Culinary Excellence
Spearheaded by Miami Culinary Institute alumna Sachi Statz, the Tinta Y Café restaurant was recently recognized in the prestigious Michelin Guide.

Manning The Point
Abdiass “Speedy” Carcamo hopes to return to full strength after playing eight games last season for the men’s basketball team due to an Achilles injury.

Taylor’s Back!
After a two-year hiatus, Taylor Swift put the pop world into a frenzy with her new album Midnights. The project was released on Oct. 21.

Be Grateful
Hugo Guillen recalls his childhood memories in Peru’s impoverished neighborhood to encourage readers to be grateful for living in the United States.

Urbana Begins New Chapter After Winning Its First Magazine Pacemaker

When a trailblazing band of students at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus contemplated starting a literary arts magazine in 2007, they asked professor Emily Sendin to be their advisor.

Fifteen years later, Urbana, which originally spawned as an online product with only six members, has morphed into a literary heavyweight that features about 20 members and has won more than 100 national and state awards.

The magazine has a weekly podcast—Urbanites, a robust social media presence, a YouTube channel and a yearly print edition.

Last month, the publication won its first magazine Pacemaker at the Fall National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct 28.

Sendin, who was inducted into the Florida College System Activities Association Hall of Fame last year, has been the publication’s driving force.

But this school year, the 48-year-old, who has taught English, literature and creative writing at Miami Dade College for the past 23 years, was forced to relinquish the reins of the magazine she birthed.

On Aug. 22, Sendin was replaced by composition and literature professors Alicia Garcia and Omar Figueras.

The action is a result of a stipulation enacted at Padrón Campus in 2018 that doesn’t allow a professor to oversee the publication for more than three years—unless no one new applies.

Garcia and Figueras were selected by a faculty member from the Communication, Arts & Philosophy Department who was asked to oversee the process by the department chair.

Urbana is the only Miami Dade College magazine to use this policy.

“The action is a result of a stipulation enacted at Padrón Campus in 2018 that doesn’t allow a professor to oversee the publication for more than three years—unless no one new applies,” said Garcia, who has taught English, literature and creative writing at Miami Dade College for the past 23 years, was forced to relinquish the reins of the magazine she birthed.

On Aug. 22, Sendin was replaced by composition and literature professors Alicia Garcia and Omar Figueras.

“Tuba” is the only Miami Dade College magazine to use this policy.

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” is the only Miami Dade College magazine to use this policy.

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership
Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“Tuba” been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree in English from Florida International University. She added that she has been on campus a while.”

“Tuba” isn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”
School Of Justice Instructor Wins Jiu-Jitsu Championship

Steven Tarrago, an instructor at the North Campus School of Justice, won a gold medal in the lightweight division at the 2022 World Master International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation Championship. The tournament took place in Las Vegas, Sept. 1 through Sept. 3. Tarrago previously won a silver medal at competition in 2019 and 2020.

“The more you enjoy doing something, the more you want to do it and excel,” said Tarrago, who has been active in martial arts for 45 years. To prepare for the competition, Tarrago lifted weights, sparred, did mobility training, and developed breathing techniques and performed visualization strategies twice a day for several months. He lost 21 pounds during the past year to compete in his weight division.

The 58-year-old has black belts in karate, kung fu, Indonesian knife fighting and close quarter combat. He is working on a fifth black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Tarrago started his law enforcement career at the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department in April of 1988 where he worked until July of 2017. From July of 2017 to August of 2020, he served as the project manager for Feick Security. He has served as a detective in the criminal investigations division for the Miccosukee Police Department since August of 2020.

Tarrago, who graduated from the Miami Dade College Police Academy in 1988, has been an instructor at the School of Justice since 2019.

— Nicole Del Rio

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship Is Accepting Applications

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation is accepting applications until Jan. 13. Goldwater scholars can receive up to $7,500 for the academic year to cover tuition, fees and any additional needed supplies. Eligible students must be U.S. residents or citizens, be full-time sophomores or juniors, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and intend to pursue research in natural sciences, math or engineering.

Interested students must submit a pre-application to Magda Castineyra, the interim dean of The Honors College, who serves as the Goldwater Representative at Miami Dade College. The pre-application can be completed online at https://bit.ly/3SOGDsc. If selected as a strong candidate by the Goldwater representative, students will complete a full application consisting of one questionnaire, three letters of recommendation and college transcripts.

For more information or to check your pre-application status contact Castineyra at mcasin1@mdc.edu or (305) 237-3381.

— Veronica Romano

Homestead Campus Appoints Dalia LaFargue As Interim Chair For Math And Science Department

Dalia LaFargue was appointed as the interim chair of the Math and Science Department at Homestead Campus on Aug. 1. LaFargue, 58, will oversee the department’s faculty, course offerings and education projects.

“I am honored by this great opportunity to serve as a guide and mentor to students interested in science,” LaFargue said.

LaFargue began working at Homestead Campus in 2009 as an adjunct professor teaching anatomy and physiology before becoming full-time. Six years later, she became a grant coordinator for the Strategic Improvements for Students in STEM. In 2020, she became the SIS-STEM’s associate director.

She has a doctorate degree in general medicine from the University of Medical Sciences of Havana, a master’s degree in public health from Purdue University Global and a master’s degree in anatomy and physiology from Northeast College of Health Sciences.

— Nicole Del Rio

Scholarship Program For Nursing Students Available Through Nov. 16

Nikklaus Children’s Hospital is accepting applications for its Nurse Scholars Program. The initiative allows ten Miami Dade College nursing students to do a four-semester pediatric nursing internship, observe licensed nurses perform day-to-day activities. Additionally, the program will offer recipients up to $10,000 to cover tuition costs. Eligible applicants must be eligible to work in the United States, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and be a part of MDC’s nursing program.

Applications can be completed through Edexe at https://bit.ly/3Czwfyh. The deadline to submit is Nov. 16.

— Aubrey Fosherna

Kendall Campus To Open Esport Game Room

Kendall Campus will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate its new Esports Room on Nov. 15. Miami Dade College students can use the space starting on Jan. 4 said Campus President Anthony Cruz.

Located in Room 101, the 12,174 square-foot facility will contain 20 gaming computers equipped with 32 gigabytes of RAM, high-end NVIDIA video cards and Intel eight core processors. Each computer will be equipped with a 27-inch high-refresh rate monitor, a gaming mouse and keyboard. Gaming computers will be pre-loaded with popular games such as Dota 2, League of Legends, Overwatch and Fortnite.

“The room can accommodate up to 30 people at a time. Reservations for the facility will be available through a web page expected to be developed by next Spring semester. Hours of operation will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Kendall Campus Student Life at (305) 237-2321.

— Alyson Castillo

Miami Dade College Set To Launch New Coding Program

Miami Dade College will launch Miami Codes, a project that aims to help minority students improve their computer programming skills. Courses will take place at West Campus next Spring. They will be offered through Apple’s community education initiative that offers two rigorous, eight-week iOS app development courses using Swift—an increasingly popular programming language.

Aside from providing the necessary hardware to complete the course, the program will cover participants’ tuition, certification and commuting costs.

To register, fill out the form provided at this link.

— Nicole Valente

Wolfson Campus Adds Phone Charging Lockers

The Wolfson Campus now features three Chargetech stations, allowing students to safely store and charge their cell phones for free in a secured static locker.

 Stations are located in the building 1 atrium, the student life patio in building 2 and the building 1 breezeway.

Each station includes eight mobile-friendly lockers containing one Apple Lightning cable and one Type-C PD cable for Android devices. Every cubicle also features a UV-C disinfection module for sanitation.

To use a station, students must select a locker, create a password and store their device. To retrieve it, users must enter the created password. The maximum time limit on how long devices can be stored.

For more information, contact Wolfson Campus student life department at (305) 237-3536.

— Nicole Valente

Miami Dade College Online Appoints New Vice President Of Academic & Learning Technologies

Nestor Pereira was appointed as the new Vice President of Academic & Learning Technologies at Miami Dade College Online on Sept. 26.

“Tm looking forward to helping all our students achieve success through the use of cutting-edge and innovative technology tools,” Pereira said.

Pereira, 47, will lead the division’s instructional technologies and services that include the learning management system, instructional technologies, testing, online learning, student engagement, and collaboration.

Prior to MDC, Pereira worked as an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University from 2003 to 2009. A year later, he started a seven-year stint as the campus technology officer at Broward College’s Central Campus.

After serving as the dean of business affairs & innovation at Broward College’s South and Online campuses from 2017 to 2020, Pereira worked as an associate professor at Nova Southeastern University in 1996. Four years later, he earned his master’s degree in educational technology from Nova Southeastern University.

— Veronica Romano

Miami Dade College Online Appoints New Vice President Of Academic & Learning Technologies

Nestor Pereira was appointed as the new Vice President of Academic & Learning Technologies at Miami Dade College Online on Sept. 26.

“Tm looking forward to helping all our students achieve success through the use of cutting-edge and innovative technology tools,” Pereira said.

Pereira, 47, will lead the division’s instructional technologies and services that include the learning management system, instructional technologies, testing, online learning, student engagement, and collaboration.

Prior to MDC, Pereira worked as an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University from 2003 to 2009. A year later, he started a seven-year stint as the campus technology officer at Broward College’s Central Campus.

After serving as the dean of business affairs & innovation at Broward College’s South and Online campuses from 2017 to 2020, Pereira worked as an associate vice president for academic & learning technologies and enterprise resource planning at MDC until his current role.

Pereira obtained his bachelor’s degree in business communications from Florida International University in 1996. Four years later, he earned his master’s degree in educational technology from Nova Southeastern University.

— Veronica Romano

Miami Dade College Online Appoints New Vice President Of Academic & Learning Technologies

Nestor Pereira was appointed as the new Vice President of Academic & Learning Technologies at Miami Dade College Online on Sept. 26.

“Tm looking forward to helping all our students achieve success through the use of cutting-edge and innovative technology tools,” Pereira said.

Pereira, 47, will lead the division’s instructional technologies and services that include the learning management system, instructional technologies, testing, online learning, student engagement, and collaboration.

Prior to MDC, Pereira worked as an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University from 2003 to 2009. A year later, he started a seven-year stint as the campus technology officer at Broward College’s Central Campus.

After serving as the dean of business affairs & innovation at Broward College’s South and Online campuses from 2017 to 2020, Pereira worked as an associate vice president for academic & learning technologies and enterprise resource planning at MDC until his current role.

Pereira obtained his bachelor’s degree in business communications from Florida International University in 1996. Four years later, he earned his master’s degree in educational technology from Nova Southeastern University.

— Veronica Romano

Miami Dade College Online Appoints New Vice President Of Academic & Learning Technologies

Nestor Pereira was appointed as the new Vice President of Academic & Learning Technologies at Miami Dade College Online on Sept. 26.

“Tm looking forward to helping all our students achieve success through the use of cutting-edge and innovative technology tools,” Pereira said.

Pereira, 47, will lead the division’s instructional technologies and services that include the learning management system, instructional technologies, testing, online learning, student engagement, and collaboration.

Prior to MDC, Pereira worked as an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University from 2003 to 2009. A year later, he started a seven-year stint as the campus technology officer at Broward College’s Central Campus.

After serving as the dean of business affairs & innovation at Broward College’s South and Online campuses from 2017 to 2020, Pereira worked as an associate vice president for academic & learning technologies and enterprise resource planning at MDC until his current role.

Pereira obtained his bachelor’s degree in business communications from Florida International University in 1996. Four years later, he earned his master’s degree in educational technology from Nova Southeastern University.

— Veronica Romano
Child’s Play: The cast of *Insectos y Bicharracos*, a play by four-time Grammy nominee Rita Rosa Ruesga, captivates the audience at the Miami Beach Bandshell on Oct. 2.

Dancing In The Dark: Oneysis Valido dances across the stage at the Miami Beach Bandshell Oct. 2 during the first installment of Arts in the Park series.

Intrigued: In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the cast of the children’s play, *Insectos y Bicharracos*, illuminated the stage at Miami Beach Bandshell on Oct. 2.

Serenading The Crowd: Rita Rosa Ruesga engages with the crowd during a performance of her original play, *Insectos y Bicharracos*. The production commenced the Arts in the Park series at the Miami Beach Bandshell on Oct. 2.
Vice Provost Of Human Resources To Retire After 19 Years At MDC

Iliana Castillo-Frick, the vice provost of human resources at Miami Dade College, is set to retire after 19 years at the school. Her last day in the office will be Oct. 27.

By Juan S. Gomez
juan.gomez@mdc.edu

Beate Hughes-Brown was looking for guidance when she connected with Iliana Castillo-Frick.

Following a workforce development program hosted by the University of Miami in 1993, the pair discussed how Hughes-Brown could transition from the hospitality field to human resources.

Twenty-seven years later, Hughes-Brown is a seasoned human resource administrator with experience at companies like Bank of America, Norwegian Cruise Lines and Feld Entertainment.

“If not for her, I would not be where I am today,” Hughes-Brown said.

Hughes-Brown’s testimony is not unusual. Castillo-Frick has mentored human resources professionals for the past four decades, earning a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Miami Society for Human Resources Management in 2000.

After leaving her mark in the human resources arena for almost 43 years, Castillo-Frick is retiring from Miami Dade College.

Her last day in the office will be Oct. 27.

“It’s time to move to this next journey in my life,” said Castillo-Frick who worked at MDC for 19 years. “I still have my mother who’s 93 and I want to spend time with her.”

Early Beginnings

After arriving from Havana, Cuba when she was 15, Castillo-Frick and her family settled in Hialeah. The youngster quickly developed an affinity for cultures and languages such as French, Spanish and German.

While at Hialeah Senior High School, she dreamed of becoming an interpreter for the United Nations. By 1976, Castillo-Frick had earned an associate’s degree in languages from North Campus.

During her time at MDC, Castillo-Frick began working in the accounting department for a now-defunct company that specialized in floor manufacturing. After earning a bachelor’s degree in hospital management and French from Florida International University in 1979, the company asked her to lead their personnel department.

Since then, Castillo-Frick has devoted her life to human resources. In 1984, Castillo-Frick became the employee relations manager for Wachovia—a now-defunct financial services company. Eight years later, she transferred to Bank of America where she served as a human resources and recruitment manager until 2006.

That same year, she began a two-year stint as the senior executive vice president for corporate resources at the United Way. Following a gap year, she started at MDC, first working as an associate senior vice provost for human resources until becoming the vice provost in January of 2007.

“Her leadership contributed to the professional growth of our organization and our community. We wish her all the best,” Hughes-Brown said.

Ready To Enjoy Life

For the past two decades, Castillo-Frick has been a member of the United Way and March of Dimes—two non-profit organizations that help improve their education, financial stability and health. In 2016, the United Way appointed her as the chair for Women’s Leadership. From 2016-17, she led a 48-member executive council to promote and fill out a Google form application. Participants have experience while others have never ventured into the field.

Participants can work a maximum of five hours per week on projects. They will meet on Zoom for client or brainstorming sessions and use Room 2103 at the BIT Center.

While the program is in its infancy, it essentially hopes to have students with multiple experiences throughout all eight MDC campuses.

“They may be different from each other in life and that’s really what we want to help them with,” said Chechu Lasheras, the BIT Center director.
in linguistics from Florida International University. "It's time for me to start carving out relationships with students outside the classroom." 

Previously, the 41-year-old taught English to elementary school students in South Korea before becoming an English, literature and journalism teacher at LaSalle High School from 2006 to 2016.

Outside of the classroom, Garcia’s passion for theater led her to co-founded the Society Circus Players improv troupe in 2014. For the past six years, she has also taught improv at local after-school programs.

On Sept 21, Garcia used her acting experience to lead an improv workshop that helped Padrón Campus students sharpen their improvisation and storytelling skills.

"I'm super happy that this is something I get to do," Garcia said. "My priority is that the students feel supported in what they want to do."

Figueras, who has a bachelor’s degree in humanities from FIU and a master’s degree in creative writing from Spalding University in Kentucky, has taught English at Padrón Campus for more than two decades.

According to a 2016 YouTube interview, he said his love for English stems from his childhood when his father bought him composition notebooks.

He has served as an advisory board member for Reading Quere—a writing academy—and as fiction co-editor for the online literary magazine Blood Lotus. His work has been featured in the Composite Arts Magazine, Penumbra Literary Magazine and The Louisville Review.

Figueras previously co-advised Urbana with Sendin from 2016 to 2019. He did not respond to these email requests for an interview for this story.

Humble Beginnings

In 2007, as Sendin prepared to start Urbana, she reached out to Martha Magellan, who at the time was advisor to Mambiente, Kendall Campus’ literary magazine.

With Magellan’s help, Sendin learned layout design, the importance of photos and graphics and how to mentor students.

"She was an amazing resource," Sendin said. "She sat with me and taught me the ropes."

In the first few years, Sendin scrambled to find space to host Urbana meetings.

"A lot of the meetings took place in my office where we just sat on the floor to fit," Sendin said. "It was a small group."

The magazine launched its debut volume in 2008 with a limited print run of 100 copies. Eventually, students learned how to navigate intellectual property rights and sharpen their design skills.

Fifteen years later, they are among the nation’s elite.

Urbana’s awards include back-to-back Gold Crown Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, two first-place Pinnacle awards from the College Media Association and a first-place general excellence recognition from the Florida College Systems Publications Association last March.

Urbana has also won first-place individual awards from the ACP, CSPHA and FCSPA in categories like short stories, poetry, creative writing, editing, artwork design and photography.

Last year, their efforts earned them a coveted Innovation Pace-Maker Award in October of 2021.

Building A Community

Students who have participated in Urbana say the magazine has shaped their lives.

Nicole Vitoria started her first year of college pursuing an associate’s degree in veterinary sciences. She joined the magazine to explore her love for creative writing and storytelling.

After working on the publication’s podcast and writing segments for the magazine, Vitoria was introduced to how Urbana connected to the Little Havana community that surrounds the campus. Inspired by her experiences, she changed her major to English and is now one of Urbana’s co-editor-in-chiefs.

The 19-year-old credits Sendin with being instrumental in her journey, often receiving constructive criticism and reassurance from the long-time professor.

"Professor Sendin is someone who really cares," said Vitoria, a sophomore in the Honors College. "She’s understanding, passionate and really cares about making a difference.

This year, Vitoria and her team, which includes co-editor-in-chief Maria Abajante Albarracin, aim to revamp Urbana’s TikTok presence and host more collaborative events with other clubs and organizations at Padrón Campus.

For students like Erika Hernandez, Urbana offers a sense of community.

Despite the heavy workload and strict deadlines, the tight-knit group thrives on strong communication and encouragement.

"It’s a supportive environment," said Hernandez, a second-year psychology student. "We accept all kinds of ideas since we really want people to express themselves freely."

Davila echoes Hernandez’s feelings.

During her tenure as Urbana’s co-editor-in-chief last year, she improved her management skills, efficiently planning meetings and late-night editing sessions.

"I learned that things work best when there is desire and heart," said Davila, a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar studying business administration and management at Emerson College in Boston.

The Final Chapter

Like many of her students, Sendin has dedicated her heart to education and community service. After earning a bachelor’s and master’s degree in English language and literature from FIU, she has served as a professor at Padrón Campus for more than two decades.

A staunch advocate for student engagement, Sendin founded a bevy of clubs including a Hermione’s Army Chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance (now called Fandom Forward), the Imagination Federation Service Club and the Sigma Kappa Delta Gamma Eta Chapter.

Her leadership efforts have earned her two endowed teaching chair awards and a Fulbright scholarship to the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua.

Outside of MDC, Sendin jump-started initiatives such as Tengo un Sueño and Hermansad MayKroll High School—two projects that raised more than $50,000 combined to educate children in rural Nicaragua.

But Sendin’s most treasured memories are connected to Urbana’s alumni.

She has attended weddings, baby showers and received regular updates about her former students’ professional and personal endeavors.

"Professor Sendin’s passion for her profession goes beyond the classroom," said Daniela Hernandez, who led the web design team for Vol. 13 of Urbana. "Her unconditional support led me to always try and seize opportunities."

In the future, Sendin hopes to participate in the IREX Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge and potentially start another publication.

But she said Urbana will remain in her heart—forever.

"I hope that I will see it with happiness and not with sadness," said Sendin as she tearfully recalled her time at Urbana. "I’m not the advisor anymore."
Restaurant Led By MCI Alumna Featured In Prestigious Michelin Guide

By Juan S. Gomez

Tinta Y Café, a popular Coral Gables restaurant, was included in the Michelin Guide, a national publication that recognizes excellence in the culinary industry.

Rafael Santamarina had a passion for Cuban food. That love inspired him and his sister, Neli, to open Tinta Y Café, a restaurant that specializes in Cuban sandwiches, pastelitos and cafeína.

Two years after founding the Brickell eatery, Santamarina’s nieces Sachi and Malu Statz and his son Carlos honored his legacy by continuing the establishment after he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Fifteen years later, the business is still booming.

This summer, the bistro, which relocated to Coral Gables in 2015, was one of 65 Miami-based restaurants featured in the Michelin Guide, a publication that highlights culinary excellence. The catalog also awarded Tinta Y Café, a big Gourmand award for its affordable prices.

“It’s like winning an Olympic gold medal,” said Sachi, who earned an associate’s degree from the Miami Culinary Institute in 2016. “It’s very surreal.”

Sachi, who grew up consuming food episodes of the Food Network and the Cooking Channel, has served as the restaurant’s owner since 2015.

In addition to the quaint location in Coral Gables, Sachi added a second restaurant in Miami Shores in 2017.

Inside the Coral Gables cafeteria, guests are greeted by a mid-century modern aesthetic accentuated with old typewriters, vintage cameras and minimalist furniture. The decor was influenced by Neli’s love of newspapers, literature, art and European cafés. To encourage people to socialize, the restaurant doesn’t offer Wi-Fi and has a no-laptop policy.

“It feels like home,” said Javier Ramon, who has been a customer for the past three years. “When you’re inside it’s very comfortable and sociable.”

Family Cuisine

The restaurant offers more than 20 sandwich options, seven salad choices, two breakfast menus and a daily soup special.

Salads cost about $14 and include Caprese, Mediterranean and Honey Mustard Chicken. The soup of the day can be had for less than $5 and is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sandwich selections range from classics like Cuban, Italian and BLT sandwiches and house specialties such as the Tinta Y Café sandwich, which features pork, manchego cheese and caramelized onions. Cost ranges from $10 to $14.

Orders are created in an open-design kitchen which features a stovetop, two panini presses and two separate stations to store vegetables for salads and to store vegetables for salads and presses and two separate stations.

Cozy Spot: Tinta Y Café in Coral Gables features Cuban cuisine, minimalist mid-century furniture, art books, vintage cameras and typewriters to create a European cafe aesthetic.

Dinners are created in an open-design kitchen which features a stovetop, two panini presses and two separate stations to store vegetables for salads and presses and two separate stations.

Cozy Spot: Tinta Y Café in Coral Gables features Cuban cuisine, minimalist mid-century furniture, art books, vintage cameras and typewriters to create a European cafe aesthetic.

Crunchy Specialty: Since 2005, Tinta Y Café has focused on serving sandwiches. Current selections range from classics like Cuban, Italian and BLT sandwiches to house specialties such as the Tinta Y Café sandwich, which features pork, manchego cheese and caramelized onions.

Today, the bustling restaurant hopes to add a third location—a return to Brickell—within the next two years.

“Tinta Y Café means family,” Sachi said. “That’s what it stemmed from and it’s what we create.”
Miami Dade College student publications—AXIS, Urbana, Miambiance and The Reporter—won prestigious National Pacemaker awards at the Full National College Media Convention.

The recognition, which is the highest distinction given to collegiate publications, was awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 28.

Winning this prestigious award is a dream come true,” said Ammy Sanchez, who served as the paper’s editor-in-chief during the 2021-22 academic year. “It made the effort my team and I put into feel seen and appreciated.”

The Reporter, which competed in the two-year student newspaper category, was awarded the prize for the second year in a row. It has won four Pacemakers since its founding in 2010.

The paper also received several individual honors: Sanchez placed third in the Feature Writing category, while Miambiance’s emcee won honorable mention in the Sports Feature category. The magazine also won second-place individual awards for Best Photo and Best Podcast, Blog and Social Media Strategy.

By Juan S. Gomez
juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

For the second year in a row, Urbana, the literary magazine at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus, won a first-place Pinnacle Award from the College Media Association in the two-year literary magazine category.

Results were announced during the Fall National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27.

Winners were selected based on work published during the 2021-22 school year.

“I’m very proud,” said Megan Carrion, who served as the magazine’s co-editor-in-chief last year. “It was a first magazine Pacemaker since its founding in 2007. The literary magazine at Padrón Campus also received honorable mention in the Podcast, Blog and Social Media Promotion categories.

Last year, the publication won an Innovation Pacemaker. "It’s like the cherry on top," said Emily Sendin, who served as Urbana’s advisor during the last school year. “It’s obviously very special because they’re recognizing our content and design of the entire magazine.”

LITERARY MAGAZINE

"I’m very proud. It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears and dedication." Megan Carrion, Miambiance’s former editor-in-chief.

“It’s like the cherry on top. It’s obviously very special because they’re recognizing our content and design of the entire magazine.”

Megan Carrion, Miambiance’s former editor-in-chief.

THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS ANNOUNCED THE PACEMAKER WINNERS AT THE FALL NATIONAL COLLEGE MEDIA CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON OCT. 28.

Four MDC Publications Win The Coveted National Pacemaker Award

By Juan S. Gomez
juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

"I was just astounded and thrilled for them and for all the students that were in the magazine," said Carmen Bucher, one of Miambiance’s advisers. “[The magazine] is the voice of North Campus.”

Miambiance, the Kendall Campus literary magazine, won its third Pacemaker. The publication previously won the prize in 2009 and 2018.

“It’s very proud,” said Megan Carrion, who was Miambiance’s editor-in-chief last year. “It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears and dedication.”

Miami Dade College student publications—AXIS, Urbana, Miambiance and The Reporter—won prestigious National Pacemaker awards at the Full National College Media Convention.

The recognition, which is the highest distinction given to collegiate publications, was awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 28.

Winning this prestigious award is a dream come true,” said Ammy Sanchez, who served as the paper’s editor-in-chief during the 2021-22 academic year. “It made the effort my team and I put into feel seen and appreciated.”

The Reporter, which competed in the two-year student newspaper category, was awarded the prize for the second year in a row. It has won four Pacemakers since its founding in 2010.

The paper also received several individual honors: Sanchez placed third in the Feature Writing category, while Miambiance’s emcee won honorable mention in the Sports Feature category. The magazine also won second-place individual awards for Best Photo and Best Podcast, Blog and Social Media Strategy.

By Juan S. Gomez
juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

For the second year in a row, Urbana, the literary magazine at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus, won a first-place Pinnacle Award from the College Media Association in the two-year literary magazine category.

Results were announced during the Fall National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27.

Winners were selected based on work published during the 2021-22 school year.

“I’m very proud of my students,” said Emily Sendin, who served as the paper’s editor-in-chief during the 2021-22 academic year. “It made the effort my team and I put into feel seen and appreciated.”

The Reporter, which competed in the two-year student newspaper category, was awarded the prize for the second year in a row. It has won four Pacemakers since its founding in 2010.

The paper also received several individual honors: Sanchez placed fourth in the Reporter of the Year category and she and Victor Gonzalez-Vaca received an honorable mention in Sports Feature for a story on Andy Rodriguez, a pitcher who defected from the Cuban National Team and played at MDC last season.

AXIS, Urbana and Miambiance won the award in the two-year literary arts magazine category.

This year’s award was Urbana’s fifteenth edition, 2021-22. The Reporter’s editor-in-chief, 2021-22

"I’m very proud. It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears and dedication." Megan Carrion, Miambiance’s former editor-in-chief.

“It’s like the cherry on top. It’s obviously very special because they’re recognizing our content and design of the entire magazine.”

Megan Carrion, Miambiance’s former editor-in-chief.

THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS ANNOUNCED THE PACEMAKER WINNERS AT THE FALL NATIONAL COLLEGE MEDIA CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON OCT. 28.

Four MDC Publications Win The Coveted National Pacemaker Award

By Juan S. Gomez
juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

"I was just astounded and thrilled for them and for all the students that were in the magazine," said Carmen Bucher, one of Miambiance’s advisers. “[The magazine] is the voice of North Campus.”

Miambiance, the Kendall Campus literary magazine, won its third Pacemaker. The publication previously won the prize in 2009 and 2018.

“It’s very proud,” said Megan Carrion, who was Miambiance’s editor-in-chief last year. “It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears and dedication.”

Miami Dade College student publications—AXIS, Urbana, Miambiance and The Reporter—won prestigious National Pacemaker awards at the Full National College Media Convention.

The recognition, which is the highest distinction given to collegiate publications, was awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 28.

Winning this prestigious award is a dream come true,” said Ammy Sanchez, who served as the paper’s editor-in-chief during the 2021-22 academic year. “It made the effort my team and I put into feel seen and appreciated.”

The Reporter, which competed in the two-year student newspaper category, was awarded the prize for the second year in a row. It has won four Pacemakers since its founding in 2010.

The paper also received several individual honors: Sanchez placed third in the Feature Writing category, while Miambiance’s emcee won honorable mention in the Sports Feature category. The magazine also won second-place individual awards for Best Photo and Best Podcast, Blog and Social Media Strategy.

By Juan S. Gomez
juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

For the second year in a row, Urbana, the literary magazine at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus, won a first-place Pinnacle Award from the College Media Association in the two-year literary magazine category.

Results were announced during the Fall National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27.

Winners were selected based on work published during the 2021-22 school year.

“I’m very proud of my students,” said Emily Sendin, who served as Urbana’s advisor during the 2021-2022 school year. “The team was really focused on working together towards a goal.”

Urbana’s fifteenth edition emphasized the rites of passage. The cover featured a quinceañera princess created by Design and Art Director Camila Ramirez.

"I was just astounded and thrilled for them and for all the students that were in the magazine," said Carmen Bucher, one of Miambiance’s advisers. “[The magazine] is the voice of North Campus.”

Miambiance, the Kendall Campus literary magazine, won its third Pacemaker. The publication previously won the prize in 2009 and 2018.

“It’s very proud,” said Megan Carrion, who was Miambiance’s editor-in-chief last year. “It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears and dedication.”

Miami Dade College student publications—AXIS, Urbana, Miambiance and The Reporter—won prestigious National Pacemaker awards at the Full National College Media Convention.

The recognition, which is the highest distinction given to collegiate publications, was awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 28.

Winning this prestigious award is a dream come true,” said Ammy Sanchez, who served as the paper’s editor-in-chief during the 2021-22 academic year. “It made the effort my team and I put into feel seen and appreciated.”

The Reporter, which competed in the two-year student newspaper category, was awarded the prize for the second year in a row. It has won four Pacemakers since its founding in 2010.

The paper also received several individual honors: Sanchez placed fourth in the Reporter of the Year category and she and Victor Gonzalez-Vaca received an honorable mention in Sports Feature for a story on Andy Rodriguez, a pitcher who defected from the Cuban National Team and played at MDC last season.

AXIS, Urbana and Miambiance won the award in the two-year literary arts magazine category.

This year’s award was Urbana’s fifteenth edition, 2021-22.
Miami Book Fair Marks Its Annual Return, Nov. 13-20

By Juan S. Gomez jgomez@mdc.edu

The 39th annual rendition of the Miami Book Fair will host more than 100 renowned authors from across the globe at Miami Dade College from Nov. 13–20.

"Every year it’s a completely different Fair," said MBF Director of Programs Lissette Mendez. "There are different conversations to be had, different books to read and different authors to meet."

Writers, journalists, and poets set to appear include famous author and playwright Harvey Fierstein, former New York Times reporter and civil rights activist Charlayne Hunter-Gault and award-winning Indian American author and poet Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

Also featured will be prominent figures in the music industry such as "punk poet laureate" Pattie Smith and New York City-based rapper and producer Jose "Fat Joe" Cartera.

The popular Evenings With series will include former Saturday Night Live comedian Kevin Nealon, former University of Miami, Dallas Cowboys and Miami Dolphins football coach Jimmy Johnson and Pulitzer prize-winning physicists Brian Greene and author Siddhartha Mukherjee.

For the first time in its history, the Book Fair will host Reads Fast—a program exploring Middle Eastern and South Asian culture through conversations with fiction, nonfiction and poetry authors.

It will include speakers such as Iranian-American scholar and Emmy- and Peabody-nominated producer Reza Aslan and Bangladeshi-American poet and writer Taslima Nasreen. "This is one of our goals," Mendez said. "To make sure people in Miami are in touch with what’s going on around the world." Aimed at Miami’s Hispanic community, the IberoAmerican Program will present panel events showcasing Spanish-speaking presenters. Presenters include famous Colombian musician Juanes and Cuban exiled journalist Carlos Alberto Montaner.

Former Ecuadorian president Rafael Correa, who was ousted from power during a military revolt in 2000, will speak about the mystifying solar eclipse hits an international narrative film because it has been an actor for nearly three decades. They secured $1.3 million for the project. The majority of the funding came from a fiscal incentive—the Elline grant—that encourages filmmakers to make movies in Mexico. Most of the money was used for necessities, such as room and board throughout the production, technology and salaries. The movie, set in Chiapas, Mexico was filmed in 2018. It hit an additional snag when post-production was delayed for more than a year due to the pandemic. "It cost us a lot in the post-production process," Robles said. "In a world where everything was closed and we were without finance and life as a whole stopped."

Final touches for the movie were done at the start of 2022, mere months before its world premiere at Raindance where they were nominated for Best Cinematography.

Robles hopes to have the movie featured at all film festivals across the United States and to release the movie on multiple platforms.

"I want to see how audiences are going to respond—hopefully well," Robles said. "I want the film to have its own life."
TRANSFER TO FIU, SEAMLESSLY.

SAME WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITY, ONLINE.

With 100+ degrees to choose from, defining what success looks like for yourself has never been easier. With FIU Online, harness the flexibility and affordability you need to design the future of your dreams. Start at MDC... and flourish at FIU.

ONLINENOW.FIU.EDU/MDC
Announcer Lends His Voice To MDC Sports To Expand Program’s Reach

Daniel Torres, the creator of the Plug Talk Sports podcast, will start announcing games for the Miami Dade College athletic department in November during basketball season.

By Victoria Martinez victoria.martinez015@mymdc.net

When Daniel Torres attended volleyball media day at Miami Dade College in September, he saw an opportunity to expand his thriving sports career.

Torres, the creator of Plug Talk Sports—a podcast that airs on YouTube—approached Alyssa Dyer, the school’s athletic director, about serving as the program’s on-air commentator.

A month later, Torres became the College’s sports announcer, the athletic department’s first in five years.

Torres, 24, is expected to call his first game in early November when basketball season starts. He will cover all MDC athletic home games. Streaming will be available on the MDC athletics YouTube page.

“I saw he was very professional and organized, so I wanted to bring him on board,” Dyer said.

Torres received his associate’s degree in journalism from Kendall Health Center at Kendall Campus in September 2021. In 2018, he began his sports media career as the founder of Plug Talk Sports. The podcast features Torres and various panelists offering South Florida sports teams such as Inter Miami CF and the University of Miami and Florida International University football teams.

A year later, he joined the staff of Panther Now, FIU’s student newspaper. He wrote and edited football, basketball and soccer articles. Eventually, he started announcing FIU softball, baseball, football, basketball and soccer games as an intern in the athletic department from June of 2019 until February of 2021.

He also served as a part-time play-by-play commentator for Inter Miami CF for eight months in 2021.

“It’s those long hours that he puts in, not just on game day, but leading up to game day that really gives him, not just the talent, but the edge over [other] commentators,” said Isaac Gomez, who has worked with Torres at Plug Talk Sports and at FIU.

Torres, a 2016 graduate of Christopher Columbus High School in Westchester, is also a mentor to budding journalists at the Christopher Columbus News Network, the school’s student-run broadcast show.

He meets with the program’s talent three to four times a week, helping them prepare for interviews, organizing their notes, and helping them with the Thursday pregame show before Friday’s live broadcast.

The program won first place in general commentary and sports commentary at the Student Television Network Awards held in Long Beach, California in February.

“He’s been a very valuable asset to our team,” said Omar Delgado, who oversees the CCNN program.

“He’s very professional and organized, and he provides the edge over [other] commentators,” said Omar Delgado, who oversees the CCNN program.

In the future, Torres wants to continue announcing Major League Soccer games and expanding the reach of Plug Talk Sports.

At MDC, he looks forward to projecting his voice from the skybox at the Theodore R. Gibson Health Center at Kendall Campus.

“We really just want to encourage everyone, from our students [to] everyone who works at the institution and alumni to come out and support,” Torres said.

With a Checking or Savings Account from EdFed.

When you open an account with EdFed, managing your expenses is the easiest part of your day. As the credit union for Miami Dade College, EdFed’s valuable member benefits are available to all students, faculty, staff and their immediate families.

Benefits of membership include:

• Checking and savings accounts with no monthly maintenance fee
• Surcharge-free ATM withdrawals at all Publix ATMs
• Free auto buying service to help negotiate your next car or truck
• Comprehensive lending solutions to help with your vehicle or home purchase
• Student loan solutions offered in partnership with Sallie Mae®
• Exclusive discounts on local retailers, restaurants, and attractions
• Access to financial education workshops and events
• EdFed-sponsored student scholarship programs

Call (786) 775-5464, or to find a local branch, visit www.edfed.org/locations

*Students under the age of 15 must have a parent or legal guardian as joint owner of the account. **These loans are made by Sallie Mae Bank or a lender partner EdFed, and the creditor for these loans and is compensated by Sallie Mae for the referral of loan customers. Federally insured by NCUA.
Sharks Eagerly Await Return of Star Point Guard

Abdias “Speedy” Carcamo, who suffered an Achilles tendon injury last October, is expected to rejoin the team in late November. He played in only eight games last season.

By Victoria Martinez
victoria.martinez015@mymdc.net

By Victoria Martinez
victoria.martinez015@mymdc.net

More than a year after suffering an Achilles tendon injury, the Miami Dade College men’s basketball team is waiting for the full return of star point guard Abdias “Speedy” Carcamo.

Carcamo, who was limited to eight games last season, has been doing calf raises and rubber band assisted stretches to strengthen his left achilles tendon.

He is expected to rejoin the team in the next couple of weeks.

“Speedy is getting ready to be back,” said Sharks assistant basketball coach Dillon “DJ” Jenkins.

“We’re being very cautious with him in terms of workload.”

Carcamo, who has missed the team’s first four games this season, has been doing light workouts in practice, working on his form, ball handling and shooting.

“The hardest part has been getting back in shape,” Carcamo said. “You have to be in great shape to play defense.”

Carcamo first reported feeling pain in his left leg in October of 2021. He sat out 13 of the team’s first 14 games as the injury progressively worse. Eventually, he played in seven games in the spring including a 28 point performance versus Hillsborough Community College on Jan. 12.

He averaged 14 points, 3.8 assists and had a 46.2 shooting percentage from the three-point line in eight games last season.

“He was our leader,” said sophomore shooting guard Matthew Khoury. “In those eight games, he helped us tremendously.”

To prepare for this season, Carcamo has concentrated on getting stronger, working out in the weight room several times a week and improving his conditioning by running one to two miles every day at the Kendall Campus track.

In his absence, the Sharks have used Will Ehlen at point guard. The freshman is averaging 3.8 points and three assists per game.

Freshman Dylan Edwards from Prince George’s County, Maryland and sophomore DJ Harrell from Cleveland, Ohio have also filled in at point guard. Edwards is averaging two points and 1.7 assists per game. Harrell, who has logged the majority of his minutes at shooting guard, is averaging 14.3 points per game.

But the team is built to run around Carcamo’s skill set. He provides leadership, crisp passing, and sharp shooting. The Brooklyn native has been playing basketball since he was four years old.

He attended Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, New York, averaging 12 points and six assists per game during his senior year.

They are banking on Carcamo’s return giving the team a boost in the win column.

The Sharks, who were 10-17 last year, lost four conference games by less than three points last year.

They rejuvenated their roster with a plethora of new players including forwards Tyrick Weeks and Jamichael Stillwell and guard Mayoum Mayoum. Miami Dade College has implemented a 5-out motion offense, which thrives on spacing, three-point-shooting and positionless basketball.

“Everybody has good energy; we relate to each other,” said Ibrahim Wattara, the sophomore forward from Togo, West Africa.

“We are trying to get to the next level.”

The Sharks next game is at home versus Polk State College on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Theodore R. Gibson Health Center, 11011 S.W. 104 St.
Don’t Worry Darling Is A Psychological Thriller Worth The Watch

If you haven’t heard of the psychological thriller, Don’t Worry Darling, you have been living under a rock. The project is directed by Olivia Wilde and stars Florence Pugh, Chris Pine and Harry Styles.

Directed by Olivia Wilde, it features Florence Pugh, Harry Styles, Chris Pine, Gemma Chan, Wilde and Nick Swardson in a psychological thriller set during the 1950s in a small town in California. The film, released on Sept. 23, follows Alice (Florence Pugh) and her husband, Jack (Harry Styles), a young couple in their honeymoon phase.

All the men in the town work for Frank (Chris Pine) on the classified Victory Project. Typical of the 1950s social construct, the wives stayed at home while the husbands went to work.

When Alice’s friend, Margaret (Kiki Layne), starts speaking out of turn at a social event, it sparks curiosity in Alice about her place in Victory. From that point, Alice starts having flashbacks and hallucinations and goes on a journey through her subconscious, conjuring the perfect concoction of Swift’s music—which prompted Swift to re-record her earlier albums—many fans believe the song is either about Braun’s divorce or Kanye’s marriage to Kim Kardashian ending.

Bejeweled is Midnights second single and blends sounds from 1989 and Lover. The song is very amusing and upbeat and marks her return into the pop music genre. As Swift has explained, the song is about finding and regaining confidence.

Midnights Sweeps Swifties Into Mayhem

On Aug. 28, Taylor Swift released her 10th album, Midnights, on Oct. 21. The project marks a return to her pop era with lyrics that revolve around sleepless and thought-provoking nights.

Taylor Swift released her 10th album, Midnights, on Oct. 21. The project marks a return to her pop era, leaving many Swifties—many fans believe the song is either about Braun’s divorce or Kanye’s marriage to Kim Kardashian ending.

Midnight, Swift’s long-anticipated comeback album, marks her first project since Evermore in 2020 and a return to her pop era.

Released on Oct. 21, Midnights became the music provider’s most-streamed album in a single day after it caused the app to crash.

Midnights tells the story of 13 sleepless nights spent in agony and joy throughout Swift’s life and is reminiscent of her past pop projects like 1989, Reputation and Lover. Repetition With the help of co-writer and producer Jack Antonoff, Midnights creates the perfect concoction of Swift’s musical catalog with a distinctive pop sound and deeply personal lyrics.

On Aug. 28, Taylor Swift announced her 10th album at the MTV Video Music Awards, where her infamous and marks her return into the pop music genre. As Swift has explained, the song is about finding and regaining confidence.
Many students are struggling with time management as the fall semester kicks into high gear. To help you, these local spots provide the perfect ambiance for your academic needs to boost motivation for intense study sessions.

**Aguacate Sanctuary of Love**, 12100 S.W. 43 St., is located in rural Kendall. It is perfect for someone who needs to rein in their stress levels under a peaceful atmosphere. The space takes you away from the rush of Miami life into a different world. Its hippie-styled Zen garden and farm exude a relaxed vibe. The instructors at this holistic community make you feel at home the minute you enter. As you sit, you feel your mind, body and soul heal. With a vegan-oriented juice bar and natural food dishes, you can find a suitable dish to fuel your brain. One of the more popular dishes is the Aguacate Burger made from beans, quinoa, beets, flax, hemp and chia seeds. And if you are craving something sweet, their Nutella Zen:

The Aguacate Sanctuary of Love in Kendall offers a relaxed setting for anyone looking to lower their stress levels while they study.

**Wall-To-Wall Books**: Books & Books in Coral Gables allows students to escape from the stress of studying with unique features like occasional live music and a charming café. French toast with berries and bananas can satisfy your needs. If that isn’t enough, you can take a meditation or yoga class to unwind after completing your work.

**Zen**: The Aguacate Sanctuary of Love in Kendall offers a relaxed setting for anyone looking to lower their stress levels while they study.

**Study Cravings**: With 15 vendor options, Shoma Bazaar in Doral keeps students’ appetites quenched while they study. The menu includes traditional burgers and ramen.

**Books & Books**, 265 Aragon Ave #5008, located in Coral Gable is the bookshop of bookshops. With its rows of floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, one can’t help but be persuaded into utilizing a scholarly mindset. The Mediterranean style building dates back to 1927 and features a quaint café with indoor and outdoor seating options. A popular coffee choice at the café is the chai tea latte. It supplies the perfect amount of caffeine to fuel you through your study sessions. The ambiance offsets the fall energy that Miami lacks with its steamy weather.

**Shoma Bazaar**, 9420 NW 41st St, is a food hall in Doral that has gained popularity recently. On every corner, there is a unique restaurant for you to try. From ramen to burgers to poke bowls, all the food you crave is at your call to get you through any cram session. For those with a sweet tooth, there are a variety of options like the Market Milkshake Bar. With fifteen food vendors inside the industrial building, you won’t be short of options. Seating is available in the form of couches, hanging chairs, stools or tables, making it the ideal space for group projects. The art pieces and flower sculptures add class to the environment.

By Colleen Padron
Colleen.padron001@mymdc.net
Seinfeld's Series Finale Was As Ingenious As It Was Hated

By Dylan Masvidal

Saying Seinfeld’s ending was controversial is an understatement.

The sitcom series, which garnered more than 76 million viewers during its final episode, left a bad taste in its audience’s mouth.

The crime was so foul that Jerry Seinfeld himself says he regrets the way it was handled.

Even co-creator Larry David attempted to give fans closure by filming a “reunion” episode in season seven of his own program, Curb Your Enthusiasm. While many fans lost admiration for the two comedy juggernauts following the 56-minute ending, let’s revisit it.

Despite its surrounding controversy, the iconic sitcom’s 1998 finale serves as the perfect encapsulation of the show’s brilliant and ironic theme.

The episode then follows the gang as they try to beat the case with everyone’s favorite gunpoint. Laughing as a helpless man gets carjacked at unapologetic quartet breaking the “Good to see their beloved personalities have a

What has always given Seinfeld a distinct feel from other sitcoms of its era is the running joke that the show is about “nothing.” It was a series that prided itself on the absurdity of everyday life instead of a so-called “escape from reality.”

While there is no denying that, there is more nuance to it.

Realistically, all sitcoms are about “nothing.”

No grand, philosophical theme ties them together, but the presence of possible romantic relationships between characters, character growth and lessons-learning gives it some sort of storyline.

Seinfeld was never interested in providing fans what they wanted. Its interest was in the exact opposite of Cheers or A Different World.

The textbook definition of an “anti-sitcom.”

Seasons went by, and the show continued to push more buttons than a baby with a switch box.

Nevertheless, NBC never puts its foot down and hit self-destruct for the series.

A comfort comedy where its main characters turn on each other, rob an elderly woman for her rye bread and leave their deceased fiancé only minutes after their pass-over to grab some coffee.

What I just described sounds like an after-hours presentation on Adult Swim, not a 90s network program appealing to mainstream audiences.

More importantly, notice how comedies of the current age that take inspiration from Seinfeld, most notably It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia, is a TV-MA production on FXX and not something akin to Big Bang Theory.

NBC utilizing David and Seinfeld to write jokes that kept it TV-PG was equivalent to fitting a square peg in a round hole. Their ability to not just cross the line, but leap over it and remain untouched by the studio was groundbreaking.

It was an irreversibility, a glitch in the system.

Putting this into perspective makes Seinfeld’s finale all the more brilliant.

It butters you up in the beginning with Jerry and George’s pilot being picked up by NBC once again and a tease of Jerry and Elaine’s romantic revival, just to pull the rug from under you.

Mix that in with a full-circle moment for Art Vandelay, a conversation about shirt buttons that effects déjà vu and a stand-up routine for inmates in the end credits, to create a masterclass in light-hearted cynicism.

Seinfeld was never solely a show about “nothing.” It was a show that critiqued and rejected societal norms in a hilarious and immoral fashion.

If you can’t get down with that, then “no soup for you!”
CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

The Importance Of Appreciating What You Have

By Hugo Guillen

Can you imagine doing home-work in the street under a public light? That is the reality for many children in Latin America. Even in 2022, there are people who have no electricity in their homes. Unfortunately, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

After arriving in the United States from my native Peru last year, I began working at Auntie Anne’s. During one of my shifts, I heard a 16-year-old complain to his father after he got a 2019 gray Camaro instead of what he wanted—a green 2022 Camaro. Witnessing that made me realize how different everyday life is.

In my homeland, there are no brand new cars. Everything is taken from China or from an outdated model from popular companies. Additionally, it’s also illegal for teenagers to drive and work. The average Peruvian is unable to afford a car. Hence, most people rely on public transportation, which is dangerous because most drivers tend to ignore traffic laws. Despite those risks, buses are a better option than walking. Peru’s streets are menacing—even for the wealthy. So much so, that people hide their phones and other valuables at all times.

That country gives you the vibe that you are being followed and watched. The paranoia is so strong that being mugged is the least dangerous circumstance. When I was 16, I took three different buses to travel to school. The situation was nerve wracking. I encountered stray dogs, non-existent sidewalks and poor lighting. I’ve also experienced blackouts, a lack of water and muggings. When you tell this to Peruvian immigrants, no one is surprised. Many have seen even worse. That is just how Peru is. As someone who’s seen children doing homework in the dangerous streets of Peru, my plea to you is to appreciate the blessing of living in a country as prosperous and developed as the USA.

By Sabrina Chaviano

Since the 1950s, the island’s controversial history and government have been exploited by right and left-wing demagogues to promote their skewed political views.

Cuba Needs To Stop Being Used As A Political Tool

By Hugo Guillen

Since the 1959 Revolution, Cuba has been used as a political pawn to promote radical ideologies. This political game has only enabled due to the ignorance of the country’s history and disregard by major media outlets to cover most of the nation’s events.

During the 2021 Cuban Protests, unjust police brutality and suppression of free speech were largely discussed. However, most outlets failed to mention the death of a 36-year-old man and the hundreds of others who went missing. Even in Florida, Cuba’s history is mostly neglected except for the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the 1962 Missile Crisis and rudimentary facts about Castro’s Revolution. Additionally, those excluded from the Cuban exile community lack awareness of the country’s history. An issue that is exacerbated in other states that have no ties to the Caribbean island.

That ignorance results in the country being used in political commentary as either a cautionary tale of liberal policies or a socialist paradise.

Turning Point USA is a conservative non-profit organization that provides media coverage about Cuba. Though they give valuable insight into the government’s structure and public opinion, the organization manipulates Cuba’s status as an abusive and failing state to denounce liberal policies.

Their belief? That all liberal policies—moderate or otherwise—will always lead to totalitarian communism. On the other hand, extreme leftist groups praise Cuba as an example of functional socialism despite the country’s clear shortcomings. Senator Bernie Sanders and Hasan Pikar, a twitch-streamer and popular left-wing commentator, have praised Cuba’s high literacy rate.

Others have touted the island’s medical advancements, free education and humanitarian aid while ignoring first-hand accounts of human rights violations.

Using Cuba as a political tool does nothing to help political debate or the eleven million people living under totalitarian rule. Instead, it spreads misinformation by manipulating facts. That dehumanizes the Cuban people and dissuades the nation as a one-dimensional talking point.
Are you interested in: WRITING, REPORTING, PHOTOGRAPHY, DESIGN, ADVERTISING, or MARKETING?

Are you majoring in: JOURNALISM, ENGLISH, MASS COMMUNICATIONS, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, or GRAPHIC ARTS?

GET INVOLVED!

Contact > MANOLO BARCO
tel: (305) 237-1255
email: MBARCO@MDC.EDU

POSTER + ILLUSTRATION, LAZARO GAMIO, © 2010