THE OBSERVER
Broward College Student Newspaper

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The Start of the Semester: Student Government Association on Central Campus

Swami Hinojosa
Editor-in-Chief

As the fall semester of 2024 kicks off at Broward College, students are excited and eager to immerse themselves in their classes and extracurricular activities. However, it's essential for students, especially new ones, to be aware of the wealth of resources available to them. These resources can enrich their college journey and equip them for academic and professional success. A lack of awareness can sometimes prevent students from missing opportunities crucial for personal and professional growth.

This year, Zachary Whalen, a dynamic leader, is the Student Government Association (SGA) president at Broward College's Central Campus for the fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters. His role as the president is not just symbolic, but one of active leadership and representation of the student body. He brings a fresh perspective and has set ambitious goals for the student body. His leadership is focused on keeping students well-informed and prepared to make the most of their time at Broward College.



SGA members at the commencement ceremony. Photo by Swami Hinojosa

One of the most crucial missions of the student government is to increase awareness about the various resources Broward College offers its students. This is particularly important for new students who may need to become more familiar with the available services and opportunities. Whether it's academic support, career counseling, or wellness resources, these services are designed to help students succeed in all aspects of their college life. Whalen and his team are dedicated to ensuring that students are well-informed about these resources.

Their fundamental strategy is leveraging social media, particularly Instagram, to disseminate information @bccentral.sg. We encourage you to follow this account, as it's a great way to stay current on the latest campus resources, events, and opportunities, and it also provides a platform for students to ask questions and share their experiences. For those who prefer face-to-face interactions, the SGA also sets up information tables in Building 19 on the Central Campus. This tabling effort allows students to ask questions, get advice, and learn more about the college's offerings. Whether you have a specific question or want to stay informed, stopping by the SGA table is a great way to connect with student leaders who are eager to help.

Another key focus of the student government this year is empowering students to gain professional experience and think about their futures after graduation. College is not just about academics; networking and professional connections are critical to success. The SGA of the Central Campus, under the leadership of Whalen, is actively working to create more opportunities for students to engage in professional experiences and networking events. These events allow students to meet professionals in their field of interest, learn about potential career paths, and build relationships that could lead to future job opportunities or internships, making them feel empowered and prepared for their future.

The fall semester is already packed with events designed to engage students and provide them with valuable growth opportunities. Two significant September events stand out as highlights for the student body. The first event, 'Votes Rights,' is scheduled for Sept. 17. This event will unite different organizations focused on voting rights and civic engagement, providing students a platform to learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and how they can actively participate in the democratic process. The second event, Sept. 24, focuses on strengthening the connection between current students and alumni. This event will offer a unique platform for students to interact with alums from Broward College, hear about their experiences, and gain insights into life after graduation. The networking opportunities at these events can open doors for internships, job offers, and mentorship relationships that help students navigate their careers.

Volunteering is not just a way to give back to the community; it's a gateway to developing new skills, enhancing resumes, and gaining experience that can significantly impact future careers. Students have several volunteer opportunities this semester, including events like Seahawks Market Place and Florida Tech, which always need volunteers. These experiences allow students to contribute to their community while boosting their personal and professional development. Volunteering can also help students build connections with professionals in various fields, expanding their network and opening new opportunities for the future. This emphasis on the importance of volunteering can make students feel motivated and inspired to take part in these opportunities.

As the fall semester of 2024 begins, Broward College students have numerous resources and

opportunities. Reflect on our new president's message, "As we head into this next semester, let's learn to strive for our ambitions while enjoying the present."

SGA is dedicated to assisting students in maximizing their college experience through social media, campus events, or networking opportunities. By staying informed and actively participating, students can fully benefit from all that Broward College offers, positioning hemselves for a successful future.

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Navigating Internships and Micro-Internships at Broward College

Tabetha Martin-Howard
Social Media Editor

Participating in an internship or micro-internship can benefit students in countless ways. Not only does it add valuable experience to your resume, helping you stand out from other applicants, but it also provides real-life experience that can help you make important decisions about your career path.

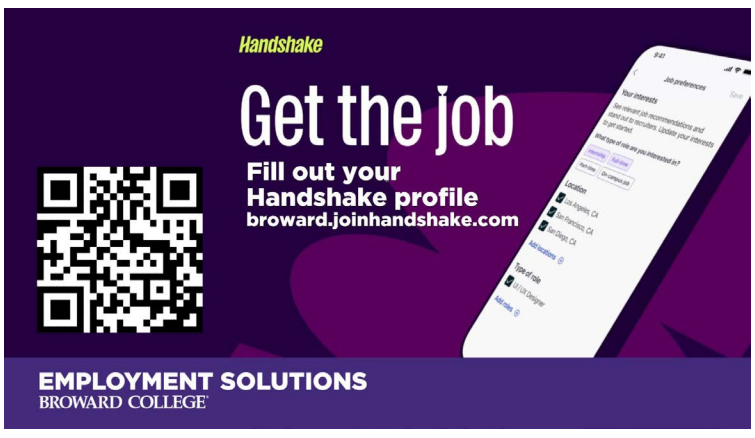
Broward College's Employment Solutions team can assist you in obtaining credit for internships and provide resources to help you find great opportunities through employment platforms.

There are several requirements you must fulfill to receive school credit for an internship, such as being currently enrolled in a degree program at Broward College, maintaining a 2.0 GPA, completing 24 college credits, attending a mandatory orientation, and, depending on your program, completing prerequisite courses before enrolling in the internship course. Students should reach out to their advisors, the Employment Solutions team, and the Financial Aid department if they receive aid.

Handshake is a job placement platform where employers can post job listings for Broward College students and alumni. Typically, there are over 100 internships available, including the recently partnered Disney internship program. Students can also find their own internships through platforms like LinkedIn and Indeed, which are great resources.

Students can still obtain internships throughout their educational journey to enhance their resumes, even if they aren't eligible to receive course credit. While you will still benefit from the experience, you won't receive credit if you don't go through the proper channels when completing the internship. Broward College offers internship opportunities through its IT program in which students work on campus in IT as well as the Business pathway. Students are encouraged to explore and apply for these internships. The eligibility requirements for these programs may differ, so it's best to reach out to each department to see how you can qualify.

Some internships are paid, while others are unpaid. Regardless of the type, students are required to pay for the three-credit internship course, complete 144 work hours, and fulfill all course assignments. The Broward College website's internship section explains more about the 'Internship EDGE Program.' https://www.broward.edu/career/internships.html You can also schedule appointments with the Employment Solutions team and explore paid internships and microinternships in the internship section.



Internships typically last 8-12 weeks, whereas micro-internships are shorter-term, paid opportunities that students can complete through Parker Dewey with various employers. Students typically complete 15-20 hours per micro-internship, and they pay around $250-$400 per micro-internship, depending on the employer. The deadlines for micro-internships are more flexible and can extend over several weeks, unlike traditional internships where you might be expected to work up to 40 hours a week. When applying for micro-internships, the goal is to apply to several and broaden your horizons within your chosen educational pathway.

Beyond gaining experience, academic credit, and the ability to explore different career options, students also get the opportunity to network with professionals in their field. Finding the right internship or micro-internship can be challenging and may take time, so students are strongly encouraged to be patient and persistent when exploring internship opportunities.

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What's happening around campus

BROWARD COLLEGE STUDENT LIFE
CONNECT • DEVELOP • SOAR

ENGAGE FLORIDA CIVIC FUND

TESTING and ASSESSMENT BROWARD COLLEGE

Seahawks Vote

A VOTER'S GUIDE TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT- ALL EVENTS ARE 11AM-2PM

01

Voter Drive – General Information
September 3rd – Central Campus
September 4th – North Campus
September 5th – South Campus

REGISTER

02

National Voter Registration Week
September 17th – South Campus
September 18th – Central Campus
September 19th – North Campus

03

Seahawks Vote Marketplace
(Voter Education and Sample Ballots)
October 7th – South Campus
October 8th – Central Campus
October 10th – North Campus





04

Vote Early Week
October 21st – Central Campus
October 22nd – North Campus
October 23rd – South Campus

05

Florida Civic Literacy Exam Prep – Collegewide Testing and Review
October 11th & December 11th
Review 9:00am -10:00am – Testing 10:00am-12:30pm
Review 11:30am-12:30pm – Testing 1:00pm-3:30p
(locations on individual flyer)

For more information visit StudentLife studentlife@broward.edu

The power of volunteering in college: beyond classes

Swami Hinojosa
Editor-in-Chief

When considering college, most students typically focus on selecting the right major, finding the best institution, and meeting academic requirements. Nevertheless, it's important to emphasize the significance of volunteering. Volunteering offers a valuable opportunity to contribute to society and enhance soft skills essential for personal and professional growth. It provides numerous indispensable advantages in the professional arena, including developing problem-solving abilities, effective communication, and leadership skills. These capabilities benefit the work environment and enrich social interactions, enabling individuals to relate more effectively with others.

Volunteering offers an exciting chance to network and connect with individuals in your chosen professional field. These connections can catalyze personal and professional growth, providing opportunities to learn from others, share experiences, and receive valuable advice. It's a thrilling journey of development and building meaningful connections.

During the previous semester, I had the chance to participate in a student government event that underscored the significance of volunteering. The event featured two special guests, one of whom was Julia Lucidi. Over the past 15 years, she has been dedicated to developing strategies that foster the growth of innovation communities globally. She is the CEO and founder of Founder Tactics, a consulting agency specializing in establishing entrepreneurial communities. She regularly participates in the Fort Lauderdale Tech Meetup, collaborating with clients to build transformative entrepreneurial communities for their organizations and brands.

I had the privilege of participating in one of Lucidi's volunteering events, which was a fantastic experience. Volunteering enabled me to connect with newcomers and assist them in integrating and maximizing their event experience. Additionally, I gained insight into various work domains and collaborated with individuals passionate about innovation and entrepreneurship. If you are considering a career in event management, this opportunity would be a valuable addition to your resume.

Whether you're still in high school and need to complete volunteer hours or if you're a young professional looking to grow, events like the Fort Lauderdale Tech Meetup offer a wealth of opportunities. From taking photos and contacting people to conducting interviews and supporting event planning and logistics, there's a role for everyone. It's about finding the right fit for you and making a difference in your community.

The work teams at these events are diverse and allow you to get involved in different areas, such as welcoming attendees, guiding them to conference rooms, supporting them with questions, and ensuring everything is planned and organized. In addition, you can follow Julia Lucidi's advice and stay up to date on new events and opportunities by following the @ftltechmeetup account on social media.

In summary, volunteering isn't just about giving back to society; it's also about personal growth. It's an opportunity to cultivate skills essential for professional and personal development. These transformative experiences can motivate you to learn, evolve, and foster connections within your community. Never underestimate the power of these experiences. Seek opportunities to learn, develop, and connect with others in your community. If you're interested in volunteering, feel free to contact me.

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Students at Tech Meetup in August. Photo by Swami Hinojosa

Internship spotlight: Q and A with a BC student intern

Student Name:
Jean Onoré
Company Name & Department Name:
Nova Southeastern University, Procurement Department
Your Position Name:
Procurement Specialist
Start and End date of your internship: *May 14 and ended on Aug. 9, 2024.*



Q: Share a little about your internship and how it aligns with your future career goals?

A: My internship in procurement has been a fundamental experience that has provided me with the practical skills and knowledge required to excel in a career in supply chain management. I was responsible for overseeing the creation and fulfillment of purchase orders, guaranteeing that all procurement activities were consistent with the company's policies. The skills I have acquired in inventory management, cost analysis, and negotiation are directly pertinent to a career in supply chain management. These abilities will allow me to enhance the efficacy of supply chain operations. The internship offered a thorough comprehension of the role of procurement within the broader supply chain. It strengthened my enthusiasm for this field and established a distinct path to my professional goals.

Q: What advice would you give other students considering internships? What services or resources from Employment Solutions/Career Services did you find particularly helpful in your search?

A: Get a head start on your search. Starting your application process early increases your likelihood of securing a position at numerous organizations with early application deadlines. Participate in networking sessions, industry events, and career fairs. Establishing connections with professionals in your discipline can provide access to internship opportunities. Personalize your resume and cover letter for each application by emphasizing pertinent skills and experiences. Demonstrate how your background is consistent with the internship position. Employment Solutions and Career Services have greatly assisted me throughout this process. This is an opportunity for me to express my gratitude to Deborah Pinnock for her assistance throughout this process.

Q: What were you most excited about during your internship at Nova Southeastern University? Was there anything specific you were looking forward to learning or experiencing?

A: To fully grasp the role of procurement, one must be familiar with the entire supply chain. What excited me the most about this internship at Nova Southeastern University was the opportunity to obtain practical experience in procurement procedures. Managing purchase orders, doing cost analyses, and negotiating with suppliers were all part of this. I was able to put what I have learned in the classroom into practice through these opportunities. I can't wait to get my hands on everything involved in the supply chain, from finding suppliers of raw materials to overseeing shipping and delivery.

“LEFTOVER” Gallery Opening wows at Central Campus

Victoria Anon
Central Bureau Chief

On August 29, the gallery opening for “LEFTOVER” by Chao Ding was held at Broward College.

Ding is an artist based in Sacramento, California. From an early age, Ding showed an artistic inclination. His father was an artist so he would oftentimes observe him painting. This early foundation nurtured Ding’s passion for the arts. Ding went on to pursue graphic design and fashion after high school, seeking a more stable path, but later returned to the fine arts and completed his MFA at Louisianna State University. After graduation, he completed a commission for the Burden Rural Life Museum, participated in artist residencies at New York’s Golden Foundation and the Vermont Studio Center, and has had his works displayed in Elliot Fouts Gallery. It is an honor for Broward College to host the works of such an accomplished artist.

Such success, however, does not come overnight. Although some may associate success with a eureka moment, or sudden inspiration, Ding asserts that his breakthrough came from “persistence rather than a momentary whim.”

One challenge that Ding faced in his artistic journey which he described during the Q&A portion of the artist lecture was adjusting to taste differences between art in China and art in the U.S. China emphasizes technique and mastery, while the U.S. shifts towards a more holistic view- emphasizing composition, visual structure, and the greater context of the piece. By studying these polarizing approaches, Ding establishes himself as an artist capable of synthesizing divergent influences into a distinctive and cohesive style.

Ding enjoys thrifting and collecting vintage photos and antiques in his spare time. He draws inspiration from these objects, incorporating some vintage motifs and muted colors and tones in his work.

In “LEFTOVER,” Ding finds beauty in lost or discarded objects and deserted spaces to evoke a sentimental feeling within his works. While some may be perplexed by his unconventional subject matter, everyone has felt lost at some point or another, making this collection especially relatable. Ding states, “My goal is to draw the viewers into the depth of my perception.” While observing Ding’s pieces, I found that his art has a haunting, yet familiar and comforting quality to it which makes it one of a kind.



Ding advises aspiring artists to “invite the viewers to find their own way to explore your artworks.” Leaving your work up to the interpretation of the viewer allows them to draw unique conclusions and observations of their own. He also notes the importance of practicing drawing from life. Although it may be easier to paint from a photograph, painting from life allows one to “immerse yourself in that reality” and “capture a fleeting moment.”

The gallery opening for “LEFTOVER” was an excellent experience and I highly recommend visiting the exhibit.

It will continue to be available at the Rosemary Duffy Larson Gallery in Building 6, Central Campus until Sept. 21 The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and it is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission is free.

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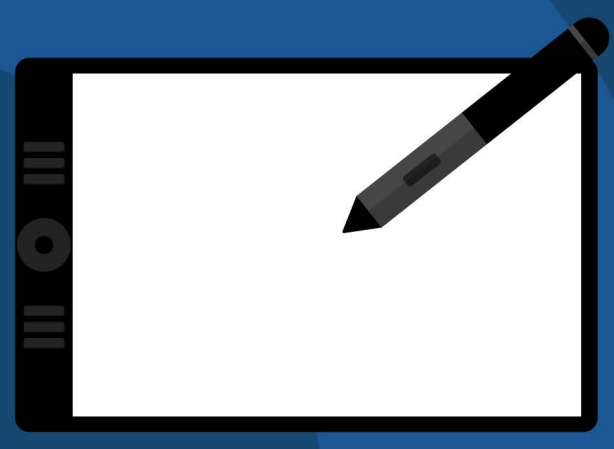
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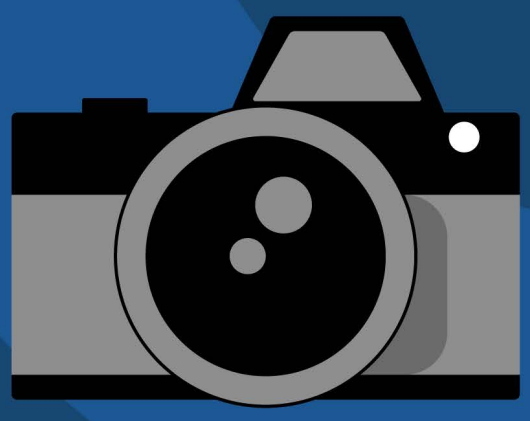
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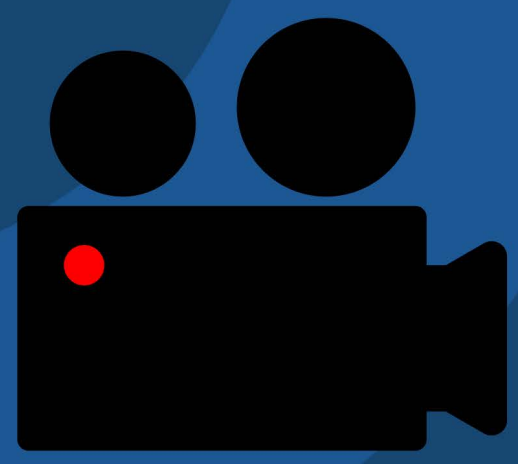
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Five Methods That Will Help When Studying

Sara Fuentes
Staff Writer

#1 Stay Organized

It is crucial to consistently keep track of your class schedule, lecture notes, and study materials. This practice will help you revisit and refresh the material when necessary.



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https://www.flaticon.com/free-icon/schedule_1497835

#2 Create a Schedule

Create a unique and personalized schedule to match your style and preferences. For instance, study without interruptions for one hour, then take a five-minute break to engage in any desired activity.

#3 Color Coding

Color coding when studying or taking notes helps in organizing and categorizing information, making it easier to find specific details later. By assorting colors to different subjects or topics, it becomes simpler to visually tell the differences between them, leading to enhanced memory retention and recall. Color coding adds an element of visual appeal to notes, making studying a more engaging and enjoyable experience.



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#4 Engage in Active Learning Techniques

Practice active learning techniques such as summarizing, teaching the material to someone else, or creating flashcards to reinforce your understanding and retention of the material. Active involvement in the learning process aids in better comprehension and memory recall.



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#5 Make a Song Playlist

Creating a song playlist can be a fantastic way to enhance your studying experience. Many people find that listening to instrumental music or calming, ambient sounds can help improve focus and concentration. You can create a playlist of your favorite instrumental tracks, and classical music during your study sessions. Just make sure the music is not too distracting and adjust the volume to a level that helps you stay focused.



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NBA Free Agency and Offseason 2024-25

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The NBA Free Agency period officially started June 30. During mid-June, before Free Agency, teams can facilitate trades. Also, players can decide whether to pick up or decline their player options, in their specific contracts. This NBA offseason provided many surprising moves and signings, especially because of the new adjusted salary cap; in the previous signed CBA agreement, also because of the new TV Rights deal with Amazon for 11 years with around $76 billion.

This biggest and most surprising trade of the offseason took place before free agency, when Knicks acquired Mikal Bridges from the Nets for Bojan Bogdanovic, four unprotected 1st round picks, a Bucks protected 1st-round pick, an unprotected pick swap and a 2nd-rounder. The Nets executed this trade to accelerate their rebuild, since they weren't able to lure anymore stars to pair with Bridges; the Knicks completed the Villanova teammates dream and officially became legitimate championship contenders. The Nets made another trade and traded the Suns 2027 1st-round pick for their own 2026 1st-round pick from the Rockets, also the Rockets received swap rights for multiple future 1st round picks.

Some other trades that took place before free agency were the Alex Caruso and Malcom Brogdon trades. The Thunder acquired 2x All-Defensive guard Caruso from the Bulls in exchange for talented guard Josh Giddey. The Thunder became legitimate championship contenders, and the Bulls finally entered their rebuild with this one for one trade. The Trailblazers acquired talented forward Deni Avdija from the Wizards for the 14th pick in this past draft and a 2029 pick. The Pelicans decided to trade for All-Star guard Dejounte Murray from the Hawks for Dyson Daniels, Larry Nance Jr., and two 1st-round picks. The Mavericks traded Tim Hardaway Jr. and three 2nd round picks to the Pistons for Quentin Grimes.

The two most notable players with a player option deadline were LeBron James and Paul George, with both deciding to decline their $51.4 and $48.7 million player options respectively.

Some other notable players were D'Angelo Russell exercising his $18.7 million player option, P.J. Tucker exercising his $11.5 million player option, Russell Westbrook exercising his $4 million player option, the Raptors exercised the $23 million team option of Bruce Brown, etc. After James declined his option, he made it clear that he would take a pay cut for specific impact players, but unfortunately the Lakers weren't able to get it done, even though they were in the running for a few of those free agents like Klay Thompson.

Immediately when free agency started, James Harden signed a two-year $70 million deal; the Warriors waived Chris Paul and his $30 million contract, then he signed a one-year $11 million deal with the Spurs to expedite Wemby's growth. Royce O'Neale signed a four-year $44 million deal with the Suns, Naji Marshall signed a three-year $27 million deal with the Mavs; and Malik Monk signed a four-year $78 million deal with the Kings. Restricted free agents started signing contracts: Max Christe signed a four-year $32 million deal to return to the Lakers, Obi Toppin signed a four-year $60 million deal with the Pacers and Patrick Williams signed a five-year $90 million deal with the Bulls. Then backup centers started signing contracts: Kevin signed a two-year $8 million deal to return to the Heat, Mason Plumlee signed a one-year deal with the Suns, and Andre Drummond signed a two-year $10 million deal with the 76ers.

Speaking of the 76ers, the most impactful and surprising move was Paul George leaving Kawhi Leonard and his hometown the Clippers to sign a massive four-year $212 million deal with the 76ers, which included a player option. Contract negotiations during the year were stalling consistently. Also, it would've been smart to execute a sign-and-trade so that they wouldn't lose PG for nothing, but they didn't want to bolster a western conference team, and the 76ers had no trade player assets. Some other surprising moves were Kentavious Caldwell Pope (KCP) signed a three-year $66 million deal with the young Magic after leaving the Nuggets, Isaiah Hartenstein signed a three-year $87 million deal with the young Thunder, Jonas Valanciunas signed a three-year $30 million deal with the rebuilding Wizards, and lastly underwhelming Tobias Harris signed a two-year $52 million deal with the lowly Pistons.

After the PG deal, both the 76ers and Clippers were busy respectively: Tyrese Maxey signed a five-year $204 million extension, Kelly Oubre signed a two-year $16.3 million deal with a player option, Caleb Martin signed a four-year $32 million, KJ Martin signed a two-year $16 million deal, Eric Gordon signed a one-year deal, France's Olympic big man Guerschon Yabusele signed a one-year $2.1 million deal, Derrick Jones Jr. signed a three-year $30 million deal, Kevin Porter Jr. signed a two-year deal including a player option, Nicolas Batum signed a two-year $9.6 million deal, Mo Bamba signed a one-year deal, and Ivica Zubac signed a three-year $58.6 million deal. The Clippers also acquired Kris Dunn in sign-and-trade agreement from the Jazz for Westbrook, 2nd-round pick swap and cash.

Westbrook agreed on a contract buyout with them for the 2nd time, and then signed with the Nuggets for two-years $6.8 million deal. They also signed Dario Saric to a two-year $10.6 million deal. Some other minimum and one-year deals were Delon Wright signing a one year $3.3 million deal with the Bucks, DeAnthony Melton to the Warriors for a one-year $12.8 million deal, Alec Burks signing a one-year deal with the Heat, Lonnie Walker's one-year deal with the Celtics, Haywood Highsmith signing a two-year $11 million deal with the Heat, Gary Trent's one-year deal with the Bucks, Spencer Dinwiddie's one-year deal with the Mavericks, Tyus Jones signing a one-year deal with the Suns, Bol Bol signing a one-year deal with the Suns and Luke Kennard's one-year $11 million deal.

The most unceremonious move of free agency was the Warriors allowing Klay Thompson to depart Steph Curry, and Klay chose to sign with the Mavs for three-year $50 million deal instead of the Lakers and Josh Green was traded to the Hornets, which made him involved in the 1st ever six-team trade. Kyle Anderson signed a three-year $27 million deal with the Warriors, in a sign-and-trade with the Timberwolves for a future 2nd-round pick swap and cash. Buddy Hield then signed a two-year $21 million deal with the Warriors, in a sign-and-trade with the 76ers for 2031 2nd-round pick. Another sign-and-trade deal was DeMar DeRozan signing a three-year $74 million deal with the Kings that sent Harrison Barnes to the Spurs; also Chris Duarte, two 2nd-round picks and cash to the Bulls.

After winning his 1st championship with the Celtics, Jayson Tatum signed the largest contract in NBA history, which was a five-year $314 million contract extension that included a player option and trade kicker. Some other notable huge contract extensions and free agency deals that were signed are OG Anunoby signing a five-year $212.5 million deal with the Knicks, Immanuel Quickly signing a five-year $175 million deal with the Raptors, Derrick White signing a four-year $125.9 million deal with the Celtics, Donovan Mitchell finally signing a three-year $150.3 million deal including a player option with the Cavs, King James signing a two-year $104 million deal that includes a player option and no-trade clause with the Lakers. Evan Mobley signed a five-year $224 million rookie contract extension with the Cavs, Franz Wagner then signed a five-year $224 million rookie contract extension with the Magic, Scottie Barnes signed a five-year $270 million rookie contract extension with the Raptors, and Cade Cunningham signed a five-year $224 million rookie contract extension with the Pistons.

Also, Pascal Siakam signed a four-year $189.5 million deal with the Pacers, and Bam Adebayo signed a three-year $166 million contract extension with the Heat. Jalen Brunson took a huge pay cut for his Villanova teammates and Knicks roster flexibility and signed a four-year $156.6 million extension deal. Jarret Allen signed a three-year $91 million extension with Cavs, with all together $131 million guaranteed over the next five years; then Nic Claxton signed a four-year $100 million deal with the Nets, also Miles Bridges signed a three-year $75 million deal with the Hornets.

After plausible trade rumors, especially with the Warriors, Lauri Markkanen finally signed a five-year $238 million contract renegotiation and extension with the Jazz, which includes $220 in new money. Lastly, the greatest shooter of all time in Stephen Curry, who put on a virtuoso performance vs Serbia and in the 4th quarter of the gold medal game in the Olympics, signed a one-year $62.6 million extension with the Warriors, and is now guaranteed $178 million through the 2026-27 season. Curry, James, and KD (4th gold medal most in men's basketball history), the trio that carried team USA to a gold medal win over Wemby and France, will be the only three players in NBA history to surpass $500 million in career earnings.

ESPN.com



The Olympic trio winning gold medals together. Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

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The Marvel Cinematic Universe's New Big Bad?

Jhantae Jones Jr.
Staff Writer

It might be safe to say that these last couple of years for Marvel have been rough ones. Almost anything posted "Avengers: Endgame" was poorly received by fans and critics alike. The narrative that fans didn't like the products that they've been receiving from Marvel can be traced to Rotten Tomatoes, IMBD, Google, and even various YouTube reviews; it was even to a point where these reviewers would label the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) as a collapsing franchise or even just plain trash.

After each show or movie, Marvel would practically fail to capture the same gold they had in the MCU's first three phases, ultimately dissatisfying viewers and leaving many uninterested in the series. In perspective, the MCU's first three phases took place from 2008 to 2019, the fourth phase from 2021 to 2022, and the current fifth phase has been in motion from 2023 to the present. From many people's perspective, that was about 3-4 years of mediocrity they had to endure, though many duds' fans could find some high points within the series and even more so now.



Image by: www.cnbc.org

The most recent theatrical release, "Deadpool and Wolverine," brought massive success to Marvel and some hope to the franchise's fans amidst all the positivity and hype of the new movie. Marvel would drop a major reveal at Comic-Con 2024 just two days after a well-received movie…Robert Downey Jr. would play Doctor Doom, one of Marvel comics' most iconic villains. Right after, he had just capped off a fantastic career as the heroic Iron Man back in 2019.

The new reveal at Comic-Con 2024 and the lines from 'Deadpool and Wolverine' have sparked speculation about the future of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Fans are now pondering if the multiverse saga, a key theme in phases 4 and 5, is coming to an end, and what this might mean for the series' current villain.

Another question is, why are Marvel writers potentially switching up things with Kang when he was introduced as the new saga's main villain? A substantial contributing factor to that would be the drama involving the actor who played Kang, Jonathan Majors, who was convicted of reckless assault and harassment in a case against his ex-girlfriend on April 8th, 2024. Even before being found guilty of these charges, Marvel removed Jonathan Majors from the role of acting as Kang the Conqueror, leaving the character without an actor to play him. There is also much speculation that Kang the Conqueror will be killed off in a post-credit scene in one of the upcoming MCU movies. One of the more credible social media pages called "Marvel Source" stated that it is likely that Kang and all his other variants will be killed onscreen by none other than Robert Downey Jr.'s Doctor Doom.

What a twist of events that may be, indeed. Could this be the start of an epic revival in the MCU? Fans are on the edge of their seats, eagerly anticipating the truth that will unfold in the upcoming years.

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2024 Paris Summer Olympics Recap: What to expect for LA 2028

London Dernis
Online Editor z

The summer of 2024 was a time for swimming, hanging out with friends, eating out, and of course, watching the Paris Olympics. The Olympics returned to Paris this year, marking its 100th anniversary of hosting back in 1924. From the comfort of their own couches, or in the stands of Olympic stadiums, viewers around the globe watched the events that took place from July 26- Aug. 11.

Paris provided a picturesque view for many of the Olympic events. Beach volleyball took place at an outdoor stadium right at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, and The Grand Palais was admired by all viewers attending fencing and taekwondo. Of course, it is hard to mention memorable Paris Olympic venues without mentioning The Seine River. Around 10,500 athletes floated along the river aboard boats representing their nation during the opening ceremony. The river was seen again later for the swimming marathon and triathlon.

Olympians shined this summer, breaking numerous world-records across over 300 events. USA's Katie Ledecky made waves in swimming, becoming the most decorated female American Olympian. The USA men's gymnastics team brought home a bronze medal, their first medal after a 16 year drought, with an additional bronze on pommel horse achieved by Stephen Nedoroscik. On the track, Sweden's Mondo Duplantis broke his own pole vault world record at 6.26 meters. Sam Watson also broke his own world record for speed climbing at a groundbreaking 4.79 seconds.

Team USA took home the most medals with 126 total medals, and 40 gold medals. China followed closely behind, tied for 40 gold medals with a total of 91 medals. Japan ended in third place with 20 gold medals and 45 total medals. While Botswana, Dominica, Guatemala and Saint Lucia didn't make the leaderboard, they accomplished something arguably greater, bringing home their nations' first Olympic gold medal.

With the 2028 LA Olympics now on its way, breakdancing will not be coming with it. This event made its Olympic debut and received extensive backlash, leading to its removal from future Olympics. Breakdancing's exit, though, helped make way for new events for the LA Olympics. Baseball/softball, lacrosse and cricket are all returning after an absence, and flag football and squash will be making their first Olympic appearances.



https://www.peacocktv.com/blog/2024-olympics-events-to-stream-live-on-peacock

The 2028 LA Olympics will also differ from the 2024 Paris Olympics with the athletes that are competing. Five-time Olympic diver from Great Britain Tom Daley announced his retirement from the sport, taking home a total of five medals after Paris. USA gymnast Simone Biles is expected to return again for LA after earning three golds and one silver medal in Paris following her leave during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Other Olympians have yet to announce if they will be returning for the LA games.

Olympic cameras traveled over to LA for closing ceremony performances from Billie Eilish, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Snoop Dog. With that, the Paris 2024 Olympic games came to an end. For those who feel Olympic withdrawals already, tune into the 2024 Paris Paralympics taking place from Aug. 28-Sept. 8. If that's already been watched, start the fouryear countdown for the LA Olympics, which will premiere on July 14, 2028.

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Entering the Realm of the King of the Monsters

Jhantae Jones
Staff Writer

Let's talk about Godzilla and his recent Convention in Chicago, Illinois. Though not as popular as pop culture franchises such as Marvel or DC, Godzilla is another icon that has been around for 70 years and has just gotten a lot of mainstream success in the last three years. That is important to know because, with each type of entertainment genre, there's always some convention to go along with it. For example, at San Diego Comic-Con (arguably the biggest convention), though you may find many other things there, such as anime or even Godzilla, its primary focus is on superhero media from Marvel and DC. Then you have Minecon for Minecraft, Twitchcon for Twitch (streamers and fans), and G-Fest for Godzilla and other kaiju-related media.

Kaiju means giant monster in Japanese; over the years, it has become a global term, especially for these individuals.

To get into the history aspect, G-Fest began as a small gathering of around 15 people back in 1994 to support the famous magazine G-Fan. It wasn't even called G-Fest then; it was known as Friends of G-Fan. The meet-up underwent another name change to G-Con from 1995 to 1999. Finally, in 2000, the familiar convention name of G-Fest debuted and has stayed so ever since.

G-Fest had a relatively small accumulative attendance, racking up numbers to at most 500. It wasn't until 2013 that the convention saw a significant increase in those numbers, and then from 2014 onwards, the convention regularly attracted around 4000 attendees per year up until 2022. The other franchise conventions and past G-fests were all brought up to illustrate this next point, the initial point being that the Godzilla movies that had been released in 2021-2023 brought a lot of mainstream attention to the icon, garnering high critical praise, many YouTube reactions, and an Oscar award to top it all off. With that said, as the mainstream attention increased, so did the number of attendees of the last two G-Fest conventions.

In 2024, it was held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois, from July 12-14, with a final estimated number of 10,000 attendees this year. The event featured many activities for fans to keep occupied and have fun. The most significant events were arguably the dealer's room, the video game room, and the costume contest parade.

The dealer's room, titled "Kaiju World" this year, was almost always packed to the brim, resembling heavy highway traffic. The vendor's room contains Godzilla and monster merchandise, primarily figurines. It is commonly called every Godzilla fan's heaven because of the range of dealers selling sought-after items. There was also another branch on the level below it in the hotel called "Kaiju Island," which was a consolation replacement for the former "Artist Alley," a room that was put on the shelf since 2019's G fest due to copyright reasons. Kaiju Island was there for artists with licenses from Toho to sell Godzilla and other Kaiju artwork, and it was much smaller than previous artist alleys and the dealer's room. Another big attraction of this convention is the video game room, which offered games such as Godzilla Save The Earth, Godzilla Unleashed, Giga Bash, and many more arcade games for everyone to play, even hosting tournaments. The costume contest parade is self-explanatory, where all the cosplayers gather up and show off their creativity in front of hundreds of onlookers. They gather with creativity and imagination to develop the best costumes for their desired character. This event is always held on a Saturday afternoon. Aside from the three significant spots, there are still dozens upon dozens of panels, film festivals, and model and art rooms throughout the convention.

The convention also featured Godzilla films at the nearby Pickwick Theater, including films such as Godzilla Vs. Mothra (1964), Godzilla Vs. Mecha Godzilla (1974), The Return of Godzilla (1984), Godzilla Vs. SpaceGodzilla (1994), Godzilla Final Wars (2004), and the newly released Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire (2024), all of which saw decent to significant numbers of attendance in the theater. To highlight the number of things fans can do, G-Fest even had a tattoo artist for the second year in a row and said the artist would fulfill the requests of many monster fans throughout the weekend.

G-Fest has transformed from a small get together of 15 individuals to a thriving convention, drawing over 10,000 participants. The event provides an immersive experience for fans of Godzilla and other Kaiju-related content, offering activities like the dealer's room, the video game area, the costume contest parade, panels, film festivals, and art rooms. The increase in G-Fest's attendance can be credited to Godzilla's recent mainstream success, fueled by well received movies and heightened attention from fans and media. With its extensive history, diverse range of activities, and devoted fan community, G-Fest remains a significant gathering for enthusiasts of the iconic Kaiju genre.

Jjones383@mail.broward.edu Graphic by Matthew McDowell

Why now? Why well-known companies have started to use AI

Melissa Eugene
North Bureau Chief

November 2022 was the date ChatGPT was released, within 5 days ChatGPT outreach expanded to 1 million users, according to WiserNotify. Although ChatGPT was not the first chatbot invented, it was the first chatbot to achieve such a noticeable impact in artificial intelligence.

At the time when newly released, ChatGPT could write just about anything and everything just by a simple command in the text box. From college essays and writing assignments, to a love note, travel ideas and explanations to math questions without anyone ever discovering you used ChatGPT to generate such answers and ideas.

Now there are software and serious consequences that have been in development to help with spotting what came from your mind and what came from a smart robot within collages and schools. However, beyond the consequences of cheating in school with AI, there was more to gain from ChatGPT development. With the popularity of ChatGPT, there was a new record and competition to be set in the tech industry as well as social media. Companies such as Google, Meta, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft and many more sought the opportunity of what AI could become through their own views.

After ChatGPT became successful and continued to grow, Microsoft had a different outlook on the evolution of AI after ChatGPT. Companies like Google, Meta, Amazon, and Apple put their own unique digital stamp on their cause and reaped the rewards of using their products.

Microsoft openly invested, its resources towards OpenAI, OpenAI being the company that launched ChatGPT. Microsoft's goal with its investment was to *"accelerate advances in AI to ensure that these benefits are shared broadly with the world."* With these investments, Microsoft did not just beat the competition, Microsoft did not try to be better than OpenAI or try to develop something new and suppress ChatGPT. Instead, Microsoft became a part of the exposure ChatGPT was already receiving, and in return both companies benefited in their own way.

I believe there is a lesson to be learned from the investments made by Microsoft. Occasionally, when a company or an individual finds themselves in a position where another company or individual is receiving greater recognition within the same industry or category, they may attempt to improve themselves, as a new standard has been established to where everyone must up their game. However, what made ChatGPT such a success was because at the time there was really nothing quite like ChatGPT, there were of course versions like it but never what ChatGPT first came out to be and that is why it flourished so much as it did within a short period of time.



Photo courtesy of Forbes.com

Although there are still people using Google, Apple, Microsoft, Meta, and many other successful brands, all the success that the other companies have didn't fade away. People love the old, original things just as much as they like the new ones. Microsoft realized that they already are successful so much, so they can make investments into other companies to bring about their success as well while still gaining their own revenue. Ultimately, the reason that companies have started to incorporate their own AI or improve the AI they already have is because they will never be satisfied, companies always need to climb a ladder that has no end. Even though Microsoft invested into OpenAI, Microsoft will still try to find a way every day to stay on top and to improve with new updates and new data with no end.

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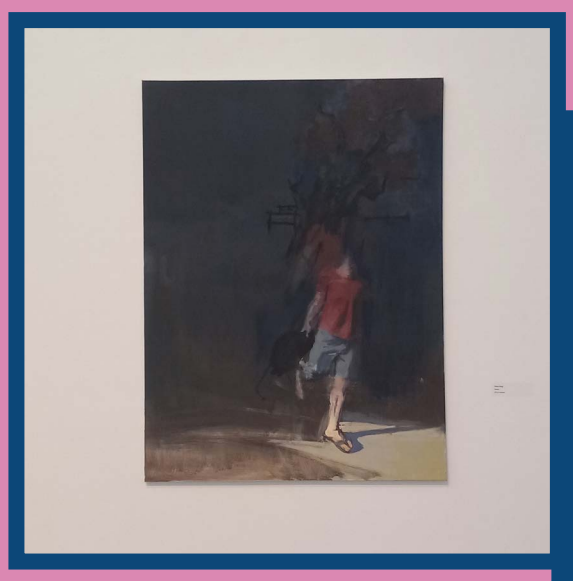
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Gallery Opening for “LEFTOVER”

























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