

THE OBSERVER

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More than 2,000 students graduate from Broward College

Megan Vineberg

Editor-in-Chief

Broward College graduation was in full swing this past December just as newer students make their way across campuses in pursuit of their higher education goals in Spring.

The ceremony was held as an in-person event on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Hard Rock Live in Hollywood. The graduation was the first in-person ceremony held since the start of lockdown, with more than 2,000 students participating in the event.

As many as 1,898 have earned Associate of Arts degrees, 507 students completed a degree in Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science and 212 were eligible for the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Applied Science programs. Thirty-six graduates earned a Bachelor of Science specialized in Nursing and 14 graduated from the Educator Preparation Institute.

Leading the event speeches was Peggy Johnson of Magic Leap. Johnson pursued her education in electrical engineering and has since been recognized as one of the Most Powerful Female Engineers by Business Insider. She was also awarded one of 100 women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM).

The college also had its president Gregory Adam Haile, J.D. say a few words, followed by Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Jeffrey Nasse and Gloria Fernández, Broward College Board of Trustees Chair.

Notable stories from the students and their journeys include Lauren Smith who is originally from Venezuela, and a mother of three. At the age of 40, she completed a bachelor's degree in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) for those with neurological conditions, learning disabilities, and other unique challenges.

She was inspired by the surviving child of a set of twins she gave birth to over a decade ago. While one child survived,



Some BC students during the recent graduation on Dec. 15 at the Hard Rock Live.

Photo Courtesy of broward.edu

she is still confined to a wheelchair and needs specialized care. Having learned from her experience with her daughter, Smith is determined to help others in that same way.

Also making the most of the time from the pandemic to reevaluate is Natasha Gonsalves.

Like Smith, she is also a graduate of the bachelor's degree program and close in age to Smith.

At 37, Gonsalves was the first in her family to graduate from the college with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. After contracting COVID-19, Gonsalves had a near-death experience after contracting the COVID-19 virus and was hospitalized citing respiratory failure.

She has since undergone intensive physical therapy sessions but remains unable to walk without assistance. Still, she was incredibly determined to complete her degree.

Juan and Natalia Salas are a father/daughter pair both graduating from Broward College together this December. Juan is 46, earning an Associate of Science in Information Technology (IT) after having

worked full-time while attending classes in the evenings. Natalia is just 21 at the time of this article being published, and she is focused on Criminology. Natalia instead chose part-time work as a martial arts instructor, opting for classes in the morning. Juan's wife is also pursuing a degree from another institution.

The oldest BC graduate is 66, while the youngest is 12 and the College also matriculated 31 veterans.

Amira Al-Madi, a graduate of the Bachelor's program in Education, graduated with a 4.0 GPA and is currently a second-grade teacher at Coral Springs Pre K-8. Al-Madi said the Broward College's Teacher Education Program "does a fantastic job preparing us students for the workforce."

"The Exceptional Student Education program (ESE) in particular prepares us to teach every type of learner. Each learner has a different need and unique learning style preference. BC's program teaches you how to differentiate or tailor your instruction for students who may be exceptional or typically developing," she said.

Al-Madi said her biggest takeaway from the time she spent at Broward College was "to be yourself."

"Work hard and stick to your long-term passions and goals. Never lose sight of them. Also, do not be afraid of making mistakes or taking a long time to complete a project. Typically, I would spend hours drafting, editing, and learning from my mistakes. It is a normal part of the learning process," she said.

She also encourages the next generation of BC students to "never give up and to ask yourself where you want to be or what your aspired career is."

"Make a plan on how you will get there. Also, please ask for help if you need it or are struggling. Broward College has tons of available resources. Ask a professor, an academic advisor, a counselor, your classmate, or make a quick stop at the Student Life offices. Know that help is available at all times. Do not be afraid to ask," said Al-Madi.

Mohammed Aqeel, also graduated from BC with an Associate of Science in Pro-

fessional Pilot Technology. He will be continuing his education at BC in Aerospace Sciences in the Aerospace Management Track.

Aqeel, who started BC in the fall of 2020, said he "wasn't sure that he would even graduate with a higher education degree."

"My struggles and determination have changed the game. Nothing is more powerful than a man with a purpose. I have sacrificed my weekends, registered for extra classes, and I never took time off (not even in the summer). In challenging myself, I graduated in honors and my GPA at 4.0," he said.

Observer Staff Writer, Khian A Reid, helped contribute to this article.

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

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

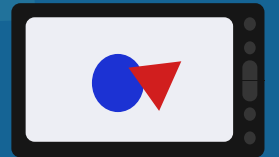
WANTS:



WRITERS



GRAPHIC DESIGNERS



PHOTOGRAPHERS



VIDEOGRAPHERS



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Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart Webinar

Kaela Perkins
Staff Writer

Broward College recently held the Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart Webinar, hosted by the Arts, Humanities, Communication and Design department. This webinar was made up of four main guest speakers aiming to give speeches on who inspired them throughout their lives and showing thanks for them in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Students were also allowed to participate via open mic, allowing them to express their feelings for their loved ones.

The first speaker was Shani Curry. She is a personal finance advisor, author and occasionally a guest speaker on both Miami 4 and Hot 105 FM. The person she decided to speak about was her late grandmother who taught her many lessons like “If you are receiving love, allow that love to heal you and give you confidence and normalize difficulties, but never let it stop you from anything.” She believes that chaos plays a big role in creativity. Curry ended her segment by saying “after the effects of the past two years, it’s imperative that we all have learned to adapt.”

The second speaker was Eli

Vazquez. He is a writer, director, entrepreneur, producer for BuzzFeed’s Latinx digital brand Pero like, founder of his own production company, Hype media house and CEO of a coaching program called Self-hype. The person who both shaped and inspired his life is himself. The gist of his segment was the importance of self-love and being your own cheerleader. He’s grateful for himself. His brand, Self-hype, is about looking in the mirror and admiring your own greatness. “You know yourself better than anyone and your hardships and still you preserve, to normalize loving yourself and thanking yourself,” said Vazquez.

The third speaker was Jefferson Noel. He is a speech professor at Florida Memorial University, founder of Barbershops Speaks, which promotes discussions inside local barbershops and beauty shops, and is a published author of *Powerful Presenting: How to overcome one of the nation’s greatest fears and go: How to cross the starting line.*

The person he’s grateful for is his uncle, Larry. Larry was tough and went to not one but three different colleges includ-

COME BACK CONNECTED • COLLECTED • COMMITTED
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BC Talks
BROWARD COLLEGE

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we will gather with guest speakers and student performers to give tribute speeches thanking people who have inspired us to overcome obstacles. This webinar will focus on the theme of Gratitude as part of AHCD Pathway's campaign.

Wednesday, November 17, 2021
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

EVENT AGENDA:
- Part 1: Professional Public Speakers Showcase
- Part 2: Student Open Mic

Speakers:
Shani Curry: Personal Finance Advisor & Author, 105.4 Miami South Beach Expert
Eli Vazquez: Entrepreneur & Personal Development Coach
Jefferson Noel: Speech Professor at FMU & Author, Founder of Barbershops Speaks
Frankie Red Rosso: Part 2: Live-Stream, Radio Host

Please JOIN US at: <https://broward-edu.zoom.us/j/92433142727>

BROWARD COLLEGE **AHCD**

2021 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart Ad
Photo Courtesy of Honors at Broward College Facebook

ing Miami Dade College, Florida International University and the University of Florida and did very well. After graduating, he started his own law firm. One of his main focuses was to help other Haitians like himself even

when they couldn't pay him. He knew how difficult it was to be in a tough spot, but he still wanted to help others in similar situations. Noel always said that his biggest personal challenge is fear and doubt. Noel ended

his segment with “we all face challenges, but you need to realize that other challenges are greater than yours.”

The last speaker was Frankie “Red” Rosso. She is a radio host, poet, entertainer who performs under the name Red wordz, and the business owner of a liquid lipstick brand called Besos by Red. She’s also the co-host of Red Light TV, which invites South Floridians to discuss relevant topics impacting millennials. The person that shaped and inspired her life is Professor Claudia Sahagun, a professor at Broward College. Rosso said Sahagun was and still is a big influence and support in her life. Sahagun impacted her life because she gave her the tough love she needed to become a better and more grounded person. During her segment she said “we want to gravitate to people we admire, we look at their career.”

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Upcoming Art Gallery will feature student art work

Naomi Volcy
Central Bureau Chief

The Rosemary Duffy Larson gallery at Central Campus hosts an exhibition focused on Broward College students that are taking Studio Art courses. The student exhibition occurs every year during the springtime, and this year will occur April 14. The student exhibition is an opportunity for students to showcase their talents and the skills they have acquired within the classroom.

Angel Clyman, Director at the Rosemary Duffy Larson gallery, provides her sentiments on the exhibition. “The Rosemary Duffy Larson Gallery shows work from professional artists from all over the world, but our annual student exhibition is one of the most exciting shows we put on. It really is a pleasure to showcase our amazing Broward College art students and the energy they bring to the exhibition and opening reception is like no other. For our students, it is a great opportunity to have their work viewed in a professional setting, and it is also a resume-building activity as these young creators build towards their careers in art.”

For students that are interested in being apart of the exhibition, you must have taken Studio Art courses this previous fall and summer semesters, or currently enrolled in spring courses. Further, there are three important dates/deadlines you must be aware of.

The applications are available this month (January) and can be obtained by one’s professors or at

the Rosemary Duffy Larson gallery. Artwork must be submitted between March 21 - 26. In this timeframe, it will be juried for the exhibition.

A guest juror is chosen each year to help in evaluating students’ work, and this year it will be Meghan Kent, Curator of Exhibitions at the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood.

“We always bring in a guest juror, so it is a blind juried process, so that each exhibition has a different point of view, and it is a great opportunity for an art professional outside of Broward College to see student work,” said Clyman.

Lastly, to find out if your artwork is chosen for the exhibition, you must return to the gallery between March 30 - April 2.

Yuneikys Villalonga, a Curator at the Coral Gables Museum of Art, was last year’s guest juror. Villalonga shared her experience and sentiments of the exhibition in her juror statement, “The 42nd edition of the Annual Student Exhibition, “You Are Here,” launches at a historic time. It is to be noted that, unlike in previous years, the conception and production of these works took place under the stress of a merciless pandemic that subverted life, as we knew it. ... the quality of this year’s submissions, the creativity and mastery of the different techniques in the works, speak of the extraordinary effort and commitment of these students. They bring us a message of hope and remind us of the important role of art in individual and collective healing...” “You Are Here” is a call to confront, out-



Rossiny Llopiz’s piece, “Gifts and Opportunities,” was awarded Best in Show winner. Photo courtesy of Broward College.

smart and celebrate our present time and place, through the endless avenues of art.”

Submissions are awarded prizes as followed: Best in Show, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, Honorable Mention, a prize for exemplary painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, conceptual art. There are prizes for digital art and printmaking, though this is only if there are enough submissions in this category. Lastly, an artwork is purchased to be a part of the Rosemary Duffy Larson Gallery permanent collection.

Rossiny Llopiz was last year’s

Best in Show winner for her artwork “Gifts and Opportunities.” The artwork displays an Asian albino child reaching out into a space-like background.

“The child being the main element and everything around her felt like the gifts and opportunities that a child has within them and in their future... The space background represents the infinity that gave birth to the child and lies ahead of the child, the child representing new life,” said Llopiz.

Llopiz was encouraged by her professors to submit artwork to the exhibition but decided to do

so to see if her artwork would be chosen and thought it would be exciting to see her work alongside her peers. She is glad that she submitted her work, as she had a positive experience being within the exhibition.

For more information or any questions on the student exhibition, you can call the gallery at 954-201-6984, or email Clyman at aclyman@broward.edu. For more information or any questions for the Best in Show winner, Rossiny Llopiz, you can reach her at richrossiny@gmail.com.

volcn@mail.broward.edu

The (African) American Dream by Martin Luther King Jr.

Christy Joshy
Social Media Editor

“I have a dream.” Martin Luther King Jr.’s four words that revolutionized an entire civil rights movement in the United States. For the African American audience listening, this sentence sparked their ambitions to pursue their ideal careers, to provide safety and stability for their families, to run for president, but most of all, to be seen.

Since the beginning of colonialism in the United States, African Americans were subjected to slavery and servitude at the hands of their white masters. Even after Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 that abolished slavery, segregation and systemic racism persisted. Thus, the civil rights movement in the mid-20th century symbolized a new chapter for the lives of millions of black Americans. Despite the immense struggles they and their

ancestors faced, the strength of the black community to resist and overcome their obstacles proved to be more powerful. And leading the fight was none other than Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, King grew up to be a Baptist minister with a distaste for the disparity in his community. Eager for change, he joined the growing civil rights movement. His ideas that were in part inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s nonviolence cam-

paigned sparked controversy in America and a fire in the hearts of African Americans and their allies. King’s positive outlook for the future uplifted many like-minded black Americans to reinvent and pursue their dreams. In a society built on institutionalized racism and which instilled the belief of inferiority amongst its minorities, King’s approach offered hope and a longing for a more promising life.

King’s “dream” of a world free of racism and segregation for his children to live in illustrates the dark and unwritten rules of the so-called ‘American dream.’ The long-standing American belief of equal opportunity and success was not shared with black Americans but was instead withheld and used against them. However, King’s illuminating ideas revolutionized how African Americans saw their future, as more possibilities suddenly seemed imaginable.

Since the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned segregation and employment discrimination, a lot has changed. More and more black Americans display their potential with incredible achievements in education, politics, entertainment, etc. The rise of the civil rights movement even paved the way for other minority groups, like the LGBTQ+ community, to gain a voice in a white-dominated and hetero-normative

society.

However, despite the positive effects, remnants of the nation’s sinister history of racism remain. According to a study done by Business Insider, in 2018, the average wage for a black worker was 62 percent of a white worker in the United States. Poverty rates in black homes are more than double that of white homes and continue to rise, with the current Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately affecting minorities.

The reach of racism goes beyond equality of opportunity. For true equality to be possible, establishing a stable foundation and environment for *all* children to succeed and live without boundaries is the foremost step to dismantling the system—and that was Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream.



Image courtesy of CNN

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Improve Your Commute On Campus This Spring

Marquis Grant
Staff Writer

Less than 15 percent of college students live on campus. The other 85 percent of students are called commuter students, who get to school via transportation, such as a car or bus, and do not live on campus.

The Improve Your Commuter (IYC) project is a project aimed at improving student transportation via a transport app. The IYC project will also involve Broward College more

directly with events on campuses coming in January.

IYC works with local Florida colleges including Broward College and is looking to get data on student’s transportation to assist them with easier commutes. IYC is seeking to spread interest and engagement with student commuters and get data through their survey, which is the main data point for the research to improve commuting and ultimately academic performance and future success.

Paula Lopez, who is a longtime student commuter herself, and was formerly a research assistant with IYC, is the team leader for the research ambassadors, and is passionate about fulfilling the aim of the project.

Lopez facilitates a positive work environment for the other ambassadors by helping organize the team and designating tasks. She is very passionate about the commuting work as the project’s team leader and loves to see the ambassadors have opportunities and growth working together as a team.

She also enjoys seeing other students become more involved and active on campus, which she facilitates both for the ambassadors she leads and with the work itself through the different events that engage students and attract them to the survey. She has been the creative mind for the games and marketing, which have been a success at bringing more students to the survey.

Alexandru L. Pasarariu is another student and ambassador at FAU and a soon to be graduating accounting major.

He became an ambassador because he wanted the opportunity as an accounting major to participate in research and wanted to implement change due to his dissatisfaction with the pre-pandemic parking operation at his university.

Pasarariu, as an accounting major with no direct con-



All images courtesy of Broward College

nection to urban design or transportation, wants other students to know from his experience with the IYC efforts that it’s ok to do projects outside your college major and challenge yourself with new endeavors.

Starting in January, the campaign will resume and continue with events, some of which will be at Broward College including tabling events with games and opportunities to win prizes and take the survey

to contribute to the research, which can make commuting easier for students at local colleges.

For more information on how to become involved with the project, follow the IYC social media accounts @fau_iyc on Instagram and FAUIYC on Facebook.

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AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

Weight Loss



About 26% of American adults want to devote their 2022 to improving their health and losing weight. After a non-stop, 3-month barrage of holidays that mostly encourage the binging of unhealthy food, it's no wonder why this resolution always makes its appearance in most Americans' minds. The want to be healthy is even more strong with its mental health benefits and its assistance in warding off the severe long-term effects of Covid-19.

Saving

20% of America's most popular new years' resolution is saving money/improving finances. Whether that money would go to pursuing a higher education or a down payment for a forever home, the resolution is worth the commitment. Besides just saving money, people can improve their finances in other ways, like resisting the urge to open a new credit card, check on their credit score often, or invest money in profitable stocks.



Quality Time



Unsurprisingly, 10% of Americans are resolving to spend quality time with their loved ones in 2022. Due to the pandemic keeping families and friends away and more variants coming into fruition by the second, it only makes sense that some people would like to devote their year to rekindling that lost time together. Some would also like to spend time with their loved ones due to them learning throughout these treacherous two years how a person in your life can easily be taken away.

Enjoying Life



One important thing 10% of Americans are resolving to spend their 2022 focusing on is enjoying life to the fullest. With modern society raising depression, anxiety, and suicide rates, enjoying life is something most people struggle to do even once a year. With the resolution to do so, however, those people who have been struggling before and during the pandemic can reduce their stress and work through issues they've never been able to truly address before. During this time, they can also develop new, healthy routines, find new hobbies, and discover new motivations to life.

Statistics Courtesy of CBS News

5 Style Trends Marking the Start of 2022

Yestin Arvin Gochuico

Staff Writer

New year, new me—and new clothes too. The relentless COVID-19 pandemic marked last year's fashion, so designers had to follow by producing garments focused on comfort, minimalism, and convenience. This year, it's going to be much wilder.

Life is seeming to turn back to normal with vaccines and booster shots rolling out continuously, and a flood of Americans are returning from home to their physical workplaces with button-up dress shirts.

Pop culture, emulated by Gen Z crowds, can also be blamed for the rise of retro silhouettes permeating into streets and offices.

Designers are no amateurs, and runway shows—from luxury label Tom Ford reviving disco glam to AMI exhibiting hope during the pandemic—have ridden the waves set by such precedents.

Straight from New York, London, Milan, and Paris, we've spotted five style trends that will shape the course of your wardrobe this spring to summer 2022, also known as S/S 2022.

Bubble Hemlines and Sleeves Are Back

Puffed bubble silhouettes for womenswear are having a comeback this year. We'll likely see the revival of voluminous and bell-like skirts and sleeves reminiscent of the late 1950s evening wear.

The collection of Luxury label Carolina Herrera had a moment during New York Fashion Week (NYFW) S/S 2022, as American supermodel Lulu Tenney was seen walking on the runway draped on a red ballgown with a deep V-neck and exaggerated puffed sleeves.

On the other hand, Adam Lippes S/S 2022 collection seamlessly incorporated the same sleeves in casual wear, comparable to cottagecore motifs. In a minimalistic and toned-down rendition of the trend, the models wore puff-sleeved button-up shirts and dresses matched with warm and earthy tones, intricate lace fabrics, and floral embroideries.

Eccentric Cutouts

Cutouts all over garments were spotted in womens-

wear and menswear this S/S 2022.

Openwork detailing is a defining trend in high fashion, especially with designers known for their experimental and avant-garde designs.

Revealed during Paris Fashion Week, Rick Owens S/S 2022 menswear collection embodied revealing cutouts on beach bodysuits.

The show culminated with a model dressed in a white bodysuit top and covered in a black see-through knit wrap with matching skinny jeans and leather platform boots.

For womenswear, American designer Prabal Gurung presented a white dress with waist cutouts and a bubble hemline tutu skirt in his runway show during NYFW S/S 2022. Trends are all interconnected—with converging designs appearing more in future releases.

Gender-fluid Clothing

The rejection of binary stereotypes is sweeping the fashion industry, making way for inclusive garments. Gender fluidity in fashion, regarded as a trivial subculture for a long time, is now becoming mainstream and for a good reason too—dismantling gender constructs.

Several designers have challenged such boundaries throughout history behind shadows. Now, the runway is stepping into the light by adopting a gender-fluid approach, incorporating both masculine and feminine elements in a single ensemble.

S/S 2022 collections from brands Vivienne Westwood, Private Policy, Balenciaga, and others had their renditions of blurring the gender line, but a notable collection was from designer Helmut Lang during NYFW S/S 2022.

The label, known for its deconstructive pieces, usually releases ready-to-wear collections for men and women separately. This time, it opted for a singular unisex range with garments reimagining traditional office attires—ruffles and heels contrasting with boxy and angular tailoring.

Y2K Fashion—Again

We'll be seeing a lot of exposed navels this year, as Y2K fashion is not ending



Left: Dress from Carolina Herrera and right: from AMI.



Photo Courtesy of Vogue Runway

anytime soon. According to Google Trends, “Y2K” is one of the top searched keywords in 2021 for fashion.

The style movement characterizes the re-emergence of the late 1990s to 2000s retro-future concept: pleated miniskirts, corset tops, velour tracksuits, and the (in)famous low-rise jeans.

Seen as one of the most iconic fashion “swaps” to date, luxury fashion house Fendi and Versace debuted in secrecy their “Fendace” Pre-Fall 2022 Collections during Milan Fashion Week S/S 2022, which set Instagram pages ablaze with the Y2K mania.

A fashion “swap” is different from collaboration; reflecting on their mutual love and friendship, designer Kim Jones and Donatella Versace had switched roles to create two collections at the respective fashion houses: Fendi by Versace and Versace by Fendi.

American supermodel Gigi Hadid flaunted a silver sequin-embellished low-rise skirt and a camisole top with matching thick silver and gold details. It's the Britney era all over again, and we're loving the moment!

Hadid also modeled for Tom Ford S/S 2022 runway show, reminiscent of the same disco glam aesthetic with bright colors and shimmering textiles. Other brands followed suit: Dolce & Gabbana, Etro, Blumarine, and more. The Y2K trend is inescapable.

Fluid Tailoring

A critique from the past year is an abundance of sweatpants. Now, designers

are revisiting pre-pandemic office menswear—with a little twist.

Classic suits are getting revamped next season with more laidback cuts: boxy blazers, wide trousers, and oversized dress shirts.

The shift from clear-cut tailoring to relaxed form-fitting clothing is because of the pandemic; since people have become accustomed to work-from-home comfort, designers are making waves to preserve it into formal pieces as people relocate to physical offices.

The late designer Virgil Abloh, who served as the first African American artistic director for the luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton and broke racial boundaries of the luxury fashion culture, saw the vision too.

Louis Vuitton S/S 2022 *Virgil Was Here* tribute collection immortalized Abloh's industry-defining garments, not just setting fashion trends but honoring his unprecedented mark in the hypebeast culture as a creative visionary. Before his passing, Abloh explained to Vogue Runway how the often uncredited impact of Black hip-hop and jungle music in fashion influenced his design.

The models during his final show wore flowy trousers and boxy structured blazers with bright accent colors—akin to 1980s hip-hop tracksuits.

Another major luxury designer brand AMI also sported the look on its S/S 2022 collection entitled “L'Échappée Belle,” which means “a great escape.” The

models displaying oversized charcoal blazers paired with tie-dyed trousers and sheer undershirts were the highlight, incorporating upbeat and sensual designs to formalwear.

The brand's designer Alexandre Mattiussi expressed to online publisher Fashion Network how we are “living a moment between two worlds.”—a preceding world set by COVID-19 isolation and a succeeding world manifesting “hope and energy.” His collection embodies escapism, celebrating life's move from danger to near-normalcy with party culture.

Several brands did the same: Ermenegildo Zegna, Etudes, Jacquemus, and others. There's no question that we'll be seeing a different kind of Wall Street attires these coming months.

Americans returning to their regular routines from the dreadful panic surrounding COVID-19 became the center stage for this year's trends.

As we continuously withstand the challenges brought by the pandemic, designers around the world have shown that culture headed by fashion can never be stunted, even in the face of nature.

New Movies to Watch in January

Lachin

Online Editor

Don't Look Up is a highly anticipated comedy that hits Netflix on Dec. 10. Adam McCain directed a film based on his script in political satire. In the center of the plot is a story about scientists who discovered that an asteroid is flying to Earth, which will destroy all living creatures.

They are trying to tell the world about this shocking information, but no one seems to believe in the seriousness of what is happening. The leading roles were world-famous Jennifer Lawrence, Leonardo DiCaprio, Meryl Streep, Timothée Chalamet, Cate Blanchett, and Jonah Hill. The film's budget was \$75 million.

The Alley of Nightmares is a noir crime thriller released in theaters on Dec. 17. It was directed by the world-famous Guillermo del Toro, also known for The Shape of Water (2017) and Pan's Labyrinth (2006).

The film is an adaptation of the 1946 novel with the same name by William Lindsay Gresham. Its protagonist is the charismatic swindler Stan, who, having taken several masterclasses from a magician, becomes a famous spiritualist.

Once Stan meets Lilith, who is a beautiful and adventurous psychologist. She comes up

with the idea to deceive a millionaire. The leading roles in the film were played by Bradley Cooper, Cate Blanchett, and Willem Dafoe.

The anticipated third part of The King's Man will be released on Dec. 22. Like all previous parts, the director of the spy thriller is Matthew Vaughn.

This film tells the story of the rise of the most stylish intelligence agency called King'sman. The film is based on The Secret Service comic strip by Mark Millar.

The tape will take viewers into the first decades of the 20th century. A terrifying alliance of corrupt politicians and criminal geniuses pushes the world to the brink of a war that could claim millions of lives. Fearless British super spies will confront many antagonists, for example, Grigori Rasputin. The cast stars are Ralph Fiennes - Orlando, Gemma Arterton - Polly, Rhys Ifans - Rasputin, Matthew Goode - Morton.

The most anticipated sequel of the decade is out on Dec. 22. The Matrix Resurrections is a sci-fi action film directed by Lana Wachowski, who co-wrote the screenplay with David Mitchell and Aleksandar Hemon.

This is the fourth film about Neo and Trinity's main characters, trapped in the Matrix and realizing that everything is an illusion. It's the first movie of

Matrix that was filmed without the participation of Lilly Wachowski, her sister since she decided to leave the film production field.

In two realities, the protagonist, Neo, will again have to choose whether to follow the white rabbit. The choice, however illusory, is still the only path to or from the Matrix, which is more dangerous than ever. An interesting fact for those who decide to watch the film, between the final of the third part of the Matrix and the events of the fourth, there is a time interval of 60 years.

On Dec. 22, the animated musical Sing 2 will be released, which is the second part of the Sing (2016) animated musical about animals who love to sing.

This film is by the creators of Despicable Me (2010) and Minions (2015). In Sing 2, kōala Buster Moon will produce a new show, and old friends will help him – Rosita, the pig; Ash - the porcupine; Johnny - the gorilla; Mina - the elephant, and Gunter - the pig.

The main character will have to be persuaded to join the performance of the legendary rock musician, the lion, Clay Calloway, to conquer Red Shore City, the capital of entertainment and glamor. This cartoon will also allow the audience to enjoy good songs, including hits from Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, The Weeknd, and many others.



Image courtesy of IMDB

After a 19-year hiatus, Adrian Lyne releases his first film, Deep Water. The audience will see it out on Jan. 14, 2022.

This is a psychological thriller based on the novel with the same name by Patricia Highsmith. Spouses Vic and Melinda Van Allen maintain life in a fading marriage through an open relationship.

However, everything changes when people start dying because of their behavior. The film's main stars are Ben Affleck as Vic and Ana de Armas as Melinda. The movie has a reported budget of \$49 million.

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Rice Up Brings Rich Asian Flavors to Broward County

Leonardo Lopez

Staff Writer

Since its opening day on December 17, 2015, Rice Up Asian Kitchen has prided itself on serving high-quality Chinese and Japanese cuisine at more than reasonable prices. It can be found at 16642 Saddle Club Rd, Weston and 1748 N University Dr, Pembroke Pines.

Shufeng Zhu (also known as Johnny by the diners), the manager and one of the sushi chefs of Rice Up Asian Kitchen, was once a chef at Nami Japanese restaurant.

However, he noted that in 2012, a dream of opening his own restaurant began to blossom.

"Family means a lot to me. Although I was born in China, I came to this country when I was 22 because I wanted to be with my father who was living here at the time. My initial vision for the restaurant was to have a place where families and loved ones could go out, eat, and enjoy life together," Zhu said.

Whether it is sushi or beef, Rice Up is dedicated to serving freshly well-prepared delicacies.

One notable menu item is the General Tso's Chicken. With its crispy breading, tender white meat and distinctly sweet sauce, this dish has be-



Some sushi from Rice Up.

Leonardo Lopez/The Observer

come a personal favorite that I highly recommend to complete your order of Chinese food.

I share this sentiment with Barbara Lopez, a loyal Rice Up Asian Kitchen customer since August, who said, "The General Tso's chicken is an explosion in your mouth. It has the perfect combination of sweet, savory, and tangy flavors all packed in crispy bites of fresh chicken. This is a dish that you will have dreams about and

something that you will constantly crave."

In addition to these staple dishes of Asian fare, the chefs at Rice Up Asian Kitchen are known to innovate in the food that they prepare.

For example, Zhu created the "Johnny roll" made with spicy tuna, avocado, jalapeño and tempura flakes.

Another of his creations is the "Johnny fried rice" consisting of fresh white rice mixed

with vegetables, chicken, pork sausage and shrimp.

Additionally, Zhu noted that he draws inspiration from several cultural flavors to create fusions within his food.

"One of our appetizers is the ceviche, a classic Peruvian recipe. This inspired us to use more tropical flavors from South America. We were suggested to use mangos to give it that special tangy taste."

Oswaldo Fuentes, who had

known Zhu since the manager was a chef at Nami Japanese Restaurant, has now become a regular patron for the newer restaurant.

"What I love about Rice Up is that their service is top notch, and their staff make you feel like family," Fuentes said. "Their prices are also very appealing. compared to other Japanese restaurants, their rolls are notably larger, and you feel like you are getting more for what you pay for," he added.

"We currently have two locations- in Weston and Pembroke Pines. In the future, however, I would love to open in more locations; making sure that we keep the quality that we have right now," said Zhu.

He added that people can order food through their website at riceup2.com, by calling (954)392-9898, or through the Uber Eats and Grubhub delivery platforms.

Rice up Asian Kitchen is open from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. (Monday-Thursday), 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. (Friday-Saturday), and 12-10 p.m. on Sundays.

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Avicii Experience To Open Spring 2022

Megan Vineberg
Editor-in-Chief

The unfortunate passing of Swedish DJ and producer Tim Bergling, known professionally as Avicii in April 2018, still weighs heavily on the minds of dance music fans everywhere.

A museum has opened up to celebrate his life and work, brought to us by leading dance music label Spinnin' Records. One of his more popular songs, "Wake Me Up," may be familiar to listeners as it was played in non-stop rotation upon its initial release.

The record-breaking producer obviously suffered at the height of his fame and fortune, only 28 at the time of his passing.

The Grammy-nominated artist was featured by Forbes as being a top-earning artist in the music industry, having secured brand deals with Volvo and Ralph Lauren. Avicii found that he was not primarily motivated by money, instead opting to give to those in need.

In an interview in 2013, Avicii went on to say, "I discovered when I started making money that I didn't really need it." Instead, he turned towards charitable donations, embarking on a tour called "House for Hunger" with which he donated all incoming proceeds to



Avicii Experience will open in Stockholm, Sweden in 2022.



Image Courtesy of Weraveyou.com

Feeding America that aims to combat hunger. He later added \$1 million, along with an additional one million euros to a Swedish "hunger aid" charity. He went on to say, "When you have such an excess of money you don't need, the most sensible, most human and completely obvious thing is to give to people in need."

The Avicii Experience is a tribute exhibition that will open in Avicii's hometown, and

home to Spotify HQ in Stockholm, Sweden. According to weraveyou.com, the museum grand opening is set for Spring 2022 with tickets now on sale as of Nov 30th, 2021.

Avicii's father reflected on his son's memory:

"We are extremely proud of what Tim did and his music and we also know that his person is important to many fans. We have got so many mails and letters etc. so I think that

the Avicii Experience will be an important place for many fans and people who'd like to know him more. Tim the music producer and artist is one thing, his person is something else."

Much like Amanotes of Ho Minh City in Vietnam, the Avicii Experience will bridge the gap between music and gaming. Fans will get an in-depth look at unreleased content, including a demo version of Avicii's song "Levels," that

put him on the map in the EDM space. Museum goers will also get the experience of other artists' interactions with Avicii and untold stories.

Most notably, a portion of proceeds will go towards the Tim Bergling Foundation, which "advocates for the recognition of suicide as a global health emergency," as described on the official website.

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JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Stone Ocean, Now on Netflix

Atticus Leeds
Staff Writer

On December 1, 2021, the first 12 episodes of the *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure Part 6: Stone Ocean* anime, produced by David Production, were made available for streaming on Netflix.

Unlike the previous parts, which were released for the West through Crunchyroll, and then later picked up by Netflix, *Stone Ocean* has been released to Netflix directly, with the dubbed version included (something for which fans previously needed to wait a long time). The first 12 episodes have been released thus far, and the rest are planned to release a chunk at a time, rather than one episode per week as it did previously, or all at once like most Netflix shows.

JoJo's is a long-running manga and anime series written and illustrated by Hirohiko Araki, debuting with Part 1, *Phantom Blood*, in print in 1987, and on the screen in 2012.

Unlike most Japanese series which follow a single protagonist throughout the entire story, *JoJo's* has a new protagonist for each part, each of them linked by family. Part 6 follows

Jolyne Cujoh, a young Japanese-American woman imprisoned in a Florida penitentiary for a crime she didn't commit.

In prison, Jolyne learns about her family's heritage and the supernatural ability called the 'Stand' for which she is destined.

The 'stand' is a reflection of the user's fighting spirit, often appearing as a spectral form, and is different for (nearly) everyone who possesses one. The abilities of a stand can range from very simple, such as conjuring fire as a weapon to quite metaphysical, such as the ability to age people rapidly according to their body temperature, and it is battles between those who possess these abilities that are the centerpiece of the action in recent *JoJo's*.

JoJo's Bizarre Adventure is known for its complex and cerebral fight scenes between Stand users or those with other special abilities, and Part 6 took this to an extreme; it may even have gone a bit too far. The *Stone Ocean* manga was weakened because the medium of a comic was less than ideal for portraying the increased complexity of the fights, making some of them convoluted and tedious to read. For this



Jolyne Her Stand, Stone Free

Image Courtesy of David Productions

reason, while by no means bad, Part 6 tends to be a less-liked installment among fans.

However, in animated form, I think the fights are far easier to understand, and the greatest weakness of Part 6 in the manga might become its greatest strength in the anime.

Scenes which were previously obscured by the manga's format are now portrayed dynamically and breathtakingly in animation, and the part will only benefit more from this as the stand abilities faced by the

heroes become more and more metaphysical. I will note that, unlike previous parts, Part 6 integrates some three dimensional models into a largely two dimensional animation style, a decision which might be controversial.

Although *Stone Ocean* stands up as a story on its own, as each part of *JoJo's* is meant to, I suggest watching the rest of it too, simply because of the high quality of the entire series, and for a greater understanding and context of the events in

Part 6. All parts are available, both subbed and dubbed, on Netflix and Crunchyroll.

Parts 1 and 2 can be slow for some people, so some prefer to begin with Part 3: *Stardust Crusaders*, before going back to watch Parts 1 and 2 as prequels. I should note however that the series is definitely for adults; it contains instances of gore and disturbing imagery, as well as some sexual references.

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What's Your New Year's Resolution? Observer Staff Shares

Collette Tamburini
Staff Writer

2021 might not have been as life changing as 2020, but it definitely left many people holding onto their futures and to make every day worthwhile. Members from *The Observer* take a look at what they want to achieve and reflect in the new year of 2022!

Jamonique Waite

As the new Year is drawing closer, we are all striving to do something better than the year before and while others are looking to make more money or for a physical change, I'm looking to make an emotional/ psychological change in 2022. I want to be more comfortable in my own body and to find peace within myself, which in my opinion, is the best change a person could as for.

Leonardo Lopez

In 2021, I have lost 12 pounds because of regular exercise. Next year, I plan to continue getting more into shape. Additionally, as an aspiring linguaphile, I would like to formally pursue learning a new language

in 2022. With my Hispanic background, I am already fluent in Spanish, and I would love to be able to also speak in Portuguese, Italian or French.

Naomi Volcy

In 2022, I want experiences and opportunities that will set me up for the future. The future that I have in mind is one where I will have good relationships with those around me and I will be a writer. I want to be writing pieces that are fulfilling and meaningful to me, whether I am at the New York Times or a fiction author. In all, I hope that in this coming year I will get to nurture the relationships I have with family and friends, while writing pieces that I am truly proud of!

Gabriella Small

My main resolution of 2022 is to learn 2 languages, Spanish and Japanese. I would like to reach near fluency with Spanish, and basic conversation with Japanese. Another resolution I would like to make for next year is to become an active strength trainer and improve my dancing skills.



Image Courtesy of New York Times

Atticus Leeds

My New Year's resolution is to go to bed at 11 every night and wake up at 7 every morning. I'm on my way there already because it's something my fiancé and I are working at together. It's tough, but I think it's all about getting my mind and

body acclimated to that timeframe and trying not to take a nap during the day.

Colette Tamburini

I have a couple New Year's resolutions I want to achieve during 2022. The first is to finally learn the Spanish language. My family mainly is from Latin America, but

since I was born in the US, I wasn't able to learn it. I feel like it can help me not only in the working field but also to gain a stronger connection with my family. The other resolution is to practice my cooking skills. I want to make my own healthy meals and prepare delicious food for whoever comes in my home.

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Aaron Rogers and the Packers clinch No.1 seed

Jordan Stephenson
Staff Writer

With Matt LaFleur as a coach, the Packers have had three 1st round byes in the playoffs, and back-to-back No.1 seeds. One thing he hasn't accomplished was wrapping it up with one game left, but in actuality they did expand the regular season from 16 to 17 games. Before the Packers started their game vs the Vikings, they knew if they win this game, that the Lions game next week would be meaningless. The Cardinals win vs the Cowboys helped the feat come to fruition.

In the Vikings game they took care of business, by beating them 37-10. Aaron Rogers went 29 of 38 for 288 yards, and Davante Adams had 11 receptions for 136 yards with a touchdown. The biggest question going into the playoffs is will the Packers do more with the top seed, than losing consecutive years in the NFC championship game. First the Packers have to decide how they want to handle the Lions game.

The past 2 years their last regular season game had playoff implications, but this year they already locked

up the No.1 seed. Now the Packers have to choose between resting their starters to preserve health or playing the starters to keep them sharp. My plan for the Packers would be to play the starters, manage their minutes, and if someone gets a knick-knack injury, sit them out for the rest of the game without hesitation. It makes sense to do this because you're keeping them sharp for the playoffs, they're already going to have a week to rest because of the bye week, and most importantly 2 weeks with no live NFL games could spell doom for them.

LaFleur said, "That does seem, for me right now speaking, like a long time." He then said, "We'll have conversations tomorrow certainly with our staff, players, and then we'll make the best decision for us." Lastly he said, "I'd say my gut is that these guys are going to play at least a little bit next week."

A big factor into LaFleur's decision is Rogers fractured pinky toe, which he has been nursing and managing most of the season.

Rogers' toe didn't seem to bother him, even in the 11 degrees and bitter cold. Rogers said, "This is the first game that my toe got through the game without any issues." He also said, "I'm going to play next week, and I expect Davante to play, and our guys to play, so we're looking forward to finishing off the season on a high note and getting the bye."

Adams said, "Having two weeks off is to each his own, but I wouldn't want to do that so I want to play next week, at least a little bit." He then said, "I'm definitely going to prepare to go out there and play. I also want to get out there and run around a

little bit for sure."

This season was comprised of a lot of drama: from the Rogers offseason hold out, to the Jordan Love starting saga, to the heart-breaking NFC championship loss to Tom Brady and the Buccaneers, to Rogers' vaccination debacle, and lastly starting the season off with a 38-3 disastrous loss to the Saints.

The Packers overcame all of this to become the No. 1 overall seed in the NFL. The Packers also became the first team in NFL history with three consecutive 13-plus win seasons. I definitely believe they'll overcome their NFC championship game woes, make it to the Super Bowl and win a championship, after a decade plus drought.



Image courtesy of Packers.com

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Stephen Curry Breaks the NBA's career three-point record

Jordan Stephenson
Staff Writer

On Dec. 14, 2021, Stephen Curry officially became the greatest shooter of all time, but in retrospect he was already considered by most the unofficial greatest shooter of all time. Curry tied Ray Allen, then passed him by hitting his 2,947th three-pointer, in Madison Square Garden vs the surprisingly slumping Knicks. His record-breaking three-pointer came in the first quarter, with seven minutes and 33 seconds left.

Curry made 28 plus three-pointers, from the right wing, off a pass from Andrew Wiggins; the Warriors then immediately fouled and called a timeout so that everyone could enjoy the moment with Curry. Curry said, "The build up to getting this number, it was a special atmosphere. I knew the Garden would deliver just in terms of how iconic this place is."

He also said, "It was a special moment for sure, that I appreciate, and I'll remember for the rest of my life. In terms of what it means to pass Ray, him and Reggie {Miller}, guys I've looked up to coming into the game

is definitely special." Draymond Green gave Curry a huge hug, as him team went onto the court to congratulate him. He then gave the game ball to his dad Dell Curry. After that, Curry went back to center court, to get a hug and congrats from Allen.

Over the past weeks leading up to the record being broken, Curry would try to deflect the significance of the special moment. About five minutes after it happened, Curry sat on the bench and couldn't hold back some of his tears. After the game, Allen and Miller, number two and three respectively on the all-time three-pointers list, presented Curry with a Warriors jersey, with the number 2,974 on the back of it.

Miller was calling the game for Turner Sports, and Allen flew down to see the game in person. Curry said Reggie and Ray set the bar for what it meant to be a sharpshooter, with the longevity factor. He also said, "I've tried to own that in my journey in terms of range, volume, and efficiency; now I pride myself on shooting high percentages during every season, also getting to Ray's record and extending



Image courtesy of NBA.com

it."

The NBA's Commissioner Adam Silver said, "It was thrilling to see Steph break the NBA's all-time record for three-pointers. He has revolutionized the way the game is played and continues to leave fans in awe with his amazing, extraordinary shooting ability." Warrior coach Steve Kerr said, "Steph in the locker room was vintage Steph, being joyful and grateful."

Curry said before he broke Allen's record, he hesitated

to answer the goat shooter question; now with the record in hand, he has no doubt. I know Steph definitely gives a lot of credit to his teammate Klay Thompson, who has been sidelined by injuries the past couple of seasons, because how great of a shooter he is and how much space his shooting ability gives Steph, I definitely felt like Steph Curry was already the greatest shooter of all time before he broke the record. Now the record solidifies him without

a doubt as the greatest shooter of all time.

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