

# THE PIONEER

Award-Winning Newspaper of LIU Post

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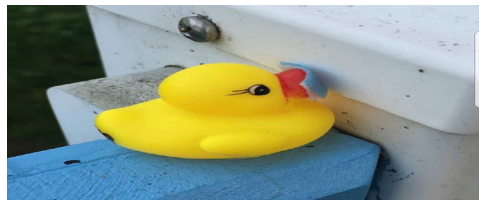
## Promise Creates New Platform for Clubs



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pg 2

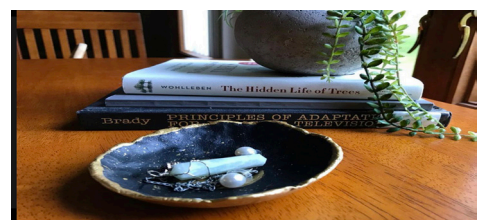
## Duck, Duck, Post



Since the beginning of the fall semester, several students have noticed the appearance of small, yellow, rubber ducks across campus.

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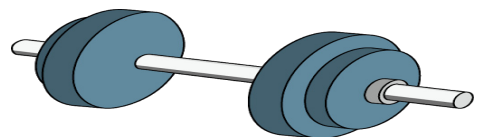
## ESTA Holds First Virtual Craft Fair



The Emerging Student Theatre Artists (ESTA) club began their first virtual craft fair via Instagram on Aug. 15.

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## Gym Experiences Post COVID-19



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, gyms and workout centers were places where an individual could attain higher standards of health and fitness.

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## University Creates Virtual COVID-19 Dashboard

### COVID-19 DASHBOARD

Campus	Reported Today September 23, 2020	Two-Week Period: September 12 - 26, 2020
Brooklyn	0	1
Post	1	5
Hudson	0	0
Brentwood	0	0
Riverhead	0	0

DYLAN VALIC

The university's COVID-19 dashboard

BY DYLAN VALIC

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The university has launched an online dashboard to track cases of COVID-19 on campus. This comes shortly after the creation of New York state's "COVID-19 Report Card," an interactive website that showcases how many positive COVID-19 cases are in schools around the state.

The university's dashboard shows how many positive cases have been reported daily, and how many cases have been reported in the current two week period. Reopening guidance issued by Governor Andrew

Cuomo states that any university in New York must have less than one hundred positive cases within the span of two weeks, otherwise they must transition to online learning.

The goal of the dashboard is to keep the campus community informed about updates relating to COVID-19 on campus, according to Chief Administrative Officer Joseph Schaefer and Chief of Student Affairs and Alumni Engagement Michael Berthel.

"That's our commitment to the community," Berthel said "that we're going to keep people updated and informed as we progress throughout the semester."

The dashboard will be updated daily, and will show all positive cases reported relating to members of the campus community, regardless where they receive their test results, according to Berthel.

The dashboard was given a rating of "C+" by "We Rate Covid Dashboards," a website run by two Yale University School of Public Health professors who evaluate different universities COVID-19 dashboards. The rating was updated from the universities previous rating of "F" for not having a dashboard available.

The New York state "COVID-19 Report Card" website features detailed information about the virus's impact on campus such as, the amount of testing done on campus, how many students are currently

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## Athletics Launches #LIUsingOurVoice Initiative

BY WHITNEY MORAN

STAFF WRITER

Summer 2020 sparked many conversations about life in America, with one of the most prominent ones being social justice and diversity. Protests for the Black Lives Matter movement continue on across America, and here on our campus, the athletic department has launched an initiative to support and amplify many of the diverse voices of our student athletes. Athletes have never just been solely athletes, and the university is giving a platform to student athletes to speak up about what they believe in.

Beginning with the hashtag #LIUsingOurVoice on both Instagram and Twitter, the athletic

department has announced the movement as a "student-driven social media initiative," taking the lead from many professional athletes to speak out about injustices in society. Over the course of the school year, many student athletes will comment about what the initiative means to them and how people can take action.

The first comment for #LIUsingOurVoice is from sophomore Noah Anderson, who said "Black lives matter. My Black life matters. I want to feel as though our black lives are valued, and not feared or condemned. I see myself in Tamir Rice. I see myself in Trayvon Martin. I see myself in Philando Castile. I remember being pulled over

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# #LIUsingOurVoice



COURTESY OF ATHLETICS

# Athletics Launches #LIUsingOurVoice Initiative

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for a dim tail light and being asked to step out of the car by the officer. I remember not thinking whether or not I had done something wrong but if I would make it home that night.”

The athletics department is doing what they can to encourage more athletes to share their experiences.

“Liking and sharing and commenting on the posts is the most impactful thing to do to support the initiative,” Director of Media Relations and Assistant Athletic Director Casey Snedecor said. “And follow LIU Athletics. Engagement on those posts helps those athletes see that their voices are being heard and that they matter, and that’s the goal of the initiative in the first place. We’d also love for athletes to continue to submit their experiences- it won’t be a very long program if nobody shares anything.”

The link for submission is in the @liuathletics Instagram bio.

This initiative is just one way that the administration is supporting student athletes, but it is one of the most valuable.

“I think it’s important to highlight and support our athletes. We try to do that always with our department accounts, but this has given us a chance to spotlight issues that matter to them,” Snedecor said. “Athletes’ voices have never been more impactful, and I think it’s important that the department and the university supports and encourages Sharks using their voices to impact positive social change. Social media is an easy avenue that we can use to amplify their voices, so I hope that #LIUsingOurVoices becomes a way that our athletes feel like they can speak up.”

The @liuathletics Instagram page states that #LIUsingOurVoice is “about amplifying what matters to our sharks, and celebrating what makes us who we are.”

Students can learn about the experiences of Post athletes on Instagram and Twitter through the tag #LIUsingOurVoice.



COURTESY OF ATHLETICS

The first post in the #LIUsingOurVoice

## Promise Creates New Platform for Clubs

BY THERESA MORRISSEY

STAFF WRITER

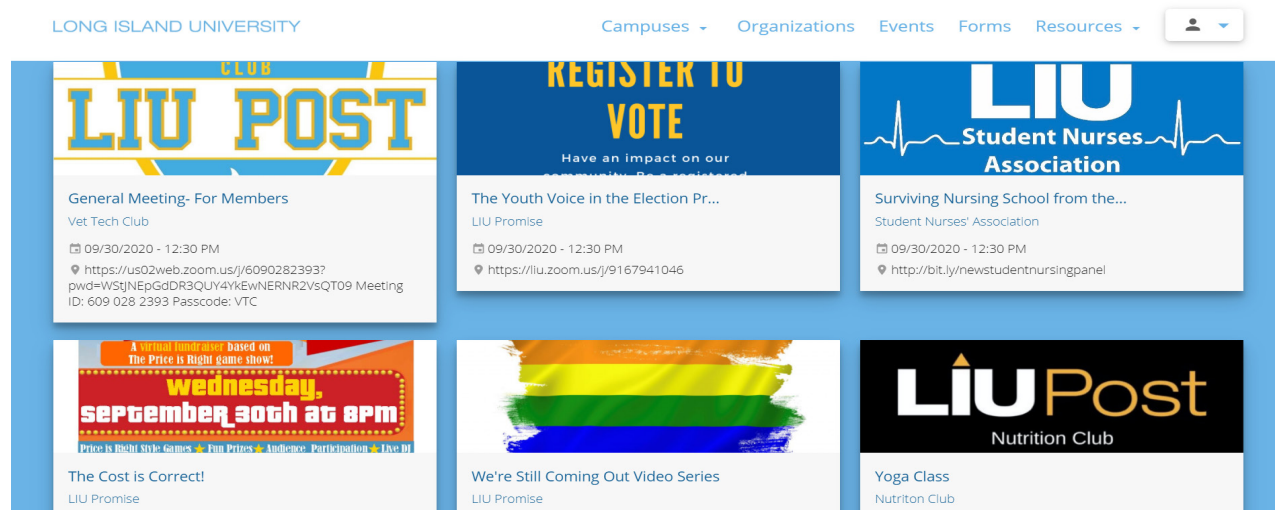
This semester, Promise will release a brand new platform for students and clubs on campus. This new website, Experience Shark Nation, is a more accessible way for students to stay involved with clubs and events happening on campus. The platform states that “getting connected to opportunities, experiences, and the LIU Community has never been easier.”

Experience Shark Nation is branded as a place for both students and clubs to find information and events. Students can use the service to “Find or create a club, get involved in service, and receive Shark Points that can be cashed in for LIU Gear and other prizes,” according to the Shark Nation website. Though it is not yet being advertised to students, clubs have trained on how to use it.

“[Promise] went over it at club training and walked us through some of its features and how to create a profile for our club. I think it’s easy to access and easy to navigate,” senior psychology major Nicole Ludwig and president of the Rainbow Alliance said.

On Sept. 18, Promise held a meeting for the e-boards of every club on campus. At this meeting, Promise presented the e-boards with the new COVID-19 guidelines for club events as well as a walk-through of Experience Shark Nation.

The new platform has more features and a



A list of upcoming events on the Experience Shark nation website

DYLAN VALIC

new streamlined design compared to the old platform that it is replacing.

“The last platform was a TinyURL link where a bunch of important links were listed,” Ludwig said. “It wasn’t set up somewhat like a social media site like this one, it was just a bunch of links.”

Senior musical theatre major, and president of the Emerging Student Theatre Artists club, Jaclyn Holiday is also a fan of the new design.

“The old website was specifically for submitting forms whereas on the new website you get to see all the different clubs and what they’re up to,” Holiday said. “This layout is much more concise and organized.”

Club leaders are using this website to reach

out to students on campus. With COVID-19 regulations, there is an added challenge to clubs trying to recruit new members.

“[The Coalition for Conservation] will be using it to list events and act as a means to connect with potential members,” Julie Williams, a junior acting major and president of The Coalition for Conservation club, said.

Once a club registers on this website, students will be able to get in contact with any club that they are interested in joining. Under each club, students can find details about them such as upcoming events, contact information, meeting times and locations and the club’s mission statement.



# Events this Week

## Wednesday, Sept. 30

- The Youth Voice in the Election | 12:30 p.m.  
Students can join Promise and the Nassau County Leauge of Women Voters for a discussion about the importance of the youth vote.
- Surviving Nursing School | 12:30 p.m.  
Students can join the Student Nurses' Asso- ciation for a panel showcasing Post's nursing program and discussing how to survive nursing school.
- The Price is Correct | 8 p.m.  
A virtual fundraiser hosted by the Cerebral Palsy Association.

## Thursday, Oct. 1

- Letters to Veterans | 10 a.m.  
Students can share words of appreciation for members of the United States military.
- Yoga Class | 12:30 p.m.  
Students can enjoy a virtual yoga class hosted by the Nutrition Club.
- Still Coming Out | 12:30 p.m.  
Students can enjoy an interactive program that uses historical items to highlight the needs of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Riggs Lawn Movie Night| 8 p.m.  
Students can enjoy a socially distanced screening of "The King of Staten Island" on the Riggs Lawn

## Monday, Oct. 5

- Salsa Magic Dance Night | 5 p.m.  
Students can join the College Agency for a salsa dance night.



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# University Creates Virtual COVID-19 Dashboard

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quarantined and how many hospitalizations have occurred as a result of the virus.

Information for the “COVID-19 Report Card” website is provided by universities, local health departments and testing locations, according to Governor Cuomo.

During the two week period from Sept.12 through Sept.25 the Post campus had a total of five positive cases, with an additional case reported on the Brooklyn campus, according to the university’s dashboard.

This number contradicts the New York state “COVID-19 Report Card” which states that the Post campus had a total of eight cases from Sept.12 through Sept.25. This discrepancy is because the university initially reported all positive cases to date to the Department of Health, according to Berthel.

Berthel is hopeful for the remainder of the semester, but stresses that

it will take a community commitment to stop the spread of COVID-19.

“If you look at the last two week period which ended this past week-end we were able to keep cases relatively low, which is a really good thing and I think a sign of a lot of success from good protocols and practices being in place, and also vigilance on behalf of the community,” Berthel said. “Wearing masks, social distancing and respecting one another, that’s all key to that as well.”

The university had previously been issuing COVID-19 related updates through email alerts and text messages to students. All of the university’s previous messages, as well as new updates, are available to read online on the “Coronavirus Update” section of the Long Island University website.

## Students React To Tiktok Controversy With Trump Administration

BY ZACHARY TABER

STAFF WRITER

Tiktok, a social media platform that has over 100 million active users in the United States, has garnered national attention because the Trump administration has put pressure on the app’s owners to strike a deal with a U.S. based company. According to President Donald Trump, the deal would require the Chinese based company that owns Tiktok, ByteDance, to transfer ownership of the app entirely to a U.S. based company. This comes out of a concern the Trump administration has that the app has been sharing information about its U.S. users with the Chinese Government.

Trump has spoken about his concerns regarding the app being controlled by ByteDance since July. Originally, Walmart and Oracle were to take a share in the app alongside ByteDance; however, in a recent statement, Trump said he won’t approve the deal unless one hundred percent of the app’s ownership is transferred to a U.S. company. If a deal isn’t worked out on his terms, the president has threatened to ban Tiktok in the U.S. altogether.

This back and forth regarding whether or not Tiktok will be allowed to have continued use in the U.S. has Post’s community of Tiktok lovers and influencers feeling conflicted about the future of the social media platform.

“Both the left and right sides of the government are joining together for the ban. As much as I love the app, I am worried about my own privacy since a lot of my personal information can be found on it,” Emily Szalkowski, a freshman business major, said. She currently has over 220,000 followers on her Tiktok account, @sourrpatchkidz.

Students have, for a long time, been actively engaged in and enjoyed the Tiktok community.

“TikTok allowed me for the first time in my entire life to truly showcase my own personal differences in a way that I can be proud of,” Jack Tomlinson, a junior physical and health education major said. Tomlinson is a Tiktok influencer who has amassed over 130,000 followers on his page, @JackTomlinson2000.

Szalkowski also reflected positively on the platform the app has provided people.



@sourrpatchkidz

328 Following 222.5K Followers 2.9M Likes



DYLAN VALIC

Emily Szalkowski’s Instagram profile

“Tiktok is one of the only platforms where the content is so genuine and real. A lot of creators touch on current events, so viewers are able to see different perspectives on modern day issues,” Szalkowski said.

With the intrusion of Trump’s administration into the safe space Tiktok has become for many users, some students have been worried about how this will impact the future of the app.

“I started creating content on this app to not only entertain myself but entertain others,” Tomlinson said. “With the involvement of politics, I feared it would take away from the true meaning of why I create [content].”

Some Tiktok influencers at Post have also been worried about how government influence might affect their ability to monetize their content.

“I would say most creators are concerned about losing the ability to make money and losing [their] followers if the platform just disappears completely,” Szalkowski said.

Still, students have acknowledged the occasional necessity for politics to play a part in Tiktok and other social media platforms. “The Trump administration posed a legitimate threat of potential challenges that could meet our country due to Tiktok’s ties with China,” Tomlinson said.

In fact, Tomlinson has an optimistic view about what Trump’s jurisdictions may do for the future of the app.

“Personally I do not see this deal doing anything to Tiktok in a negative aspect,” Tomlinson said. “I see this as a great opportunity to grow a still up and coming entertainment platform in the entertainment capital of the world; which is America.”

Szalkowski echoed Tomlinson’s optimism regarding Trump’s dealings and the future of Tiktok.

“I believe that Trump’s dealings will help [ensure user’s privacy]. Although he hasn’t been the greatest president, I do think that the government knows what they are doing with this,” she said.

Trump has not yet reached a final deal regarding Tiktok, but the future of this popular platform remains uncertain as negotiations continue.



# Princeton Review Recongizes LIU for the Fourth Consecutive Year

BY THERESA MORRISSEY  
STAFF WRITER

Long Island University has been recognized by The Princeton Review as one of the Best in the Northeast for the fourth consecutive year. The Princeton Review releases their survey to college administrators and students yearly; this year marks the 29th edition of the Review. The survey asked administrators from several hundred colleges in the Northeast about their school’s academic offerings, faculty members, resources, and financial aid. A portion of the survey also included input from 143,000 college students who gave input on various aspects of their campus. The Princeton Review surveys colleges on everything from academics, to best career services, and even which schools have the happiest students.

“We chose Long Island University as one of our 224 ‘Best in the Northeast’ primarily for its academics,” Princeton Reviews Editor-in-Chief Robert Franek said. “We also greatly considered what students enrolled at LIU reported to us on our student survey for this project.”

Students gave the university and their peers glowing reviews. Undergrads praised the

university faculty, claiming that they receive “personalized attention” and “individualized instruction” from their professors. Students also praised how the professors had “a career outside of the classroom” which allows them to showcase the real world through their curriculum. Students described the student body as “hardworking, helpful, intelligent, and creative” and mentioned how there are always events taking place on campus.

“We are thrilled to earn recognition for the fourth consecutive year from The Princeton Review’s annual college rankings of the best colleges for 2021,” Chief of Student Affairs and Alumni Engagement Michael Berthel said. “This ranking is especially important because it is based on student survey responses and further advances LIU’s position as a nationally recognized teaching and research institution.”

The 2019-2020 school year brought an abundance of new advancements for the university including the collaboration with Roc Nation to form the Roc Nation School of Music, Sports, and Entertainment and the George Polk School of Communications. The university also reached out into the community through the Global Service Institute, a comprehensive vol-

unteer app built and overseen by the university. The College of Veterinary Medicine was also launched and athletics debuted as the Sharks in NCAA Division 1 competition.

Kevin Williams, a junior accounting student, believes that the university deserves all the praise they received in the Princeton Review. “Throughout the whole pandemic, the staff were unbelievably understanding and devoted to providing a solid education and support system to students,” Williams said. Additionally, he credits the many resources available to students as another reason that students gave the university positive feedback. “LIU offers a great environment for students to excel both in and out of the classroom. It’s an overall great college if you’re looking to make a change for the better in your life.”



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## Duck, Duck, Post



Shayla Kaim and Ryan Kaim

Courtesy of @liu.dux instagram

BY ANTHONY BAUDONE

STAFF WRITER

Since the beginning of the fall semester, several students have noticed the appearance of small, yellow, rubber ducks across campus. The scavenged ducks were each marked with a number as well as the name of an Instagram account: LIU.dux. The account is the source of the mysterious ducks strewn about campus, and posts photos of the duck-discoverers. Several students have already found the elusive ducks that directed them to the Instagram page.

"I found out about the account when I got

lost on campus actually. I had gotten turned around and ended up at the labyrinth I think," Jenna Fisk, a freshman digital art and design major said. "I thought it looked pretty and was there early so I did some exploring and found the duck on the staircase, then found the account because of the writing on it."

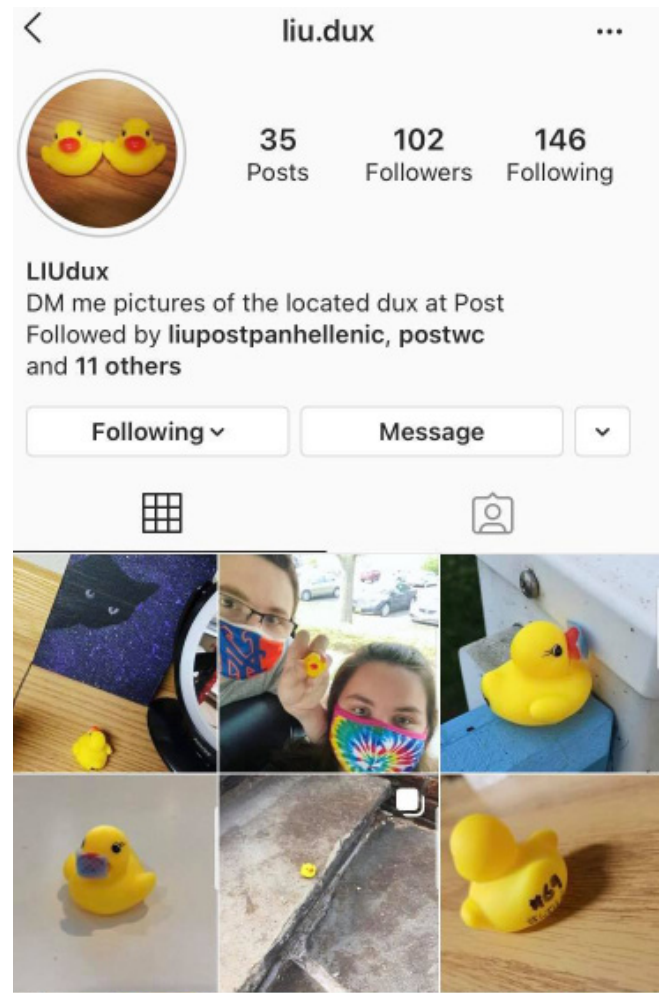
Katie Zarka, a sophomore art therapy major, said that they "saw the LIU.dux account at first on Instagram," and that they "found [their] duck over at Winnick Mansion next to the rose garden." Zarka found duck #70.

Similarly, Kara de Bruin, a freshman childhood education major, said they heard about the account from a friend and ended up finding their duck on a sign around campus. Shayla Kaim, a freshman childhood education major, found one of the elusive ducks when she was walking with her brother.

"My brother and I had no clue about the whole situation," Kaim said. "We were actually just walking and spotted the duck on a picture frame in the basement of the library, we saw the duck had the #liudux on it so we searched it up and found the Instagram page."

Despite the numerous duck findings, the LIU.dux Instagram page said that they have "98 [that] need to be found." The owner of the account is not known, nor is the purpose of the ducks aside from being an entertaining activity to liven up the campus, but they remain active in updating their audience on the status of located ducks. Not to worry; the ducks wear

masks to adhere to campus policy.



@liu.dux instagram

Dylan Vallie

## Making Social Distancing a Bit More Bearable

BY ALYSSA SPAGNA

STAFF WRITER

As the fall 2020 semester commences, students may be wondering what they can do to keep themselves occupied, while also preventing the spread of COVID-19. There are multiple opportunities to have fun or just unwind, while being safe and socially distant.

The outdoor movies held on Riggs Lawn are a fun and safe way to relax and spend time with friends. Matthew Sporrer, a senior dual major in theatre arts and international relations, says he found out about this event from "the campus posters and the inflatable TV right outside [his] window on Riggs Lawn."

Sporrer went to see "Knives Out" and said that it was an enjoyable experience, and that he felt safe while attending this event.

"Public Safety was there enforcing social distancing and it was outside. People were wearing masks and only took them off to eat snacks," he said. "Three people to a socially distant circle outside is a great way to keep us social in these socially distant times."

If students don't enjoy movies there are still a multitude of other things they can do on campus, such as eating socially distant at Winnick Dining Hall. Samantha "Samie" Friedman, a

sophomore political science major, enjoys going to this location to spend time with her friends, and do it safely.

"I feel safe eating inside at Winnick, not so much in Hillwood," Friedman said. "In Winnick I see maybe 15 people, at Hillwood I'd say it's about triple that."

Friedman suggests that students go to grab food with a friend, because sitting in a dorm room can get lonely.

"I think it's important to see people other than your roommate, and getting food together is a great way to do that safely, she said. "The capacity at any table is two people."

Friedman also thinks that students should just be able to do whatever they're comfortable with, regarding dining at school.

"If people are more comfortable with taking their food to-go, they should definitely do so, but I also think that eating at Winnick is a nice social experience," she said.

If any student is uncomfortable being in groups indoors, the Great Lawn is a great place to hang out, and get a nice view of the campus.

"I like to just sit on the Great Lawn with my friends to eat and do homework," Ally LaMont, a sophomore musical theatre major, said. "It's

a safe way to get things done and still be social."

LaMont encourages other students to find their favorite place outdoors to be able to safely see their friends.

"I know that some people are uncomfortable being in large groups inside. Finding a place to see each other outdoors is a great way to relieve stress and loneliness on campus."

This is only a short list of many events, and ideas that students can participate in to feel more as if they are getting the "college experience." More socially distant events can be found on the Promise Instagram page @postliu-promise.



Courtesy of Ally Lamont



# National Hazing Prevention Week



Students wear purple for anti-hazing awareness week

Courtesy of Kristina Occhino

BY DEAN JOANNOU

STAFF WRITER

Several fraternities and sororities participated in National Hazing Prevention Week from Sept. 20 through Sept. 25. Organized by HavingPrevention.org, a non-profit organization, Hazing Prevention Week is intended to spread the word about the dangers of hazing and to implore fraternities, sororities, sports teams and other groups not to partake in the dangerous practice. Founded in 2007, the organization seeks to provide education and resources, as well as to focus on preventing instances of hazing rather than dwell on how to punish existing guilty parties.

Delta Zeta was one of the Greek organizations on campus that participated in the national event. “This week as a community we wore

purple to raise awareness for hazing prevention and promoted it on social media,”

Kristina Occhino, a senior childhood/special education major and president of Delta Zeta, said. “As a chapter, we watched a Hazing Prevention seminar explaining situations and examples of hazing. This seminar allowed us to stop and reflect on our own chapter to make sure we were not participating in any such activities.”

Occhino also added that the sorority’s nationals held a second seminar Wednesday aimed to shed light on instances of hazing nationwide, even providing a quiz in poll form on social media platforms. This quiz, Occhino said, intended to “present scenarios and allow viewers to vote whether or not it is hazing; these scenarios are ones that may not be considered hazing to others to show what hazing actually

is.” Still, there are groups that publicly disavow hazing while privately condoning its use among members.

“At American hazing is not allowed. Despite that, hazing is the most important aspect of Greek life at AU,” Ari Kramer, a senior pre-law major and fraternity member at American University in Washington D.C., said. “Anyone who was part of the fraternity leadership had nothing to do with the hazing process, they had particular members of the fraternity in charge of hazing.”

Kramer added that the mentality toward hazing by the fraternity’s members could be summed up as “it happened to us so it has to happen to the next class.”

Kramer claims that of the nine weeks of pledging, only about six days were free of hazing. As to its nature, he asserts hazing was mainly physical, such as forced push-ups, planks, and wall-sits; all while the brothers in charge of the process yelled in their faces.

Alyssa Lawson, a sophomore adolescent education major who is a member of the panhellenic council on campus, says she was informed of LIU’s strict anti-hazing policy the second she received a bid, and reiterated that all Greek Life on campus wore purple on Monday, Sept. 21 in a show of support for National Hazing Prevention Week.

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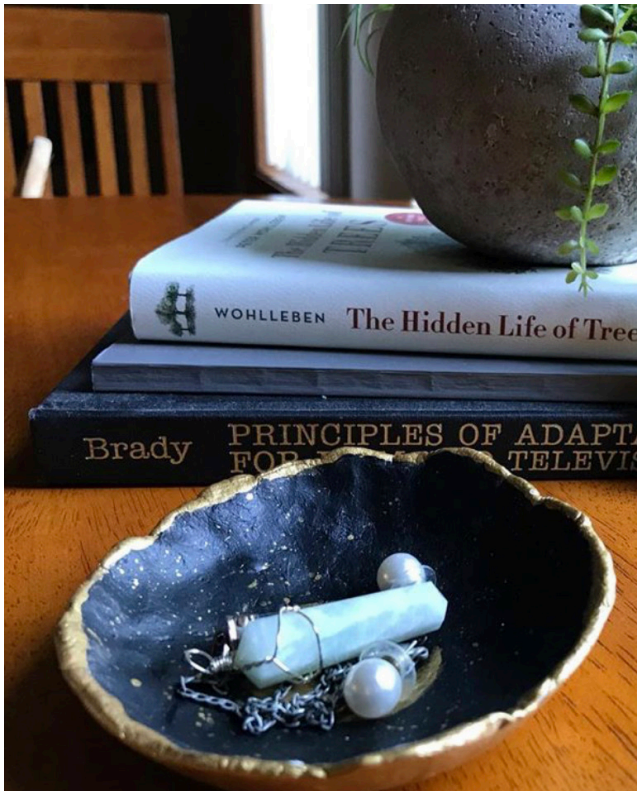
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# ESTA Holds First Virtual Craft Fair



Courtesy of Kylie Brown

BY WHITNEY MORAN

STAFF WRITER

The Emerging Student Theatre Artists (ESTA) club began their first virtual craft fair via Instagram on Aug. 15. ESTA is a student created club that normally specializes in theatre performances like small themed cabarets all the way to full scale musicals, however they shifted focus to cater to other forms of art last Sunday.

"The ESTA craft fair was started to showcase the amazing creations that members of our club were selling," Jaclyn Holliday, a senior musical theatre major and ESTA president, said. "We wanted to support them and their work while also highlighting to everyone in our club everything that could be bought."

The club members worked together to make the fair happen virtually. "My co-president Yaya Munoz had posted on our Facebook page asking any artist/creator who sells their work to post about it in the comments," Holliday said. "From there I had the idea to do a craft fair on the lawn to showcase everyone's amazing creations in person. Pearl Emerson, one of our

secretaries and one of the vendors at the craft fair, then took over the project and organized it to be online."

The craft fair mostly took place on Instagram, via the @esta.liupost accounts stories.

"We originally were going to set up booths outside and only let a certain number of people walk through at a time," Holliday said. "However, with the COVID-19 restrictions we had to put it all online. We showcased each artist on our instagram story and then posted bundles, a combination of different vendors' work that fit the same theme, on our Facebook page to be auctioned off. We had a starting bid for everything and gave everyone 24 hours to put their bid in. Then the highest bidder got the bundle."

For those who missed the fair, ESTA is unsure of plans to make another event for selling handmade items, but encourage students to follow their social media to gain insight on their future shows and events.

One of the crafts available from the ESTA Fair

## The Emmy's Go Virtual

BY SAM UBEL

STAFF WRITER

The 2020 Emmys was a night of firsts as it was filmed in 137 different locations due to COVID-19. Television host of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," Jimmy Kimmel, hosted the Emmys from a nearly empty Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. Nominees of the event tuned in from all over the world from the comfort of their own homes.

Kimmel opened up the awards show with a monologue that stressed the importance of television in today's society. "We've been quarantined and locked down. We've been confined to our homes like prisoners in a dark and lonely tunnel, and what did we find in that dark and lonely tunnel" Kimmel said. "I'll tell you what we found: a friend who is there for us 24 hours a day. Our old pal, television." He also went on to poke fun of the fact that he was performing to an empty audience and took a jab at President Donald Trump by saying the audience was empty because it wasn't a MAGA rally.

The 2020 Emmys also made history as 24-year-old Zendaya Coleman became the youngest Emmy winner for best actress in a drama for her role as Rue in HBO's "Euphoria."

"Watching Zendaya win makes me want to start watching [Euphoria]" senior arts management major Brianna Saverino said.

Also setting records was Canadian series "Schitt's Creek." The show won a total of nine Emmys this year, the most a comedy series has ever won in a single year.

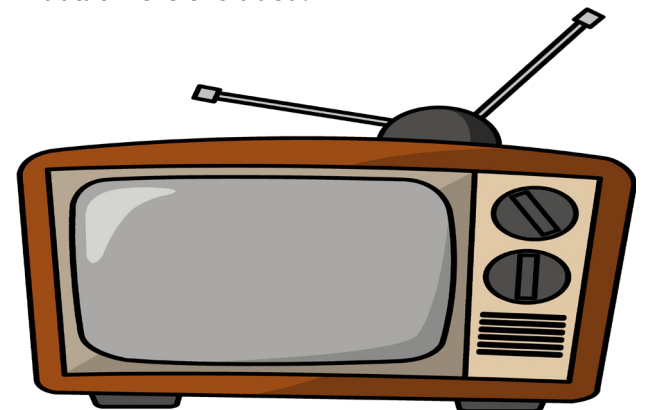


Television's biggest prize of best drama series went to HBO's "Succession" a chronicle of a treacherous, ultrarich media dynasty.

Many winners of the night spoke about the importance of voting and made statements about racial injustice in the United States. Tyler Perry, who received the Governor's award for extraordinary accomplishment, spoke about his grandmothers and how her experiences related to Black Americans.

While taking a moment to honor those in the entertainment industry who have lost their lives this year, H.E.R. performed a rendition of Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U" while a montage of pictures was played. The montage included photos of stars like Chadwick Boseman and Naya Rivera. However, fans were disappointed that Kobe Bryant, Nick Cordero and Kelly Preston weren't included.

"It's a very big shame," senior broadcasting major Anthony Cavarretta said. "Kobe did a lot for TV and deserves his place in the Emmy's memorial just as much as he deserves a spot in a memorial for fallen athletes. "Representatives for the Television Academy have yet to make a statement regarding why those individuals were excluded."





# Major League Baseball Playoffs Return

BY CONNOR LAMBERT

STAFF WRITER

Despite complications due to COVID-19 and this season having only 60 games, the 2020 Major League Baseball (MLB) postseason is set to entertain fans. On Tuesday, Sept. 29, the playoffs will begin in San Diego with the American League Wild Card Series. This season, the MLB expanded the playoffs from 10 teams to 16 to help give teams more chances due to the short season. Eight teams per league will make the playoffs. These include the top two teams in each division and the top two with the best records in their league who didn't finish in the top of their division. For the playoff brackets, the three division winners will get seeds 1-3, followed by the runner ups in each division getting 4-6, and the wild card teams getting 7 & 8.

The wild card round, which starts on Sept. 29 for the American League and Sept. 30 for the National League, will be a best of three series with no off-days and hosted by each league's top four seeds. Starting with the division series, the teams left will play at neutral site locations with the American League playing in San Diego and Los Angeles, and the National

League playing in Arlington and Houston. The series starts for both leagues Oct. 5 and goes through Oct. 10 at iconic ballparks such as Petco Park, Dodger Stadium, Globe Life Field, and Minute Maid Park. After that the National League Championship Series starts on Oct. 12 in Arlington, while the American League Championship Series will take place in San Diego beginning on Oct. 11. All leading up to the 116th World Series is scheduled for a best of seven series in Arlington's Globe Life Field starting on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The Oakland Athletics were the first team to clinch a division title, Sept. 21, with the Braves and Dodgers clinching on Sept. 22, followed by the Rays, Cubs, and Twins. Other teams who are postseason bound include the White Sox, Reds, Blue Jays, Yankees, Padres, Indians, Brewers, and Astros. Ever since the start of the 60 game MLB season, the Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees have been viewed as the World Series favorites. The Dodgers just clinched the No. 1 seed in the NL throughout the playoffs, while finishing with the best record in baseball, and have +350 odds to win the World Series. While the Yankees have dealt with lots of injuries and slumps this season they still are the second favorite to win the World

Series at +600, even with a possible tough wild card matchup against the White Sox looming. Other favorites to win the World Series are the Tampa Bay Rays (+650), Oakland Athletics (+1000), San Diego Padres (+1000), Chicago White Sox (+1100), Atlanta Braves (+1200), Minnesota Twins (+1200), and Chicago Cubs (+1500).

As so many exciting players highlight the 2020 playoffs, fans have a lot to look forward to this year whether or not their team is in the postseason. Jason Glickman, a senior broadcasting major, is excited for what the MLB playoffs have to offer. "Even though the Mets didn't make the playoffs, I can't wait to see young stars like Fernando Tatis Jr. and Lucas Giolito play in the postseason when it really counts," he said. Tatis Jr. is an MVP candidate this season, while Giolito is an ace and threw a no-hitter this season already.

Glickman thinks this postseason could be one of the most viewed in a long time. "With fans, not being able to go to games now and some people staying inside more, I think a lot more people will tune in and watch this year," he said. Like others, Glickman is excited about the playoffs in 2020, even if it will be significantly different this time around.

## College Sports Adapt to Covid-19 Restrictions



LEXI DELORIMIERE

STAFF WRITER

Fall sports are dealing with obstacles amidst COVID-19 restrictions. As of July 29, the Northeast Conference postponed all fall sports and championships in response to the challenges of COVID-19. The NEC council will re-evaluate competition options on Oct. 1. Due to these changes, each school will have opportunities for team practice and training following NCAA and public health guidelines. These circumstances create a struggle for athletes who are either returning to campus or continuing virtual learning.

The women's soccer team is one of many sports facing the hardships of not having a season this fall. Tiana Ono, a senior psychology major who plays outside back, acknowledged it has been challenging since getting back on the field. "Practices have been difficult with the social distancing and mask rules in place, it is

very hard to run sprints wearing a mask," she said. "I don't expect our season to be held in the spring or fall and I've made peace with the situation."

Ono said it was disappointing that her senior season is potentially cancelled but understands that there are more significant issues going on in the world.

Head Coach Collin Audley has an open and determined perspective during this time. "There will always be challenges and this won't be the only time that our group faces adversity. We are practicing patience, discipline, and being adaptable," he said. We are certainly all being challenged by the current scenario but if we let all the variables weigh us down, we can't set sail."

As a whole, the team is making the most of what they can do on the field. "There is plenty that we can gain by taking the steps directly in front of us, one foot after the other," Audley said. "We try to prepare for each day's tasks, perform our best, then reflect on how we can do better tomorrow."

Olivia Wesch, an outside back and junior business marketing major is excited to be back and has high hopes for their next season.

"I expect only good things this season. Coming back this year, there is already such a positive tone set by the group and everyone including me is so excited and thankful to even play," Wesch said. "Even if we don't have a season this year, I know that everything we do will carry into the following season and prepare us

for what we have to do."

Wesch said the team encourages each other by sending positive text messages since they are not physically able to be together as much. The soccer team practices five days a week and have made arrangements to stay active during the season.

Although these are uncertain times for athletes, teams are still working hard to find ways to improve and remain positive throughout the year. "Not knowing what is ahead is definitely a struggle, but I also think that it teaches us to live day by day and not worry too much about the future and do what we can, with what we have," Wesch said. Teams will continue to meet and train under the NCAA regulations until the NEC meeting in October.





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# “COVID Parties” Allegedly Take Place Across America

BY DANTE DELLAPORTA

STAFF WRITER

As people across the United States work to try and stop the spread of COVID-19, some citizens have begun indulging in risky behaviors that could lead to the virus spreading. One of the most alarming practices that have allegedly been taking place during this period of time, are the engagement of “COVID-19 Parties.”

While many are skeptical on partaking in any form of large social gathering, a peculiar tradition has supposedly awakened in the halls of college dormitories throughout America and various parts of the globe. These parties are said to involve an individual who knowingly possesses the virus, attending gatherings, with their non-infected peers subsequently gambling and placing money bets on which individuals will contract the virus next.

It has been roughly eight months since the threat of COVID-19 was introduced to the public by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). On Jan. 8, CDC officials issued their first public report surrounding the disease. Since the advent of such a historic moment of the 21st century, there has been widespread controversy regarding how humans should behave when dealing with the virus that has a current death toll of slightly over 196,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine Coronavirus Resource Center.

The disparity between the mindsets expressed by these party-goers, and your average citizen, supposedly stem from the belief in severity surrounding the virus. Some students are more willing to engage in these events due to the fact that some adhere to the idea that the virus and pandemic as a whole, is severely exaggerated, and many argue that some

measures that are being taken, are ridiculous.

“It sounds rather fantastical to be true, but we’ve also seen a precedent for how selfish and reckless young people and even the adults can be,” senior literature major at SUNY Purchase Tom Sclafani said.

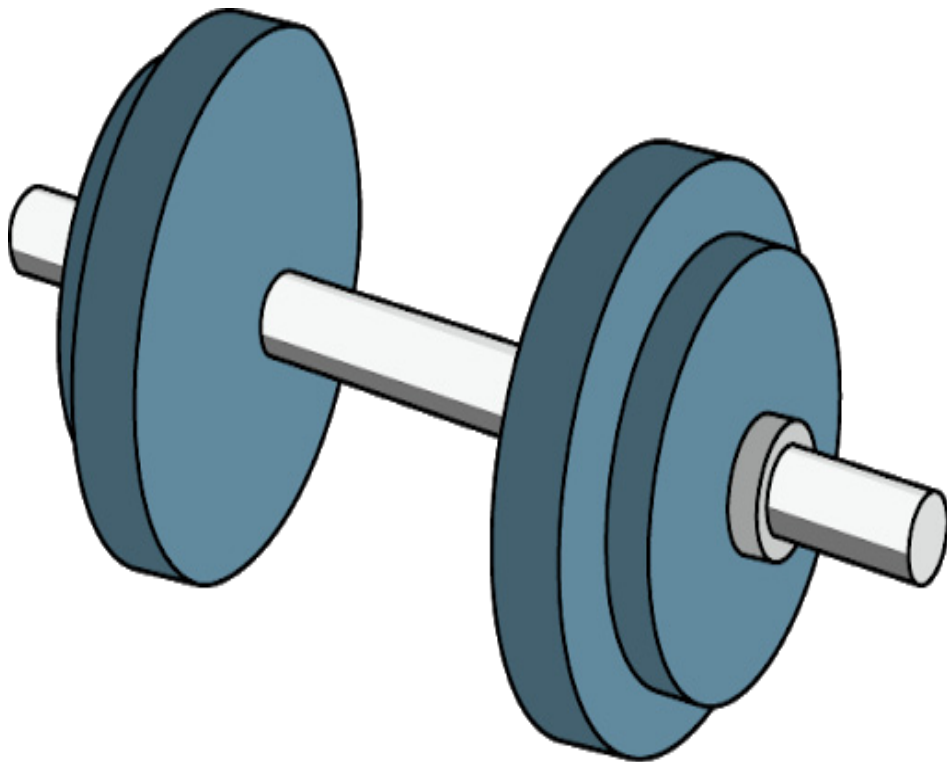
Sclafani believes that these parties are inevitable considering how the American public has been treating the virus. “Grown adults are having temper tantrums in retail stores and deluding themselves into thinking this isn’t as serious as it is, what should a college expect of people who are essentially still children,” Sclafani said.

Many have been skeptical of whether or not these parties have actually been taking place with the intention that several reports initially claimed these parties allegedly had. Some such as ABC News’ Ella Torres, suggest that “there’s little evidence to suggest partygoers want to get sick on purpose.” Torres further states that “a spokesperson for the Florida Department of

Health told ABC News that they were aware of ‘media articles’ about ‘COVID parties.’ However, they did not specify whether or not they themselves had been told of such parties.”

According to Torres, a more likely alternative to the above mentioned narrative, is that students were attending, and hosting parties regardless of colleges demanding they not take place, without the intent to gamble on the outcomes. Nonetheless, despite the intentions of the parties, they are sure to have unintended consequences. As stated in a published report from the PubMed Central (PMC) “viral transmission from asymptomatic carriers are possible.” Due to this possibility, it is heavily recommended that students maintain social distancing practices and maintain proper mask wear at appropriate times.

## Gym Experiences Post COVID-19



Morgan Carvino, a Crunch gym employee and personal trainer, has been having a very different work experience compared to before the pandemic hit. New regulations have been put in place to ensure the safety of anyone who uses the gym. All gym members are expected to wear masks for the entirety of their workout, including cardiovascular activity, and his gym is only able to operate at 30 percent.

The gym that Carvino works at has had to hire more staff in order to keep up with cleaning and sanitizing. So while the gym is making less money due to the decrease in capacity, they are also forced to pay for additional staff. He also said that the gym is heavily enforcing the wiping down of machines before and after use, in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus. “This is probably the only good thing that has come out of this situation,” Carvino said. “People rarely wiped down the machines after they were used prior to the pandemic.”

Carvino emphasized that aside from the changes that have occurred in an attempt to keep things clean, the social aspect of the gym has been sterilized as well. “It is just so quiet,” he said. “It’s hard to talk and catch up with friends and acquaintances. It is just a bit awkward so everyone kind of avoids each other.”

Carvino feels that while the gym is still operational, it doesn’t feel the same as it once did.

“I think you should at least be able to take your mask off if you are at a machine or on a treadmill,” he said. “Masking the whole time is a bit excessive and makes working out harder. The gym used to be a social place but now everyone keeps to themselves. It is sad to see and it is not the same environment that it used to be”

BY MARIAH MUSTO

STAFF WRITER

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, gyms and workout centers were places where an individual could attain higher standards of health and fitness. Now, Gyms are just another location where folks are made to feel at risk for contracting COVID-19. Similar to most businesses, the gym environment has been severely altered after the rise in awareness of COVID-19.

# Dark Chocolate

BY NAJEE HUNT

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**Editor's Note:** *The Personal Essays section of the paper is one that invites students to share their personal experiences and thoughts about subjects they are passionate about. The author is not affiliated with The Pioneer, but has given us permission to publish their work.*

12:24am

Staring in the mirror above the sink in my bathroom.

Admiring the reflection as the droplets of water trickle down the structures of my face.

Embracing each and every imperfection God has perfected.

Acknowledging my deep dark chocolate complexion.

Remembering the youthful era of my existence when the darkening of complexion was a curse for me.

Almond to Milk Chocolate

Milk Chocolate to Dark

Sweet to Bitter

Admired to Disregarded

Fascinated by the bitterness in its taste

I have allowed it to make its bed in the pit of stomach

The Bitterness converted to Hatred

And hatred is how I felt about the skin I was living in

It was said the dark the berry, the sweeter the juice.

The darker the flesh, the deeper the roots.

But that was just a euphemism for the dark skin sons and daughters - men and women to find beauty in their dark skin.

Those were the words that we held tightly to our beating hearts to find the love within when our minds were clogged with the overpowering forces of hatred.

"Pudda, I love your dark skin. You're the chocolate baby I never had. You are so handsome."

"Grandma, I hate how dark I am? I wish I was much lighter. I am ugly."

She was speechless, but I was seeking answers of why I hated him, why I hated me.

As we begin to develop as young men, we were taught about puberty. The growing of hair all over our bodies, the pimples upon our faces, the cracking of our voices to the bass that will be left in its place and the development of a substance that assist in the process of reproduction.

We were taught about the birds and the bees. To protect our vulnerable manhood with latex jackets from attracting any unwanted disease or an unplanned fatherhood - shoes far too big to walk a mile in.

But we were never taught about colorism.

As children, we ran in and out of corner stores to buy candy, ices and a bunch of snacks



Courtesy of Najee Hunt

that increase the sugar levels in our bodies. Ignoring the paper bags that they were so gently placed in by the lovely owners of our corner store bodegas.

But would you believe me if I told you that those were the same paper bags placed by the faces of black men, women and children to determine their value - how worthy they were, was determined by the light tan hue of a bag.

A concept that we wish was abandoned when the chains were shackled around our feet and segregation played its part in actively keeping us in poverty.

Transcended into the 21st century.

When my younger self stood in front of the same mirror above the sink in my bathroom to look at my reflection - discontent with my complexion because of the lack of representation.

As we began to develop as young men

We were taught about masculinity

We were told to maintain a tough interior and exterior

Refrain from wearing our emotions on our sleeves

But they forgot to teach us about the treatment we will receive.

When they see my dark skin, when they see our dark skin

Fascinated by the freckles

Soft hazelnut green grey eyes

And the buttery caramel skin

Dark chocolate was never the trend

We were scary

We were intimidating

We spoke too loud even when we were whispering

We argued too much even when we were expressing

We were too angry even when we were hurting

The opportunities were never overflowing

We always had to play the defense because someone was always trying to tell us that were not right the fit.

That we do not meet the qualifications even when our resumes were long and extensive.

Blatantly shouting

Overtly confessing

That the darker we are, the lower we should be.

And do you know how that feels

As a young man

To not have control over perception

To be burdened with reflections from

people's projections

Now...

When we flip through magazines

And turn on our television screens

We are flooded with chocolate faces

It puts a smile on my face, but I question this objective.

Are people finally standing with us to acknowledge the problem or are they trying to pull a scheme for a diversity campaign?

Please stop using my face, my body, my experience to meet a quota.

No longer do I want to stand front and center on your auction block to be sold to the highest bidder, the highest supporter.