

THE OBSERVER

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Students learn about growth mindset during convocations

David Gonzalez
North Bureau Chief

Broward College hosted a series of convocations which took place Aug. 30 and 31 at North and South Campuses, respectively, and on Sept. 5 at Central. Convocations are formal assemblies, much like the ones many students will recall from their time in grade school. The focal point of the events was to introduce students to a critical approach in handling the inevitable challenges life will present.

Each campus featured a separate keynote speaker, a professional with a unique perspective garnered from their firsthand experiences, but the underpinning message remained a constant: life will test you, be prepared.

Accompanying the convocations, some of Broward College's various resource groups were present. Among these were Peer Mentoring, TRIO Student Support Services, Honors College, Broward UP, Institutional Accessibility, et al.

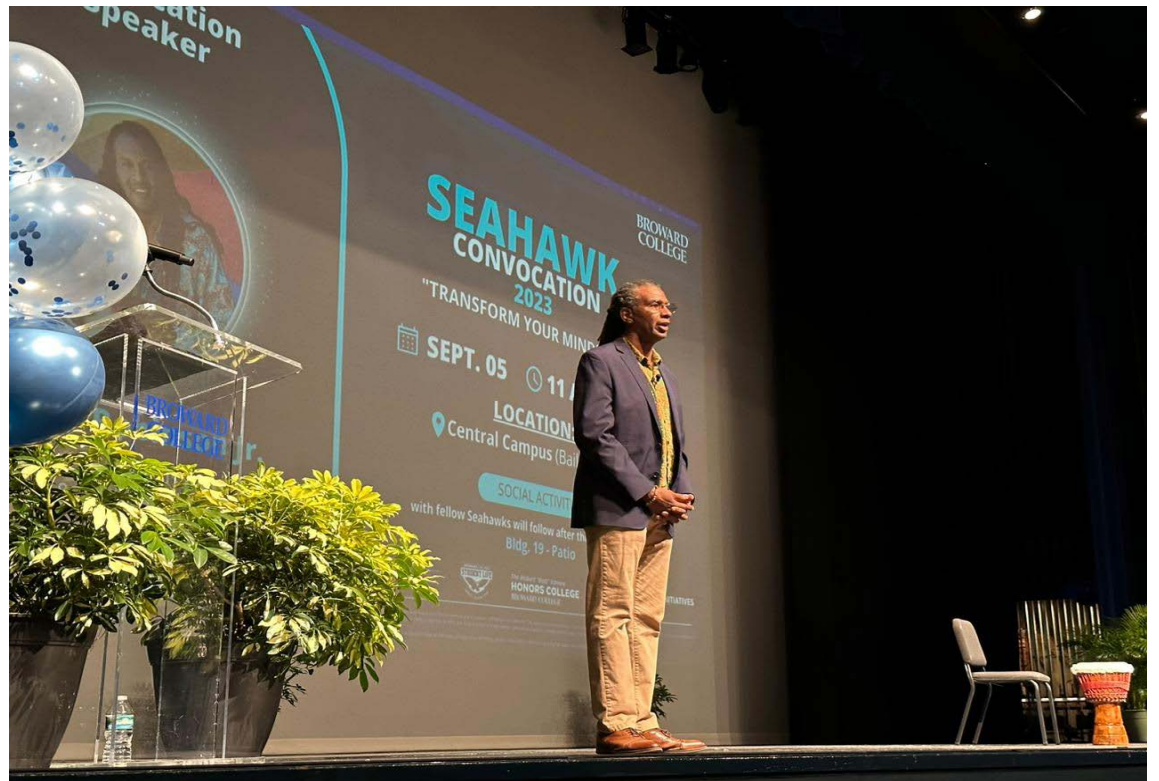
At Broward North Campus, Erika Obando took the dais to convey a message of perseverance, as told through her personal history of overcoming a profusion of adversities which she endured through the different seasons of her life. Obando, author of "Without a Voice: A Woman's Journey to Resiliency," is also a Certified Life Coach and President of TPE Coaching and Consulting

and has been publicly speaking on the subject for the past ten years. She credits her success to a "mind-set change" that she consciously adopted after many years of absorbing hardship. "I no longer wanted to be the victim of my story, so I rewrote my story to be victorious, and the hero," Obando beamed.

The convocation's attendance at North Campus exceeded expectations, bolstered, in part, by a large contingent of BC's nursing program. Anjonique Martin and Tanyeisha Wamley, two of the nursing students present at the event, spoke about Obando's message afterward. "She was really inspiring. She was kind of funny, she was really cool," Wamley said, adding that her take away from the event was to "...believe in yourself, and no matter what hardships you face, you just have to be your own hero."

Obando also included practical methodology to apply in everyday life, which she included in her oration, and students were taking notes. "It was really nice. I liked her 5-4-3-2-1 (breathing exercise)... I'm going to start breathing in and imagining what I want my life to be. That's one thing I'm going to take away," Martin said. For more information on Obando, visit her website at www.erikaobando.com.

The following day, Mike Veny, Certified Corporate Wellness Specialist® and best-selling author (among other



H. Ray Robinson Jr. speaks at Central Campus.

Photo Courtesy of Broward College

accolades), spoke at Broward College's South Campus. Veny, whose speeches center on the ubiquity of mental illness, asks himself two questions every day: how can I help and how can I serve? As someone who struggles with mental illness himself, Veny expounds on shifting the view of mental illness as a liability into accepting it as an asset, "Abraham Lincoln was known to have struggled with depression, and historians argue that because of this depression he had the empathy and insight to confront one of the greatest moral crises in this country." Veny asserts that mental illness is an asset because, "it taught me how to connect with people." Additional information on Veny can be found at www.mikeveny.com.

The final convocation, which was held at BC's central Campus location, featured a keynote by H. Ray Robinson Jr.—a professional drummer, percussionist, and educator—who delivered the culminating peroration. Robinson Jr. offered a continuation of the theme, putting an exclamation point on the virtues of perspective and tenacity, the wellsprings from which the convocations were conceived.

Spoken with the perspicacity of lived-experience, Robinson Jr. alluded to his own journey of transcendentalism, wherein, he has found comfort in routine journaling and the

art of looking at challenges as blessings to be grateful for. "Find those obstacles in your way, deal with them and keep moving forward," Robinson Jr. said.

As he spoke to the crowd of students and faculty, he kept the details of his own circumstances decidedly ambiguous and weaved through his talking points in such a way as to be universally relatable. "We have to pump the brakes, stop, take a step back and look at everything... the frustration, anxiety, the social awkwardness, anything that's uncomfortable and negative for you. Look at the little things and start afresh," he urges.

Above all, the convocation's speakers stressed the value of adapting to life vis-à-vis a shift in thinking patterns. Collectively, they shared a para-

ble of unrelenting optimism in the face of what, in their defining moments, might have been construed as insurmountable misfortunes. Each of the speakers came from different backgrounds and cultures, yet there was a commonality to the threads they pulled; that through the mire of inexorable trials and tribulations one must endure, there is always a silver lining to focus on, and the rewards are immeasurable. In the words of Robinson Jr., "Life is an amazing show."

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Students getting ready for the Convocation on North Campus. Photo Courtesy of Broward College



The Convocation on North Campus. Photo Courtesy of Broward College

What's happening around campus FERPA: Privacy of Your Records

FERPA and the Parent of the Student

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. According to Federal FERPA Regulations 34 CFR 99, and Florida Statute 1002.22, the parents of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, or is enrolled in a post-secondary program,

no longer have any rights under the provisions of this policy, unless the student gives written consent to release the information.

Any student who would like to allow another person to access their education records must complete a FERPA Release Form.

FERPA and Directory Information

FERPA also allows Broward College to release "directory information" without obtaining the prior consent of the student. The following is what Broward College considers directory information: name, enrollment status, degrees, and awards received.

Students have the right, under FERPA, to "opt-out" of the release of directory in-

formation by submitting a FERPA Directory Information Opt-Out Form. Students who opt-out of the release of directory information will also be considered to have opted out of the release of military recruitment information.

If you have questions related to FERPA processing, please send an email to FERPA@broward.edu. For

more information, please review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Broward College Department of Emergency Medical Services held a pinning Ceremony on North Campus recently to honor its 37 paramedic graduates



Term 2022-2023-3 Paramedic Graduates.

Photo courtesy of Mark Apicella



Paramedic graduate, Matthew Chesney, accepts the Irene Fischley Award for academic excellence. Photo courtesy of Mark Apicella

Student Life holds 90s and 2000s Music, Food, Bingo event on Central



Students during the music, food and bingo 90s and 2000s event held recently on Central Campus through Student Life.

Photo by Swami Hinojosa/The Observer

The rebranding of the semester: Career Services to Employment Solutions

Diana Cowan
Staff Writer

As you go through your academic life, you may have a lot of thoughts and questions about your life during and after college. No matter how ready one may think they are, these thoughts and questions often bring some form of uncertainty and maybe even a little anxiety. Is this the right major for my desired career? How will one be ready to start their career after graduation? Questions like these should not go unanswered as they play a major role in the transition from college to post-college life.

It is during these times emphasis should be placed on the resources available to assist at Broward College that will make the transition much easier and maximize success as much as possible. One such resource is Employment Solutions, which was once known as Career Services.

Jill Horowitz, Broward College's Senior Director at Employment Solutions reveals that the department

has rebranded. Why the change? "By rebranding we have put an emphasis on employment. We are having career conversations as a part of every step of the student's experience," Horowitz said. With their many years of experience and urge to assist students in being job-ready, it may serve as a stepping stone for many, answer a lot of unanswered questions, and ease a little of the anxiety about employment and post-college life.

Additionally, Employment Solutions provides resume preparation, career exploration, internships, mock interviews, workplace learning and job placement throughout their time at Broward College. It is now up to students to utilize all these resources at their fingertips, even from the comfort of their own homes.

"We offer multiple virtual appointments to make the process simple. We offer virtual workshops, resume preparation, and mock interviews online so it is very easy to access our services," Horowitz said.

Throughout this Fall semester, Employment Solutions will be hosting

several events to aid the Broward College population in their endeavors. These include the Career Fair Boot Camp on Sept. 12, the Internship and Soft Skills Workshop on Sept. 19, the JC Penney Suit-Up Sale on Sept. 25 and the Fastest Growing Careers Workshop on Sept. 27, which can all be registered for at broward.edu/ccn. Students are also urged to register for their Job Board, College Central Network (CCN) where many employers post jobs and internships that offer gainful employment.

The services offered by Employment Solutions are still available to students who become alumni of Broward College and as such should be taken advantage of.

"We service our students who become alumni of Broward College and they are offered opportunities through our Job Board. Employers contact us specifically for our graduates."

This team cares so deeply for their students and takes great pride in watching their students flourish which is a team you should definitely want on your side, especially throughout your academic life.

EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS BROWARD COLLEGE

FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

AUGUST				
Employment Solutions Open House	22	Tuesday	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Central
Employment Solutions Open House	23	Wednesday	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	South
Employment Solutions Open House	24	Thursday	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	North
Employment Solutions Open House	29	Tuesday	5-6 p.m.	YMCA
Fastest Growing Careers Workshop	30	Wednesday	1-2 p.m.	ZOOM
SEPTEMBER				
Career Fair Boot Camp	12	Tuesday	1-2 p.m.	ZOOM
Internship and Soft Skills Workshop	19	Tuesday	5-6 p.m.	ZOOM
JC Penney Suit-Up Sale - Broward Mall	25	Monday	4-7 p.m.	Plantation
Fastest Growing Careers Workshop	27	Wednesday	1-2 p.m.	ZOOM
OCTOBER				
JC Penney Suit-Up Sale-Pompano	8	Sunday	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pompano Beach
Business Career Fair	11	Wednesday	3-6 p.m.	North
SBSHS / AHCD Career Fair	19	Thursday	12-3 p.m.	Central
IMCT Career Fair	24	Tuesday	2-5 p.m.	South
Fastest Growing Careers Workshop	25	Wednesday	1-2 p.m.	ZOOM
NOVEMBER				
STEM Career Fair	1	Wednesday	1-4 p.m.	Central
Public Safety Career Fair	7	Tuesday	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Central
Internship and Soft Skills Workshop	8	Wednesday	5-6 p.m.	ZOOM
Fastest Growing Careers Workshop	29	Wednesday	1-2 p.m.	ZOOM

Register for events and programs at BROWARD.EDU/CCN
EMPLOYMENTSOLUTIONS@BROWARD.EDU



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Intramurals Sports Program launches this semester

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

Broward College and the Student Life Department are proud to partner up to launch an undoubtedly popular activity called Intramural Sports for all students. Intramural Sports is basically organized sports by particular institutions. The specific sports that Broward College will be offering this fall semester will be basketball and soccer. Intramural Sports will officially begin on Oct. 9 and continue through Nov. 17.

The Intramural Sports will be available at the three main campuses from Monday to Friday but will only have games officiated by referees one day a week for each sport, which is two days a week combined, with different days and time slots. Central Campus's specific times lot, officiated game, and building numbers for both sports are indoor basketball on Wednesdays in building 10, soccer on Thursdays on the building 17 field from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

North Campus's specific time slot, officiated game, and courts for both sports are soccer on Tuesdays

on the outdoor courts, basketball on Wednesdays on the outdoor courts from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Lastly, South Campus's specific time slot, officiated game, and building numbers for both sports are indoor soccer on Mondays in building 65 and indoor basketball on Tuesdays in building 65 from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m.

South Campus has a later time frame and less time than the other campuses because they are currently renting out the gym to an outside contractor. Also, Intramural Sports for now, has a condensed schedule relative to the full semester because Central Campus is booked for different events already throughout the rest of this year, and only has a six-week period given to launch Intramural Sports.

"We are hopeful to possibly be able to expand this time frame in the future," said Lauren Adamo, Interim Senior Director for Student Engagement, who oversees the program.

If you have any interest in signing up for Intramural Sports this semester, visit the Student Life office on your campus, and make sure to sign a waiver to be eligible to participate.



Courtesy of Broward College (Broward.edu)

In response to the potential success of Intramural Sports, Adamo said, "I do think it will be successful. We have had many students come to our offices wanting more information about how to sign up and play," she said. "Students have been asking for this for a few years now that I have been there, but as our population back on campus grows, so do the demands for it. It is a healthy way for students to engage and stay healthy."

Additionally, Adamo oversees Veteran

Engagement and said she is "currently trying to create veteran-friendly spaces on each campus, and get students to join Veterans and Friends, a social club dedicated to supporting those who have served." Even though she doesn't have family members who are veterans she said, "It is an honor to serve those who have served." It was implemented to create a sense of community for veterans and their families.

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Getting to Know Broward.Edu

The life of a college student is inexorably marked, here and there, with new challenges. During the tenure of a student's academic career, some common issues can be expected, but how they are resolved may be entirely unique for each student. Because these waters are uncharted for so many, Broward College has experienced faculty to provide navigational aid, and Broward College's website has the maps.

When you visit the homepage, you will see a horizontal white menu bar with links for Academics, Admissions & Financial Aid, and Student Resources. Clicking on any of these options will display a pop-up submenu, which will direct you to the specified location of interest. The Observer will be covering some of these individual departments in the coming issues, but students are encouraged to explore the many resources available to them online.

Under the heading of Academics, for example, web-surfers will find information on the college's varying educational pathways: which degrees, certificates, and licenses can be earned and how they compare to each other, as well as their respective requirements. Throughout the site, there is also testimonial from alumni to give insight into what life is like post-graduation. Perusing this section periodically can help students maintain a view of the goals that they are working on achieving and allow them to make better choices toward those ends.

The submenu for Admissions and Financial Aid provides links to many of the resources students most commonly find a need for in terms of collegiate logistics. Among these are directories for tuition overviews, loan terms, scholarships and grants, work study programs, and other various financial options for college due to extenuating and special conditions. The admissions portion of this subset includes college policies regarding academic standards, and how to petition for exceptions to these policies if a student has extraordinary circumstances. It is also under this heading that students can explore, virtually, campuses other than their home campus.

The third main subset within the website is the Student Resources menu. It is under this banner that students can truly delve into the many ways they can maximize their potential while at college. From peer mentoring to career services, each offering is a world unto itself. The Library Resources portion, alone, has additional links for the Academic Success Center (where tutoring services are available) as well as database searches for scholarly publications. Researchers can also chat with a librarian, online, to receive help with source findings for written assignments. For information on extracurriculars, there is a link to Student Life included within the same submenu. Here, students will find upcoming events, as well as all the college's clubs, with details of what they do and where they meet.

Whether you are a current or future student, or know someone who may be, the vast array of information available at the BC homepage will likely answer any questions you may have, and if you are having trouble finding an answer, it can direct you to a Broward College staff member who will help. Broward College's URL is Broward.edu.

Dwayne Wade's and Zach Thomas's Hall of Fame induction

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

There have been many great professional athletes who have graced the uniforms of Miami sports teams. Two of these Miami icons and former professional athletes were deservedly highlighted throughout this year, because they were both receiving a once in a lifetime honor, that majority of athletes strive for in their careers. In August, former Miami Heat superstar Dwyane Wade and former Miami Dolphins star Zach Thomas were gracefully inducted or enshrined into the class of 2023 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame respectively.

Thomas's Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place first in Canton, Ohio, on August 5, 2023. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame by his former Miami Dolphins head coach, and all-time great coach, Jimmy

Johnson. His 2023 Hall of Fame also included other NFL greats which includes Demarcus Ware, Darrell Revis, Ronde Barber, Joe Thomas, etc. Thomas was the fifth round draft pick out of Texas Tech University by the Miami Dolphins in the 1996 NFL draft, but was viewed by many scouts as an undersized NFL linebacker. He eventually used all those as motivation, which translated into "a chip on his shoulder" at all times.

Thomas evidently beat all odds, by having a long and illustrious 13-year NFL career reaching the Pro Bowl and All-Pro teams multiple times, which eventually lead to his Hall of Fame induction. Coach Johnson said, "Of all 17 current Hall of Fame players I've ever coached, Zach Thomas was the hardest working player." Thomas said, "Dan Marino, Jason Taylor, best players I've ever had a chance of playing next to." He started his speech by saying, "I left those dirt roads for Miami, and there's no other place I'd rather

call home than Miami." In his speech Thomas said, "When I looked up into the stands and saw people wearing the 54 in the stands, I knew I couldn't let you down; thanks for believing in me towards the end, and even putting pressure on the Hall of Fame to get me here." Thomas also thanked his family but especially his parents by saying, "Mom led with love, kindness and a whole lot of discipline; dad taught me toughness, respect and how to compete in everything." Lastly, Thomas gave a heartfelt shoutout to his late great teammate, Junior Seau, by saying, "He was my inspiration, he's not here physically but he's here spiritually..."

Wade's Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place a week after Thomas's induction ceremony, in Springfield, Massachusetts, on August 12, 2023. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame by his idol, Hall of Famer, and all-time great NBA player, Allen Iverson (A.I.). His 2023 Hall of Fame class was extremely stacked, with other NBA greats including Greg Popovich, Dirk Nowitzki, Pau Gasol, Tony Park, Becky Hammon, and etc. Wade was the fifth overall draft pick out of Marquette University, by the Miami Heat, behind 1st overall pick, LeBron James, in the 2003 NBA draft. He used everything he endured in his childhood and teenage years, also not being highly recruited by colleges, as motivation to be great, which meant he essentially had "a chip on his shoulder" his whole life,



Dwyane Wade and his dad. also in his NBA career.

Photo Courtesy of Yahoosports.com

Wade having that chip on his shoulder, combined with the Heat Culture led him to having a long and fruitful 16-year NBA career, three championships, a Finals MVP, undoubtedly a top three shooting guard of all time, definitely led to his Hall of Fame induction. A.I. honored Wade by donning a special suit, with Wade's number three on the back of his jacket, who Wade coincidentally wore the number three because of A.I. Wade began his speech by honoring A.I. by saying, "I respectfully wore the number three throughout my college and NBA career to represent the love and respect that I have for this man." He also said, "You brought hope to those who grew up with limited resources, you showed us that success and greatness are attainable even in the face of adversity. Your struggles made your accomplishments that more remarkable, A.I. you are a living breathing reminder

that redemption and growth are possible." Then Wade said, "Our heroes are not always perfect, instead they possess a relatability that makes them touchable and real."

Wade thanked all his family for their love and support, but especially his dad, Dwyane Wade Sr. He said, "When I would cry and say I can't, you made me go harder, you pushed me to limits that I didn't know were inside of me." Close to the end of his speech, while inviting his father onto the stage, he wanted to honor him even more. Wade said, "To know that we hustled our way to the Basketball Hall of Fame is God's will. While they both were on stage together Wade said, "I love you. We in the Hall of Fame, Dawg!" while laughing and elated.

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Zach Thomas.

Photo Courtesy of Foxnews.com

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Broward College Student Newspaper

THE BC STUDENT NEWSPAPER IS LOOKING FOR:

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Pharrell Williams Collaborates with Louis Vuitton

Swami Hinojosa

Central Bureau Chief

Pharrell Williams, the multi-talented artist, fashion icon, and producer, has joined forces with the world-renowned luxury fashion brand Louis Vuitton to create a unique collection bound to captivate fashion enthusiasts worldwide. The creative partnership between these two cultural behemoths has given rise to an innovative and unconventional group, showcasing the limitless potential of collaborative creativity. From bold color palettes to avant-garde designs, the Pharrell Williams x Louis Vuitton collection pushes the boundaries of modern fashion, redefining the notion of what is possible in high style.

The collection is a beautiful blend of different styles, including music, street fashion



Pharrell Williams Louis Vuitton collection photo courtesy of Reuters.com

and haute couture, and this combination makes it so remarkable. Under the visionary direction of Nicolas Ghesquière, an artistic genius behind Louis Vuitton's creative approach, the collaboration celebrates diversity and the convergence of different art forms. The fusion of music, street culture, and haute couture is evident in every collec-

tion piece. Each item is infused with vibrant colors, bold patterns, and striking silhouettes, which reflect Pharrell's unique style and artistic vision.

The collection seamlessly blends streetwear's raw and edgy elements with the refined and elegant craftsmanship of haute couture, resulting in a range that is both exquisite and boundary breaking. The attention to detail and the quality of the materials used are a testament to the exceptional skills of the designers. The collection is an actual work of art, and it has redefined the boundaries of fashion, proving that style can be both daring and beautiful.

The inspiration for this collection by Pharrell comes from his love for music. The garments feature iconic lyrics, evocative melodies, and Pharrell's creative ex-

pressions subtly imprinted onto the fabric, adding an ethereal layer to the ensemble. From luxurious silk dresses adorned with poetic verses to tailored suits featuring hidden musical notes, each piece resonates with the spirit of a symphony. Pharrell Williams and Louis Vuitton are profoundly committed to sustainability and environmental consciousness. The collection showcases the brand's dedication to eco-friendly practices, featuring organic fabrics, recycled materials, and innovative techniques that reduce the ecological footprint of fashion.

The collaborative symphony between Pharrell Williams and Louis Vuitton embodies creativity, passion, and social consciousness. It showcases the transformative power of fashion and music, harmoniously weaving together the realms

of luxury and artistry. With this collection, Pharrell and Louis Vuitton have struck a chord that resonates with audiences worldwide, proving that when two visionary forces come together, they can create an unparalleled expression of style, elegance, and meaningful change.

As the fashion world eagerly awaits the unveiling of this exceptional collection, it is evident that this collaboration will leave an indelible mark on the industry and ignite a new era of creative exploration. It celebrates the fusion of two extraordinary forces in this symphony of fashion and art in the spirit of harmony and collaboration.

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The Hype Train Never Stops: Video Game Titles to sink hours into this Fall Season

Gabriella Small

Staff Writer

The year 2023 has graced the gaming world with a myriad of engaging titles. From the captivating world of The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom to the bombastic and stylish action of Street Fighter VI, gamers have been well-fed with quality games from all over the genre spectrum. Of course, with the way companies and indies alike have pumped out titles this year, one would think that the hype train has used up all its steam, but there are still more titles to look forward to during the year's end.

Slashing its way onto the scene, Mortal Kombat 1 makes its debut on Sept. 14, 2023. This will be the series' twelfth installment and serve as a second reboot to the classic gore-filled fighting game many have come to love. Fan-favorites like Johnny Cage, Sub-Zero, Mileena, and other icons will make their return in this installment. The game will feature two single-player modes, a 7-hour story mode and a new Invasion mode which will reportedly feature board game-like RPG gameplay. The title is launching on the PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S, Nintendo Switch, and PC, so console and PC gamers alike will be able to experience this game's greatness



at launch.

Marvel's Spider-Man 2 will be swinging into action on Oct. 20, 2023, just in time for some gamers to get inspired to dress up as the different Spidermans this Halloween. This time around, the main storyline of the game will focus on both Peter Parker and Miles Morales, and it seems that there will be a major encounter between our heroes and the monstrous villain Venom. The gameplay pattern will closely resemble the previous installments but follows up on the story beats explored in Spider-Man: Miles Morales. The game will be launching with a \$230 PS5 collectors' edition including a steelbook display case for the game, a 19-inch collector's edition statue of Venom,

pre-order bonuses such as 6 unique skins for both Peter and Miles, along with some other minor content such as 5 extra skill points and additional items for photo-mode. PlayStation truthers will be able to experience this game in its full glory since it is a PS5 exclusive launch.

RPG lovers will also get their fair share of releases this Fall. Fate/Samurai Remnant will be releasing internationally on Sept. 28 on all modern consoles and platforms except for Xbox, giving Fate fans an action-RPG take on what a Holy Grail War would look like in Edo Japan. My Time at Sandrock, a new installment to the My Time series, will be exiting its early access stage and making its way to all modern consoles and platforms on Sept. 26,



Images courtesy of VGC and Playstation.com

giving players the task to work up their way from a fledgling builder to someone who will rebuild the town of Sandrock back to its former glory. Super Mario RPG and Persona 5 Tactica will also be releasing on the same day on the Nintendo Switch, one being an unexpected remake to the iconic, 3-decade-old title Super Mario RPG: Legend of the Seven Stars and the other being a chibi spin-off to the beloved Atlus title, Persona 5. Switch RPG fans should also look out for FANTASY LIFE i: The Girl Who Steals Time, a sequel to the underappreciated 3DS title Fantasy Life, which does not have a set release date but is expected to be released by the end of 2023.

One game all gamers should give a look when

it releases is Super Mario Bros. Wonder, releasing for the Switch on October 20th. It will be the first game in almost 3 decades that will not feature Charles Martinet as Mario's voice actor, and many see the game as gateway into a new era of the Mario series. Many are hoping it opens the era up with a bang and are excited to see who exactly will be voicing the beloved red-capped plumber.

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Pink passion: The rise of Barbie's influence in fashion and film

Swami Hinojosa Blas
Central Bureau Chief

The color pink has recently gained immense popularity in the fashion industry, making a vibrant statement on runways and in retail stores. Prominent fashion brands like Forever 21, H&M, and Zara have all incorporated this feminine shade prominently in their latest collections, appealing to a broad audience of fashion-forward individuals. Even brands like Pinkberry, known for its delicious frozen yogurt treats, and Fossil, renowned for its timeless accessories, have joined the trend by featuring pink in their products and promotional materials. Pink has become the color du jour, transcending seasons and symbolizing contemporary style and aesthetics. One cannot help but wonder about the origins of this pink phenomenon and its influence on popular culture.

A significant factor contributing to the popularity of pink can be attributed to the iconic doll, Barbie. Barbie, the fashion-forward and universal doll introduced by Mattel in 1959, became an instant hit with children and adults alike. With her signature pink accessories, vibrant outfits, and glamorous

lifestyle, Barbie embodied the epitome of fashion and style, setting trends for generations to come.

Throughout the years, Barbie has continuously developed to reflect changing cultural norms and societal aspirations, but her connection with the color pink remains steadfast. Barbies impact on popular culture and fashion cannot be overstated. For many, the doll represents more than just a toy; it symbolizes empowerment, individuality, and breaking barriers. Barbie has been a trailblazer, inspiring young minds to dream big and challenge traditional gender roles. She has assumed various roles, from astronaut to veterinarian, encouraging young girls and boys to pursue their passions and explore diverse career paths. As Barbies influence transcended generations, it is unsurprising that the latest Barbie movie, *Barbie: A Journey of Dreams*, created a buzz among longtime fans and curious newcomers. Initially crafted to cater to a 13+ audience, the movie surprised many when a significant proportion of the viewership comprised individuals aged 18 and above. This phenomenon can be attributed to the fact that

many of them had grown up playing with Barbie dolls and watching Barbie movies, which profoundly impacted their formative years. The franchise has released a plethora of films based on popular stories, such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *A Christmas Carol*, to name a few. These movies have continued to captivate audiences with enchanting storytelling, mesmerizing animation, and valuable life lessons.

The latest live-action Barbie movie generated even more anticipation when acclaimed director Greta Gerwig signed on to direct. Gerwig is known for her works, such as *Lady Bird* and *Little Women*, which possess strong feminist messages and tackle vital societal issues. Her involvement in the Barbie movie promises a unique cinematic experience, adding depth and nuance to the iconic character.

Viewers should be prepared for a different experience than what they may expect. While Barbies signature arched feet and lavish home were showcased in the trailer, the movie delves into more substantial and authentic themes from the start of the plot. The storyline is entirely



Photo Courtesy of Barbie-themovie.net

different from what many had envisioned. Instead of focusing solely on Barbies glamorous lifestyle, the movie delves into deeper narratives, exploring themes of self-discovery, inner strength, and the power of resilience. As Barbie takes center stage in a thought-provoking and contemporary storyline, she challenges the stereotypes that have surrounded her for decades. The new live-action Barbie movie portrays her as a multi-dimensional character, showcasing her as a strong, independent young woman with dreams and aspirations beyond material possessions. This refreshing and empowering approach to the

beloved character resonates with audiences of all ages, breaking free from the limitations of superficiality.

Barbies impact on fashion and entertainment is undeniable. The new movie brings a modern twist to this iconic character, inspiring fans and new audiences. Barbie represents empowerment and inspiration for generations past, present, and future. Her legacy and the allure of pink are timeless treasures.

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Beyonce Renaissance World Tour rocks Hard Rock Stadium

Latrice Harris
Staff Writer

Florida Hard Rock Stadium filled up with thousands of people attending Beyonce's Renaissance Tour, which is her ninth concert that is named after her seventh album titled, "Renaissance." There were many people who attended the sold-out Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens on August 18, 2023. Many fans were dressed in silver, and many had Renaissance costumes on.

Beyonce, whose name is Beyonce Giselle Knowles-Carter, has been hitting the stage for years creating number-one albums and racking up 32 Grammy awards. She is affectionately known and called Bey or B-Hive by many of her fans and in the music industry.

Beyonce opened the concert up in a gorgeous bodysuit that draped with a long white Watteau train. She had many costume

changes, stage sound effects, and silhouettes during each performance with a stunning and very well-put-together choreography.

One of the highlights of the show is when her daughter Blue Ivy joined her on the stage performing her song, *My Power*. Beyonce put emphasis on the lyrics, "This is my bloodline on the frontline," as she and Blue Ivy gave pure energy to the crowd. I witnessed a concert that was electrifying and had lots of people in the stadium sashaying down the aisles, dancing, and performing some of her routines as the beautiful Beyonce performed on the stage. It was lights, cameras, and action throughout Hardrock Stadium. Everyone had their cell phones recording an unforgettable event. Outside of Michael Jackson, I think that Beyonce puts a lot of effort into her stage presence, dance routines, and



Beyoncé Renaissance World Tour Opening Night - Stockholm.
Photo Courtesy of Getty

sound effects that create moments that would have you mesmerized like magic.

What was very interesting was the Everyone on Mute challenge, where Beyonce challenges everyone to go on mute when she sings the song, "Energy" from her Renaissance album, and when she gets to the lyrics in the song where she says, "Big wave in the room, the crowd gone move, look around everybody on mute." In that part she stops, her dancers stop, and

everyone in the audience is supposed to go on mute and be silent. The Hard Rock Stadium did go silent but there were still some people chanting, and others uttering be quiet. It was timing and the majority of the attendees understood the assignment when there were some who did not understand the challenge. According to Fox5 Atlanta, Beyonce named Atlanta the winner so far for the Everyone on Mute Challenge on stage at her Renaissance Concert Tour in Atlanta, since her

concert in Miami.

The Renaissance Tour launched on May 10, 2023, and has a projected end date of October 1, 2023. If you have not had the opportunity to witness her electrifying Renaissance Tour, check out her tour dates to possibly experience her creative production.

On www.beyonce.com, Beyonce stated on her website, "Virgo season is upon us. This tour has been such a joy and as we approach the last month, my birth wish is to celebrate with you wearing your most fabulous silver fashions to the shows 8.23 – 9.22! We'll surround ourselves with a shimmering human disco ball each night. Everybody mirroring each other's joy. Virgo season together in the house of chrome. See you there! Signed Your B at RWT."

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Unpacking the Impact: Affirmative Action and Students of Color

Keynaya Thompson
Editor-in-Chief

Two executive orders from Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson alongside The Civil Rights act of 1964 introduced the instrument of affirmative action. Affirmative action promotes diversity and inclusion, ensuring that marginalized groups are offered the same opportunities for advancement in career and or educational opportunities.

Regarding admissions in colleges, affirmative action has become a controversial tool to assess students of color by taking various academic and non-academic barriers into consideration. It levels the academic playing field and balances the disadvantages students of color face against their white and wealthier peers.

On June 29th, 2023, the Supreme Court made the decision to overturn affirmative action, ending this tool that created opportunities for many students of color.

“With let-them-eat-cake obliviousness, today, the majority pulls the ripcord and announces ‘colorblindness for all’ by legal fiat. But deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life,” Justice Kentaji Brown spoke of overturning the decision.

The Supreme Court’s deci-

sion seemingly supports colorblindness and sends a message that acceptance should be solely based on a student’s merit, disregarding a background that could impact the degree of their merit. Color blindness is not the end all be all solution to racial issues. If anything, it adds gasoline to a burning fire. Color blindness, which is described as navigating society without seeing color is placing tape over the leak and pretending the glass isn’t cracking. Given the historical disadvantages that racial groups have faced in this country and the very existence of systemic racism, we must see color.

If an equitable system is what the Supreme Court and those who challenge the constitutionality of affirmative action want, then barriers students of color face that are unique to their experiences —underfunded public schools, lack of access to advanced education, growing up in communities plagued with poverty and violence— are critical talking points when considering them for admissions. Placing a student’s application who doesn’t have full accessibility next to one who does is not equitable.

The Supreme court not only reversed affirmative action but failed to properly address the underlying issues that called for the action in the first place. This failure aggravates in-

equality in the education system whilst parading that they are rectifying it.

To support the case against affirmative action, conservatives have made Asian-American the adversaries to African Americans and Latinx Americans. Playing into the model minority myth as well as fear in the Asian American community based on genuine racial discrimination, this schismatic approach has created a false dichotomy.

The message is clear: Black acceptance is only possible at the expense of Asian students. This misleading narrative glosses over the issue of diversity. People of color are fighting for scraps and a limited number of seats on college campuses when there should be equal opportunity for everyone regardless of race. There should not be such anxiety so far instilled in a community that they believe other minorities being accepted places them at a further disadvantage; ignoring that the term ‘predominantly white institute’ exists. An equitable system doesn’t achieve true justice by pitting minority groups against each other.

As the topic and debate of affirmative action continues, we continue to ignore the elephant in the room. A little under 50 percent of private universities accept legacy ad-

missions and the rate is a little over 80 percent at highly selective colleges with low acceptance rates.

At Harvard University, legacy students were six times as likely to be accepted between 2014 and 2019. The special consideration of legacy admissions perpetuates a cycle of privilege that solely benefits students from affluent and predominately white backgrounds.

Chief Justice John Roberts stated that universities have wrongly concluded that one’s academic identity is not based on their overall merit but on their color, but can this same statement not be applied to children of alumni who often receive preferential treatment regardless of their academic qualification?

It is convenient that the program that ensures inclusion and access to higher education for people of color has been largely scrutinized and now overturned but the program that benefits majority white and affluent students is of no concern to the Supreme Court.

This reversal is a touchstone in the ongoing conversation of social justice and racial equity in the education system. Now more than ever, it is critical that systemic racism is addressed, and diversity is further promoted on campuses nationwide.

Colleges and universities are now challenged to explore new methods that fairly represent qualified students of color on their campuses. This ruling takes place the same year of DeSantis’ ban on AP African American Studies and the Supreme Court’s blockage of student debt relief —two events that impact students of color.

The fight for equity in education is still ongoing and it is the colleges’ responsibility to work towards a system that levels the academic playing field for striving scholars.



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Photos from ‘**者行無常** this too, shall pass’, an exhibit featuring artwork from graphite artist Ma-yuko Ono Gray. The exhibit is showing at Central Campus through Sept. 20.

