is stuck in an endless wait for approval of its paperwork. At week 15 of the 16-week semester, PRISM was still not approved to meet officially. Our editor-in-chief is the club president and can attest to the difficulties this semester has brought. The Book Club was in a



Illustration by Emmy Hardy

similar position.

These policies make it extremely difficult for students to bond, make friends and meet people outside the classroom.

"The new policies, in effect, banned our club meeting until we elected people to office who had never even attended, and could never attend, a club meeting before running for office for that club they

know nothing about," Clark said.

We are not trying to place the blame on any individuals or offices. It is our belief the policies were created with good intentions. The statements by individuals in the Office of Student Life at the beginning of this semester suggest this. Ward said, "We will be introducing new RSO procedures to ensure that our

organization operates smoothly and effectively." We do not doubt this statement.

We simply wish to highlight the detrimental effect these policies have had on everyone. Clark said, "These policies killed us." The problem is not intent. It is a lack of planning and consideration for those involved, specifically the students of Dallas College.

Dallas College provides dodgy answers on Senate Bill guidance

Texas Republicans are forging ahead in their ultimate plan to silence places of higher education. This landmark has come in the passing of Senate Bill 17. SB 17 seeks, by its own verbiage, to eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion offices across all state-funded colleges and universities.



Emmy Hardy

The bill will become law on Jan. 1. If you have paid any attention to local news for the past few years, this should come as no shock. What may surprise you is Dallas College's seemingly cold and calculated response via its guidance statement on the bill.

On Oct. 30, the Dallas College Office of the General Counsel sent an email titled "Guidance Regarding the Implementation of SB17" to all Dallas College employees. Attached was a link to a post with the same name on Dallas College's Microsoft Sharepoint page. The post was intended to address frequently asked questions on SB 17.

This is hardly a unique scenario. Similar, if not nearly identical, statements have been published by most Texas colleges and universities in the past month. However, what stuck out to me while reading through Dallas College's statement was a general coldness.

Part of the introductory statement reads: "SB17 seeks to ensure that a public institution of higher education does not establish or maintain a 'diversity, equity, and inclusion office,' or engage in certain prohibited practices and activities, and requires the Dallas College Board of Trustees to annually certify the College's compliance to the Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Accordingly, the College will undertake to make any administrative changes deemed necessary under the new law while implementing communication strategies and monitoring practices designed to support compliance."

I understand there must be some

formality when addressing these issues, yet I cannot help but look to other universities and colleges and their statements. Most of these institutions, before laying out the new compliance rules, provided a reassuring statement.

Here is The University of Texas at Austin's version: "The University of Texas System (UT System) is developing guidance, including the following FAQs, to assist institutions with implementing the bill's requirements. These FAQs will be updated as needed. UT System and UT Austin remain committed to supporting our community members who bring a variety of perspectives and experiences and come to our institutions from across the state and around the world."

The University of Texas has an even more uplifting statement to give. It reads: "As you may know, the Texas State Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 17, which was signed into law and prohibits public institutions of higher education from maintaining diversity, equity, and inclusion offices, and related activities. Our leadership team has been working hard to make sure we continue to support our diverse student body, faculty, and staff in our values-based environment." Both statements go on to address the frequently asked questions in a very human way, with no lack of clarity and transparency.

What is Dallas College's reassuring statement on SB 17? There is only one passage within the mass email which can be interpreted as approaching reassuring. It reads: "It is important to note, however, that nothing in SB17 alters the College's existing obligations under federal and state law, including the anti-discrimination requirements of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Therefore, the College must and will continue to ensure that its programs and activities are open and available to all persons on a non-discriminatory basis."

This statement contains no reassurance of Dallas College's continued support, just an incredibly vague statement of obligation.



Illustration by Tania Kaufmann

This is currently the only statement on SB 17 released by Dallas College. The guidelines in the statement are full of empty promises and non-answers.

I cannot entirely blame Dallas College for this, as SB 17 itself was intentionally written to be as vague as possible.

I simply wish Dallas College would have taken the time to consider its wording more carefully. We are talking about a state law with the potential to cost Dallas College employees their jobs if their positions are in offices determined to be DEI. This should merit more care and consideration.

Murky statements are not Dallas College's only problem. For this piece, I reached out to multiple Brookhaven Campus employees who are a part of offices that will undoubtedly be affected by SB 17. All these employees were ready and willing to speak to me, only to be told by their supervisors they could not. They were informed they must not speak on behalf of Dallas College.

I was directed up the chain of command, where time and again, I was met with the same answer. Eventually, I emailed the Office of General Counsel on Nov. 8. They responded on Nov. 15, asking me to email them

any questions I had, which I sent later that day. As of this publication, I have yet to receive any response from them. I can appreciate the fact this is a serious topic, and the college would want qualified individuals to speak on the matter.

However, if the college knew this would be their policy on communications regarding SB 17, it would seem even more prudent to provide clear, concise and human communication right out the gate. Instead, Dallas College employees are left with one robotic statement and little else.

Where is the care? Where is the sense of community? We are a community college. We are supposed to provide a more down-to-earth and personal environment. So why do our official communications come off as so stiff and corporate?

This is the opposite of what we need right now. As I stated before, Texas Republicans are in a full-blown war against higher education. In times like these, our institutions should be rallying behind us or at the very least providing some level of reassurance to their students, staff and faculty. Emotionless statements such as Dallas College's paint the issue not as the dire situation it is, but rather as a simple legal matter that cannot be helped.



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	Emmy Hardy
COPY DESK CHIEF	Alexandra Parker
PHOTO EDITOR	Tania Kaufmann
COPY EDITOR	Jaqueline Sastre
LAYOUT EDITOR	Ivy Nguyen
ILLUSTRATORS	Danna Balderas Rafael Castillo Linley Nyirenda
PHOTOGRAPHER	Edgar Palacios Alejandro Murillo
STAFF WRITER	Taijai Wallace
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	Emma Aideth Tiya Caldwell Alex Garcia Charles Gottsacker Valeria Guzman Riston Hambrick-Osler Rolando Hernandez Sean Magistrado Aimee Morgan John Read Jessica Rojas Gordon Sam Paul Sanchez Amari Starks
NEWSPAPER ADVISER	Daniel Rodrigue
ADVISER	Jubenal Aguilar
EDITORIAL CONSULTANT	Rori Callaway
PROGRAM FOUNDER	Dr. John Neal

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CAMPUS

Brookhaven hosts virtual author Q&A

By **Emmy Hardy**
Editor-in-Chief

Brookhaven Campus hosted a virtual Q&A with Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi, authors of the Dallas College Commons Book “Tell Me Who You Are: Sharing Our Stories of Race, Culture & Identity.” On Nov. 16, Brookhaven students, staff and faculty gathered in the Performance Hall to hear Guo and Vulchi speak via a Microsoft Teams meeting broadcast on a screen. The Q&A was also live-streamed at every other Dallas College campus.

The Q&A, as well as the Dallas College Common Experience, which the Common Book program is a part of, were overseen by Toniette Robinson, associate dean of special academic programs at Brookhaven. Robinson, present via Teams, opened the session. Robinson said, “I believe that a lot of the students are able to read this book and see themselves or learn something about other peoples’ cultures.”

Robinson then began the Q&A with Guo and Vulchi. Vulchi opened by giving some context to the creation of their book. She said while she and Guo were in high school they noticed a pattern with their teachers and curriculums. At the time, a viral picture was circling the internet and social media. The picture was of a dress some people saw as black with blue stripes while others saw white and gold stripes. Vulchi said, “It went viral, and we went to class the next day and all of our teachers were also talking about it.”

Guo said she and Vulchi were surprised their teachers could make time to talk about this viral sensation in class, considering their teachers

did not make time for other subjects such as discrimination, police brutality and ongoing liberation efforts. All of these, in Guo and Vulchi’s eyes, were significant issues greatly affecting students’ lives.

Guo said, “We realized then in our sophomore year that we had not really questioned what we were learning in school or why we were learning it.”

This experience as well as other similar incidents inspired Guo and Vulchi to write their own curriculums. Vulchi said she and Guo wrote their ideas on whiteboards and blackboards in Vulchi’s childhood bedroom.

Vulchi said, “We were realizing that schools were microcosms of society, so what we learn and who we are within those walls has consequences far beyond our immediate campuses.”

Guo and Vulchi decided they wished to determine what they needed to learn. Vulchi said she and Guo started asking themselves questions such as, “What if we saw ourselves not as passive recipients of information within our schools, but rather as agents ourselves?”

One of the primary topics Guo and Vulchi wished to cover was racial literacy. Guo said, “Race has always impacted every part of our lives and our racially divided communities, from our neighborhoods to our friend groups to our lunch tables to our classrooms.” Guo and Vulchi wanted to highlight the ways in which race is tightly wound into society.

Guo and Vulchi were met with pushback and indifference from authority figures. Guo said, “We were told over and over again that we were ‘creating a problem where

none existed.”

Guo and Vulchi wrote a K-12 textbook on racial literacy called “The Classroom Index.” They also founded the nonprofit Choose, which is dedicated to teaching racial literacy, in 2014. The book is now sold out and in 2016 was recognized by Princeton University in its Princeton Prize in Race Relations award, as well as The Harnisch Foundation and the Not in Our Town’s Unity award, according to Choose’s website.

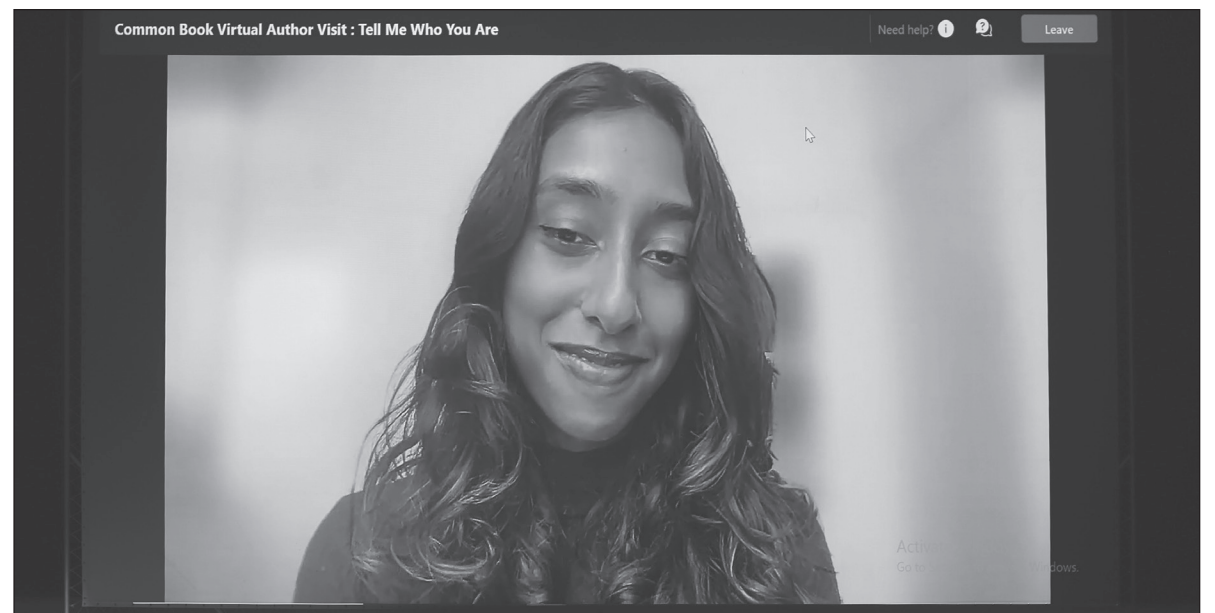
The two authors continued their efforts by starting to write a new book, which would eventually come to be “Tell Me Who You Are.” This started with Guo and Vulchi interviewing individuals in the local area. Vulchi said, “Every day after school, we would go downtown to tap strangers on the shoulder and say, ‘Hey, how has race impacted your life?’”

After this, Guo and Vulchi set a goal for themselves: They would travel across every state in the country, interviewing anyone who was willing to talk about race and its impact.

A week after graduating from high school, Guo and Vulchi left for their first state, Alaska. By the same time next year, they had achieved their goal, interviewing over 200 people across the U.S. Vulchi said about 90% of the people she and Guo talked to had deeply personal stories about how race had impacted their lives.

Guo said in the midst of their interviews, she and Vulchi realized they were missing something in their writing: statistics and context.

“We started adding statistics and sociological research to place each story in a larger systematic context,”



Photos by Emmy Hardy

Authors Winona Guo, above, and Priya Vulchi speak to a Performance Hall audience and live stream on Nov. 16.

Guo said. “For instance, if we interviewed someone who shared an experience with police brutality, we would then pair that story to sociological research to explain how that experience with police brutality was

not just one isolated incident, but rather a systemic issue in this country.” Guo and Vulchi dubbed this mixture of personal experience and statistical systems the Heart-Mind Map of Racial Literacy.

Guo and Vulchi said they learned an immeasurable amount of things during their trip. Vulchi said, “People all around us have aspirations to share. All we have to do is listen.”

Dallas College provides mental health resources

By **Ivy Nguyen**
Layout Editor

Counseling and Psychological Services provide free one-on-one counseling for Dallas College students who are currently enrolled in classes and are at least 18 years old.

“There’s no issue that’s too small to talk about it because we all need support,” Rachel Estrada, a counselor at Richland Campus, said. CAPS counselors approach all issues, big or small, seriously. Rhonda Dalrymple, a counselor at Brookhaven Campus, said: “Please know that every concern that a student may present with, we do take seriously, and we offer respect, understanding and safe, supportive space to work through these concerns.”

CAPS counselors are licensed professionals, and several of them own or used to own private practices. “Our counselors are all licensed and qualified professionals,” Dalrymple said. “We are equipped to support our students on their journey through overcoming these challenges.”

While therapy sessions in the community can be costly, the services provided at Dallas College are free for all Dallas College students. Karen Cutill, a counselor at Richland Campus said, “Some of our colleagues in the community, they may without insurance, be up to \$200 an hour. So we are very much one of the best

deals in town.”

Many students may only consider counseling when their life situation becomes grave. However, Cutill said stress management and prevention are key to maintaining mental health. “We would like it if we could reach everybody before their mental health deteriorates,” Cutill said. “I believe we can start today and resolve our issues or solve some of our problems or most of our problems by starting today and moving forward in the future.”

The stigma surrounding mental health can make it difficult for some students to seek counseling. Cutill

said, “There is a lot of stigma in our culture and in most cultures, it can be even worse. So we do work very hard in our outreaches when we talk to people.” Still, students are encouraged to reach out if they need counseling.

Dalrymple said, “We hope that students take that first step to work through the stigma that exists about therapy and experience that it can hopefully provide them.”

It may be difficult to open up at first, but Estrada said counseling does not have to be about something serious or strictly about struggles. “We’re just talking, and you can

make the first session as long as you want, and you can divulge information if you want to or not,” Estrada said. “A lot of my students that come in, talk about academics, time management, transitions from whatever they were doing before college. So it’s just a matter of learning how to organize things, dealing with change [and] dealing with relationship issues.”

By law, clinical therapists are required to keep all information revealed in sessions confidential. Dalia Blell, a counselor at North Lake Campus, said: “We’re HIPAA-compliant. We don’t release any information to anyone unless the student has given us written permission to do so.”

If a student is experiencing a crisis, they may walk into any of the counseling centers at Dallas College to receive immediate assistance. Otherwise, students are encouraged to schedule appointments with counselors via the Navigate app. Students can also email or call their campus care center, where they will be helped and connected to a counselor.

There are at least two counselors at each campus, but students are not limited to those counselors. Estrada said each counselor offers something different, and it is important students find one who suits their needs and preferences. Estrada said: “There should be a fit. There should

be a feeling that you feel comfortable and that you’d be open to trusting this person.” It is suggested students visit the Meet the Counselors page on Dallas College’s website to find contact information, navigate availability and see descriptions of the different specialties or qualities each counselor provides. “Some students may want to see a female or a male or maybe a counselor that speaks a certain language,” Neff said. “Or maybe they’re seeking someone that is LGBTQIA+ friendly.”

There is a counselor for every need. “I’m a military-connected specialist. That doesn’t mean that’s all I see. I see all students,” Cutill said. “I’m a cognitive behavioral therapist, and I do solution-focused, relatively direct therapy.” Blell said: “I am an EMDR therapist, which is one of the most evidence-based therapies for PTSD and trauma, anxiety, [and] depression. I’m a psychotherapeutic yoga clinician. So that means I integrate yoga, breath work and mindfulness into my treatment plan.”

If a student is unsatisfied after a meeting with a counselor, they can still explore other options. Cutill said, “If a student doesn’t feel comfortable after seeing a counselor, a student can go to any counselor in the college. So we’re not limited.”

Outside of counseling services, CAPS counselors can connect students with campus resources such

as accessibility services for students with medical or psychological conditions on file, as well as community resources such as counselor referrals after graduation or primary care physicians for medication.

CAPS is supported under the umbrella of the Student Care Network at Dallas College, which also includes Student Care Coordination, Basic Needs & Community Connections, and Health Services. Neff said: “Now that we’re a Student Care Network, we want students to feel connected and also get what they need. Because once your basic needs aren’t met, it’s really hard to be able to focus and study in your college classes.”

Dallas College also provides suicide prevention training programs, such as the AS+K Suicide Gatekeeper Training and Mental Health First Aid Training, to educate on how to spot signs of suicide, intervene safely and connect the person to care. Cutill said, “The Mental Health First Aid is skills that you will take with you for the rest of your life. And I pretty well believe most people will end up saving a life through that training.”

Students can talk to a counselor if they are interested in the counseling field. Neff said, “If anyone is interested in the field of psychology, so you’ve thought about being a counselor or you thought about being a psychologist or a psychiatrist, come talk to us.”

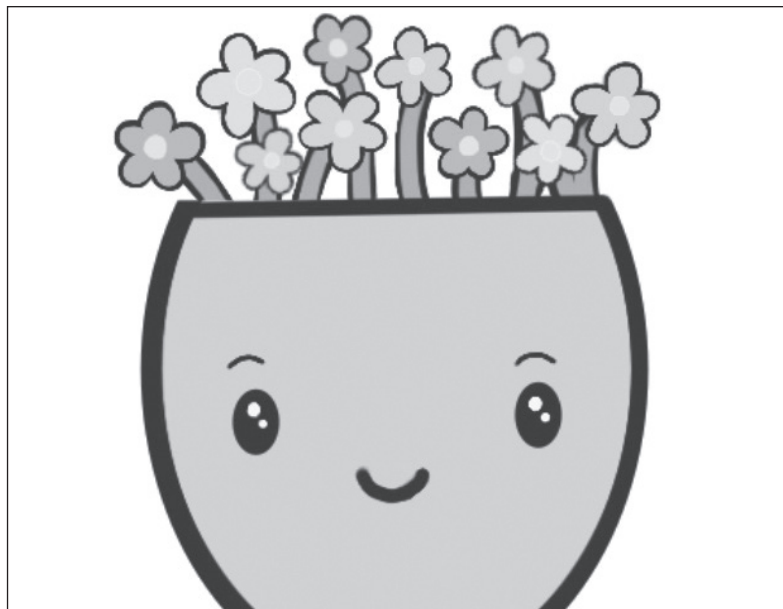


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ARTS & CULTURE



The keys to giving meaningful gifts

By Alexandra Parker
Copy Desk Chief

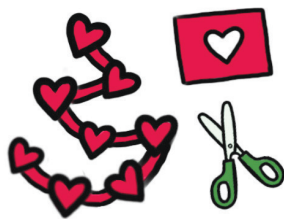
Many have heard the saying, “It’s the thought that counts,” and this is true. It is often the thought behind the gift that provides its true meaning.

For some, this can be a daunting and overwhelming task, especially for students. Luckily, I have a few tips for how to give meaningful gifts to make this holiday season unforgettable for you and your loved ones.

GET CREATIVE

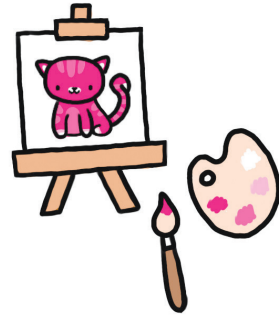
What are your talents and how can you incorporate them into a gift? For example, if you are a painter, you could paint a picture for a loved one as a present, using their favorite colors, or paint a particular object they enjoy.

Does this person love cats and have the favorite color pink? Paint them a pink cat. The art of meaningful gifts is to show you have taken time to think about who the gift-receiver is as a person. This tip will require you to think outside the box about what it is you are good at or what you enjoy doing, and how you can make the gift-receiver smile.



DRAW INSPIRATION FROM THEIR PASSIONS

Similar to the first tip, this tip requires you to think about the gift-receiver and consider their hobbies or passions. Do they collect a certain item for fun? Maybe buy something that can add to their collection. Do they have a favorite singer? Perhaps you can visit the local music store and get them something related to said artist. Showing someone you care about their passions or hobbies is one of the most beautiful and thoughtful ways to give appreciation.



BUY WHAT THEY NEED

This one is pretty simple; buy what the recipient needs or something that will make their day-to-day life a little easier. This can be something as simple as buying a bike mount for their car or an item they have frequently mentioned wanting. This ties to the second tip as well. You could buy something that helps them better participate in their favorite hobby. These types of gifts can make for the best surprises and can be especially heart-warming once the gift-receiver realizes you have paid attention to their needs.



GIFT CARDS

If all else fails, there are always gift cards. While this does not seem too thoughtful at first glance, the way you go about this will determine its impact. Visa gift cards are a great option, with balances starting as low as \$10 and going all the way to \$500. Instead of just gifting them a gift card, perhaps include the present in a handmade holiday card and write out a special message to them. Visa isn’t the only option. If the recipient is a book-lover for instance, consider buying a gift card to their favorite bookstore. If they frequently dine out, you could buy a gift card to their favorite restaurant. There are many ways to go about this one while also being considerate.



The key to meaningful gifts is showing you have taken time to think about the recipient. Gifts don’t always have to be extravagant. Now that you have these tips in mind, it’s time to start giving.



Column

Would you thrift your Holiday gifts this year?

By Alejandro Murillo
Contributing Photographer

With the holidays in full force. Shopping for the perfect Christmas gift is as important as celebrating Christmas itself.

Shoppers will typically head to gift shopping mainstays such as their local shopping mall or online marketplaces such as Amazon to complete their holiday shopping lists.

What if there was an alternative destination for your holiday shopping needs?

What if that place is your local thrift store?

Thrift stores offer an endless amount of clothing and hard goods. The possibility of stumbling upon a giftable item is fairly high, but are Christmas gift recipients willing to overlook the absence of a shiny brand tag?

Jennifer Wang, a Brookhaven Campus student, said: “I wouldn’t

mind. It’s the thought that counts.”

Wang said a thrifted gift would add a more sentimental element than a gift purchased brand new. She said: “It’s definitely harder to find the perfect used gift. Only a dedicated person would put in the time and effort to search for an item you will truly love.”

Brookhaven student Maria Garcia provided a more mixed reaction. “I think I would be wary about getting a gift from a thrift store,” she said. “What if the gift is dirty or smells weird?”

Secondhand clothing tends to acquire a certain “thrift store smell” that can be off-putting to certain individuals.

Garcia said receiving a thrifted gift would add an extra chore. “A clean freak like me would probably appreciate the gesture, but I would instantly sanitize the item,” Garcia said.

Seasoned thrift store shoppers would likely be the best candidates

for a thrifted gift. Victoria Torres, a Brookhaven student said she describes herself as thrift obsessed. She said almost the entirety of her personal wardrobe is secondhand.

“Receiving a gift from my favorite place in the world would be unmatched,” Torres said. “I’ve never received a secondhand gift. It would stand out from the rest of my other Christmas gifts.” Torres touted the many benefits of thrifting from a college student perspective. “It’s fun, sustainable and cheap,” she said.

Thrifted Christmas gifts might seem like a foreign concept for both the gift giver and the recipient. Rising trends in sustainability and the toll recent inflation has had on shoppers will likely steer some consumers to their thrift stores. Granted, of course, if their recipient would respond warmly to the idea of a used Christmas gift. Thrift stores might very well be the next holiday gift mecca.

The rich history of mall Santas

By Alexandra Parker
Copy Desk Chief

Many have seen them growing up, parading around in bright red hats, with jolly smiles and big white beards. Some have even waited in long lines just to get pictures with them, whether through the force of their parents or by choice. He makes his grand appearance once a year, ready to determine whether you have been naughty or nice – mall Santa.

A mall Santa is a person who dresses up as Santa Claus to entertain children. These jolly humans are often found in shopping malls or large department stores. Mall Santas have been around for over a century, with the first one appearing in the 1800s.

There is a slight debate about who the first mall Santa was, but there is no argument about the monumental figures who paved the way for many Santas to come.

Here is a timeline and a brief history of mall Santas.

1861: Santa makes his debut visiting children in department stores at Macy’s on 34th Street in New York.

This continued for 159 years straight, all the way until the

COVID-19 pandemic hit, which affected the 2020 and 2021 holiday seasons for Santas in Macy’s.

1890: James Edgar, also known as Colonel Jim, has the idea to get a Santa costume tailored and fitted, to greet families and children with joyous cheer at his department store in Boston.

According to ClickAmericana.com, many witnesses described seeing Santa for the first time in person as “a dream come true.”

Although this was a spontaneous decision meant to last only a day, word quickly spread that Santa was at the local department store, and by the end of the week children were lined up outside the store with their families impatiently waiting to see and talk to Santa.

This was monumental for Santa history, as Edgar set an ongoing trend for Santa meet-and-greets.

1891: Due to the popularity of Santa in previous years, stores across the country began to adopt the same idea, with Santa appearing in nearly every major department store across America.

1937: Charles W Howard Santa Claus School located in Midland, Michigan is established as a school

on a mission to “make a better Santa” by providing a three-day crash course.

Still running, the school teaches students how to be a successful Santa by covering topics such as professional Santa attire, the art of being a true Santa and more.

1943: Pictures with Santa officially became a hot commodity. During a Santa meet-and-greet at the Seattle-based department store Fredrick and Nelson, Arthur French, a staff photographer at the local Seattle newspaper was so touched at the sight of children eagerly meeting Santa, that he decided to snap a picture of the moment.

This spur-of-the-moment decision changed history and popularized taking pictures with Santa.

French began charging people \$1 per picture, successfully making \$10,000 in December 1943. Three years later in 1946, French quit the newspaper he was working at and launched his own photography business.

All of these ingredients made for the perfect recipe when malls became popularized in the 1950s, and it was soon evident that shopping centers were the perfect place to advertise Santa. The rest is history.

Honoring Carl Anderson, the longstanding NorthPark Santa

By Emmy Hardy
Editor-in-Chief

I have few early childhood memories. But among the few I retain is the image of a kind and jolly man in red who I visited every year at NorthPark Center. This was of course Santa Claus.

It only occurred to me later in life to look at the man behind the beard. His name was Carl Anderson. He died on Oct. 16 at the age of 70.

Anderson portrayed Santa at NorthPark for over 30 years. As I sat on his lap every year, so did my older brother, despite him being nine years my senior. I distinctly remember feeling absolutely certain Anderson, unlike the “imposters” I saw elsewhere, must be the real Santa because he had a real beard.

Every year Anderson would recall the same story of a snowball fight in the North Pole to the children at the mall, and each year I would listen intently as if hearing it for the first time



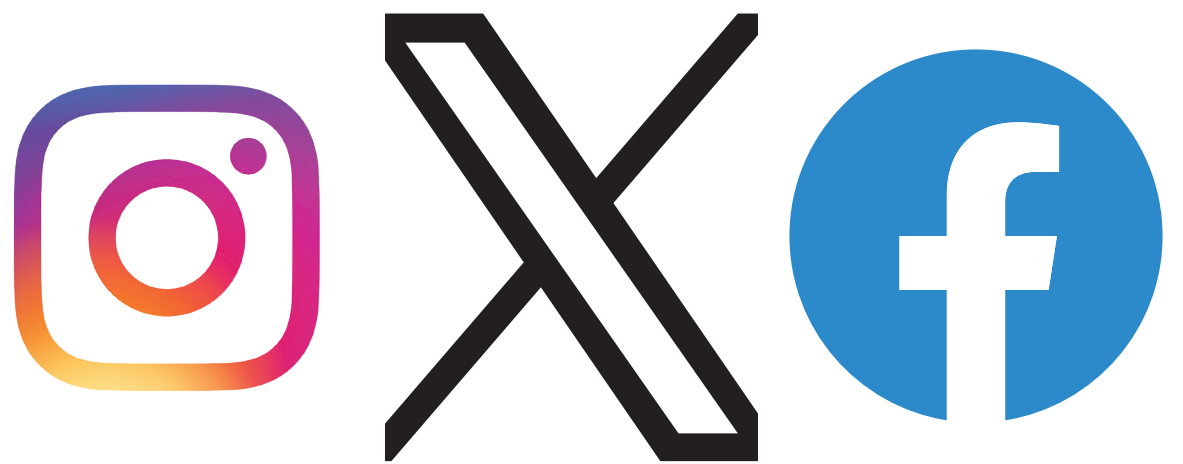
Illustration by Ivy Nguyen

all over again.

Year after year he would ask me what I wanted, and I would bombard him with very specific requests. No matter how ridiculous the request, Anderson would smile and simply tell me he would do his best. My

admiration for Anderson is far from unique. He was so beloved by the community that he was inducted into the International Santa Claus Hall of Fame in 2012.

Clearly there was no shortage of love for Carl Anderson.



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THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER



ARTS & CULTURE

New glow-in-the-dark park underway

By Sean Magistrado
Contributing Writer

The country's first glow-in-the-dark playground is breaking ground in Farmers Branch. The one-of-a-kind playground, located at the northwest corner of Valley View Lane and Tom Field Road, is projected to open in late 2023.

Joya, which translates to jewel in Spanish, is will be the crown jewel of playgrounds, according to the park's website PlayAtJoya.com. The park includes a 27-foot sphere situated at the center of the complex, a zip line, an obstacle course and other amenities. Within the sphere itself are six climbing levels as well as swings and slides. There is an additional area encompassing 7,000 square feet, the Tot Playground, which is intended for toddlers and includes ground-level and ramp-structured play areas.

According to the website, "The vision for Joya was brought about through surveying the community and talking to a lot of kids." Intending to introduce a signature play space to the community of Farmers Branch, the city's parks and recreation staff, along with city leadership, came together to design the unique concept.

The concept for Joya is the brainchild of Deputy City Manager Michael Mashburn. While aware of the challenges in developing such an ambitious project, Mashburn said he is nonetheless excited to see how the local community rallies around the park.

"Our primary focus is on

providing top-tier services and amenities to our residents," Mashburn said. "Pioneering a new path and creating something that has not been done before is certainly challenging, but we are also incredibly excited to offer our community a distinctive amenity they can be proud of." Mashburn said Farmers Branch has proudly declared itself a "City in a Park" for many

years. However, the city lacked a signature park that truly embodied this identity.

A grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife, as well as funds through the American Rescue Plan Act, catapulted the project from a dream into reality.

The grant poured \$750,000 into the funding while the ARPA funds contributed \$4,000,000. Matching city funds also contributed an extra \$750,000 to the project.

Mashburn said the project was made possible through a combination of groups working together.

He said, "Joya has been made possible through the leadership of our city council, city administration and the parks and recreation professionals that have coordinated every aspect of the design and construction."

Mashburn said he believes when planning for new resources on a project, he and his colleagues must ask themselves a question: What need is this project setting for our citizens?

"Joya will not only provide a one-of-a-kind experience, but it will also be a free amenity for residents to enjoy in the evening

during our hottest months," Mashburn said.

Kerry Phillips, parks superintendent of Farmers Branch, said he believes his team's favorite aspect of the development process has been the excitement and positive feedback they have received.

"People are really excited and that makes all the hard parts worth it," Phillips said. "We've received positive local, regional, and national news coverage over this project and that is a very positive thing for the City of Farmers Branch."

Residents have noticed the hard work Mashburn, Phillips and their team have devoted to the project. Kirk Wooldridge, a local guide, said he commends the work being done. In a review of the park's construction, Wooldridge said, "They have been working hard to get this thing going."

Phillips said when the playground opens, there will be few restrictions placed upon visitors. "Joya will be free and open to everyone," Phillips said. "The playground will be open during the day, and the lights will come on near dusk."

However, Phillips said visitors should treat the park with care. "We expect users of the park to pick up after themselves and treat the features and equipment with respect," he said.

An official date for the park's grand opening has not been announced as of publication.

"The date and event details will be posted at playatjoya.com and on our parks and recreation Facebook page," Phillips said.



Photo by Sean Magistrado

From above: The 27-foot sphere, the "Crown Jewel," is ready for visitors. "The Spine Zone" features spinning chairs.

Students win awards at forum gallery art show

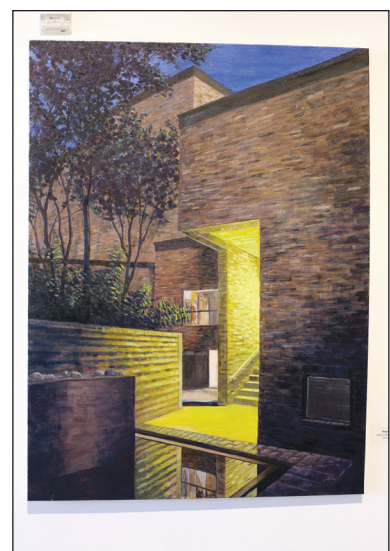
By Emmy Hardy & Linley Nyirenda
Editor-in-Chief & Illustrator

Brookhaven students earned best in show awards for their work in the student exhibition, located in the forum gallery. Lisa Ehrlich, former art professor at Brookhaven, served as the judge for all entries. She announced the winners in the gallery on Nov. 9. Here is a list of the winners.

BEST IN SHOW WINNERS

BEST IN SHOW - GWEN GETTO

Photography	Kelly Natale	"Full Moon on a Stormy Night"
Painting	Stephen Lee	"Dusk at Brookhaven"
Drawing	Nathan Medina	"Still Life"
Ceramics	Faina Tepitskaya	"They are no longer together"
Design	Hugh Sloan	"88 Keys"
Art Metals	Hye Archuleta	"Fantasy"
Digital Art	Jeff Wheeler	"Fall Colors"
Printmaking	Beth Mahy	"Harvest Moon"



Photos by Linley Nyirenda

Clockwise from above: Gwen Getto, overall best in show winner, stands next to her sculpture with her certificate; "Dusk at Brookhaven" by Stephen Lee, who won in the painting category; the photography section of the exhibition.



Photos by Amari Starks

From left: Gardeners dig holes for planting. A sign welcoming visitors to the Farmers Branch Community Garden.

Local garden builds community

By Amari Starks
Contributing Writer

Blackberry vines, fresh okra, sweet potatoes and fruiting persimmon trees are just some things growing at the Farmers Branch Community Garden. However, even with all the various fruits and vegetables growing behind the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, it is the impact on the local community that shines through the most.

Community gardens overflow with benefits, spilling out to the surrounding community.

A spirit of community building and camaraderie can be found at the Farmers Branch Community Garden.

Friendships have blossomed alongside the fruit. The local gardeners often help each other with their plots, give advice and provide general support.

Benjamin Solis, Farmers Branch parks and recreations supervisor, said: "The people that are there enjoy helping each other, and that's what makes the community garden. Whether it is a garden or school or work, it is really all about people. How you connect with people, whether it is at a garden, physically, or through the internet or social platforms, it is learning to adapt to the situations that the people are in and helping each other. I think that is what they love about the garden."

The garden has thrived for over 15 years. Solis was there in 2008 when it all came together as a joint venture between the church and the city. Solis said the property belongs to Chapel Hill Church but leased it to the city covering three-fourths of an acre with 60 4x20 foot plots.

Donations made from harvested produce are another aspect the gardeners and receiving community enjoy.

Solis said gardeners are required to donate 25% of their harvests, with those donations going to the food pantry at Metrocrest Services. In a year that can add up to a couple thousand pounds in donations. In 2022, they nearly reached 3,000 pounds.

"In the spring and in the fall when we have big harvests, we have over 100 pounds twice a week," gardener Patti Williams said. She is part of a group of six who harvest for the food bank. They spend a couple of hours every Wednesday and Saturday gathering the ready crop into bags and boxes to be transported. On Oct. 7, Andrea Rains, one of the gardeners from the original 60 plots, volunteered to make the drive, delivering over 40 pounds of produce to Metrocrest where they are cleaned and distributed.

With food prices rising in the last few years, safe, fresh and healthy produce is often inaccessible to individuals and families.

Shanelle Tennyson, a Dallas College student majoring in holistic medicine and permaculture, said she wants to start a gardening club at Brookhaven Campus and partner with the community garden for this very reason.

"There's an endless trope of starving college students," she said. "Because it is a real thing. We are hungry. We are hungry. Does not matter if you came straight out of high school, or if you are like me, returning to school after a decade of not being in school." Shanelle said a gardening club with a plot or two could provide the campus food pantry access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

In the meantime, eligible visitors can find fresh produce from the Farmers Branch Community Garden at Metrocrest Services in Carrollton and visit the Dallas College food pantries for additional food needs.

In the garden plots, gardeners

plant a variety of fruits and vegetables. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, onions and corn are among some of the vegetables found throughout the seasons.

Solis said: "We're currently switching into the fall vegetables, which will be your spinach and lettuce, and Swiss chard, peas and carrots. Really, whatever vegetables they think they can grow, they can. It's their plot to manage."

The garden also holds a small orchard which includes pear, apricot and apple trees. Surrounding them are fences lined with grape, blackberry and strawberry vines. "I've never had a fresh fig until that tree put on figs," Tennyson said. "I discovered I liked figs. The only other time I had anything fig-like was a Fig Newton."

Interested students who go to school at, live in, work in or are associated with Farmers Branch can fill out an application for their own plot. Applicants must pass a criminal background check.

There is also a \$25 annual fee that goes toward covering seeds and shared tools, which are all provided alongside the expertise of master gardeners.

But Solis said do not expect to start gardening right away. There is a waitlist, and it can extend out as far as six months. Solis said sometimes he expects applicants will have forgotten they are on this list. "When I finally contact the people and ask them if they still want to be part of the garden, they are so excited," he said.

It is not just a hobby, Solis said. It is important to remember it is an all-year commitment.

Recently, the garden partnered with Dallas County Health and Human Services. They received a grant that paid for supplies, such as seeds, soils and compost.



SPORTS

Bears score big in 106-70 game

The Brookhaven men's basketball team secures an early lead and never loses it, leaving the Jacksonville Jaguars in the dust

By **Emmy Hardy**
Editor-in-Chief

The Brookhaven Bears men's basketball team left the home court with smiling faces on Nov. 21, having secured a 106-70 win against Jacksonville College's Jaguars.

The game was not a close one. From the beginning, the Bears took the lead and maintained it throughout both halves.

Guard Grant Jessen scored 28 points in the 24 minutes he was off the bench, a significant uptick from his semester average of 10.3 points per game.

Guard Curtis Trey Moffett fiercely kept control of the ball throughout the game, ensuring his teammates were set up to score. Moffett's teamwork showed in his stats, as he made 10 assists overall. Forward Jesse Klein pushed through the Jaguar's defenses at every turn. It was a balanced game for Bears players. The significant lead the Bears secured early on allowed Christopher McGill, head coach of the Bears, to frequently switch out

starting and reserve players. By the game's end, every player had at least seven minutes off the bench.

Despite the clean win, it was not an entirely smooth experience for the Bears. Guard and forward Javier Espino sustained a chin injury mid-game, being sent to the side to be patched up. However, Espino was back off the bench in no time, and spent more time on the court than any other reserve player, with 25 minutes.

The court was not just a host to basketball players and their audience. Spencer Pattinson, an employee at UT Tyler, broadcast the game live. Pattinson said he volunteers at various colleges, which do not usually have broadcasts.

With a definitive victory against Jacksonville, the Bears are off to a good start to the season.

McGill said: "They did exactly what we needed them to do. We just pushed this defense in yesterday and they did a pretty good job. There are holes and things we need to fix, but overall I'm pleased with their energy."



Photos by Emmy Hardy

Clockwise from top left: Grant Jessen #14 leaps to attempt a throw. Curtis Trey Moffett #12 passes the ball Jackson Lino #5. Christopher McGill, head coach of the Bears, speaks to his team at halftime. Terrell Palmer #2 dribbles the ball across the court. Jessie Klein #21 shoulders past the opposition.



Sports Editor Needed

Stop by Room U241 or contact bhccourier@dallascollege.edu for more information.







NEWS

Courier staff earn national awards

By **Alexandra Parker**
Copy Desk Chief

The Brookhaven Courier staff scored awards in numerous categories at ACP/CMA Fall National College Media Convention in Atlanta.

Dallas College students from Brookhaven, Eastfield, Northlake and Richland campuses gathered to hear from well-known speakers, attend workshops and newspaper critiques and receive recognition for their hard work.

The convention, which took place Oct. 30-Nov. 2, was held by the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association.

Emmy Hardy, The Courier's editor-in-chief, earned first place for Best Enterprise Coverage of Diversity.

"It's always nice to see your work recognized, but I feel particularly proud of this award," Hardy said. "It was a very personal story about a very important topic to put out there. I'm overjoyed people have connected with it."

Andrea Olan, former managing editor for The Courier, won third place for Best Column for

two-year schools under the Reporting Pinnacles category.

Students and staff alike had the option of choosing which workshops to attend, with topics such as copy editing, design, writing and discussions on how to navigate the workplace.

Many colleges and universities across the country attended.

One workshop titled Women's Work: How to Lead the Media, covered how to navigate being a woman in a leadership position.

The workshop was led by Naome Seifu, a producer at CNN, and Kendal Trammell, a senior producer at CNN.

Editor-in-Grief was a workshop hosted by Michale Koretzky, adviser to the University Press. Koretzky taught students effective leadership tactics in the newsroom.

Another workshop titled Breaking into Freelance Magazine Writing gave attendees step-by-step actions to take to be a successful magazine writer.

Copy-Editing for the Next Generation and Beyond Campus: Covering the Community were also offered at the convention.

Each day there was a keynote presentation held in the grand ballroom with featured speakers. On Nov. 1, there was a keynote presentation featuring Charles M. Blow, a New York Times opinion columnist.

Accompanied by two students from Spelman College, Blow discussed his nontraditional path to becoming a writer at The Times and unpacked his method for writing and covering sensitive topics such as police brutality. He also discussed how he was hired at The New York Times.

Another keynote presentation which took place on Oct. 31 was titled Legends: Women Who Defined Mainstream TV, with Monica Pearson, a former news anchor for WSB-TV, and Alexis Scott, former publisher for the Atlanta Daily World.

Pearson talked with Scott about the impact, importance and journey of the Atlanta Daily World, the oldest Black newspaper in Atlanta, which was founded in 1928 by Scott's grandfather, William Alexander Scott II, and eventually passed down to Alexis.

Alexis discussed how she



Photo courtesy of Jubenal Aguilar

Courier staff members hold their Best of Show awards. Clockwise from left: Alexandra Parker, copy desk chief; Alejandro Murillo, photographer; Emmy Hardy, editor-in-chief; and Ivy Nguyen, layout editor.

shaped ADW to be what it is today, and how her grandfather inspired her boldness to do so.

The Courier students said the

conference was an enjoyable learning experience

Ivy Nguyen, layout editor for The Courier, said: "The experience

was very exciting. Since this was my first conference, I felt out of my element, but I ended up learning a lot and meeting nice people."

Transgender

Continued from Page 1

the memory of Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman who was murdered in 1998.

Heather Daily, inclusive excellence program lead at Brookhaven Campus, said: "Transphobia is still really rampant in society, so holding days like these where we can really honor those who have lost their lives

and bring awareness to show that they're not forgotten and that the violence that continues is really horrible. We want to do what we can to minimize it and bring awareness so that it doesn't continue." Daily gave an introduction at the event.

The event was planned by Angel Ross, an ally and overseer of the women's empowerment and LGBTQ+ program and inclusive excellence program lead at Mountain View Campus. The event featured a guest panel of three speakers:

Shannon Walker, founder of non-profit organization Nu Trans Movement Inc.; Twan McGary with the Trust The Process Project; and Stacey Monroe with the Trans Empowerment Coalition.

They shared their insights and personal experiences of being trans, and educated the audience about how to be allies and stand up for transgender individuals. Walker said: "If you are in a space where there is some offensive language or anti-trans rhetoric being spread, step up and be an

ally and shut it down. That's what we need."

Attendees also received some insight into the struggles and dangers of being a transgender person, specifically in Texas. Walker said the state banned gender-affirming care for individuals who are 18 and under.

"That has increased the suicides amongst the kids that can no longer get the gender-affirming care that they're used to getting," Walker said. "I will not be silenced." Ross said describing the event. "A lot of things

that happen to minority trans people typically get swept under the rug. So 'I will not be silenced' just magnifies speaking your truth and what that looks like for you."

Ross said there are many ways students and community allies can ensure they are advocating and creating safe spaces. This can start by having an open mind and educating themselves.

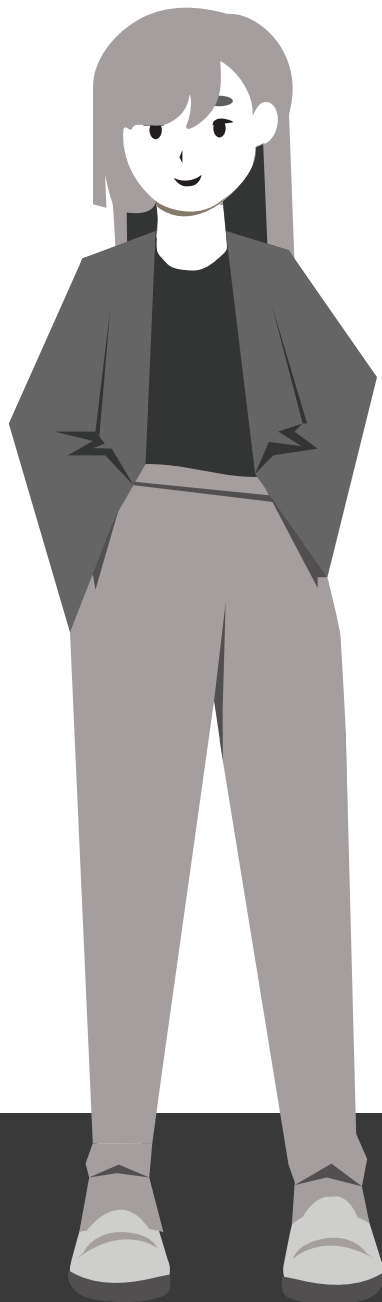
Ross said: "I think that's where students can start, is being genuinely open-minded. Once you become

open-minded, you're open to education and wanting to learn about somebody else." McGary said an example of this would be an individual introducing themselves and including their pronouns. Daily said: "Being able to amplify the voices of those who have those life experiences, communicating, speaking and learning from people who identify as being transgender. Going right to the source of it is how we eliminate that misinformation and amplify their voices."



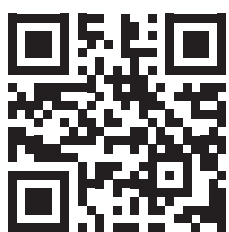
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Learn more

Adelante

Continued from Page 1

Each Dallas College campus has its own Adelante group, but Pujol serves as the chair for all of them. Pujol said, "For the different events we offer, we try to go to different campuses so that we can represent that campus and that group of people."

Pujol said Adelante will be looking to increase its list of vendors in the future.

She said: "One of the big goals we have for next year is to try and see if we can get some local Hispanic businesses set up as vendors. That way we can have some

representation there."

Pujol said she sees the goal of Adelante as providing Hispanic employees with networking and leadership opportunities. Pujol said: "I didn't really grow up with a view of Hispanic people in leadership. I wanted to give us these opportunities with this group. And I think that's really important because we have a lot to offer, and we're usually overlooked, and I don't want us to be."

Adelante has many events throughout the semester. Aside from the aforementioned membership drive, Pujol said a Friendsgiving potluck and professional development event was held in November at Eastfield Campus. There are also upcoming

events in December.

Pujol said: "We also have a greater Hispanic Chamber of Commerce holiday party on Dec. 6."

Pujol said the next Cafecito time will be at Mountain View Campus on Dec. 14.

Besides Pujol, some other employees involved with Adelante include Carlos Contreras as membership coordinator, Jacob Torres over marketing and communications, Larisa Ortiz as a co-chair to Pujol and Oriana Sifontes as secretary.

Adelante's group information can be found on Dallas College's Microsoft Sharepoint page, as well as Dallas College's website, under Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

LGBTQ+

Continued from Page 1

"I do not think there was a dry eye in the audience by the end of the performance," Heather Daily, program lead for Inclusive Excellence at Brookhaven Campus, said.

On Oct. 11, students celebrated National Coming Out Day at an event called Beyond the Closet: A Tribute to LGBTQ+ Pop Icons held on every campus. "This is a celebration of those who have either come out, are planning to come out, haven't come out or eventually want to come out," Nia Jackson, Multicultural Affairs coordinator, said. An LGBTQ+ history exhibition with cutouts of queer icons throughout history was used as a backdrop for photos, trivia and crossword puzzles.

Oct. 19 was a celebration of ballroom culture at the Brunch to Ballroom: Exploring the LGBTQ+ Culture and Movements event. Students explored the history of drag and ballroom and its origins in queer Black and Latino communities. The conversation was followed by a voguing demonstration by Chris Walker, a figure in Dallas ball culture.

As the end of the month neared, Multicultural Affairs hosted a virtual panel connecting the

intersection of identity and faith at an event called Courageous Conversations: Exploring the Relationship Between LGBTQ+ Identities and Spirituality/Faith. DeShay Jackson, Aishah Amatullah and the Rev. Ray Jordan, who represent a range of faiths and beliefs, helped lead this conversation.

Closing the month out, a group of students, staff and faculty took to the streets of Oak Lawn, sometimes called the "Gayborhood," for an LGBTQ+ cultural immersion field trip. Students participated in a scavenger hunt that led them around iconic landmarks and provided the chance to learn about the area's queer history.

Among the stops was the Resource Center, one of the largest LGBTQ+ community centers in the U.S. The organization offers a number of affirming and wellness services students were able to learn about and plug into. "We are building community not just at school, but also outside," Jackson said.

Daily said a student told her they were impacted by the visit to the Resource Center and they are now a volunteer and may work on an internship there.

"There has been a lot of positive feedback about the events," Daily said. "I think it is really good for students."

With Pride Month in June, some

may question why it is necessary to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month. Jackson said Pride Month has come to be a time of celebration. Meanwhile, LGBTQ+ History Month provides a chance to shed light on those who are in the community who have fought to make strides in activism and social justice, as well as celebrate those who came before. Jackson said, "It's important to shed light on a community that has been through so much."

The events also provided a space for students to find community in a safe environment. Daily said: "Being able to come together and have this sort of experience together and connecting with other people is a huge part of it. Being able to form and develop that community, among LGBTQ+ folks, is the biggest thing of why it is important."

Event turnout ranged from six to as many as 60 participants. Jackson said students are welcome to give feedback on the events to help staff know what they enjoyed, what could be improved and how they can do better.

Jackson said: "We do this to make our students feel safe, uplifted or affirmed. We want to have a presence on this campus where they know they can come somewhere if they need something, that they will be attended to."



CAMPUS

Alumnus opens new cuisine location

By Sean Magistrado
Contributing Writer

Ardy's Grill, a Mediterranean cuisine eatery, has opened in Addison, Texas. The restaurant, located on Quorum Drive in Addison Circle Park, opened Nov. 4. Ardy Badakhshanian, the restaurant's owner and namesake, is an alumnus of Dallas College Brookhaven and North Lake Campus.

This is not the restaurant's first iteration. The first Ardy's Grill was located in Downtown Dallas' Crystal Court before closing earlier in 2023. Ardy's Grill specializes in traditional Middle Eastern food such as kabobs, kabob towers and gyros.

Badakhshanian is no stranger to the challenge of operating a business. Prior to becoming a restaurant owner, Badakhshanian owned a computer shop in Iran specializing in computer repairs and videotape rentals. Badakhshanian opened his first restaurant at the age of 20, a fusion of Middle Eastern and Italian cuisine.

Badakhshanian credits a friend of his in Iran as being one of the early inspirations to open the restaurant. The restaurant, named Iran & Italy, was very successful, branching into five other locations in four years before Badakhshanian made the move to the U.S.

"I had a friend who had a very successful restaurant and was always busy," Badakhshanian said. "I thought to myself, 'I can have a successful restaurant too,' and he encouraged me to open one."

Badakhshanian stated encouragement goes a long way for people who are looking to open businesses of their own. Badakhshanian said he encourages people to follow their dreams. To him, operating his restaurant is his dream. "Restaurants are my passion and I love them," Badakhshanian said. "I believe that if you follow your dreams, you will find a way to achieve them."

Operating a restaurant is often physically and mentally taxing for owners. Badakhshanian is aware of the daily challenges that go into running a restaurant and does not allow these factors to disrupt the workflow.

Badakhshanian said he believes if a person is determined and focused on what they want to pursue, everything will fall into place. "Running a business always has a challenge," Badakhshanian said. "It is really hard and really risky but depending on character, the risk is always worth the reward."

When thinking of his restaurant, Badakhshanian said he wants customers to first think about their amazing customer service in combination with amazing food. He is confident in the ability of his restaurant to both attract and welcome back customers.

"I train my staff to take care of the customers like they are family," Badakhshanian said. "If someone comes in, there is a 99% chance that they will be back."

Customers have taken notice of the restaurant's welcoming environment.

One Google reviewer, Tanya Pinto, raves about the restaurant's feature. "Excellent service, fantastic staff, lovely food and wonderful atmosphere. A hidden gem," Pinto said.

Badakhshanian's lifelong passion for cooking and running a restaurant has made him discover another perk of the job; the ability to feed people.

Padi Badakhshanian, Ardy's wife, said she believes these factors have enabled the restaurant to enjoy a successful first-month opening.

"My husband's passion for cooking and the love to feed people will bring customers in," Padi said. "My favorite part of our restaurant is being able to see people enjoying my husband's food."



Clockwise from above: Ardy Badakhshanian holds two of the restaurant's most popular dishes; Badakhshanian plates a table; two of Ardy's Grill's most popular dishes.

Photos by Sean Magistrado

— Around Campus —

Tell us what we missed

By Emmy Hardy
Editor-in-Chief

The Brookhaven Courier is starting a new section called Around Campus.

A lot happens around campus; too much for The Courier staff to cover everything.

Starting in Spring 2024, The Courier will be accepting and considering submissions from any interested students, staff or faculty.

If there is a campus or club

event or other news we missed you think deserves coverage, send some photos of it to us. You can also include some text describing the event, sort of like a press release.

Be sure to include captions for all photos and provide full names for any people in them. All photos should be submitted as JPEGs.

The story below is an example of what a submission could look like.

Once submitted, The Courier staff

will look them over and decide to run it or not. You can also stop by the newsroom if you want to pitch your ideas more directly.

Whether you are student, staff or faculty, we cannot wait to see what you have been doing around campus.

OUR PUBLISHING DATES:

Issue 1 - Sept. 25
Issue 2 - Oct. 23
Issue 3 - Dec. 4

HOW TO CONTACT US:

SEND US A MESSAGE AT [BHCCOURIER@DALLASCOLLEGE.EDU](mailto:bhccourier@dallascollege.edu)
Drop by room U241, if you want to show us your submissions directly

BHC athletes serve in food drive



Photo by Emmy Hardy

Dallas College student Stefan Wilson helps load food on Nov. 28.

By Emmy Hardy
Editor-in-Chief

The men's basketball, women's soccer, baseball and volleyball teams at Brookhaven Campus gathered in Parking Lot P3 to hand out food for the drive-thru

pantry days event Nov. 28

Athletes, along with their coaches, and other students, staff and faculty volunteers loaded cars with vital resources. The drive was packed for nearly all of its duration of 10-12 p.m.

Vehicles formed a long

wrap-around line to receive their packages, guided by many traffic directors.

Drive-thru pantry days is an ongoing Dallas College collaboration with the North Texas Food Bank, which provides the food. It was a first come, first served drive, so Dallas College on their Facebook page advised arriving early to the event.

LaShae Miller, student care coordinator at Brookhaven Campus, oversaw the event.

Miller said: "The benefit of this event is that we get to get food to those in need. They don't have to go without."

LaShae said drives such as these are essential to families in need. "We're here to bridge that gap for them." She said.

The next drive-thru pantry day is Dec. 20 at Richland.

PETS OF THE PAPER

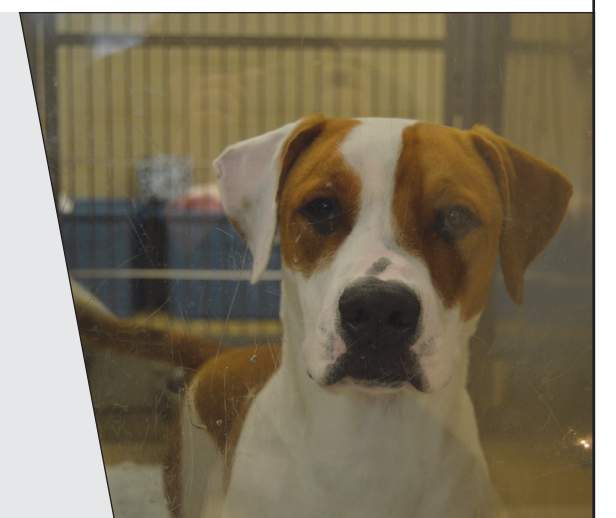


ESME

TAG #: A0054767237
GENDER: Female
AGE: Adult
BREED: Tortoiseshell
COLOR: Black/orange
ARRIVED: 11/11/2023

JAYCE

TAG #: A0054805279
GENDER: Male
AGE: Young adult
BREED: Hound/terrier
COLOR: White/brown
ARRIVED: 11/17/2023



Photos by Edgar Palacios

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SEARCH SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGERS WANTED!

THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

For more information, email us at bhccourier@dallascollege.edu or stop by Room U241

