

Surprise Closure of LIU Art Program Sparks Outrage

Students and teachers are distraught as the program comes to an unforeseen close.

BY AMAYA HENRY
Staff Reporter

MIDWAY through this fall semester, class registration for Spring 2022 opened for students at Long Island University Brooklyn, but to many people's surprise Introduction to Visual Art was the only art class being offered.

With no previous indication that these classes were no longer being taught, art professors and students were stunned by this news. This left professors with few classes to teach and students with fewer classes to take.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

According to the LIU courses page, this semester there were about 1,750 courses being offered, yet for this upcoming spring semester there are about 1,580 courses. Removing almost all of the art classes left very few electives for students to enroll in.

This resulted in students having to take core classes as electives. "I almost took an accounting class as an elective and I'm a computer science major," said junior Nicholas Fraser.

Fraser and other students who are not art majors are interested in taking art class because for most majors, LIU requires that students take electives courses.

Freshman Allison Naylor struggled putting her schedule together as it was hard to find electives, especially as a first-year student. "We had our schedules for this semester created for us by our advisors, but this time around we were left to do it on our own which was very confusing," Naylor said.

The lack of electives made the process that much more challenging.

Charlotte Jones, another freshman who is majoring in political science, said that having no art electives made it difficult to fulfill the requirements needed for her major.

Like Jones, many other students are feeling as if the university has abandoned them as they are largely unresponsive to emails and have left so many unanswered questions such as: Why have the majority of the art classes been taken away? Will there be new electives to replace them?

A student, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated that the schedule making process was, "horrible," due to the fact that she was not receiving any guidance from her Promise coach, who she tried to reach on multiple occasions.

Students of all majors have voiced their desire to be informed about what is taking place at their school, but answers from administration have been scarce.

The school's administration on both campuses have been largely silent on the issue which has further frustrated the student body.

PROFESSORS' PERSPECTIVE

Along with students, professors have been left in limbo as well. As many of the art classes have yet to be reinstated, many of these dedicated professors are left jobless.

This includes a professor, who has requested to remain anonymous. "The least they could have done was send us an email before registration opened. It just sucks to feel unnoticed by your peers and higher ups," she said.

The professor also added that some of the professors were initially only given two weeks to move out of the rooms that they have taught in for decades, all while continuing to teach their current classes.

She highlighted yet another grievance regarding the art program saying, "You can't have an underfunded department and expect to have students flocking [here]."

It also appears that the administration has plans for turning the art studio, which currently inhabits the ninth floor of the Humanities building, into something else. What this room will be turned into is yet another question without an answer.



Left: Sophomore Ana Sali was making pottery in fall 2021.

Above: One of the art classrooms that will soon be vacated (Photos: Amaya Henry)

With all these major changes happening in such a short amount of time, one would hypothesize that something major will take the place of the art department, yet there has been no announcement made regarding this change.

Professor Elizabeth Rudey emphasized how great of an art education program LIU once had, stating that at one time, a reporter from The New York Times had come and written articles about the art department shows that occurred every Sunday.

Both Rudey and the other professor expressed that since LIU is known for their nursing and pharmacy programs, they felt very unsupported by the other administrative departments.

"It's a real break for a lot of students, using their brains scientifically and then coming in and being allowed to be creative," Rudey stated regarding students with science majors who choose to take art classes as electives.

Senior Professor Cynthia Dantzig, who has worked at LIU for over 50 years, was among the professors given an unexpected two weeks notice to leave her room.

Dantzig spearheaded an art festival for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Brooklyn Art Museum as well as curated many shows for artists of color in the 60's through the 80's that very few people wanted to show.

Dantzig's dedication to this University is evidence that she is an important piece of living history and should be treated as such.

However, LIU is not the only college whose art program is being cut. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Indiana University of Pennsylvania cut five of their Fine Arts programs including two master's degrees in art this fall. According to the Daily Gazette, the College of Saint Rose in New York will cut four bachelor's degrees in the art program, effective December 2021.

Similarly to LIU, this could leave many professors without a job and many students confused.

ALL IN ALL

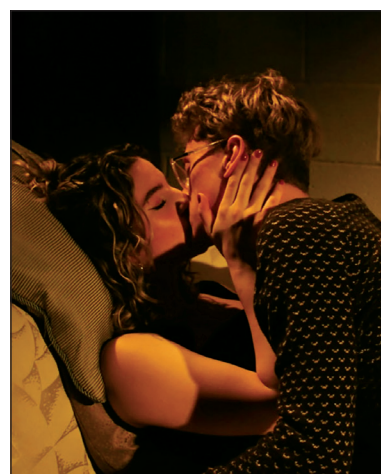
Altogether, with many remaining unanswered questions, what students and professors want alike is answers; answers to the questions they deserve.

LIU Reopening Concerns

As students returned to campus after a year of online learning, LIU has made an effort to sustain COVID-19 precautions to keep students healthy and safe. However, students' confusion and frustration has surfaced as some are



speaking up about a lack in effectiveness of the university's reopening. **PAGE 2**



Live Theatre Is Back

It was the moment theatre fans were anxiously waiting for: live theatre performances have finally returned. After more than a year of closed doors due to COVID-19, from Broadway to LIU, performers have taken the stage once again for live audiences. **PAGE 12-13**



Esports New Arena

A club and new varsity athletics team is getting a major upgrade in their equipment and practice location. This month, the Esports club and varsity team are set to reveal their brand new gaming arena located on campus. **PAGE 15**

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To LIU Brooklyn students, faculty, staff, and alumni

AS the Fall 2021 semester comes to an end, Seawanhaka is proud to present its first print edition since before the COVID-19 pandemic!

This year Seawanhaka has an all new, all female editorial board composed of myself as Editor-in-Chief and Reyna Iwamoto as Managing Editor. We are very excited to represent the student body and provide high quality journalism at LIU.

Although it has been some time since we last printed, we have kept active on our website, updating it with content several times a week.

We invite you to peruse our collection of articles on our website, as well as in print, and hope that it is to your liking.

In our first semester as editors, Reyna and I have made numerous changes to Seawanhaka including updating the layout and design of our website, adding new sections such as our popular Shark Scoop and Multimedia tabs, and beginning our very first eNewsletter!

These are just a few of the updates we have made at Seawanhaka and we welcome your feedback and sug-

gestions to ensure that we provide a newspaper that accurately represents you and that everyone can enjoy.

We are immensely proud of our staff for making this an incredible first issue of the 2021-2022 academic year and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

For inquiries, we encourage you to contact us via email or through our social media (@LIUBKNEWS)

Sincerely,

Melissa Fishman, Editor-in-Chief

Students Evaluate Effectiveness of LIU's Reopening Plan

BY MIA BERTRAND
Contributing Writer

LONG Island University has vowed to keep COVID-19 cases low on campus by making an effort to increase and sustain safety measures, but do students truly feel any safer?

The LIU COVID-19 Response Plan, which can be found on the LIU Brooklyn website, is quoted as saying "capacities of all classroom spaces [are] reduced and... larger classroom spaces have been added to promote social distancing" to be in compliance with City and State guidelines.

These guidelines have also created a rigid social distancing and maximum occupancy policy for each room size which is currently being encouraged by the administration for all LIU students and faculty. The campus has also increased the amount of hand-sanitizing stations and, in some cases, air filtration devices for the convenience and safety of students as well as staff.

According to LIU Brooklyn, the reopening plan "will evolve as necessary" and comes straight from guidance of "public health and government authorities."

As of November 19, LIU's official update board has reported 2 positive cases on the Brooklyn campus, both of which have been identified as students, thus implying their prevention methods have worked in keeping cases down.

However, as the Fall semester comes to a close, and LIU Brooklyn has been reopened at full-capacity for some time now, it's much easier to gain a student's perspective on how successful LIU has been in maintaining everyone's safety.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

A senior, who would like to only be identified as Alex to protect her identity, believes that COVID safety measures on the LIU Brooklyn campus should only be taken at face value due



Above: Continuing into the 2021-2022 school year, LIU still requires students to wear masks, covering one's nose and mouth, while indoors. (Photo: Joseph Whelan)



Left: While LIU has stressed the importance of continuing to follow COVID-19 regulations on-campus, students have expressed their concerns with the effectiveness of the university's plans. (Photo: Joseph Whelan)

About Us

Seawanhaka is the student newspaper of Long Island University Brooklyn and the only on-campus news source since 1928. Celebrating our 93rd year of publication, Seawanhaka strives to bring fair and balanced news coverage to the Brooklyn campus community regarding a multitude of relevant subjects.

Seawanhaka has served LIU as a viable source of information, and a means to prepare Journalism and Media Arts majors for successful media careers. Seawanhaka's student staff operates the newspaper under the tutelage of LIU's first-rate journalism faculty members.

All reporting, editing, and publishing is completed by a team of passionate students who believe in freedom of expression and of the press, afforded to us by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. With an archive of 92 volumes, over 800 print and online issues, as well as an enhanced online presence, Seawanhaka continues to deliver the best coverage of local news, sports, and the arts. Additionally, yet most importantly, Seawanhaka serves as a voice for the students of LIU Brooklyn. Students of all majors are encouraged to join Seawanhaka to have the chance to publish work or polish writing skills. Staff meetings are on Thursdays at 10:50AM on zoom or in room S-219. Diverse views are presented in Seawanhaka and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or official policies of the university.

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to personal frustration and confusion. Alex recently tested positive for COVID-19 and allegedly made numerous efforts to properly report her case to LIU but was promptly ignored.

In an interview Alex said, "I called the number meant for reporting COVID positive cases and no one picked up," Alex explains. "I called Student Affairs and no one knew what to do. My case was never even reported online."

Although Alex did not get in contact with administration as she claimed she did, however, still underwent the necessary quarantine recommended by health professionals due to her personal concerns for the health and safety of others.

Junior Ashley Cepeda feels similarly in that they have some measures which help to ease some students' stress; however, it depends entirely on people telling the truth for the system to work properly.

"People could easily lie about not having symptoms and don't need to show that [they] did the check," Cepeda said. "but [lies] are something out of the

school's control."

It is also unclear if there are any repercussions put in place for those who are found to have lied about their symptoms or even fabricated negative COVID test results to gain access to the campus.

As for students, like junior Julia Kelinger, who lives on-campus, she feels those who live in Connolly are the most affected by LIU's decisions or lack thereof.

"I'd give them a solid six out of ten [in terms of safety]" Kelinger said. "The intention is there, but on a real level there are parties in the dorms every night. Also, they don't clean very often, only overnight, [so there's] a lot of potential for spreading COVID."

General questions or concerns about COVID procedures on-campus can be directed to 516-299-1200 or 718-480-1200 or emailed to bklh-health@liu.edu

To report a positive test, students should contact 516-815-3074

U.S. Borders Open, International Visitors Welcomed Back

BY REYNA IWAMOTO
Managing Editor

ON Monday, November 8, 2021, President Biden lifted the pandemic travel ban after more than a year and a half of the order being in place. With nonessential travel into the U.S. open once again, fully vaccinated international travelers from over 30 countries, including the UK, EU, Mexico, and Canada, can now visit the U.S.

The lifted travel restrictions have allowed for many families and friends to reunite for the first time since COVID-19 emerged, and for international students at LIU, this announcement came as a relief, as their family and friends are now able to visit them in the U.S.

Jacqueline Grabowski, a senior on the LIU swim team from Brey, Germany, is looking forward to having her friends and family come to New York.

"I feel very excited," Grabowski said. "All my family and friends are finally able to come visit me again. It also means things are getting back to normal which is really relieving."

Grabowski said that right as the borders reopened, two of her closest friends visited her in New York.

"They were on the first tourist flight to NYC which was really exciting," Grabowski said.

For Grabowski, having spent more than a year watching her American friends have loved ones visit them, the loosening of travel restrictions has been very meaningful to her.

"It was hard for me as an international student as no one from home could visit me," Grabowski said. "Especially seeing the American families visiting my teammates here was sad to see for me."

On the other hand, Grabowski added that the travel restrictions put in place due to COVID-19 made her feel much safer.

"COVID-19 cases in Europe were much higher most of the time, so the travel ban was the reason why we were able to live a much more

normal and open life here in New York," Grabowski said.

With the lifted travel ban came many scenes of reunited loved ones, but the policy change also highlights concerns regarding rising cases of COVID-19 in certain countries and a "potentially devastating" winter for Europeans.

While experts have raised health concerns regarding the influx in international travel, many have also welcomed the change, emphasizing that the move benefits families as well as the economy.

Grabowski is currently waiting for some members of her family to receive their COVID-19 booster shots, but she is eager to have others from her hometown come to the U.S. soon, especially for her upcoming graduation in May 2022.

Sophomore Itzy Gonzalez, from Mexico City, Mexico, is also planning on having family and friends visit her soon.

For Gonzalez, last school year was especially difficult as the travel ban was already in place when she had to travel to New York for her first semester in college.

"It was hard since it all happened before my freshman year, so my parents couldn't come to help me move into college," Gonzalez-Rojas said.

Gonzalez, also a member of the LIU swim team, had to spend her first year on a collegiate swim team with her family members watching her competitions from Mexico via live streams from the Northeast Conference (NEC).

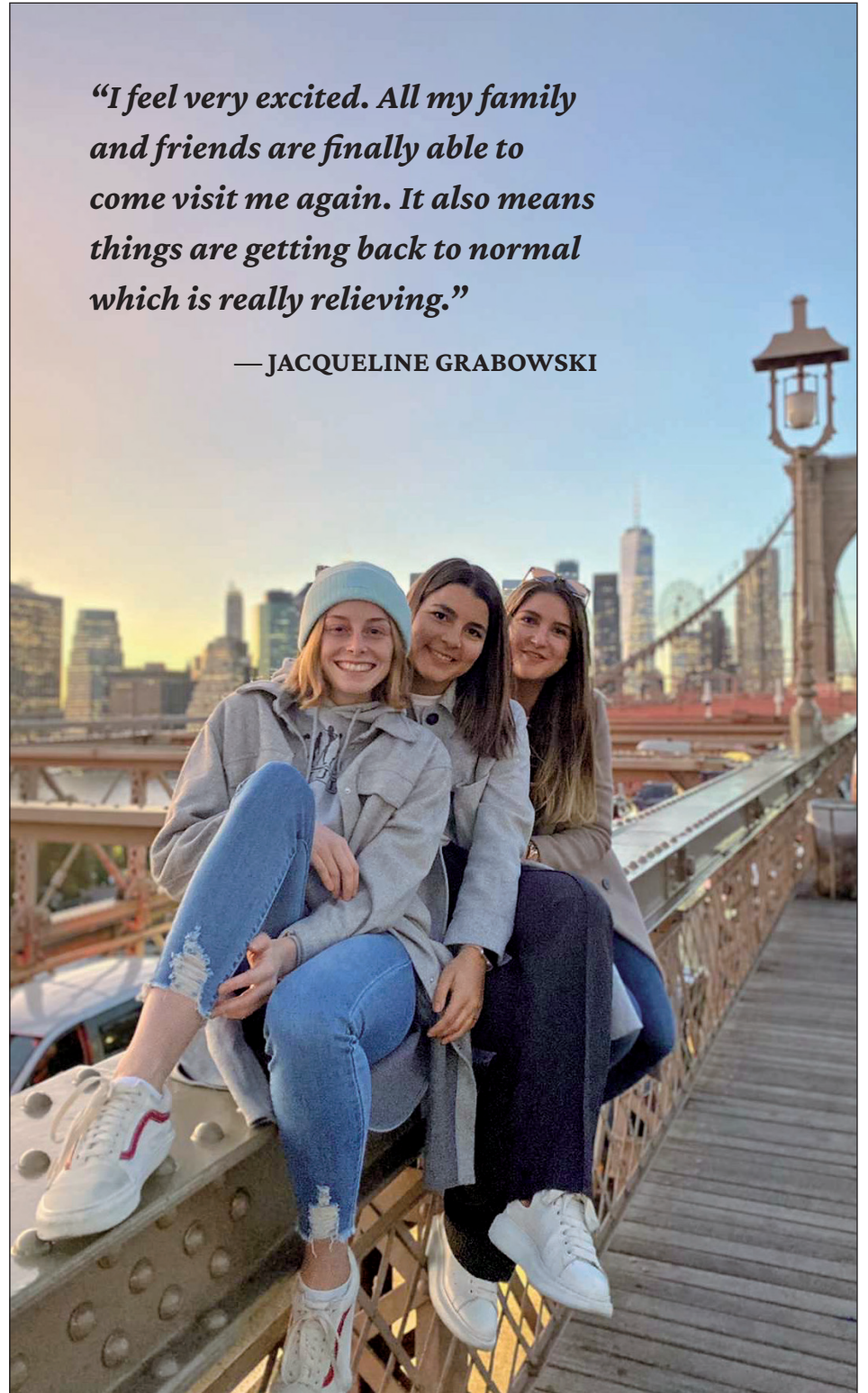
This season however, Gonzalez is planning to have her parents come to the U.S. to watch her compete at the NEC Championships for swimming in February 2022.

Gonzalez is also eagerly anticipating having her friends, as well as her grandparents and cousins, travel to the U.S. soon.

"I'm excited!" Gonzalez said about the loosened restrictions. "It is starting to feel like we are going back to the 'normal life' that we were used to."

"I feel very excited. All my family and friends are finally able to come visit me again. It also means things are getting back to normal which is really relieving."

— JACQUELINE GRABOWSKI



Grabowski (left) with her two close friends from Germany, who were able to visit her in New York after more than a year of travel restrictions being in place. (Photo: Jacqueline Grabowski)

School of Roc: Meet the Students of Jay-Z's Roc Nation

BY MIKHAIL KULINETS
Staff Reporter

THE Roc Nation School of Music, Sports & Entertainment's degree programs prepare students for a wide range of careers in performance, entrepreneurship, and all aspects of music, sports business and management.

To gain a deeper perspective on this matter, Seawanhaka staff spoke to freshmen at the school to hear their stories about what their hopes were before applying and how the semester has measured up so far.

Alijah Ralph, Music Technology, Entrepreneurship, and

Production major

Q: What kind of classes are you taking this semester? Is there anything in particular that you learned that interested you?

A: Yes, especially 9th Wonder, he is a famous producer who teaches History of Hip-Hop. For example, I didn't think about it at first, but the birth of hip-hop was with slavery. During slavery, slaves would sing songs, mostly jazz, and try to hide messages in. So Black people would use terms so that only they understood what they were talking about. Hip-hop is the same where you find the hidden message in it.

Adam Lite, Music Techno-



logy, Entrepreneurship and Production major

Q: What were your hopes for this program?

A: I heard about it on the radio on the hip-hop station 97.1 and decided to look it up. To have a program like

this here where I'm from, it has been so helpful in bringing a lot of creative people together. I felt like I needed to stay here. You know, you have everything in New York and I know all the other guys coming for this program

from Chicago, or Houston or Denver, but I am already used to this area. Everything happens here.

Tobias Girona, Applied Music major

Q: What is the meaning

of music to you?

Q: There is just something about a person singing, playing the instrument, creating with pure passion, that is very captivating. There is a very fine line between craft and raw human experience. It's the most difficult thing I found to navigate, as someone who is trying to be a great musician. Music opens your spirit in a way that lets the things just flow. It is the same with music and human emotions; there is always either consonance and dissonance.

For more of the Q&A, please visit: <https://www.liubknews.com/post/school-of-roc-meet-the-students-of-jay-z-s-roc-nation>



Among his many positions within the field of climate change, climate science and public health, Alexander More also works as the Director of the Honors College and is an Associate Professor of Environmental Health at LIU. (Photo: Alexander More)

Alexander More, LIU's Leader and Educator in Climate and Public Health

BY REYNA IWAMOTO
Managing Editor

Each morning before heading out the door, Alexander More asks Siri what the weather is going to be like that day. The weather has what More described as a “butterfly effect” on his life, as it determines many little factors, such as his clothing choice or his mode of transportation to get to work.

“And this, in my small little life, may be insignificant, but in the lives of many people, the environment will determine food security, water stress, [available] resources, emerging infectious diseases, supply chains — so that’s [why I do what I do],” More said.

At LIU, as well as being the Director of the Honors College, More is also an Associate Professor of Environmental Health. But More’s dedication to research and the environment stretches far beyond LIU, and into the larger realm of public and environmental health.

Among other appoint-

ments, More also works as a Research Associate of Climate and Health at Harvard University and is affiliated with the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine.

“A lot of people don’t know what they want, where they want to work, or what they want to work on and [for me,] it couldn’t be clearer in my mind,” More said.

For More, with such a position in the world of climate and health, recognition of his research and work is not hard to come by. Most recently, More was honored as a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the U.K.’s learned society and professional body for geographers.

And while this prestigious honor is just one of many in a long list for More, his influence on the students at LIU as well as the fields of public health and climate science is what has truly set him apart as a leader.

CHASING A QUESTION

More, who grew up in Italy

and Greece, immigrated to the U.S. by himself at just 17 years old in pursuit of higher education.

Securing his future in the U.S., More created a path for himself, attending college in Chicago and then Washington University in St. Louis, for his undergraduate studies.

As a sophomore in college, More began to work toward answering the question of why the U.S. lacked a universal health care system and determining “when and why a government decided that it was a good idea to take care of people and make sure they are healthy.”

More told Seawanhaka that his pursuit of this question was largely induced by his experience as an immigrant.

“As an immigrant, I was puzzled by the lack of healthcare and public health assistance in the U.S. compared to countries in Europe or most of the rest of the developed world,” More said.

More began conducting research on the public health system during the early mo-

dern period of history and completed a thesis with original research of civil archives in Europe that found the origin of healthcare, which happened during a pandemic and climate crisis.

And it was this thesis, along with his diligence that earned him a fully funded opportunity to attend Harvard University for graduate school, where More then completed his M.A. and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the fields of climate and public health.

“[During my Ph.D. and toward the end], I really started realizing that the context in which these policies of public health and welfare emerged was the most important factor because the environment is the greatest context in which we all live in and whether or not we believe it, the environment determines many choices we make every day,” More said.

Realizing the butterfly effect in which seemingly insignificant choices have on the environment and therefore the population, More has since worked at the intersec-

tion of climate change, climate science, and public health.

“And since then I have worked on that — using the highest resolution data, the biggest data sets, the most detailed data that I can get without any limits on discipline in order to chase this question: how does the environment affect health, how do people affect the environment, and therefore how do people affect their own health?” More said.

Using this interdisciplinary approach, More stayed committed to this field of planetary health, contributing research and findings, one of the most cited being a research article, “The Impact of a Six-Year Climate Anomaly on the ‘Spanish Flu’ Pandemic and WWI.”

In this study, More and a team of scientists were able to find how the environmental conditions at the time affected the Spanish Influenza of 1918, research that presents clear relevance to today’s ongoing pandemic.

While COVID-19 has already taken more than five million lives globally and the

world faces an impending rise in temperature by about 2.7 degrees Celsius, More’s research on the “two major crises of our time” has never been more imperative.

From a modest beginning as an immigrant to the U.S. in college, chasing one question, More has carved a place for himself in the scientific community.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Utilizing his experience and knowledge as a scientist, at LIU, More has shown dedication in leading and educating students, teaching and inspiring the younger generation.

Aside from the courses he has taught thus far, including Honors Communications and a few honors electives, More has shaped the Honors College into what is “quintessentially an interdisciplinary college.”

“Every course in this college has to be an interdisciplinary, high impact practice, and research-based course, and that’s all I do — that’s

what I have always done as a researcher,” More said.

In leading and educating honors students, More has drawn directly from his experience in multidisciplinary research to better prepare these students for the future.

“If I can have my students remember anything from their experience as honors students and their experience in my courses, it is that reality is interdisciplinary,” More said. “If you want to really excel and stand out in whatever you do, being able to cross disciplines, do research that brings together discoveries from multiple places, and see the interaction of everything to answer a question is really where you will excel.”

More holds strong to the belief that everyone, once they leave university, will have a job that will need them to apply their research skills and education to solving problems that require interdisciplinary thinking.

“The honors college is the perfect place to foster this cutting-edge approach to education, research, and professional development,” More said.

Michael Pollack, a junior majoring in biology, has had More as his professor for two courses, one of which is an honors elective for this fall semester, “Climate Change and Pandemics.”

“[This class] focuses on extremely important topics, cli-

mate change and pandemics; both of which our world is experiencing right now,” Pollack said. “Learning about the correlation between the two topics allows students to make sense of why certain actions are being taken and what we as a society can do to slow down the situation before it gets out of control.”

As a hopeful doctor, Pollack feels this course, in its multidisciplinary approach, teaches him to understand why things happen and will be beneficial to his future.

“Understanding why pandemics occur as a result of climate change or how climate change can be impacted by pandemics gives me a further understanding of our society, which will help me in the future when it comes to interacting with patients as I will be able to understand their perspective better,” Pollack said.

Julia Zebak, another junior who is majoring in biochemistry, expressed how having More as a professor has motivated her to learn more about the public health sector and to dedicate future research to incorporate environmental factors.

Like Pollack, Zebak also took an honors elective with More called “Climate, Health, and Economic Crises.”

“It taught me a lot on how I look at the interconnection of the world,” Zebak said.

With such an extensive position in the larger field of health and the environment, Zebak and Pollack said that More was able to relate course material to the world through his own research, in a way that students could easily understand and find engaging.

“When I am in Dr. More’s classroom, it is a completely

unique experience from almost all the classrooms I have ever been in, which is a result of his passion,” Pollack said.

More, described as a “passionate professor,” has taught Pollack the importance of choosing a career that you truly love.

“I have truly been inspired by him to chase my dreams regardless of what people around me believe in so that I can enjoy what I wake up to do every morning,” Pollack said.

Drawing upon his work outside of the university, Dr. More’s impact on students at LIU has been incalculable, with guidance and opportunities to help further young people’s futures.

“He has a lot of life and educational experience and is always available to provide advice to students and to help students find opportunities

to succeed and progress in whatever they pursue,” Zebak said.

RIGHT WHERE HE NEEDS TO BE

Throughout his work as an educator and in the field of public and environmental health, More’s primary goal is to “communicate to the largest number of people that our choices make our world.”

“Our impact on the environment is determined by our choices every day: what we buy at the grocery store, how we choose to commute to work, who we vote for, how many children we decide to have — and if we scale our small changes in behavior, we can actually make a good impact on the environment and therefore a good impact on our health,” More said.

“So that would be my number one goal in public and environmental health and climate science: communicate about climate change with people without making them feel stupid,” More said. “To talk and speak as simply as possible so that I can be understood, and as humbly as possible so I can be trusted.”

And More has been and is continuing to do precisely that.

With a humble beginning, an impressive educational background, extensive work at the intersection of climate change, climate science, and public health, and the many accolades he has been awarded, More has remained modest, humbly leaving a positive impact on the world.

Looking to the future, More wants to continue efforts in climate and health communications, hoping to eventually foster a research effort for graduate and undergraduate students doing experimental research in the field.

More said this research can involve anything, ranging from something as simple as sampling water in the parks of NYC or as involved as a one month expedition to the Arctic.

“This is something I think [is] incredibly important for students to do, not just to have a different experience abroad, but to actually do something purposeful that provides tangible results,” More said.

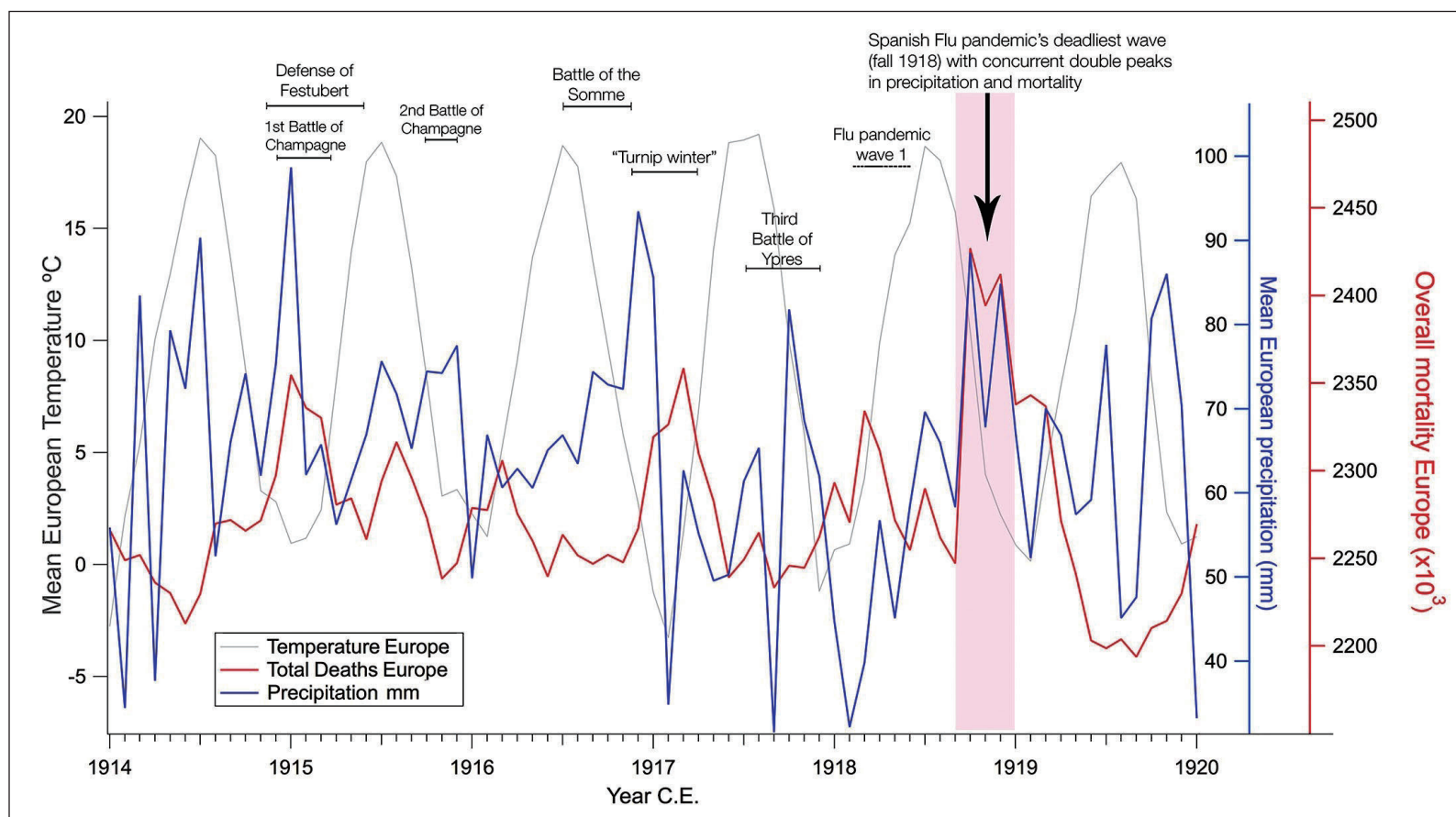
With goals on the horizon, More reflected back on his journey to where he is today, recalling a time during which he had no idea what he ultimately wanted to do in his life.

“I remember when I was in grad school I didn’t really know what field I was going to go into because as an interdisciplinary researcher, you often don’t know where you belong — and as an immigrant, you really don’t know where you belong,” More said.

Despite More’s initial hesitancy, seeing his research successfully disseminated into the world has been all the positive feedback he needed to know that he was on the right path.

“I guess it gives you clarity where you know that whatever may be going on in the world, whatever your challenge is on a day-to-day, you know that your work is worth doing, that there is a purpose to it, it will improve people’s lives, and that you’re on the right path — and that type of clarity is really quite a remarkable motivator for an academic or for anybody really,” More said.

“If I can have my students remember anything from their experience as honors students and their experience in my courses, it is that reality is interdisciplinary.”
— Alexander More



This graph is from More’s highly cited research article, “The Impact of a Six-Year Climate Anomaly on the “Spanish Flu” Pandemic and WWI.” Using data gathered by More and the rest of his team of scientists, this graph was plotted, showing mean temperature, precipitation, and total deaths in Europe, 1914–1920. “In the autumn and winter of 1918, mortality peaked together with high precipitation, with a peak in both records in the month of October, a slight decrease in November, and another peak in December of that year. The deadliest wave of the Spanish Influenza pandemic claimed most of its victims in the same months, where the arrow points to a double peak in both deaths and precipitation.” (Graph: More, et al.)

Violent Protest at Nearby Barclays Center Raises Questions About Campus Safety



Anti-vaccine protesters storm Barclays Center in support of Kyrie Irving
The NBA star can't play for the Nets until he gets a coronavirus vaccine

In video footage of the altercation, an ad for LIU Brooklyn is clearly visible in the background thus showing the alarming proximity of the event to campus. (Photo: The Washington Post)



Following a violent protest near campus, students evaluate the safety of emergency protocols. (Photo: Melissa Fishman)

BY MELISSA FISHMAN
Editor-In-Chief

ON Oct. 24 a group of anti-vaccination protesters attempted to storm the Brooklyn Barclays Center in support of Kyrie Irving, a player on the Brooklyn Nets basketball team, who is not allowed to play this season due to his refusal to get vaccinated.

A group of about a hundred or more allegedly gathered at a nearby park and then marched in unison to the popular sports and concert venue, wielding signs in support of Irving as well as some pro-Trump propaganda.

According to CBS, during the altercation, a group of protestors attempted to storm the doors of the Barclays Center. This forced the security personnel to quickly lock the doors to the on-coming crowd of protesters. It was also reported that a person among the crowd tried to force their entry into the building by throwing a police barricade.

In a recent video by The Washington Post, a poster for LIU Brooklyn is clearly visible in the background showing just how close to our campus this demonstration was and what potential problems it might have caused had it worsened.

This recent altercation near campus raises concerns about security in and around the immediate area of LIU.

In early October, LIU released their Annual Security and Fire Safety Report for all campuses which details all criminal offenses committed on school property. These range from liquor law violations to burglaries to rape, each detailed with the

amount of occurrences and their location.

For the 2020 school year, only four types of crimes were reported on the LIU Brooklyn campus. These being drug law violations, liquor law violations, aggravated assault, and burglary.

The full Annual Security and Fire Safety Report pdf can be found on the LIU Brooklyn website.

When approached about safety procedures on-campus, 78 percent of students who participated in a survey said they did not know the protocols put in place by Public Safety.

This is immensely alarming, in addition to the fact that crime in New York was

up 6.4 percent with the second-most frequent crime being felony assault last week according to the NYPD.

LIU students who participated in the survey were also asked to suggest some improvements for campus safety, with Sports Management major Julian Vega offering this suggestion, "Campus is pretty safe, but there are areas that are dangerous that should have more security near them. Also, being able to get in-contact with security easier might be useful, too."

Still more suggestions from students included: utilizing the security checkpoint by the Health Science building, allowing students to use the side entrance past 8 p.m.,

equipping the campus with more lights, and hiring more security guards.

Despite the lack of knowledge of safety procedures among students, an overwhelming 97% of respondents in our survey said they felt "mostly safe" on-campus.

This is not surprising, considering there are many resources available to students to prevent crime on campus, as found on the LIU website tab for Public Safety.

Also, in the event that a student doesn't feel safe on-campus, a student need only call 718-488-1078 and Public Safety will provide an escort to take you to and from locations of your choosing to ensure your safe arrival.



The scaffolding above the Metcalfe entrance to LIU provides shelter for the ever-growing homeless community (Photo: Mymuna Islam)

BY MYMUNA ISLAM
Contributing Writer

AS students enter the Long Island University Brooklyn campus through the DeKalb Avenue gate, they will most likely encounter at least one homeless person sitting on the side of the Metcalfe building.

The ever-present corre-

lation between gentrification and homelessness is not a new discovery and poses a renewed sense of urgency to address the concerns of health and safety in the immediate area of campus.

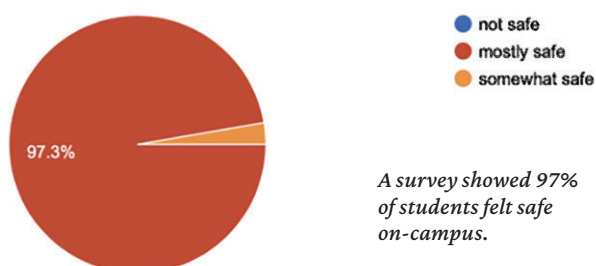
According to the Urban Displacement Project, over a third of low-income households are in low-income neighborhoods which are

at risk of gentrification pressures and experiencing displacement.

As homelessness has increased around the neighborhood, there is a genuine concern for safety and security. With nowhere to go, many are left to fend for themselves on the streets, often seeking refuge just steps from where LIU students go to school.

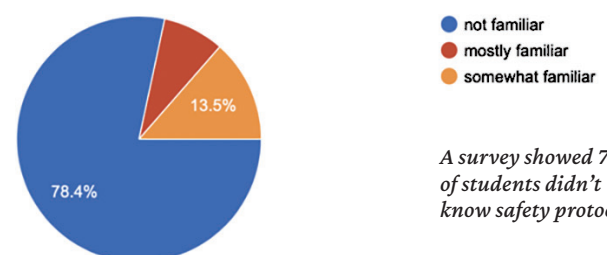
How safe do you feel on-campus?

37 responses



How familiar are you with LIU Safety Procedures (fire, active shooter, bomb threat, criminal behavior, etc.)

37 responses





LIU Brooklyn has seen a significant increase in enrollment among the student body despite the pandemic posing economic problems for many college students. (Photo: Joseph Whelan)

Is LIU Prepared for Its Influx of Students?

BY AMAYA HENRY
Staff Reporter

OVER the past six years, LIU's population has grown from around 8,000 students in 2015 to over 16,000 this year according to the University's website.

Multiple factors have likely contributed to this increase, like the addition of new sports teams and school programs as well as their wide array of degree programs and campus-wide organizations.

Senior Macie Madden, for one, has seen substantial growth in the Athletics Department over the years. As a member of the women's swim team herself, she said that when she first joined in 2018 the team had 15 swimmers and has now doubled in size to a team of about 36. The Swim Team alone has branched out in recent years, adding a men's swim team last school year.

In an interview with Seawanhaka, Madden stated that, "There have been more social activities on-campus along with opportunities for transportation to and from Brooklyn and Post for Homecoming and other sporting events."

Junior Caitlyn Kanemitsu agreed with Madden stating that, "Even after Covid it is nice to see that the Student Activities Board (SAB) and Promise are still trying to put on a lot of diverse activities for us to enjoy, despite still being in the midst of a pandemic."

Sports teams are not the only programs that have contributed to the sudden rise in enrollment. This year, the Roc Nation School of Music, Sports & Entertainment was introduced to the Brooklyn Campus by record executive and rapper, Jay-Z.

This program also helps students in a tremendous way as they will not only graduate with the tools to be successful in the job field, but Roc Nation students

"It is so frustrating to see my school act this way when I know that we are better than this.

My vision is to be a proud alum once these issues are resolved. I am and will always be proud to be an LIU Shark." — Aidan Condit

also have increased opportunities to graduate debt free.

The Hope Scholars Program is the program that helps students cover the cost of college and works in partnership with Roc Nation. This takes a huge weight off of a lot of families' shoulders as they do not have to worry about the financial burden of college.

This is an issue that Kanemitsu highlighted as well. She noted that, "It is hard enough being a college student but having to worry about finances, social lives, and the health of ourselves and our loved ones during a global pandemic, I just feel like there is more LIU could be doing to help us out."

This is a negative byproduct of what happens when more students come in and the student aid amount remains stagnant.

With undergraduate tuition costing almost \$38,000, some students fear that if their financial needs are not met soon, they will be forced to drop out.

Aidan Condit, a junior at LIU, also stated that another unforeseen consequence of more students is a lack of space in the dorms. Condit stated that since there are only three elevators in the residence hall, going to and from the dorms is a hassle.

Along with the elevator wait time,

the increase of students has left the laundry room in disarray. With there being a limited amount of washers and dryers, students have not only reported their clothes being moved from where they were initially put but some clothes have even been stolen. When the students talked to school officials about this they said that since there are no cameras in the laundry room, there was no one to hold accountable.

However, LIU students are not alone as other colleges around the country are facing challenges due to an increased number of students.

For example, students at Howard University in Washington D.C. are currently protesting against their living conditions. Students stated that their dorming situations had become unbearable as black mold took over at least 38 bedrooms, leaving some students in the hospital.

Despite these recent challenges, Condit remains optimistic about the future.

"It is so frustrating to see my school act this way when I know that we are better than this," Condit said. "My vision is to be a proud alum once these issues are resolved. I am and will always be proud to be an LIU Shark."



Student Discounts In NYC

BY CHARLOTTE JONES
Staff Reporter

THE Big Apple is filled with everything you could ever imagine, but living as a college student can be expensive. From Brooklyn to the Upper East Side, here are some places that offer student discounts!

RESTAURANTS:

The Willoughby Street Coffee Shop, a favorite for students near campus, currently offers a 10% off student discount to those who present a valid student ID! They have seasonal coffee flavors as well as a quiet lounge to study in which is perfect for a hard-working university student. Another favorite spot Kuxé, located at 205 Thompson Street, offers a 10 percent discount for students. They are known for their delicious bottomless brunches and filling portions for under \$20.

MUSEUMS:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art knocks the \$25 ticket down to \$14 for students with valid ID's as well as the Brooklyn Museum of Art which offers students ages 20 and up tickets for just \$10! The Guggenheim museum also offers student tickets for \$18 with a valid ID.

Cultural Attractions:

The New York City Ballet offers student rush tickets with a program called, "30 for 30." Tickets are available to selected students for \$30! Here at LIU, the Promise Offi-

ce also offers a wide variety of tickets to selected sporting events at a discounted rate, with the most recent being the New York Jets game on Oct. 31

MUSIC:

With Apple Music, students are able to access all of your favorite songs at 50 percent of their usual subscription fees as well as free access to Apple TV for 48 months! Spotify users can also get their subscription cost knocked down to \$4.99 a month while they remain a student and register with their student email. Amazon also offers three months free of Audible Premium for Prime Student members.

TRANSIT:

New Jersey Transit offers a 25 percent discount on their Monthly Passes for students, as well as Amtrak who offers a 15 percent discount for New York College students with a valid ID.

OTHER:

The New York Times offers a free subscription with a valid student email, giving you access to the latest news and updates. UNiDays is a useful website designed for college students, and offers many discounts for popular stores such as Aerie, Champs, H&M, and J.Crew! Finally, Adobe Photoshop is offering a 60 percent discount on the Creative Cloud, a platform used for graphic design.



As the holiday season fast approaches, students have a wide variety of deals offered to them. (Photo: The Guardian)



Coffee & Finals: Are They Connected?

As the holiday season fast approaches, that also means finals are coming up, and students are gearing up for this stressful time of the year. (Photo: Joseph Whelan)

Lack of sleep during finals and midterms results in higher caffeine intake in students

**BY SABRINA KARASIK
AND AMANDA REYES**
Contributing Writers

COLLEGE students begin to buckle down as finals approach loom closer and closer this semester.

According to TopHat.com, it is believed “by taking a midterm, students have a better idea of whether they’re advancing in a class or whether they need to make changes to their study habits.”

It is very profitable for coffee shops such as Starbucks or Hungry Ghost to open near Universities, as they are aware that the majority of students will want caffeine at some point during the semester, especially during midterms or finals.

According to an article by sciencedirect.com, “students consume more amounts of caffeine than other people who are between the ages of 19 and 30 and are not students.”

A 2018 study found that “Finals and midterms accounted as the top source of stress for 31% of U.S. students.” The study also revealed “40%

of college students in the U.S. admit to feeling inadequately-rested five out of seven days a week.”

With students not being able to get enough rest can be detrimental not only to their school work but also to their health as well.

Cara DeCosta, a barista at Hungry Ghost located right across the street from LIU said, “Students are the main customers that our store sees. Especially around the time of finals, we have to order triple our usual stock.”

Of course, this may also be due to the location of the store and how close it is to campus.

Many college students sacrifice sleep to stay up and study in hopes of maintaining high grades and in situations like this, students usually turn to coffee due to the amount of caffeine it encapsulates which will help them focus and remain awake.

As little as 24% of students in a poll by Siena College Research Institute voted that they get over eight hours of sleep a night, which is the amount recommended by most me-

dical professionals.

An overwhelming amount of almost 48% of students said they get less than six hours of sleep a night.

“I think I can speak for all college students when I say midterms and finals are the hardest times of the semester” stated Vanessa Hipolite, a student from Brooklyn College.

“I feel like preparation is the hardest part about midterms and finals, I was actually up till 3 o’ clock in the morning just going over my notes for Chemistry and Biology, then I had work this morning and then I have class until 9 PM tonight and then I have to try and get more studying in” she continued.

As we bounce back from such a difficult time in the world, coffee can be viewed as a crutch for students to get back into their daily routines and have the energy and motivation to do so.

Whether it’s a yummy caramel macchiato or a black coffee, it is almost certain that caffeine is important for a productive day for most students and even more important during finals week.

STUDY TIPS FOR FINALS

BY SHEA ROBARDS
Staff Reporter

DON’T CRAM

Cramming for a test or quiz doesn’t give you enough time to look over notes and textbook pages. Pacing yourself at least a week before an exam helps you remember what you’re being tested on. Give your brain a workout through repetition!

STUDY BUDDY

Finding someone to study may seem daunting, but you can use your buddy to quiz you. You can teach them your subject to help you better remember what to do during your test!

ASK FOR HELP

Talk with your professor about your exam. Ask them what the

exam covers, what to study for, or if you feel like you’re not studying the right material or enough material, ask if they can direct you to the correct content.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Place yourself in an area that best suits you for studying. Clear out your study space to avoid distractions and have everything you need in front of you. Whether it be in a quiet library, or a busy coffee shop, find your place and stick to it. The vibe will set you up for success!

TAKE SCHEDULED BREAKS

Don’t take breaks sporadically, instead schedule them to be at a designated time. Study for 45 minutes to an hour and take 15-minute timed breaks. Timing it will remind you to keep studying and keep you motivated to study!

Navigating the Pandemic as an International Student-Athlete

BY MAGALI MOUTON
Contributing Writer

AS COVID-19 continues to affect the world, a few LIU international student-athletes reflected on their experiences throughout the past year and a half.

When COVID-19 emerged in the U.S. and cities shut down right in the middle of the spring semester, international students at LIU faced a tough situation.

“Leaving the country quickly was very hard, especially when flights stopped departing from the JFK International Airport and many borders were closing,” Jacqueline Grabowski, senior on the LIU Women’s Swim team, said.

With LIU shut down and certain countries’ borders closed, international students had to either return to their countries or stay in the U.S.

Following an intense summer in lockdown, LIU reopened its doors for the 2020-

2021 school year having made more than a few changes for students and athletes.

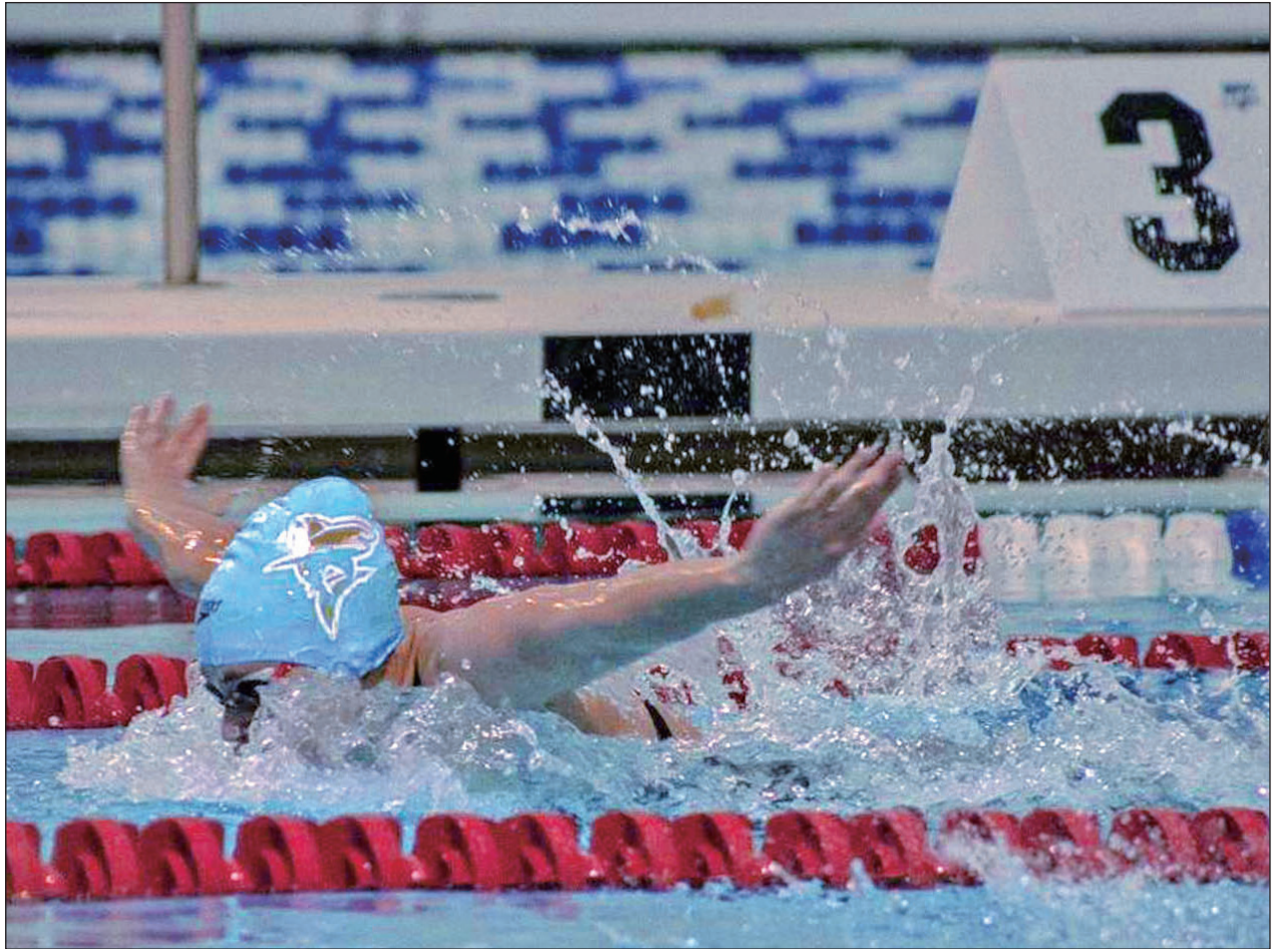
While the pandemic affected classes, most of which were held via Zoom, it also had a major effect on the world of sport for these student-athletes.

And while most international student-athletes were able to cross the border into the U.S., provided they quarantine for two weeks after their arrival, their athletic seasons were highly impacted by LIU and New York City’s COVID-19 guidelines.

Sara Rodriguez, a junior on the swim team from Spain said that, “it was an overwhelming experience.”

At the time, swimming was considered one of the worst sports to participate in regarding COVID safety due to the fact that it takes place in an enclosed space, swimmers can’t wear masks in the water, and social distancing is difficult, allowing an easier spread of the virus.

“We had plastic barriers be-



Rodriguez is completing her second year at LIU as a junior who transferred at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. (Photo: LIU Athletics)

tween lanes,” said Itzy Gonzalez, a sophomore on the team from Mexico. The team also had to have multiple practices a day to ensure that there were only two swimmers per lane to adhere to social distancing rules.

Other changes included a much shorter season, no

annual training trip, getting tested for COVID-19 often, and adhering to mask and social distancing regulations at competitions.

Despite these changes, Gonzalez felt lucky to be in New York. “The reality was that New York City was doing

better than Mexico when I first came here. I was glad I could live almost normally here,” Gonzalez said.

While the 2021-2022 school year and swim season has begun, the COVID-19 vaccine has allowed a return to a new “normal,” easing restrictions

as all students and athletes must be fully vaccinated to be on campus and to compete.

As international students as well as athletes, these individuals have had a hectic past school year and swim season, but are grateful for this new “normal.”

International Students and Inoculations — How COVID-19 is Handled Abroad

BY MIKHAIL KULINETS
Staff Reporter

COVID-19 still has a grip on the world and while the world braces for the two-year marker since the beginning of the pandemic, international LIU students gave some insight into the pandemic situation in their home countries.

Arsh Parekh, a Business Administration and Finance major, is from India and spoke about the country’s situation with the pandemic — a crisis that peaked in May 2021.

“The Indian economy was hit super hard,” Parekh said. “The country was starting to fall financially, but India is recovering.”

At one point during May 2021, India was responsible for more than half of the world’s COVID-19 cases. Now however, there has been a significant decline in cases since March and most re-

cently, India celebrated the milestone of administering 1 billion vaccine doses.

Meanwhile, in Europe, Spain has not suffered a spike in cases since July and the country reached the peak of new cases months before that, in January 2021.

However, as Spain native and Molecular Biology major Daniel Chocano Fernandez reminds us, Spain was still majorly affected by the pandemic.

“At the beginning, we had a strict 4 months of quarantine where all the non-essential industries were closed, but later it got better,” Fernandez said.

As for vaccinations in the country, Fernandez said the government is making the vaccination process “very easy and organized.” In Spain, over 70 million people have received their vaccinations as of last week.

Zoe Watson, a nursing major from Greece, said that the



On October 21, 2021, India celebrated administering 1 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. (Photo: PTI)

country “took the pandemic very seriously and shut down completely at the very start.”

“You were only allowed to leave your house if you were walking your dog, or going to get groceries and even to do this there was a time limit

and you had to text a certain number that you were leaving the house for one of those reasons,” Watson said. “This was heavily enforced with officials outside checking to see if everyone outside had sent the text and was out for the right

reasons.”

In Greece, there are a little more than 3,000 deaths reported every day according to Reuters and only 15,000 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 regulations

as of February 2021 included curfew at 6 p.m. and no indoor dining or shopping.

“These regulations were lifted in July, finally allowing indoor dining and shopping, but there was actually no [live] music allowed in restaurants and bars, and you had to remain seated with a maximum of 10 people at your table,” Watson said. “Now you need vaccination proof or proof of a negative test to go in any indoor spaces and things are finally starting to open up and feel normal, with masks still mandatory inside.”

As the world continues to grapple with vaccine rollout and the formation of new variants of the virus, it is clear that this pandemic is far from over.



Circle K International kicked off the 2021-2022 year by hosting a park cleanup at Brooklyn Bridge Park with the LIU Outdoor Club. (Photo: Emma Cheatham)

Meet Circle K International: Smiles, Sweet Treats, and Life Changing Service

BY MELISSA FISHMAN
Editor-In-Chief

ONE of LIU Brooklyn's philanthropic phenomenons is Circle K International (CKI). Known for their commitment to charity and kindness, members of the LIU chapter of CKI are ready to leap headfirst into their first semester on-campus without stringent COVID-19 restrictions since before the pandemic.

CKI, an extension of the adults-only organization Kiwanis International, stands by a rigid set of principles that help to promote leadership, community, and education.

The glue that keeps this club together is chapter President, Joyce Ho ('23). The junior and nursing major has held her position since the club was established in 2019.

"I've been in this position for a long time and it's nice to see how much I am growing each year because of it, and it's not just me [that's growing]. It's nice to be a part of that," Ho said.

In a sit-down interview with her and CKI Vice President Matthew Young about Circle K, Ho's eyes lit up after discussing each of their upcoming events.

In response to being asked about running an important and influential organization such as this, Ho said simply, "If you are leading a group of people you need to give them a sense of sta-



Members of Circle K International cleaning up at Brooklyn Bridge Park. (Photo: Emma Cheatham)

bility. If you're always wavering they're going to worry as well. I never think anything is impossible. You'll always find a way."

CKI recently kicked off its 2021-2022 year of service by hosting a park cleanup at Brooklyn Bridge Park with the LIU Outdoor Club, along with three other local chapters where they cleaned up a park in DUMBO and removed approximately 10 pounds of trash.

Young summarized the experience, saying it was well worth it because "You're picking up trash but you're making friends while doing it." The participants at the

cleanup were then invited to an ice cream social at Ample Hills Creamery.

Given their liberation from COVID-19 restrictions that prevented them from doing certain types of activities last year, Young said, "Last year we had a hard time fundraising because of COVID and the inability to purchase food. However this year, what's really exciting is finally raising money and outsourcing it. If something doesn't work we can find a new solution."

Recently, these delightful do-gooders have also raised money for Lucas, a child at St. Jude

Children's Hospital, who was diagnosed with brain cancer. CKI members sold cupcakes, and offered a wide selection of flavors ranging from vanilla to Boston cream to fruit tart and including both vegan and non-vegan options.

If you feel like you've missed out, don't fret, those interested can participate in some of Circle K has plenty of upcoming service opportunities.

For those interested in joining Circle K, you can follow them on Instagram @LIUBrooklynCircleK for more information or join via Presence.

LIU's UNICEF Club Aims to Make Change

BY REYNA IWAMOTO
Managing Editor

A new group of students at LIU are making strides to incite change, advocating for children's rights.

The UNICEF club, started by sophomore and UNICEF club President Abdullah Akl this school year, is one of the fastest growing student clubs, now boasting 70 members.

"We mobilize and engage young people and students to learn about children's rights issues that

are happening and also to take action in supporting those children," Akl said.

Junior and UNICEF club vice president, Mirna Elsheemy, wanted to become involved in the club to feel connected to the surrounding community and help improve quality of life.

"Being a part of the change means being out there as a responder to help assist children for accessible health, nutrition and education," Elsheemy said.

Like Elsheemy, for junior Klinti Hoxha, being part of the UNICEF club at LIU means being able to leave a "positive footprint" on the world.

"Its core values, 'care, respect, integrity, trust and accountability' fit in accordance with the morals I stand for," Hoxha said.

The UNICEF club held its first event of the school year, on November 1-2, 2021, in the Breezeway on campus giving away goodie-bags to students who voted or encouraged a friend to vote.

"This [event] connects with UNICEF because one of the most important factors for youth to be involved in decision making within government (one of UNICEF's priorities) all starts with voting" Akl said.

Looking to the rest of the school year, some of the initiatives the club is currently working on include an upcoming blood drive and a project to increase accessibility to feminine products for homeless women in the community.

"A lot of these [events] really bring young people to the table just to really start the discussion because really the stage that we are at right now is that children's rights are not in the discussion — we rarely hear about it, so our main goal right now is to create the discussion and then start moving forward with the actions that relate to that," Akl said.

With a future full of opportunities, Akl aims to keep the group's mission in mind through their efforts.

"That's what I hope we can be — a [group] that provides resources [for] children's rights and issues, [advocates] for them, [and] empowers students to feel like they are advocates for children," Akl said.

For more on the UNICEF club at LIU and the organization's upcoming events, follow them on Instagram @UNICEFLIUBrooklyn.



UNICEF Club president Abdullah Akl began the UNICEF club this school year to bring children's rights into the conversation.

Movie Review

Squid Game is Dystopian Cinema Done Right

BY MIKHAIL KULINETS
Staff Reporter

THIS fall, it seemed all anyone could talk about was the new hit Netflix show “Squid Game.” And rightly so, as of October 12, the worldwide sensation became the company’s biggest launch ever, with a total of 111 million fans.

Taking place in Korea, the show centers around money-strapped contestants who accept an invitation to compete in a high-stakes competition of children’s games for a grand cash prize.

The show gained much popularity, quickly becoming the #1 show on Netflix in 90 countries.

Since the day of its premiere, thousands have even sent messages to the number listed on the invitation in the show, desperately asking to participate in the competition to win the prize money — all the while bothering a 40-year-old Korean man who just so happens to have the same phone number.

So, how has the familiar idea of a battle royale like “The Hunger Games” and “Fortnite” been reborn in Korean cinema and become so popular so quickly?

In 1999, Japanese writer

Koushun Takami published “Battle Royale” and one year later, it was successfully transferred to the big screen. The story was about the dark dystopian world of fascist Japan, where a group of middle schoolers were kidnapped by the government and forced to fight to the death on an isolated island.

This was an experiment to prepare the nation for the worst and militarily train them, but, of course, human nature always interferes and changes plans.

This brutal story eventually pushed the genre of survival games into the masses, giving way to similar stories later such as “The Hunger Games,” and making battle royale itself, a contemporary genre in the gaming industry (Apex, Fortnite, PUBG). It influenced many interpretations of the simple idea of survival games and led the way for “Squid Game” creator, writer and director Hwang Dong-hyuk to present his own version in 2021.

However, “Squid Game” wouldn’t grab so many hearts and minds if it were the same as its predecessors. No, “Squid Game” is different on a fundamental level.

In the show, the participants of Squid Game are given the choice to vote and

quit the game at any time, breaking the stereotype of involuntary engagement in typical dystopian settings. Instead, the participants choose to continue the dangerous game by their own choices and morality codex.

This leads to another key difference in the perspective of the genre in that the main villain of the story is not the government, bureaucrats, but the people themselves and their vices.

As the show progresses, Hwang investigates the moment in which people tear off their masks and come back to their human instincts in the race for economic fulfillment.

Hwang hands us the mirror and asks: How much of the suffering of someone else can I make into my own pleasure? Does global suffering come from the system or are we all the sources? What is happiness and can it even exist in a capitalistic society? And finally, how much exactly is the lie, guilt, blood, suffering or betrayal worth?

The show’s visual effects and setting, both mesmerizing and deeply entangled with symbolism, also add to its sinister effect on viewers.

Endless staircases remind us of the cyclical nature of life, the insignificance of a single human existence. Hundreds



Squid Game quickly became the #1 show on Netflix in 90 countries. (Photo: Netflix)

of sets of beds in the participants’ resting room are built on different heights and make us see the different levels or steps in a ladder, and even forms something similar to the ancient Coliseum. The entire visual aspect of the show sticks in our minds along with its deeper implications.

Moreover, the narrative

structure is universal — the idea of adults playing children’s games for reward is a simple concept to understand cross-culturally.

Society’s strange fascination with violence as seen in shows like “Game of Thrones” and has also attracted millions to the big screen just like with “Squid Game.”

A mixture of horror, gore,

and psychological thriller, “Squid Game” has broken the barriers of traditional dystopian films to become the global phenomenon it is.

Whether people take this show as a sign to look inward on themselves or to simply enjoy seeing children’s games they once played, “Squid Game” is definitely the show to watch in your spare time.

Movie Review

Out Of My League is a Rom-Com Turned Fairytale

BY GAELLE
PETIT-HOMME
Staff Reporter

FOR fans of movies like Me Before You, The Fault In Our Stars and Five Feet Apart, this Netflix original Italian Rom-Com could be the next movie that sends you on a roller-coaster of emotions.

The movie is centered around Marta, a young Italian girl who has Cystic Fibrosis (CF), a genetic disease that causes lung infections and limits the ability to breathe over time. There is no cure for this condition, but there is a range of treatments that make this disease easier to live with.

Despite these treatments, most people with CF barely live to 50 years of age. Knowing this much about her condition sets Marta on a



The Netflix original film Out Of My League is another rom-com sure to bring tears to your eyes. (Photo: Netflix)

Out Of My League shows its audience that while a disease is a big part of someone’s life, there is so much more to them than just being sick.

journey to make the most out of the time she has left.

With nothing else to look forward to Marta decides to look for love, pursuing the dreamy Arturo, a guy who is way out of league.

Marta goes to extreme lengths to get to know more about him including spying on him. Not long after Marta begins following Arturo, he catches her, leading to him asking her on a date, on the condition that if they do not “click,” she will leave him alone.

Thus begins a journey of love where the two of them find themselves unexpectedly falling for one another and dealing with the increasing severity of Marta’s disease.

This movie manages to capture what I think most movies about terminal disease fail to capture, the person.

Out Of My League shows its audience that while a disease

is a big part of someone’s life, there is so much more to them than just being sick.

In most romantic tear-jerkers the main character may get sick, fall in love, and die, followed by heartfelt letters and funerals to make you cry. Out Of My League instead centers around the essence of life — Marta’s desire to live and the price she’s willing to pay for love.

While I loved the portrayal of the main character, by the end of the movie, this rom-com began to resemble more of a fairytale, which can be both good and bad depending on your approach.

Regardless of whether some may think it is cheesy, I can assure you this 90-minute feature, accessorized with a pop English-Italian soundtrack will give you the sobbing warmth and romance you crave.



The Global Return of Live Theatre Thus Far

Above: *"Spike Heels"* directed by Alexa Hinton, is the first in-person production put on by the LIU BFA program since before the pandemic. (Photo: Shea Robards)
Below: Broadway shows return after more than 550 days to vaccinated audiences. *Lion King* reopened in Minskoff Theatre on September 14. (Photo: Melissa Fishman)

BY MELISSA FISHMAN
Editor-In-Chief

IN October of 2020, Seawanhaka reported on the absence of Broadway at a time when much was still uncertain about re-opening. The article below narrates the progress that has been made in the year that has elapsed since then.

As the world begins its slow return to normalcy, and children as young as five can receive vaccinations in the US, some of our favorite venues are now opening their doors to an eager public.

Live theatre, which faced dire consequences from the pandemic, has returned from the depths of lockdown with many shows returning after more than a year and a half without performances.

Although the marquis was dim and the costumes, hung on racks in empty dressing rooms, begged to be taken on stage, actors and actresses across the world never lost hope that theatre would one day return. Some even learned to adapt their work into more COVID-conscious productions.



The Effects of the Pandemic on Theatre

On March 12 of last year, shortly after the CDC declared the pandemic a state of emergency, theatre owners across America made the difficult decision to halt performances for an undetermined amount of time.

Of the 41 theatres that call Broadway home, 31 played host to shows that were currently running, eight of which were in previews and yet another eight preparing to begin performances.

After more than 550 days of theatres being closed to the public, shows slowly but surely began to open their doors once again to vaccinated casts and audiences.

According to the Daily News, Broadway alone lost \$35 million for each week their doors were closed.

Across the pond, in the United Kingdom, West End also struggled during the pandemic.

With closures beginning Mar. 16 in London, the theatres of West End remained closed until May of this

year when they opened at 50 percent capacity and then at full capacity in July.

West End, which relies heavily on international travelers' patronage, has seen significant changes in demand as well as demographic changes by audiences.

In an article by The Guardian from earlier this year, it was reported that although London natives seem to be purchasing record scores of tickets, "the almost total lack of the crucial international audiences because of travel restrictions is making for the biggest shake-up in production scheduling history."

Despite the lack of theatregoers from abroad, West End and Broadway both reported positive numbers for attendance post-pandemic.

West End's newly opened production of *Back to the Future* had 99 percent attendance, with the show already making 97 percent of its 'gross potential.'

Dancing Through Life: How Live Theatre Has Adapted in a COVID-centric World

Adapting Broadway musicals into movies was a trend that caught on quickly during the pandemic, with the proshot film of the smash-hit, Hamilton, debuting in July of 2020 making waves and bringing some much-needed joy to musical theatre lovers.

Movie-musicals adapted from the stage during the pandemic also includes In the Heights by Lin-Manuel Miranda, which was released this summer, and the Stephen Sondheim

classic, West Side Story, which is slated to be released next Month.

Both of Lin-Manuel Miranda's most well-known works, Hamilton and In the Heights, were released on streaming platforms while movie theatres were shut to the public due to COVID safety protocols. This new format quickly became popular during the first and second summers of the pandemic.

Hamilton, which was released on July 3, 2020, on Disney+

could have possibly inspired In the Heights director, Jon M. Chu, who debuted the movie on HBO Max for a limited time this past summer.

Like some of its neighbors on Broadway, the musical Dear Evan Hansen was recently adapted for the big screen and was released on Sept. 24 to hungry theatre fans and mixed reviews by critics everywhere.

However, the stage production of the wildly popular musical, has one of the latest

re-openings dates of all the shows returning to Broadway. The Tony award winner for best musical in 2018 is set to take the stage on Dec. 11 with actor Jordan Fisher reprising the title role that he held for a short period of time before the pandemic hit.

Smaller theatre productions, which are not at the Broadway level but still hold much importance and prestige, also found new ways to thrive during the pandemic.

“The theatre for me has always been about people. It works because of the connection between people, and I felt a little sadder living in a world without that connection. I also have not been able to be a part of pretty much any production in over a year so just feeling like I’m back where I belong is an amazing feeling.”

— Alexa Hinton over text

Live Theatre at LIU Shows Resilience during the Pandemic

The BFA program at LIU Brooklyn, which is entering their fourth year on-campus, utilized Zoom technology to put on productions of their yearly shows.

In a phone interview with Quiche Stone, an Associate Professor at LIU and Director of Theatre, Film, and Television, she highlighted the unique challenges posed to live theatre due to the pandemic.

As a full-time professor in the

BFA program, she shared with me the story of a year filled with many triumphs as well as frustrations ultimately resulting in a tale of hope and determination.

“Despite the lockdown and the restrictions, performance and creativity never stopped,” said Stone with a touch of defiance in her voice when asked about the many changes that their productions went through due to COVID.

“There were outdoor perfor-

mances and Zoom and we found amazing ways to create and do theatre. Certainly, in the BFA program, we continued to act remotely during the pandemic” she continued.

It is evident that actors create a level of intimacy with one another when performing, but the lack of physical contact created a unique opportunity for the department’s technical staff.

She went on to explain that they utilized software that ena-

bled them to manipulate the imaging on Zoom so that actors could be situated next to their scene partners, sometimes even sharing a passionate, virtual kiss.

“We all managed to connect in a very real way; theatre is a team sport. We had some scenes with the entire cast in it and it created a new industry of sorts for the tech people. We managed to find new ways to be creative,” said Stone.

Broadway is Back: The Story of *That* Night

While some shows such as Mean Girls, Frozen, and A Soldier's Play closed due to the pandemic, one dimmed their lights for a moment but, with the help of some dedicated fans, now has plans to return to the stage with a new home theatre.

Beetlejuice, the musical adaptation of the classic Tim Burton movie starring Winona Rider and Michael Keaton, will now be returning to the Great White Way on Apr. 8 at the Marquis Theatre.

Alexa Hinton, an Administrative Assistant and Director of the recent show “Spike Heels” at LIU, also shared her thoughts about returning to live theatre around the world.

“The theatre for me has always been about people. It works because of the connection between people, and I felt a little sadder living in a world without that connection. I also have not been able to be a part of pretty much any production in over a year so just feeling like I’m back where I belong is an amazing feeling,” said Hinton over text.

On the West End, many of the 38 theatres now are hosting shows that are actively welcoming audiences, however there are some that have yet

to open their doors

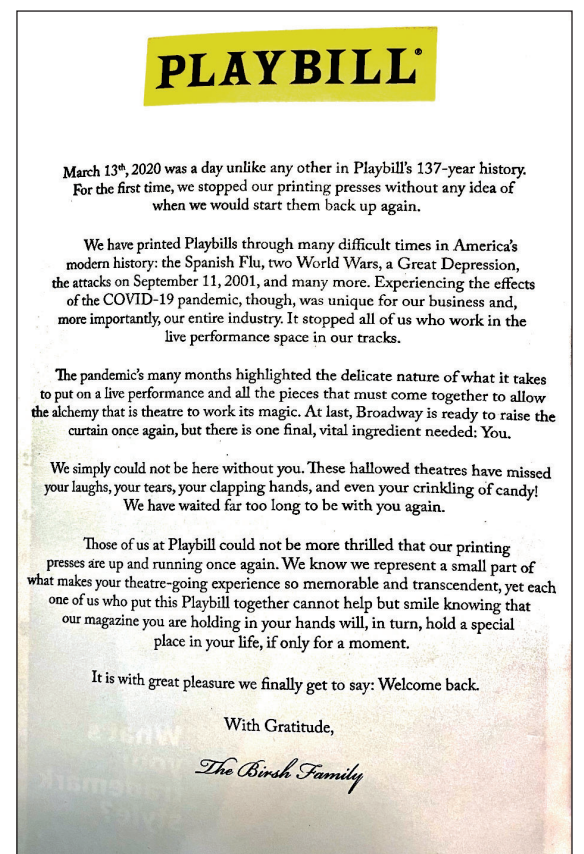
Shows such as Bring it On: The Musical and To Kill a Mockingbird have set later reopening dates with the former opening on Dec. 8 of this year and the latter opening in March of next year.

On Nov. 8, the Broadway League announced that it would continue to require vaccinations for audiences and cast members alike in all 41 theatres in New York to ensure the health and safety of all.

Despite the many difficulties posed to live theatre, their resilience shines through, much like the hard work and dedication put in by people of all careers and disciplines worldwide.

In short, Hinton summarized it best by saying, “Overall, the challenges we faced as artists are the same challenges that everyone else across the world were facing which is figuring out what the new normal is going to be.”

A welcome back message from the creators of Playbill, who supply the iconic yellow program given to theatre-goers during each performance. (Photo: Melissa Fishman)



Men's Volleyball to Begin Inaugural Season at LIU



Shawn Patchell, head coach of the new Men's Volleyball team here in Brooklyn. (Photo: 949 Athletics)

"I just think competing is so fun. Practice is fun, but when you actually get to put on the uniform and play the inaugural match — I'm really excited for that."
— Shawn Patchell

BY MADISON MCCARTHY
Staff Reporter
JORDAN MACDONALD
Contributing Writer

THE LIU Men's Volleyball Team, is the most recently added team to LIU Athletics, based out of the Brooklyn campus. Led by head coach Shawn Patchell, the team is set to begin its inaugural season in January 2022.

Patchell, a former collegiate and professional volleyball player, joins LIU after serving as the head coach for multiple collegiate institutions, most recently at Concordia University Irvine from 2013-2021. With extensive experience coaching collegiate athletes, as well as involvement with club and USA Volleyball, Patchell is working to continue building up his team here in Brooklyn.

"We have been figuring it out as we go. We've been practicing and keeping our heads down," Patchell said.

The current team consists of seven freshmen and five older members with previous experience.

Sophomore transfer from Utah Valley University, Kade Frischknecht, said that he chose Long Island University because of the great coaching staff that was coming here to start a first-year team. "Coach Patchell is a very skilled coach that knows how to win," he stated.

Jordan Cooper, a junior

from California, is looking forward to beginning the season and taking on a leadership role on the team.

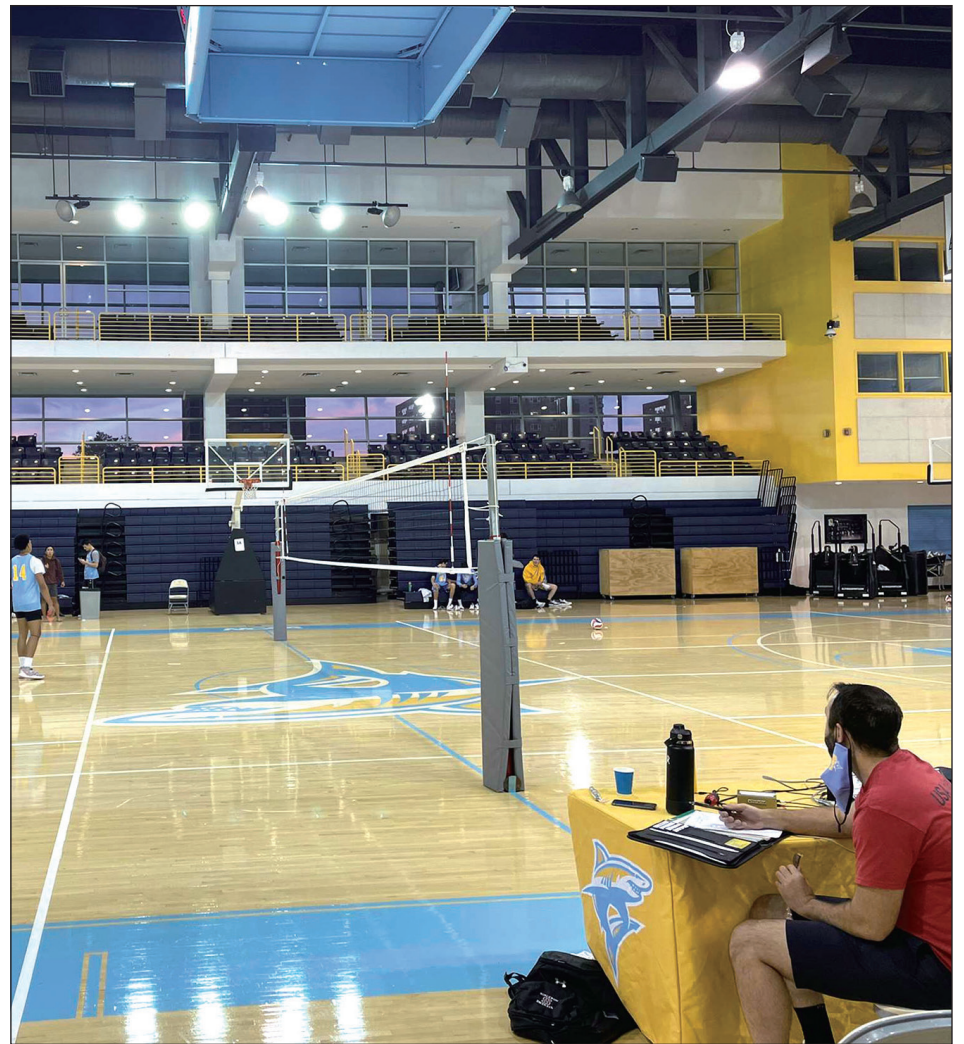
"It's exciting. It's one of the main reasons I came here: I get to build something — I get to build the team. Because I'm a junior I can take the role of leading the team," Cooper said.

With a balance of older and younger players, Patchell expressed his gratitude for having such a well-balanced team before their first season had even begun. "I feel very fortunate that we got the players we did — we have some wonderful players and we're looking at adding four more players for January," Patchell said.

Freshman libero and New York native Danny Seliger highlighted the "awesome" team dynamic.

"It is one of, if not the best group of guys to be around that I've ever played with," Seliger said. "It's crazy because I didn't even know who any of these guys were until I got here and all of us clicked together very quickly. It's rare to say on a team that there isn't a guy that you don't like, and I can say that confidently about this team."

Despite being a first-year team, the athletes have a very competitive line-up for the season, including the opportunity to play two matches against the University of Hawaii, the defending NCAA champions, on their home turf in Honolulu in February.



The LIU Men's Volleyball team has been hard at work, gearing up for its their first match in January 2022. (Photo: Jordan MacDonald)

The Shark's season will begin with a game against D'Youville College on January 15, and their first home game will be against Saint Francis University on January 22.

"I just think competing is so fun," Patchell said. "Practice is fun, but when you actually get to put on the uniform and play the inaugural match — I'm really excited for that."

As the LIU Men's Volleyball team gears up for its first competition in January, the Northeast Conference (NEC) has also decided to add Men's

Volleyball starting in 2023. While the Sharks will begin playing in January 2022, the inaugural NEC championship will be held in 2023.

Long Island University will play its first season as an independent team, and not part of any conference. The NEC will be the second major men's volleyball conference composed entirely of Division 1 teams, along with the very prominent Big West conference.

In a statement released by the NEC, Commissioner Noreen Morris said, "We are

thrilled to announce the addition of men's volleyball as the 25th sport sponsored by the Northeast Conference."

LIU Men's Volleyball will be part of the Northeast Conference along with Fairleigh Dickinson, Long Island University, Merrimack, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Brooklyn, and Saint Francis University.

For more on Men's Volleyball, visit LIUathletics.com and follow @liumvolleyball on Instagram.

A Shark in the Water:

A Spotlight on LIU Swim's New Head Coach

BY MADISON MCCARTHY
Staff Reporter

FOLLOWING a record-breaking year for LIU Women's and Men's Swimming, both teams now have a new head coach.

Coach Bobby Smith of Long Island has joined Shark Nation after half a decade coaching at Adelphi University, an NCAA Division Two program in Garden City.

Smith, a former collegiate swimmer, competed for the University of the Pacific in California and finished his career at the University of Pittsburgh in 2011.

After years of dreaming of leading a Division I program, Smith has now made

that dream a reality at LIU. Smith, who is planning to be here for the long haul, sees both teams as being multi-time NEC Champions in the next few years.

The teams for the 2021-2022 season have a combined sixty athletes and makes swimming the biggest team on the Brooklyn campus. However, despite having the biggest team in LIU swimming history, he plans to keep growing to meet the goals he has set.

So far, Smith has enjoyed his transition as head coach and every day, is continuing to learn more about his new team. While this was a big shift for Smith, he appreciates the swimmers' ability to adapt to the new expectations he has set for them.

Outside of his goal of winning the NEC title, Smith wants to see each swimmer get better and grow, both in and out of the pool. Smith strongly believes that one person's personal growth is a success for the whole team, and he hopes to continue the team's history of excelling academically, with last semester's team achieving an overall GPA of 3.69 for the Women's team and 3.38 for the Men's.

After winning the title of Coaching Staff of the Year in the 2020-2021 season, Smith is confident that he will be able to attain that for a second year in a row. Smith, who is helped by assistant coaches Emma Brown and Zach Towers, plans to lead the Men's and Women's Swimming team to a victorious 2021-2022 season.



Bobby Smith, new head coach of the LIU Men's and Women's Swimming Team. (Photo: LIU Athletics)

SWIMMING
SEASON

LIU Swimming kicked off their season on October 1, 2021, at St. Francis College for the annual Battle of Brooklyn with both the men's and women's team claiming victory.

Be sure to check out LIUathletics.com for updates on the team and you can also find LIU swimming on Instagram and Twitter @liuswimdive.

Esports Unveils New Gaming Arena On Campus

BY REYNA IWAMOTO
Managing Editor

THE LIU Brooklyn Esports club and varsity team has gotten a major upgrade in their equipment and practice location with a brand-new gaming arena on campus, that opened on December 2, 2021.

The arena, located on the ground floor of Conolly Hall, has replaced the club's old arena that was located on the third floor next to the entrance of the Library Learning Center.

This new facility serves as the practice and competition location for the Esports club and brand-new varsity team.

Julian Vega, junior and vice president of the esports club, said the Esports club has grown significantly from last year, now boasting more than 70 members, and the arena gives them more opportunities as a club and team.

"Before we just had a really small arena right across from the library that could only fit maybe six or seven people at most," Vega said. "Now we [have] this huge space where everybody can be around and hang out with their friends,

play games, and have a great time."

While the Esports club has added nearly 60 new members since last school year, this is also the first year that the LIU Brooklyn campus will have an Esports varsity team.

The varsity team, which will be part of the LIU Athletic Department, will be led by head coach Matthew Taylor.

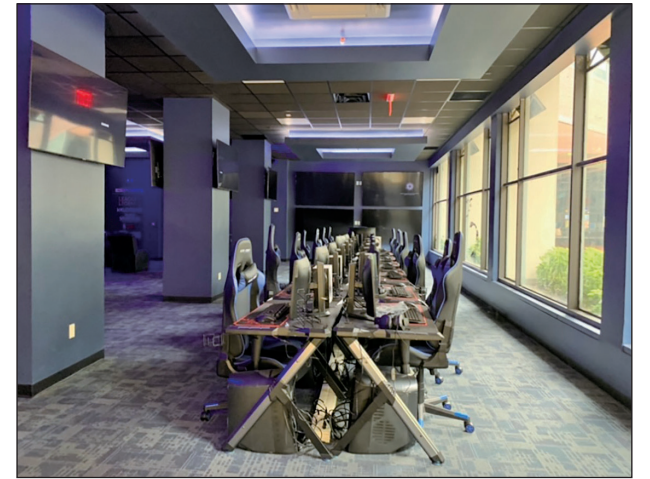
Taylor told Seawanhaka that the arena is a "beautiful opportunity" for LIU, and he hopes it will help in continuing to build a social program with the Esports club and team.

Taylor explained that throughout many college campuses, only a small percentage of students will associate themselves with Esports, while a great majority of them have some sort of interest in playing video games. A Pew Research study from 2018 found that 90 percent of teens, ages 13-17, play video games of any kind, whether on a game console, computer, or phone.

This divide between students who play video games and students who are part of



Left: The Esports club at the grand opening of the new arena on December 2, 2021.



Right: The new Esports arena is located on the ground floor of the Conolly Residence Hall on campus. Set with rows of computer monitors and gaming chairs, it will be the practice and competition location for the Esports club and varsity team. (Photos: Reyna Iwamoto)

the Esports program is something Taylor hopes to minimize.

"We are making it accessible to our whole student body — especially when we put a great deal of resources into the room — we want to make sure everyone has something they can get out of it," Taylor said.

For freshman Cora Dooley, this is the first time she is able to participate in an Esports club and have a "proper gaming computer."

"My [high] school [for-

med an Esports club] my last year of school, but due to COVID-19, I was not able to join," Dooley said. "I'm really excited to be able to participate in a club like this and share my interests with a bunch of people."

Jake Robertson, a freshman in the Esports club, told Seawanhaka that he is planning to try out for the varsity Overwatch team.

"I'm excited to meet new people and see play-styles I haven't seen before," Robertson said. "It's also exciting

to be meeting new people thanks to these experiences."

Tryouts for the Esports varsity team will be held by Taylor following the arena's opening at the end of the semester.

The LIU Post campus already has an established varsity team, so the Brooklyn team will be combined with them for competitions. Vega said that the new space is also shared with the Post campus team members.

While the Post varsity team has begun competing,

Vega said that the Brooklyn team aims to begin competitions starting in the spring semester.

As Esports members gear up for their season, Vega has been reaching out to other schools' Esports teams and various organizations with hopes to create connections in the community for events and future opportunities.

"I'm excited, I'm excited to see what happens with [the new arena], I'm excited to see what events that we can have [this season]," Vega said.



HOME COMING



Clockwise:

1. The LIU Football Team paraded out onto the field, garnering loud cheers from the crowd of students, friends, and family.

2. The LIU Women's Bowling Team was out in full force, supporting the Sharks at the 2021 Homecoming Game.

3. The stands were filled with spectators, eager to watch the first homecoming football game since COVID-19 hit.



4. The Homecoming Game took a moment to bring out the LIU Women's Fencing Team onto the field for photos.

5. Audience members cheered on the sharks during the game.

(Photos: Emma Cheatham)



Shark Scoop is a weekly roundup of five stories that examine developments in global, national, and local news, as well as a top headline in entertainment and sports.

BY AMAYA HENRY
Staff Reporter

Countries Rush To Stop Spread Of Omicron Variant

A new COVID-19 variant called Omicron has been identified by scientists in South Africa. So far, the COVID-19 variant has been detected in South Africa and Botswana, as well as in travelers to Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Hong Kong. Following this news, many countries including the United States have begun to impose travel restrictions from numerous African countries. Regarding the Omicron variant, President Biden said the situation is “cause for concern — not a cause for panic.”



The Omicron variant of COVID-19 was identified on November 25, 2021 by scientists in South Africa. (Photo: Reuters)

Native American Tribes Gather in Plymouth to Mourn Thanksgiving

A group of Native American tribes gathered in the seaside town where the Pilgrims settled, not to give thanks, but in mourning of Indigenous people who have suffered centuries of mistreatment and oppression. The town of Plymouth has held a National Day of Mourning observance on Thanksgiving day for the past 52 years. One member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag and Oglala Lakota tribes stated that their goal is to educate people so that they can understand the real truth behind the pilgrims arrival and how it has devastated the Native American community.



Supporters of Native Americans during a prayer during the 38th National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 2007. (Photo: Lisa Poole/AP)

Malcolm X's Daughter, Malika Shabazz, found dead in her Brooklyn Home

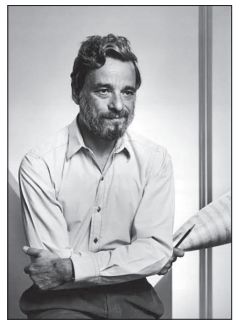
ACCORDING to police, Malcolm X's daughter, Malika Shabazz, was found dead in her Brooklyn home at around 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23. Shabazz's death follows the recent exoneration of the two men who were held responsible for the death of their civil rights activist father. At this time the police have stated that her death is not suspicious and that they are “absolutely not” looking for a suspect. Police said her death appeared to be due to natural causes.



Shabazz, 56, was the daughter of Black Civil Rights Activist Malcolm X. (Photo: Getty Images)

Broadway Legend Stephen Sondheim dies at 91

STEPHEN Sondheim, the songwriter behind many landmark musicals including, “Company,” “Follies” and “Sweeney Todd,” has passed away at 91. Over his astounding career Sondheim has won six Tony Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, an Academy Award, five Olivier Awards and the Presidential Medal of Honor. Following his passing, President of The Broadway League Charlotte St. Martin stated, “It is nearly impossible to measure Stephen Sondheim’s impact on the world of musical theatre. It is hard to imagine Broadway without him, but we know his legacy will live on for many years to come...”



Stephen Sondheim was considered one of the most important figures in 20th century musical theater. (Photo: Yousuf Karsh)



A.J. Henning, wide receiver for the Wolverines, celebrated after a touchdown against Ohio State. (Photo: Mike Mulholland/Getty Images)

Michigan Football Beats Ohio State for the First Time in a Decade

MANY Ohio State Buckeye fans were left shocked as the Michigan State Wolverines beat them with a score of 42-27 on Saturday, November 27. Michigan's big win against Ohio State since 2011 will send the Wolverines to the Big Ten championship game. Michigan won under coach Jim Harbaugh who was brought back this season despite a rough 2020 season. This win helped prove that Harbaugh still has what it takes to produce a winning team.

The Story Behind Our Namesake, Seawanhaka

BY AMAYA HENRY
Staff Reporter

THE LIU Brooklyn newspaper Seawanhaka was established in 1928. But what does “Seawanhaka” mean and what’s the history behind it?

Prior to colonization by European settlers more than 300 years ago, Long Island was home to thirteen Native American tribes. Long Island was initially known as “Sewanhacky,” the name signifying the abundance of quahog, or hard clam, on the island, which the tribes used to make “wampum,” that they used as money.

When Europeans came to Long Island, they brought deadly diseases with them, nearly wiping out the Native American population as a

whole. Over time, as the population of Native Americans continued to decrease, the Europeans drove them from their land, pursuing years of colonial oppression to Native Americans.

While the practice of land acknowledgment dates back centuries in Native communities, it is used today to recognize Native peoples who are the original stewards of the lands we live on now.

Long Island itself has its own Land Acknowledgement, but this past Indigenous People’s day, LIU Brooklyn issued its own.

In the agreement, the institution recognizes that Brooklyn was originally the “Lenapehoking,” or the “Land of the Lenape.”

It goes on to give more information about the other

tribes that used to inhabit the area and the tasks they completed in their daily lives. The purpose of this acknowledgement is to show respect and to honor the Native Americans who lived on this land before us.

While this acknowledgement brings positive awareness to Native Americans and their original ownership of land, cultural appropriation of Native culture on Long Island has recently been called out.

In 2020, Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park, New York reviewed their mascot for racial insensitivity. The school’s mascot is an “Indian” but is pictured as a Native American. This is already politically incorrect as the term “Indian” refers to the group of people from South

Asia and not the North American Natives.

A student from the high school told the Long Island Herald that she thinks the school district is exploiting the Native American mascot and its use to represent the school is a “shady, performative act of allyship.”

There was a petition to change the mascot and while it collected over 1,300 signatures and the movement generated powerful conversations, as of now, Sewanhaka High School’s mascot is still the Indians.

While we at this newspaper acknowledge that we bear a Native American name, we would like to make clear to our readers that we are honored to work under this title and we do not use this name as a mascot of any sort.



LIU Brooklyn issued its Land Acknowledgement this past Indigenous People’s Day. (Photo: @brooklynliupromise via Instagram)