

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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NEWS  
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

NEWS  
PROFESSOR PROFILE

SPOTLIGHT  
CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING WITH ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

SPORTS  
UPDATES ON THE NFL & NBA

ENTERTAINMENT  
NEW SPIDERMAN COLLABORATION

ENTERTAINMENT  
SUPER MARIO BROTHERS NEW GAME

SPOTLIGHT  
STUDENT LIFE ON NORTH AND CENTRAL CAMPUS

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

PAGES 6-7

PAGES 8

PAGE 9

PAGE 10

PAGE 12

## Broward College student groups march amidst Israel and Palestine crisis

**Keynaya Thompson**  
Staff Writer

The current Israel and Hamas conflict that started on Oct. 7 has claimed countless civilian lives and led to the kidnapping and displacement of both Israelis as well as Palestinians. As the war rages on, a ceasefire continues to be demanded by various humanitarian organizations.

The implications of the conflict have reached students at Broward College as well as colleges in Florida.

There has been a heightened amount of both Islamophobia as well as antisemitic sentiments felt around the world. In response, the Jewish Student Union held a march on Central Campus on Oct. 16. The march was in support for Israel following Hamas' (the military and political organization that governs the Gaza Strip) attack. The Muslim Student Association also held a march on Oct. 24 calling for peace in Palestine and a ceasefire.

At the time of printing, no other marches have been scheduled.

### Israel vs Palestine: A Brief Timeline

In 1947, the UN proposed a partition plan for Palestine which entailed dividing the land into separate Jewish and Arab states. Jewish leaders agreed to this plan but many Arab nations including Palestinians opposed it. This would lead to the first war in 1948, which resulted in Israel winning and declaring independence. This would lead to the displacement of nearly 800,000 Palestinians, which would in turn lead to the Palestinian refugee crisis.

Although Israel would sign armistice agreements with its neighboring Arab states, conflict remained unresolved as there was no formal peace treaty. In 1967, Israel launched a preemptive strike against its neighboring states, starting the six-day war. The war would result in Israel seizing control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. These territories would become known as modern Palestine.

The 1970s and 80s saw a rise in Palestinian liberation

movements. A prominent movement was the Palestine Liberation Organization. During this time, armed conflict, hijacking and terrorism plagued both Israel and Palestine.

The 1990s would bring the Oslo Accords, agreements that granted Palestinians the right to self-governance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Still, there was no official peace treaty. The Second Intifada, a period of intense violence came in the 2000s.

In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip but continued its control over its borders. In 2006, Islamist group Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections. Sporadic violence and conflicts would continue to erupt leading to casualties on both sides and a stalled peace negotiation.

Now in 2023, the conflict remains unresolved, and a war is ongoing. Territorial disputes, settlements, security and the status of Jerusalem continue to drive the conflict. The Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas resulted in retaliation by Israel and a complete siege of food, water, electricity and medical assistance on Gaza. A resolution to this conflict remains elusive.

### The Conflict and Islamophobia

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has contributed to widespread Islamophobia. The conflict is often portrayed in ways that lead to negative connotations and stereotypes surrounding Arabs and Muslims. It is a complex historical and political struggle that has entered a new chapter.

The demonization of Palestinians, who are predominantly Muslim, in turn, manifests into Islamophobic sentiments. The political discourse generated by the events have led to a negative portrayal of



The JSU march.

Image by Keynaya Thompson/The Observer

Palestinians and a perception that they are all hostile and violent, thus leading to Islamophobia. People against Muslims could weaponize the situation to push Islamophobic agendas.

These portrayals in extreme situations lead to hate crimes targeting Muslims and Arabs. On Oct. 14, a week after the attacks began, a six-year-old, both Muslim and Palestinian-American child named Wadea Al-Fayoume was fatally stabbed 26 times by his landlord in Chicago.

### The Conflict and Antisemitism

On the other side, the conflict has also contributed to antisemitism, negative sentiments that target Jewish communities. Globally, some may regard all Jewish people as unanimously supporting Israel's policies and actions or as having certain beliefs regarding the conflict. This generalization is defamatory and perpetuates negative stereotypes.

People who are against Jewish communities could weaponize actions being taken by the Israeli government as action being taken by the Jewish community as a whole. The

disagreement on Israel's actions and governing is then misconstrued as the Jewish communities' actions, thus leading to hate speech and bigotry.

Long-standing historical prejudice against Jewish communities have resurfaced and are exacerbated because of this conflict. This may include conspiracies such as suggestions of Jewish control and manipulation over media, global and political affairs. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has stated that since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, antisemitic incidents in the US have increased by 388 percent. One such incident recently involved a Cornell University student who was arrested and charged in connection with antisemitic online threats made against Cornell's Jewish community.

This is the most up-to-date information as of printing on Nov. 2.



The MSA march

Image by Keynaya Thompson/The Observer

# Academic rivals go head-to-head in trivia showdown

Miniver Kundrata  
Staff Writer

In mid-October, an autumnal chill swept through North Campus, setting the stage for a laid-back face-off between Broward College’s most esteemed honor societies, Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta. The two chapters collaborated to organize a trivia competition, the scene of which unfolded within the cozy confines of the Honor’s Lounge, located on the second floor of Building 56. The chosen theme was “Nostalgia From 1950 to 1999,” an homage to the rich tapestry of American history and culture. As attendees entered Room 223, they were greeted warmly by a reception committee representing both honor societies. Each guest was handed a yellow raffle ticket as a large monitor dominated the lounge, complemented by plenty of couches and armchairs. At the heart of the room, a coffee table played host to an assortment of items, including multicolored pencils, tempting Halloween candy, and even membership applications for students interested in joining Sigma Kappa Delta (SKD).

Abbreviated as “SKD,” Sigma Kappa Delta is an honor society that specifically focuses on English language and literature. This honor society recognizes and promotes excellence nationwide in the study of English at the community college level. Its primary goal is to celebrate high-achieving students and to supply them with opportunities for academic and professional growth.

Krystal Bent, President of the Xi Gamma chapter, can attest to that message, stating, “It has provided me with a safe space to improve my leadership and time management skills.” She then hurried to include, “It’s open to all students, not only those majoring in English.”

What many students may not be aware of is how organizations such as Sigma Kappa Delta (SKD) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) extend beyond their conventional roles of bestowing writing awards, leadership positions, and scholarship opportunities. They take an active role in organizing events that confer additional benefits. In this case, participants had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, make new friends, and vie for prizes.



Students who participated in the trivia game. Photo by Arianna Paul/The Observer

Reflecting on her tenure as a board member, Bent said, “I’ve transitioned from an introvert to a socialite over this past year.” She sat quietly to the side and ensured all virtual participants were ready to play.

At 2:30 p.m., the game commenced. Upbeat music drifted from the speakers as those in person joined in using their smartphones. Each trivia question featured wistful an-

swers such as “TV Dinners,” “M.C. Hammer,” and “Back to the Future.” The lounge hummed with nervous energy, but contestants needed to stay focused as they answered 50 trivia questions. Midway through, the music stopped, and a breathless silence filled the room. The only noise came from the tapping of fingers on phone screens.

Finally, after 300 tense

minutes, the game reached its dénouement. The questions were tallied and Alanna Robert, SKD’s secretary, claimed victory, taking home an Amazon gift card and bragging rights. The event closed with a raffle drawing, awarding Halloween-themed bags to four lucky winners, each filled with literary treasures.

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## Broward College Student Newspaper

THE BC STUDENT NEWSPAPER IS LOOKING FOR:

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# Leadership Seminar: A journey towards the development of leaders

Swami Hinojosa Blas  
Central Bureau Chief

The Leadership Seminar program helps people become influential leaders and understand their values. Participants reflect on their values and how to integrate them into their leadership practice. The program uses simple language and presents information logically.

In the digital and global era in which we live, the training of leaders is essential for the success of organizations and the growth of their members.

The leadership seminar was presented by Dr. Lauren Adamo on Oct. 18 and explores key concepts related to the leadership position, the programs we can offer, permission relationships, producing results, and the balance between work and valuing people.

Through a series of ideas and reflections, this seminar provides an enriching vision of achieving effective and authentic leadership in a work environment.

The seminar begins by exploring the importance of the leadership position and how it influences the relationship between a leader and his or her team. Dr. Adamo highlights that the rights and power that a leader can offer are fundamental to establishing an effective leadership dynamic. This relates to authority and the ability to make decisions, which affects how relationships develop within an organization. The idea of “permission in relationships” becomes a recurring theme in the seminar.

Leaders must permit their teams to express themselves, share ideas, and feel valued. This creates an environment where people feel safe and supported, encouraging collaboration and creativity. She empha-

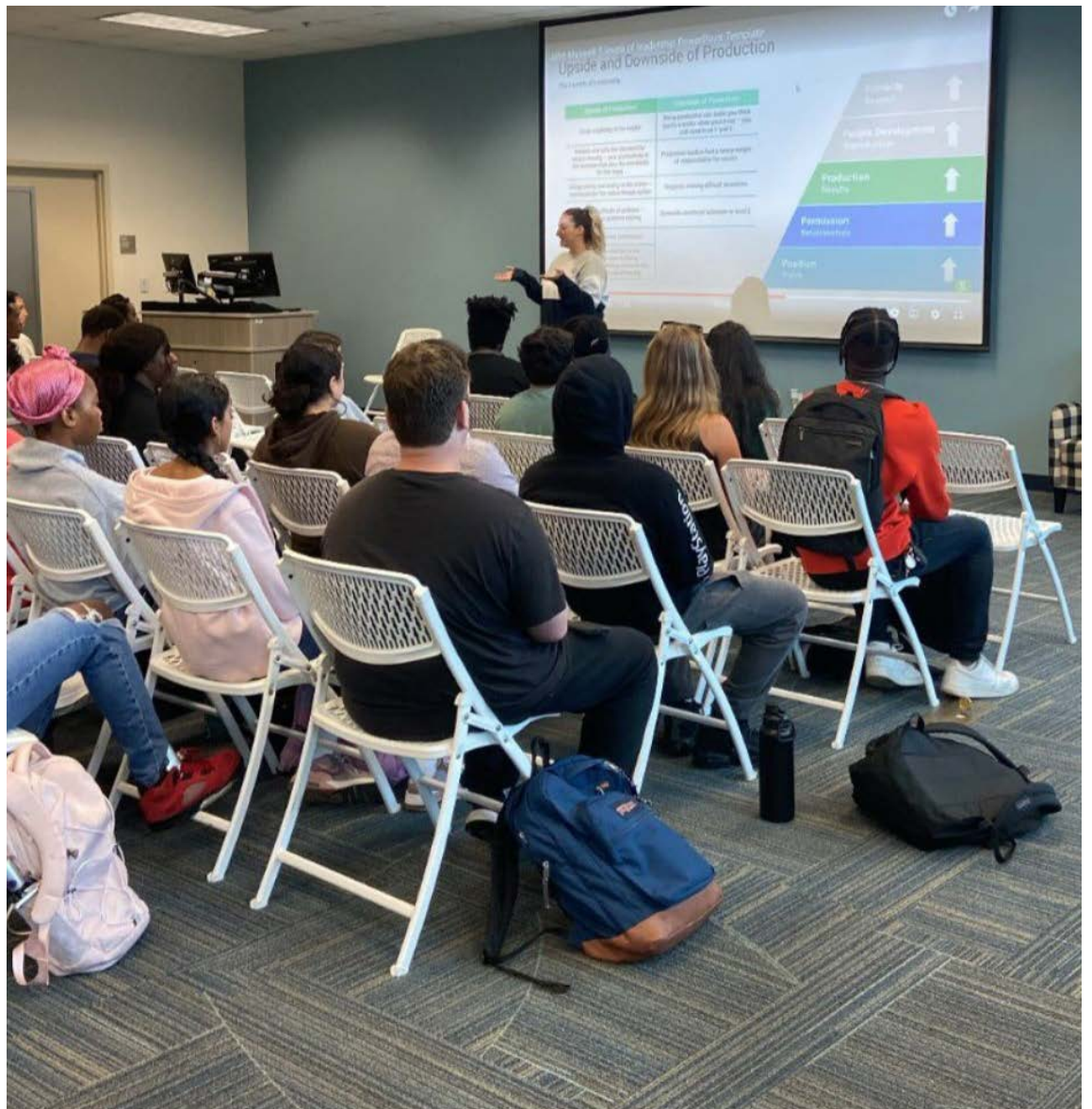
sizes that permission is essential to developing strong relationships in a leadership environment.

Producing results is another crucial aspect of leadership. Leaders not only have the responsibility to guide their teams but also to ensure that established objectives and goals are achieved. The production of results is closely linked to the credibility of a leader. The more efficient and effective a leader achieves results, the greater his or her credibility and authority. The seminar suggests that the production of results depends not only on the individual capacity of the leader but also on the relationship between people. Collaboration and teamwork are essential to achieve meaningful results. Success is a product of individual actions and a well-cohesive team's joint effort and synergy.

The balance between work and valuing people is a critical concept that Adamo highlights in her seminar. Leaders must ensure their teams feel valued, seen, and heard.

Team member satisfaction and motivation are essential to performance and talent retention. Adamo emphasizes that loving people is not just a component of human resource management but an integral part of leadership. Leaders must understand the emotional needs of their teams and demonstrate empathy and support. This approach improves the work environment and boosts employee engagement and loyalty.

Effective leadership joins on a balance between producing quality work and supporting team members. Relationships are crucial for long-term success and are integral to connecting with and communicating effectively with one's team. The sem-



Broward Collage leadership seminar.

Photo by Swami Hinojosa/The Observer

inar emphasizes that relationship dynamics can differ depending on position and context. Leaders must balance building solid, respectful relationships while maintaining close connections with their team.

The development of people is a fundamental responsibility of leaders. Influential leaders not only focus on results but also care about the growth and development of their teams. This focus on people development can include training, empowerment, and promoting lifelong learning. Sharing information and resources is essential for the growth of a team and an organization. The transmission of knowledge and skills is necessary to ensure continuity and long-term success.

In the seminar, it is emphasized that people are the biggest asset of any organization. Leaders must recognize and value their team as people drive progress and success. Effective leadership involves cul-

tivating an environment in which people can grow and prosper. Organizational growth is a reward for leaders who invest in developing their teams rather than simply accumulating followers.

An effective leader inspires and empowers people, generating respect and admiration that transcends formal authority. Leadership becomes an act of inspiring and moving people toward a shared goal.

The seminar concludes by exploring the “pinnacle of leadership, a level of respect and admiration achieved when a leader can inspire and motivate his or her team exceptionally.”

At this level, when everyone shares values and a common dream, leadership becomes a matter of constantly remembering goals and maintaining a love and passion for what you do.

Adamo shares a couple of inspiring quotes that sum up the essence of this pinnacle: “Your

mission is your why.” “Follow your values, follow what you believe.” These quotes reinforce the importance of having a clear vision and deep-rooted values as a leader.

The seminar highlights the importance of open conversation and how it can drive evolution and improvement.

In a world where information flows freely, the ability to have open and honest conversations is essential for personal and professional growth. In the era of the new generation, openness to information is an art that can transform how we lead and relate to others.

Open conversations and a willingness to listen add invaluable value to relationships and leadership.

# Broward College Professor received the Change-Making Education Award

**Sara Fuentes**  
Staff Writer

Mirsad Krijestorac is a Broward College professor who teaches Introduction to the United States National Government as well as Introduction to International Relations, and sometimes he also teaches Introduction to Comparative Politics, three subjects that are part of the Social Sciences, which reflects on the professional pathway that Professor Krijestorac took.

Krijestorac's undergraduate study is in journalism, which he did at Broward College, followed by a Ph.D. in political science from Florida International University. The reason why he decided to do his Ph.D. in Political Science is because "politics plays a major role in the world, and he wants to

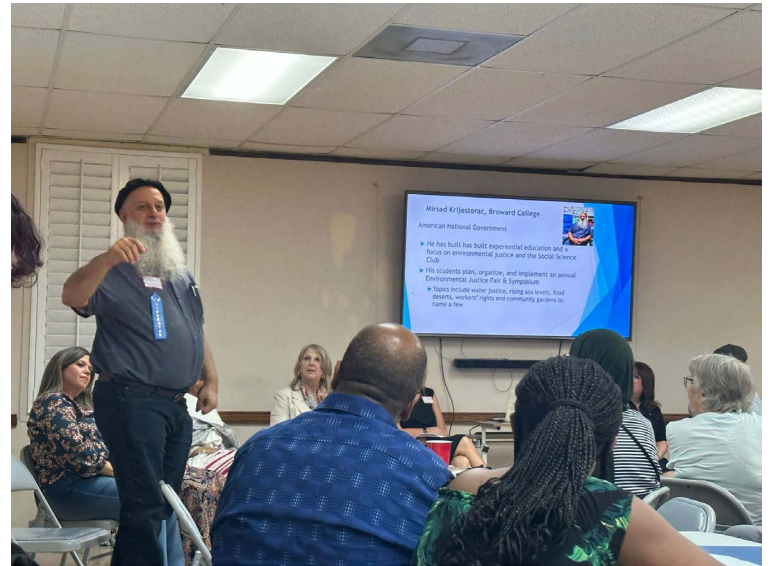
understand a little bit more about the situation in his home country, which made him, and his family make a very difficult decision to leave their home country, as his country started to fall apart," he said. He is from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Krijestorac was asked about what is the most important thing that he would like his students to take away from his courses. He wants them to "understand the world around them, to interact and have the information that they need so they can use it as they learn how to critically think and analyze that way, they can properly develop a personal view and develop their own opinions as well as being informed."

Alix Desnor, a student who had Krijestorac as a professor, said that "it was a great experience to have Krijestorac as a professor

because he informed the students what was going on around in the world and the respective impact and the solution to the problems, and to help them create a personal view about what was happening in the world."

Krijestorac is not only an instructor but a professional writer, who is also trying to make a strong and very beneficial education experience for the students attending BC, not only in the form of teaching but in the form of trying to improve the environment around the college for every student. Speaking of which, Krijestorac said, "that he is in the process of developing a project with the Broward College Administration in which the students at Broward College North Campus would be able to participate and plant trees around the campus to help improve the natural



Professor Mirsad Krijestorac. Photo by Sara Fuentes/The Observer

environment around the installations and make the students feel more comfortable."

Every year, the Peace Corps Association selects professors throughout the South Florida area to commemorate their hard work and dedication to educating our communities. This year, Professor Krijestorac was

selected, along with other colleagues, to receive the Changemaking Education Award, which honors their contributions to education at the levels they teach, for example, k-12 and college/university educators and their different experiences.

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## Seminar teaches students how to become a leader

**Levi Hylton**  
Staff Writer

The idea of being a leader is often more glamorized than the reality of being one. The path you must take to become one is of self-reflection and humbling yourself to lessons from those you consider leaders.

The Certified Leader Seminar was held on Sept. 27 in building 19 at Central Campus. The information provided about being a leader is something students can apply to their daily lives. The event was organized by Student Life but led by Professor Victoria Brower who teaches National Government at Central Campus.

The purpose of this event was to educate students about the definition of being a leader, and the steps you can take to become one. Professor Brower presented a PowerPoint titled "Public Works and

Leadership Workshop."

It contained a plethora of effective tips on how to become a leader. For example, she explained how becoming self-aware would help us develop into better leaders because it would help students manage their own emotions which would help us to navigate difficult situations with others.

The turnout for this event was approximately 50 students. While some students came to enjoy the free pizza that was provided at the event, one student came because he wanted to learn more about developing leadership qualities. Sophomore Juice Dieujuste, said in response to being asked what drew him to this event, "You can never learn too much, especially if you want to be better not just as a leader but as a person."

He explained why he wanted to become a leader. Dieujuste said,



Photo courtesy of sparksuccess.com

"Being in the military, basketball team, and even work I see a lot of people who let power get to their head. It bothered me so I always told myself when I'm in a position like that to do better." Finally, he shared what he learned from this seminar and how he would apply this information to his life. "That knowledge is everywhere, we just have to take action to

learn," he said.

After the event, Professor Brower shared her opinion on the event. She explained that she agreed to do this event because "I love teaching and love students. I love to see them progress." But with a more serious tone, she shifted to her main point. "My heart is for our country... I really believe that the youth are the future of

our country, so anything that would foster or help young people develop leadership skills I definitely support," she said.

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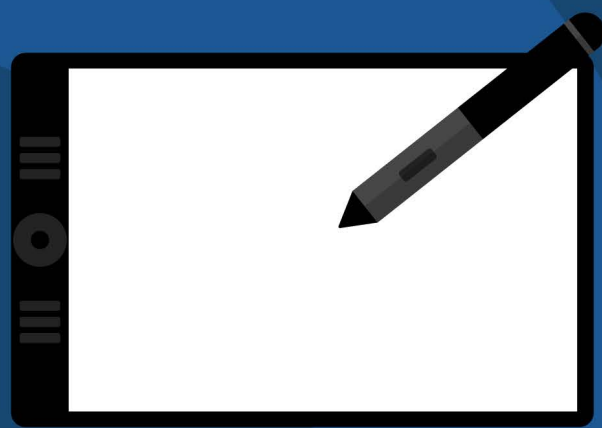
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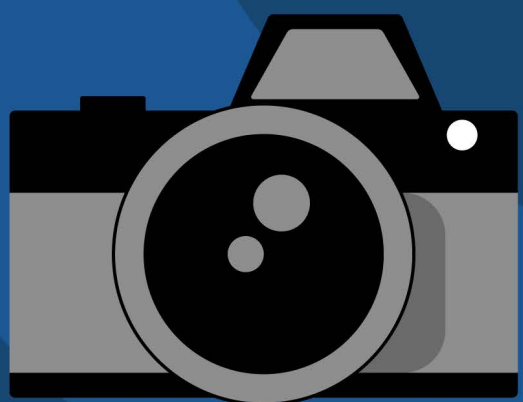
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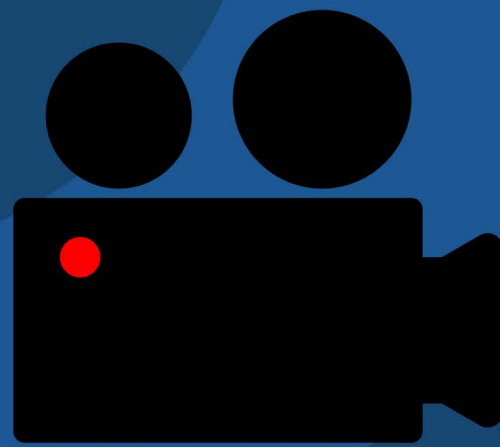
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# Give Thanks: Thanksgiving 2023

We all have things we need to be thankful for which may include having food to eat, having the opportunity to go to college, that awesome classmate who helped you in class, or supportive family and friends. This annual holiday, which originated from a harvest feast back in October 1621, celebrates the harvest and blessings of the past year.

Even though not considered a national holiday until 1863, since then, it has continued to bring family and friends together. On the fourth Thursday of November, the United States celebrates Thanksgiving, which is a national holiday that gives family and friends time to gather for a feast of traditional meals and express their gratitude for all the things in life.



Photo By: [www.thescienceacademystemmagnet.org](http://www.thescienceacademystemmagnet.org)

Others may use this time to service others by coordinating food drive donations or volunteering at a local soup kitchen. What are your plans? No matter what it is, reflect on your feelings of thankfulness, and share those feelings with those around you.

Individuals or families may have traditions they do to complete their special celebration. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving every year? Or maybe you are here studying abroad, and this is your first Thanksgiving ever. Nevertheless, here are some all-time favorite Thanksgiving traditions that you may already do, plan on doing, or could start doing this Thanksgiving.

Firstly, is traveling to visit family for the extended break. A lot of people start saving just to afford those expensive airline tickets or even buy their tickets earlier in the year. However, even a drive to any family nearby would suffice just to be surrounded by their presence for the wholesome holiday.

Another all-time favorite tradition is sharing what you are thankful for. It is commonly done around the dinner table on Thanksgiving Day, but you may also share it on social media or personally with family and friends to show the whole reason for the holiday.

Not everyone is a huge fan of cooking, but anyone who is can show their holiday spirit by cooking, cooking, and doing even more cooking. Whether you are gathering for a big Thanksgiving dinner or providing service to others, you can make your best dish to feed them. It can be that famous mac and cheese that everyone loves or your homemade pumpkin pie that will have everyone licking their fingers after eating.

No matter what it is, it will bring people to enjoy the next all-time favorite tradition, eating. Dinner is the most common way to celebrate Thanksgiving and unlike cooking, eating may be the majority's favorite tradition. Seeing some of your favorite dishes all in the same place may have you surprising yourself and everyone around about how much you can really eat. Whether you are having that hot cooked meal with your family around the dinner table or while watching TV, everyone should enjoy all the food Thanksgiving has to offer.

Do you have any other traditions you do on your own or with your family? Share it with those around to get into the spirit of Thanksgiving and get ready for all that food on Thanksgiving Day!

Join us for a Thanksgiving-themed gathering! We encourage faculty, students, and staff to come together on each campus for:

<p><b>North Campus Hawks Giving</b> Monday, Nov. 13 Building 46, Student Life Patio 12 pm</p>	<p><b>South Campus Hawks Giving Feast</b> Tuesday, Nov. 14 Building 68 Breezeway 12 pm</p>	<p><b>Central Campus Turkey Bowl: Faculty v Student Flag Football game &amp; tailgate.</b> Thursday, Nov. 16 Building 17 Lawn 12pm</p>
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## NBA Opening week reactions & teams/players who are meeting expectations

**Jordan Stephenson**  
South Bureau Chief

NBA opening week has been extremely successful, with many great games taking place, and with many players having great performances. In game one, the Nuggets defeated the Lakers 119-107, mainly because AD was inconsistent as usual throughout the game; he had 17 points with one rebound in the 1st half, then zero points and seven rebounds in the 2nd half. Also, 2x MVP Nikola Jokic had another triple-double, with 29 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists, and has fueled the Nuggets 4-0 start with triple-doubles in 2-4 games. In game two, the Suns defeated the Warriors 108-104, mainly because Devin Booker had 32 points with eight assists, and KD had a double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Bradley Beal was traded to the Suns from the Wizards, for Chris Paul and other assets. The assets included 2024-2028 with a 2030 2nd round pick, 2024-2030 even number of 1st round pick swaps, Landry Shamet, and cash. Also, Jordan Goodwin and Isaiah Todd were traded to the Suns. So far KD is carrying the Suns even with high expectations looming, because Beal and Booker have a toe and back injuries respectively. The Wizards traded Paul to the Warriors for Jordan Poole, a 2027 2nd round pick, and a 2030 protected 1st round pick. Paul (CP3) has to prove he can play a complementary role to eventually help himself and the

Warriors win a championship. So far CP3 is paying dividends and living up to expectations by helping the Warriors to a 3-0 road record, after only winning 11 road games last season and also by averaging 8.3 assists.

Another trade that took place before free agency was the Kristaps Porzingis (KP) trade. The Wizards, Celtics, and Grizzlies facilitated a three-team trade that traded KP to the Celtics, Tyus Jones to the Wizards, and Marcus Smart to the Grizzlies. Porzingis has to prove he can be a 3rd or 4th option on a championship Celtics team. Adrian Wojnarowski (WOJ) reported that the Trailblazers traded Holiday to the Celtics for Malcolm Brogdon, Robert Williams, a 2024 Warriors 1st round pick, and a 2029 unprotected 1st round pick. Both KP and Holiday have lived up to expectations so far by leading the Celtics to a 3-0 record; KP had 30 points with five 3-pointers and four blocks in his debut. Also, Holiday had a double-double with 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists vs the depleted Heat.

Kyrie Irving finally re-signed with the Mavericks for a three-year \$126 million contract. Irving has to prove that he can help Luka Doncic and the Mavericks win in the playoffs. The Doncic and Irving duo has already proven to be instrumental to the Mavericks success, with Irving averaging six assists and Doncic averaging 39 points. Doncic has had a triple-double in 2-3 games and has carried them to a 3-0 record.

Anthony Davis and the Lakers finalized a three-year \$186 million contract. AD has to prove that he can consistently play at least 65 plus games while being the undoubtedly best player on the Lakers for years to come. AD has so far been extremely inconsistent for the Lakers, even though the other games he has had good stats, but not vs the 2x MVP and the Nuggets. The Lakers are currently 2-2, with LeBron James already breaking his minutes restrictions vs the depleted Suns team.

WOJ reported that the Trailblazers executed a blockbuster three team Damian Lillard trade that included the Bucks and the Suns. The Trailblazers received Jrue Holiday, Deandre Ayton, Toumani Camara, a Bucks 2029 unprotected 1st round pick, and an unprotected Bucks swap rights in 2028 and 2030. The Suns received Jusuf Nurkic, Grayson Allen, Nassir Little, and Keon Johnson. Lillard has to prove that he can help himself and the Bucks to have a chance to win a championship. Lillard has had a mixed bag in his 1st three games by having 39 points in game one, then having six points with six turnovers on 2-12 shooting in game two, but at least the Bucks are 2-1.

WOJ reported that James Harden was finally being traded to the Clippers, which pairs him with Kawhi Leonard, Paul George, and Russell Westbrook. The Clippers received Harden. P.J. Tucker, Filip Petrušev, and traded Marcus Morris, Robert Covington, Nic Batum, KJ



WOJ reporting the Harden trade. Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

Martin, a 2028 unprotected 1st rounder, two 2nd rounders, and a 2029 pick swap. Harden has to prove he can help the Clippers win in the regular season, playoffs, and possibly in the NBA Finals.

The top teams that are favored to win the championship are the Celtics, Suns, Bucks, Nuggets and Clippers because of how they all finished last season, as well as the great acquisitions

they made. The top 10 players with high expectations are Joel Embiid, AD, Jaylen Brown, Beal, Doncic, Lillard, Donovan Mitchell, Kawhi Leonard, Zion Williamson, and Trae Young.

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## NFL trade deadline news & notes

**Jordan Stephenson**  
South Bureau Chief

The NFL trade deadline officially ended, so the players and teams who were discussed in trade rumors will have to wait until the offseason to resume trade discussions. This trade deadline was another busy deadline, similarly to last years trade deadline.

These are all the trade deadline deals that could help fortify teams to make the playoffs or to clear cap space and acquire picks. The Commanders traded Montez Sweat to the Bears, for a 2024 2nd round pick. The Commanders also traded Chase Young to the 49ers, for a 2024 3rd round pick. I think they made these moves because Billionaire Magic Johnson is trying to clear house and what not. After Kirk Cousins suffered a torn achilles, the Vikings trade a 2024 6th round pick for Joshua Dobbs and a 2024 conditional 7th round pick. The Vikings also traded Ezra Cleveland to the Jaguars for a 2024 6th round pick. The Browns traded Donovan Peoples-Jones to the Lions for a 2025 6th round pick. The Packers traded Rasul Douglas and a 2024 fifth round pick to the Bills for a 2024 3rd round pick.

There were definitely

some trades that happened before the trade deadline, and that didn't even happen. The Giants traded Leonard Williams to the Seahawks for a 2024 2nd round pick and a 2025 5th round pick. Derrick Henry, Davante Adams, and Saquan Barkley didn't get traded before the deadline.

There is only one 7-1 team in the Eagles, and currently five 6-2 teams right now: one from the NFC and four from the AFC. These 6-2 teams consist of the Lions, Dolphins, Jaguars, Ravens, and Chiefs. There are essentially many good teams that are playing great and winning games, which signifies that there is consistent parity right now.

The Eagles and Lions are definitely "the cream of the crop" in the NFC. Coming into this season, we absolutely thought the Cowboys would be one of top teams, but the Lions have elevated themselves over the Cowboys. The 49ers have lost three straight games, and are spiraling out of the control, so that's why they traded for Young to fortify their defense.

Even though the Eagles are 7-1, most analysts would definitely say they have looked that great all season. Their statement win was when they defeated their division rivals the Commanders, in a 34-31 OT thriller. The Lions are definitely the most surprising



Young traded to the 49ers. Photo courtesy of NFL.com

6-2 team, because they have already surpassed the Cowboys. They are playing with immense confidence on offense and defense. Jared Goff is quietly in MVP contention, and their defense is extremely improved from last season. Their statement win was when they defeated the reigning Super Bowl champions, Chiefs, on the road 21-20.

The Dolphins and the Chiefs are definitely "the cream of the crop" in the AFC. They have been the most consistent teams in an extremely competitive AFC conference. The Dolphins currently have hands down the best offense in the NFL, and still leads the NFL in the majority of the important offensive statistics, even though their defense is shaky, but at best average. One thing they definitely improved from last year was their rushing attack. They were in

the bottom half of the league last year, but have improved to the best rushing attack with 181.8 rushing yards per game (ypp). Tua Tagovailoa leads the NFL with 2,416 passing yards, and Tyreek Hill leads the NFL with 1,014 receiving yards and eight receiving touchdowns. Hill has the most receiving yards through eight games in NFL history and is on pace to surpass 2,000 yards. Raheem Mosert is 2nd in the league with 12 total touchdowns, one behind Christian McCaffery 13. They recently lost to the Eagles 31-17, but then rebounded with a 24-10 win over their division rivals Patriots. Their statement win was when they defeated the Broncos 70-20. The Dolphins and Chiefs finally meetup in Germany next Sunday for AFC supremacy.

The Chiefs are 6-2, but definitely don't look as

good as last year, especially offensively. Their defense is surprisingly solidified in the top 10, but their offensive weapons besides Travis Kelce definitely needs to be more consistent. Patrick Mahomes is still great, even though he isn't really leading in any statistical categories. Their statement win is when they demolished the Bears 41-10, with Kelce's girlfriend, Taylor Swift, in attendance. They recently lost the Broncos 24-9, after defeating them 16 consecutive times. Some other good teams are the Cowboys, Bills, Browns, Seahawks, Bengals, Jets, Saints, Steelers and etc.

Now to bad and lowly teams, they consist of the Chargers, Packers, Vikings, Titans, Patriots, Cardinals, Broncos, Bears, Giants, Panthers. The most important thing for these teams to get wins is obviously playing complimentary football. Most of these bad teams, surprisingly played complimentary to earn wins the past two weeks.

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# Spider-Man 2 on PlayStation: A Unique Collaboration with Global Influencers

Swami Hinojosa  
Central Bureau Chief

Sony's video game Spider-Man 2 for the PlayStation console 5 was developed in collaboration with prominent personalities worldwide. This partnership resulted in a unique gaming experience for players, giving authenticity to the character.

Video games and movies have been merging spectacularly in recent years. This trend

has been evident in the current association between the popular PlayStation game "Spider-Man 2" and prominent figures from various fields, such as Formula 1 driver Lando Norris, Brazilian soccer player Vinicius J., and talented pop singer Rina Sawayama.

Their mission: design exclusive costumes for the iconic characters of Miles Morales and Peter Parker in the game. With the promise that up to 65 different spider suits, as they called it, will be unlocked as you progress through the game, the excitement is palpable from audiences worldwide.

The phenomenon surrounding this new video game is undeniable. Fans of the saga have been eagerly awaiting this moment for years, wanting to relive the thrills of swinging through the streets of New York as Spider-Man. However, what has really raised the hype to stratospheric levels is the clever and strategic marketing that has brought togeth-



Photos courtesy of Instagram

er four influencers from different fields to bring Spidersuits to life in the game.

This collaboration, which includes Rina Sawayama, a pop singer with a distinctive style, Lando Norris, a Formula 1 star, and Vinicius Jr., a prominent Brazilian soccer player, has created a global stir. Furthermore, with the guidance of Colm Dillane, an emerging designer generating tremendous excitement in the fashion industry, the foundations have been laid for an event that will transcend the limits of convention.

To understand the importance of this collaboration, it is essential to know a little about the Kid Superbrand, which is playing a central role in this project. Colm Dillane, a renowned New Yorker, took on the part of creative director at Louis Vuitton's men's fashion show this year, attesting to his influence on today's fashion scene.

Kid Super garments are known for being colorful, with designs that attract the eye by incorporating abstract figures and playing with textures and sizes. This focus on creativity and originality promises to give Miles Morales' suits a unique and exciting look, as both Dillane and Morales share roots in Brooklyn, New York.

Each of the influencers involved in this collaboration brings their own distinctive touch.

Pop sensation Rina Sawayama is making her mark by incorporating leather elements into outfits, reflecting her unique style. For his part, Vinicius Jr. strives to bring a Brazilian touch to the designs, mixing the colors green and yellow into his creative vision. Lastly, Lando Norris, the Formula 1 driver, is keeping his ideas a secret from him, which only adds a higher level of anticipation to the project.

The association of an

iconic video game with such prominent names in fields as diverse as sports, music, and fashion is an example of how entertainment interacts with popular culture in ways beyond what we could imagine. This phenomenon highlights the influence and appeal of the Spider-Man franchise. It demonstrates how video games have become a powerful medium to connect with audiences worldwide and transcend the limits of the screen.

The collaboration between Spider-Man 2 and these renowned personalities is exciting for its innovative character and promises a mix of cultural influences that will enrich the characters' costumes. Each influencer brings a unique approach and distinctive vision to the Spidersuit designs.

Let's start with Rina Sawayama, a pop singer who has left a deep impression on the music industry with her unique style. Her contribution to the creation of the costumes is characterized by the incorporation of leather, a material that reflects her distinctive and glamorous image. Sawayama's designs are intended to appeal to fashion and music lovers while bringing a touch of rebellion to the costumes of Miles Morales and Peter Parker. The choice of leather as the primary material highlights the versatility and adaptability of Spider-Man, a superhero who moves with agility and bravery through the

streets of New York.

Vinicius Jr., the Brazilian footballer who shines on soccer fields worldwide, also joins this exciting collaboration. His contribution focuses on incorporating the green and yellow colors into the Spidersuits. These colors are emblematic of Brazil and its national football team and represent the passion and energy that characterizes the country. Vinicius Jr.'s choice to incorporate these colors reflects his pride in his country and adds a touch of cultural diversity to Spider-Man's suits. The fusion of Brazilian culture with the essence of Spider-Man promises to create vibrant and exciting designs that resonate with fans worldwide.

As for Lando Norris, the Formula 1 driver, his participation in the collaboration has been somewhat mysterious. So far, Norris has yet to share specific details about his contribution to the Spidersuits. However, his presence in the project adds an extra layer of intrigue and anticipation. Given his experience in the world of high-performance car racing, his focus may be related to the functionality and aerodynamics of the suits, which could result in surprising and futuristic designs. The uncertainty surrounding Norris' contribution only adds to the mystery and excitement.

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# Super Mario Brothers Wonder is perfect (with some flaws)

Luis Cuetara  
Staff Writer

We have seen much too much ado about Super Mario Bros. Wonder, the latest installment in Nintendo's Mario Bros. franchise. In it, you can choose to be anyone from a large cast of heroes from Mario (an Italian plumber stereotype) to Princess Peach (despot of the Mushroom Kingdom) as you gleefully commit war crimes to liberate the Poplin prisoners, who have been made inmates of their own homes by the turtle warlord,

Bowser. Leaving a trail of havoc, you must attempt to collect the royal seeds scattered about presumably by Prince Florian, to use against the malevolent Bowser, who is now a floating castle (?).

Reviewers have lauded the title for its whimsical aesthetic, which is a pleasure to look at. Shame that it masquerades the brutality of torching live victims with balls of fire or trapping them in the bubbles, a greedy chemical weapon that causes them to disintegrate into coins.

Furthermore, they praise the inventive new mechanic of the "Wonder Flower," which triggers a psychedelic experience that can affect the player in several ways, from stretching him out to causing the plants to start an impromptu musical number. Mario has been on "Super" mushrooms in the past that promoted him to "Super" form, but the plumber has taken his illicit substance use too far this time. Bowser Jr., Bowser's son, isn't innocent either as he inhales a concentrated form of "wonder" gas for a novel power set. Just say no, kids.

Finally, they appreciate the added difficulty to the levels provided by badges. When the player can turn their hat into a glider Fortnite style, the actual difficulty of the levels can be increased, meaning that the most dedicated part of the fanbase can spike their own challenge by toggling it off.

I, like these critics, agree that the game pushes the envelope for the series in fascinating and avant-garde ways. But I think it has flaws, dialing back the

chaos of prior entries and taming the unabashed chaos (read malice) of co-op and interactions with other characters like Yoshi.

In the New Super Mario Bros. series, older brothers worldwide rejoiced in putting their little brother on their shoulders and chucking them into the nearest chasm ad infinitum—the player character would be proud. I don't have siblings, but I look back fondly on the chaotic fun that was a standoff between my friend and me as we tried to complete the level while sabotaging one another. When that wasn't the case, you could jump on their head to ruin their forward momentum or bump them off a ledge with the slippery physics.

Unfortunately, the player collision was gutted. Wonder is more playable, but at what cost? Fear not, though, for the developers integrated a dastardly albeit less interactive means to ruin everyone else's time: the camera. Because the camera follows the crowned player, they can dictate whether someone else gets

left behind as the borders close in on them, or they are left stagnant.

Moreover, because the Yoshis (green helper dinosaurs that can consume enemies) are now playable characters, you can no longer sacrifice them over chasms to gain extra distance. Given that this behavior was encouraged in one of the earliest entries and popularized in Mario Maker by fans, this is tragic.

Despite the significant parody at work in this article, Wonder is genuinely an excellent work that has breathed fresh air into a franchise that has long become stale. I agree with the prior sentiments other reviewers have set forth, and I cannot help putting down the title between bouts

of working on assignments. For you parents in the crowd, I promise the game is nowhere near as inappropriate as I made it seem; check it out for yourself and see!

It deserves 5 Yoshis out of 5.

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Photo By: <https://multikino.pl/filmy/super-mario-bros-film>

## Book Review: "How to Say Babylon" by Safiya Sinclair

Miniver Kundrata  
Staff Writer

Safiya Sinclair's *How to Say Babylon* is an honest and thought-provoking meditation on identity and heritage that will have readers burning the midnight oil. Published just last month, the memoir is a critique of her patriarchal upbringing and touches on themes of race, gender, and the intricacies of one's roots.

Readers need not take a close look to see that Sinclair's account is downright interesting. From an unorthodox upbringing, to a family overgrown with exceptionally gifted children, to an unexpected modeling stint, Sinclair doesn't fail to whisk her readers off their feet and propel them on a wild journey.

Her poetic voice is raw and unapologetically honest; her lyrical prose reflects her remarkable intellect.

Ultimately, her life's story is a picture window into a seldom explored world: Rastafarianism. Montego Bay, Jamaica. Sinclair is raised the first of four children in a dysfunctional family. However, she isn't

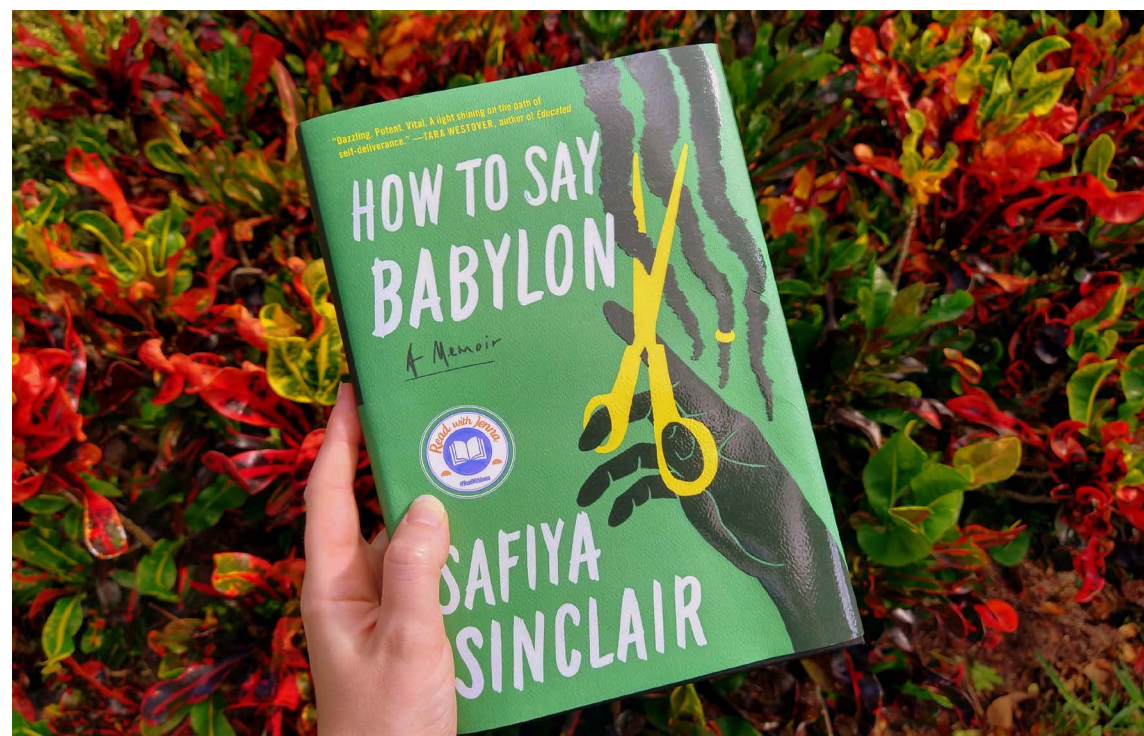


Photo by Miniver Kundrata/The Observer,

the sole lead in her story. She shares that role with her father, a reggae musician, whom she tersely describes as "a man who lived among fisherman but did not eat fish, adhering in all ways to an ascetic Rasta existence: no drinking, no smoking, no meat or dairy, all tenets of a highly restrictive way of living Rastafari called Ital." She provides an in-depth history of Rastafarianism, her progenitors, and, yes, her symbolic dreadlocks.

She flaunts her background in poetry, weaving melodious lines such as:

"Summer melted kisko-sweet and neon in my hands"

"A grin of mischief opened ever so slyly inside me, a seedling of a voice that said no"

"The delicate dance of disremembering the bruise from the night before"

However, although I'm left in awe, there are a few shortcomings in the memoir. While Sinclair's innate talent is undeniable, her account may appear somewhat lucky rather than a byproduct of hard work.

Additionally, her voice feels, at moments, as if it's

hovering too far from the narrative, especially when discussing issues of race in America. I caught a glimpse of thoughts that didn't seem like her own, like she was allowing herself to become a mouthpiece for another's strife.

Nonetheless, the memoir's core strength lies in its captivating exploration of a Rastafarian childhood and how the author reconciles with her father's emotional abuse, strict parenting, and delusions of grandeur.

*How to Say Babylon* has garnered critical acclaim and rightly so. It should be

considered a touchstone for memoir-writing. It's easily a page-turner that offers a unique perspective on an oft overlooked religious practice. Students should move it to the top of their reading list, whether they read avidly or haven't dusted a book off in years.

With Broward College's ever-growing population of Caribbean students, I can't think of a more suitable book for them to dive into. And as they open and close its pages, I hope they marvel at how Sinclair's first published poem bookends her first published work of prose.

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# Navigating Culture Shock: A Jamaican Student's Journey at Broward College

**Tiffani Plumber**  
*Staff Writer*

Leaving behind the shores of Kingston, Jamaica, to the United States has been a whirlwind of excitement, challenges, and personal growth. The decision to leave my homeland and pursue higher education in a foreign country was not an easy one, but it has been an incredible adventure that has allowed me to expand my horizons and discover new facets of myself.

Like many international students, I arrived in the United States with a sense of excitement and anticipation. The "honeymoon stage" of cultural adjustment was in full swing, as everything around me seemed fascinating and full of possibilities. However, this initial phase also brought its share of challenges as I grappled with cultural shock, making it difficult for me to make new friends and adapt to my new environment.

Culture shock is a term that perfectly encapsulates the rollercoaster of emotions that international students often experience when transitioning to a new culture. The symptoms of culture shock can range from sadness and loneliness to a longing for home, feelings of isolation, and even a loss of identity. These emotions can

be overwhelming, but it's essential to understand that they are entirely normal and part of the adjustment process.

One of the most significant challenges I faced during the initial stages of culture shock was homesickness. Being away from my family and friends was challenging, and the feeling of being in an unfamiliar environment made me miss the comfort of home even more. It's not unusual to yearn for the familiar when you're in a place where everything is new and different.

However, the good news is that there are resources and support systems in place on Broward College's campuses that help international students cope with culture shock. The International Student Club is a fantastic haven for students like me who are seeking a sense of community and a place to feel safe. This club provides a space for international students to connect, share experiences, and form new friendships. It's a place where you can meet others who are going through similar challenges and find a support system that understands what you're going through.

The stages of cultural adjustment, as identified by Oberg, have been instrumental in understanding my journey and those of my fellow inter-

national students. The initial honeymoon stage, where everything is exciting and novel, was, without a doubt, a phase of wonder and exploration. However, it's during the culture shock stage that you confront the differences between your home culture and the new one. You might find yourself frustrated, isolated, and longing for familiar supports.

During the gradual adjustment stage, which is where I currently find myself, I'm learning more about the host culture while also gaining a deeper understanding of my own background. It's a gradual process filled with ups and downs, but it's essential for personal growth. This stage has made me realize that it's okay to idealize my home culture while also respecting the host country.

The ultimate goal is to reach the adaptation stage, where you can accept the differences and similarities between your home culture and the new one. At this point, social interactions become more manageable, and you no longer feel negatively affected by cultural disparities.

Broward College's advisors are well-versed in these stages and play a crucial role in helping international students navigate culture shock. They prepare students for what they

might experience and create opportunities for them to learn the new social rules as quickly as possible. Advisors also provide strategies for building trust and engaging with international students, ensuring that they have the support they need.

The International Student Club at Broward College has been a lifeline for me during my journey. By interacting with fellow international students and native students, I've expanded my social experiences and moved forward in my adaptation process. The sense of community and support that the club provides has been invaluable.

However, it's also important for international students to reach out and interact with native students and the host community. While it's natural to seek out people from your own culture for support, stepping out of your comfort zone and embracing the culture of your new environment is vital for complete acculturation.

The journey of adapting to a new culture is not a linear process, and it takes time. It's crucial for international students like me to be patient with ourselves and seek help when needed. Broward

College offers various services for international students dealing with culture shock,

and these resources are here to support our academic and personal growth.

In conclusion, my experience as a Jamaican student at Broward College has been a transformative journey of self-discovery. The cultural adjustment process, while challenging, has been essential in shaping me into a more adaptable and open-minded individual. The International Student Club and the support from the college's advisors have been instrumental in helping me navigate the ups and downs of culture shock.

For international students embarking on a similar journey, my advice is to embrace the challenges, connect with your fellow students, and reach out to the resources available on your college campus. Together, we can conquer the hurdles of culture shock and find success in our academic endeavors while becoming more open to the beautiful tapestry of the world's diverse cultures.

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# Student Life events from North and Central



Photos by: Melissa Eugene, *Staff Writer*



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