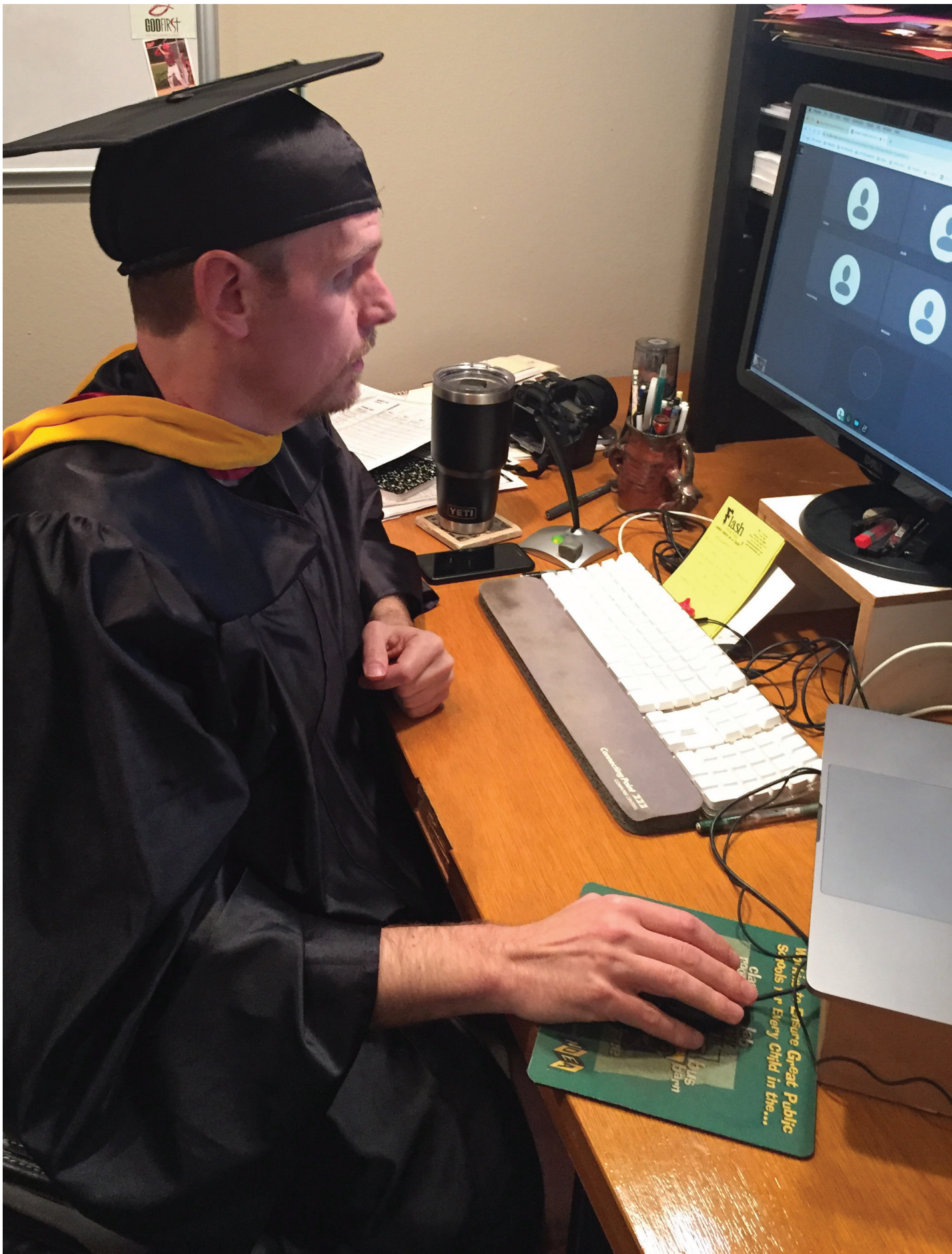


THE MYSTICIAN

VOL. 81 ISSUE 9 BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE BISMARCK, N.D. May 15, 2020

WHAT WE LOST STUDENTS AND FACULTY ADJUST TO ONLINE



BSC Associate Professor of Graphic Design & Communications Sean Thorenson winds down his 20th year of teaching this week by delivering his end of the year talk to his graduating sophomores virtually. He surprised them by sporting his graduation regalia from his home office and playing "Pomp and Circumstance" as they met online as a class for a final time. (Credit: Suzanne Thorenson)

**By Travis Askerooth
REPORTER**

Do people enjoy being inside their homes and working on college assignments online while having little to no human contact? Or do people prefer the human interaction that they get with peers in a classroom? From multiple replies from students around North Dakota, the majority said that they prefer doing their college work on campus, not online. But why? What don't they like about online classes, especially during this epidemic? Let's take a closer look.

Research shows that humans in general are a sociable species. Most strive for interactions and get satisfaction from talking with others. Also, most people prefer person-to-person interactions because it relieves them of stress and conversations become more comfortable. That is the one thing students miss from online classes: the interactions of people.

When it comes to classes, the degree students are pursuing can determine if they prefer online classes or on-campus classes.

Madison Cherwinski, a junior at Valley City State University, is studying Human Services with concentration on child and family studies.

"I think online classes are harder because I'm more of a hands-on and being-in-the-room type of learner rather than teaching myself how to do things," Cherwinski said. "It's also hard to keep up with deadlines when you aren't actually in class when it's due."

Degrees like Cherwinski's are a major turning point if a student would enjoy their online experience. Degrees like Human Services, Business and Mass Communications rely on social interaction experiences, so when the classes switch to online, students lose that connectivity and it may make it harder for the students to learn.

Degrees like Computer Science will have a better time switching to online because their course materials are already computer based.

Ben Waswick is a freshman from North Dakota State University studying Business.

"I think that some of the classes are easier, but some are much more difficult," Waswick said. "To me, it depends on the professor that is putting out information for the students."

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THE MYSTICIAN

Published by the Students – For the Students

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Letter from the Editor

To all of the amazing people who read our humble publication,
 Thank you one and all for reading the final issue of the Mystician. None of this would have been possible without you, the readers. Times are beyond difficult right now but I believe in all of you. We can continue to do our best and strive for a brighter future. To make this newspaper even while confined to my home was an experience that will stick in my mind for all of my life.

All of our graduates, congratulations on your spectacular accomplishment. I genuinely believe that Bismarck State College prepares students for a future in their chosen field. I have been to college before, but this one blew me away with the sheer amount of resources and classes available to the student body. I wish you all the best and hope you continue to read us for updates on this magical school.

Thank you to my staff and all of Mystic Media. I came back to college on a whim and through all of your dedication you turned an impulse into a worthwhile time. Some of you are graduating or are not returning to The Mystician, The MYX and Mysticast. I never imagined you'd all bring our department so much life and joy. Best of luck to all of you.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the staff, faculty and the Bismarck State College Foundation. All of your jobs are crucial in helping this place run. When I interviewed many of you for various articles I was blown away by just how much you do and your vibrant lives outside of work. Your support for the students and your fellow employees stand out and make me glad I got to know many of you.

I look forward to saying this again next year as I will be returning as Editor-in-Chief once again. Here's to many more Mysticians for everyone.



The Mystician Mission Statement and Disclaimer

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students.

We, as the student-based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to BSC.

With this goal in mind, The Mystician staff is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices.

We strive to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community.

Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression.

The BSC Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization.

The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

The Mystician can be accessed online at bscmysticmedia.com.
 Deadline for copy to be submitted is Thursday, April 30.
 If you are interested in advertising, we can provide rate information.

Contact the editor-in-chief at bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu

Robert Mechaley III THE MYSTICIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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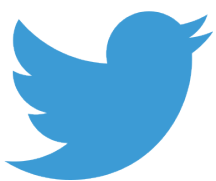
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Crossword Information

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R	A	O	S			A	A	A	C		C	D	C	A

BSC's own Language, Literature and Communication Department Chair (and crossword geek) Michael Tomanek has created and submitted this month's puzzle on page 7.

NEWS TOPIC: COVID-19

COVID-19 AND IT'S PROGRESSION TO THE STATUS OF PANDEMIC. A SIMPLIFIED PRIMER FOR READERS OF THE MYSTICIAN

By Roger Marks IV
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

How COVID-19 became a pandemic

The coronavirus has impacted the world. Countries closed and invoked quarantines. In a year where it seems everything went wrong: fires rampaging across the whole of Australia; World War III threatening to break out between the United States and Iraq; and COVID-19 coming to prominence in December 2019 bringing a pandemic to the world in 2020.

Covid-19 has devastated major cities all around the world. Even North Dakota could not escape the smog of the virus. As of this writing there are 4.18M confirmed cases worldwide with 1.38M in the United States and 1,518 in North Dakota.

Caused by the novel coronavirus, the current answer to fighting the spread of COVID-19 has been quarantine, which has possibly saved millions of lives.

"Absolutely," Associate Professor of Biology at Bismarck State College Jean Rolandelli said. "More than preventing the spread, the shutdown slowed it and allowed facilities to prevent the

spread into retirement and assisted living facilities."

Rolandelli has been keeping up with the virus and the response to its spread. She said that "... to the best of my understanding ..." the virus spread started at a wet market in Wuhan, China.

"A virus is an infective particle that is not considered to be alive because it lacks cellular organelles that would allow it to live on its own," Rolandelli said. "A virus can only luck upon a host, infect it and once inside the host cells, it makes copies of itself—hundreds per cell. There is no agenda beyond that."

According to the Center for Disease Control, COVID-19 symptoms include: cough, shortness of breath, and at least two of these symptoms: fever, chills, headache, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. This is not an all-inclusive list.

To avoid COVID-19 the CDC recommends staying at home. As more testing is done and vaccines are developed, the seriousness of the coronavirus will dissipate. Until then humanity is taking steps to control the spread and find ways to cope.

By Kyleigh Hilbert
REPORTER

How to keep positive mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic

With the COVID-19 pandemic, there seems to be a plethora of negative stories in the news, and many events have been canceled. With the quarantine, people have been home bound for weeks, not knowing when things will return to normal.

Mental health is important during all times of the year. This year, as North Dakota was coming out of winter, which can cause seasonal depression, the COVID-19 pandemic appeared, forcing the state to close down—including schools, which sent students home to face a virtual learning environment and a disconnection from peers.

As anxious students, faculty and staff left the campuses, online classes presented new challenges.

"I believe stress management is the key to staying in a positive state," United Tribes Psychology Instructor and BSC Adjunct Psychology Instructor Brett Williamson said. "When we go through difficult times, letting things pile up only amplifies an already difficult situation. It is always best to keep on top of assignments and stay in contact with instructors. Waiting to the last minute to complete an online assignment rarely works out well."

Leaving friends behind made social media connections more important than ever.

"It is important to keep in contact with friends and family," Williamson said. "While being isolated, it's easy to forget that there are people out there that care for you. Don't be afraid to give a friend a call or even use Zoom to have some social interaction. We are all going through this together."

With social media comes news. While staying informed is important, becoming overwhelmed by one's news feed can lead to stress.

"I read the daily articles from reliable sources, but I try my best to not become obsessed with every article and new station," Williamson said. "If all you hear is doom and gloom, your world may become doom and gloom."

Staying mentally and physically healthy during this time can be a challenge.

"When our emotional and mental well-being is impacted, so is our physical well-being," BSC Director of Counseling and Advising Services Kate Milner said. "Stress and other unaddressed mental health concerns can lead to excessive fatigue, trouble sleeping, digestive discomfort, loss of appetite and the temptation to cope excessively with alcohol or other substances."

"It can be very helpful to maintain a daily routine," Milner continued. "Try to get enough sleep - wake up and go to bed around the same time each day. Keep regular mealtimes and get adequate nutrition. Get dressed and fix your hair.



Do the things that are normally good self-care for you such as spending time in nature, exercising, listening to music."

Students can try things they haven't before or perhaps do something they haven't done in a long time.

"I have explored some new hobbies

"It is important to keep in contact with friends and family. While being isolated, it's easy to forget there are people out there that care for you."
-- Kate Milner

during the pandemic," Williamson said. "I picked up my guitar again, got better at those Metallica licks and learned that I enjoy building model robots.

With an uncertain future it is difficult to remember that change can bring opportunities.

"With limited social interaction comes the opportunity to step away from the persona to some degree," Williamson said. "If you pay attention and look and listen, you may learn something about the self."

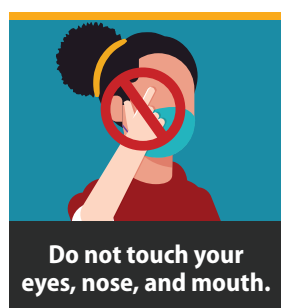
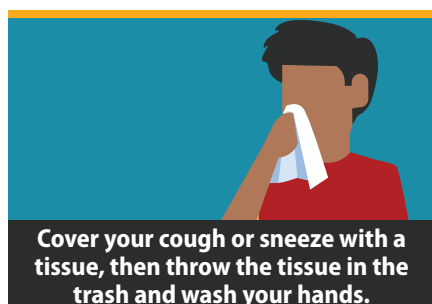
Milner agreed saying students can focus on the goals and the accomplishments that can be achieved.

"If you are working toward completing your degree," she said. "sign up for your fall 2020 classes."

Both Milner and Williamson emphasized the importance of reaching out if a student is struggling. All of the support services that are normally available to BSC students are still available. Counseling services are available by phone or through meeting virtually online. Students can call the Mystic Advising and Counseling Center at 701-224-5752 or email bsc.counseling@bismarckstate.edu for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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News

Aspiring to Give Every Student a Voice

JOB HIRING AT SOME BUSINESSES INCREASES DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Haylee Hebdon
REPORTER

During spring break of 2020, all on-campus classes switched to online. Most workers were transitioned to work at home, and all events with over 10 people attending were canceled or postponed until further notice.

During this quarantine, some people have been let off from their jobs as well. While most businesses have partially closed or changed their policies, there are still some businesses hiring during this pandemic.

Danielle Carr is an employee at a local Walmart who has been part of the process and changes in policies within the business.

"Interviews are more over the phone than in person," Carr said. "We are now required to wear face masks during our shifts and hours have changed from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Other than that the business is still functioning as normal."

Other businesses are continuing to hire with wages ranging from \$12 to \$18 per hour.

DoorDash pays per delivery and not by the hour. DoorDashers get to choose when and where they would

like to work, whether it be in the morning, evening or at night. Workers must have a form of transportation for deliveries, and it can be a bike, motorcycle or a car. DoorDashers must have a valid driver's license and insurance.

Edgewood Healthcare is another business hiring during the pandemic starting at \$12 an hour. They offer many positions like dining assistants, caregivers and receptionists. All workers must be at least 18 years of age and have the ability to read, write and verbally report clinical information. Workers must have a dependable form of transportation

and is preferred to have recent experience working with the elderly. Other places hiring in the Bismarck/Mandan area include Lowes, Office Depot, Target and Walmart.

In addition to hiring, many businesses are improving during this time. Grocery store sales have gone up almost 25.7 percent according to the National Retail Federation, and online shopping for groceries has increased by over 50 percent.

Tobacco and vape shop sales have improved, as well as cannabis clinics. Gun sales and exercise equipment purchases from sporting goods stores have also gone up.

ADJUSTING TO ONLINE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Professors might have a hard time dealing with having to switch their course materials to online.

For some, it affects them only a little; others would have to change their entire schedule in order to fit with online classes.

Some professors have had Zoom, Blackboard Collaborate and Teams meetings or talk to students via cellphone in order to help them.

Sean Thorenson is the Associate Professor of Graphic Design & Communications here at Bismarck

State College.

"The irony in all of this change was how often I felt like a student," Thorenson said. "There was a lot to learn in a short amount of time. One of the courses I taught this semester dealt with covering the basics of six different applications – two of which were video and audio production. I wasn't familiar with those two applications when the semester started, so not only did I have to learn the basics, but I had to turn around and write lectures and cut videos covering the material – immediately applying what I had just learned. The nice thing was I was able to utilize this newly acquired knowledge in

all my courses. I can honestly say, after completing 24 video lectures I feel pretty comfortable with the process. My goal in the end was to deliver the content to the students as professionally as I could."

When it comes to journalism students, they are struggling.

They have to get interviews, but the safest way to get those interviews is either through phone calls or emails. When it comes to interviewing a subject face-to-face, their way of speaking and the language that they use makes them unique.

In emails, the subject has time to proofread, correct any mistakes they see, and the language might sound

robotic. It isn't a bad thing, but it loses that charm the face-to-face interviews have. Getting something as simple as videos and photos are harder to get because they cannot be close to people.

The whole COVID-19 epidemic has shaken up the world, especially education with K-12 and colleges closing down, switching to online, and lacking interaction with peers.

While online classes are continuing students' education, the majority of students want to go back to what it used to be. As the COVID-19 cases continue to climb, who knows what the future will hold.

NEWS BRIEFS

NEWS BRIEFS

NEWS BRIEFS

NEWS BRIEFS



BISMARCK TRIBUNE PHOTOJOURNALIST / BSC INSTRUCTOR WINS AWARDS

The Bismarck Tribune photojournalist Mike McCleary is the recipient of a 2019 Lee President's Award for excellence in journalism.

The award was for McCleary's three-page photo story documenting the struggles of Doug and Carol Dworshak, a Mandan couple who lost their home to foreclosure because of medical debt. Published last November, it was one of six projects recognized by Lee Enterprises.

Also a Bismarck State College news photography instructor, McCleary received first-place wins in feature reporting, spot news photo, sports photo, picture story, pictorial story and portrait photo and second place in news photo, agricultural photo and outdoor recreation photo and third place feature photo.

L:R Ted Hanson (father of BSC volleyball player and alumna Hannah Hanson), Mike McCleary (BSC news photography instructor) and Hunter Andes (Editor-in-Chief of The Mystician 79) taking photographs at one of the Mystics' Volleyball games. (Photo submitted)

STUDENTS RECEIVE REFUNDS

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, students are completing their education from home, including those in college.

But what happens to the room and board they've already paid for and can't use?

Many institutions around the state are providing refunds for campus services not used.

Bismarck State College approved up to a 30 percent reimbursement for housing and on-campus food contracts.

They are also giving refunds for off-site food agreements as well.

Students received their payments as soon as they checked out of their residence halls.

"It's critical. The safety, security, and health of our students are our top priority," Bismarck State College's Chief Financial Officer, Rebecca Collins said. "So we need to get this emergency funding in the hands of the students."



STAFF ED: WHAT WE LOST IN THE PANDEMIC

I think it is safe to assume that COVID-19 has taken many things away from Bismarck State College students. From sports seasons to graduation, this semester is ending on terms no one could have predicted, and certainly, no one wanted. The list of things we've lost

due to this pandemic is long, and of course different from person to person, but the common theme amongst us all seems to be that we're all feeling a little empty right now.

Here on staff at the Mystician, a common thing we've all seemed to have lost this semester is

motivation. Learning completely online has brought out the procrastinator in every student, and why wouldn't it? It's hard enough to find motivation in the last few weeks of school when the campus is open, and now that it's online, school is feeling pretty optional. Keeping on top of your schoolwork is important but it doesn't trump mental health. All you can do right now is your best effort, and if it's not up to your normal

standards it's okay. A pandemic does not call for normality but it also doesn't call for absence. So, do the best you can but try not to let that inner procrastinator reign over you completely.

Another commonality seems to be that second semester is where students begin to find their place with other people. Friendship and relationships start thriving and more connections are made as time goes on. However, COVID-19 has made it hard to continue those connections. When you don't see people every day it is hard to stay in touch. Those relationships don't have to be completely lost though. Reaching out to those new friends via social media might just be the best thing. Although you might not be close friends, people are longing for any type of connection right now and I'm sure they'd be glad to hear from you.

On a final note, if you are one of those students who have lost their "last" moment, whether that be you are a graduating athlete with a lost

season or a student not returning to BSC next fall, on behalf of all on the Mystician, we are so very sorry. You are seen, heard, valued, and most of all respected. Losing your "last" something to a pandemic was nothing anyone could have predicted, but it doesn't mean you are not allowed to grieve that loss. There's a certain kind of dignity found in accepting these losses with grace and sadness, and those actions are seen by everyone around you.

Even if you have not lost a "last" moment, you too are seen and valued. There are no instructions on how to feel or act during these times and everyone is doing the best they can. There is a lot that has been lost this past semester, but at the same time, a certain degree of unity has been gained. Not too many people can say they've lived through a global pandemic now, can they? Don't let the losses you may have incurred these past few months block the opportunities you will gain in the upcoming future.



Professor of Graphic Design for BSC Sean Thorenson working from home on a new typeface. (Credit: Jason Lueder)

MALARD'S MUSINGS :

By Brenna Malard
EDITOR

If I've learned anything from quarantine and social distancing over these past two months it is that I am not as introverted as I once thought. I used to think I loved being alone and that that was how I replenish my energy, but as social distancing continues, I find myself struggling. I've lived in Bismarck my entire life and always thought it was a boring town with no forms of entertainment, but I'd give anything right about now for a late-night drive with my friends and Walmart runs for no other reason than to shop mindlessly for things I don't need. Without that being a possibility, I won't lie, I'm left feeling a little empty.

Mental health is something that I'm sure a lot of people are struggling with right now. If you're anything like me, distraction and routine are key. Maintaining a schedule and being able to forget about things for a while, whether that be through hanging with friends or just going to a movie, is super important. However, with this current pandemic, all we're left to do is think and be cooped up inside. It can be super damaging to one's mental health when their forms of distraction or coping are taken away.

I've learned to adapt the mantra of "growth is not a linear process." In these current times, it can feel like all the work you've put into bettering your mental health is completely gone. Personally, I find myself thinking more negatively, letting the outcome of a situation that didn't go my way upset me, and even just adopting a more pessimistic mindset. However, when I take a step back and look at the situation, I realize that there are no guidelines on how someone should react in these times. You have

GROWTH IS NOT A LINEAR PROCESS



to learn to accept the good and the bad and realize that just because you might suffer a setback, it doesn't mean progress is lost. It actually indicates the opposite, setbacks are a part of progress and, if anything, it indicates growth.

Although it was really hard to adapt at the beginning of this whole mess, it has been getting easier. I've learned to accept the things I cannot change, and that good things are coming. I know mental health, fear and anxiety are not solved with a little positive thinking, but realizing that this moment in time is not forever has been a bit of a relief. Sometimes it's hard to focus on the future when it seems completely unknown, but little reminders to myself that even if I falter, it doesn't mean progress is lost.

I can only hope that anyone else out there feeling this way can find some peace in understanding that they're not alone in feeling this way. The coronavirus has thrown a huge curveball at society, and there's no right way to react to it. It's important to recognize that no matter what your feelings are that those feelings are valid, and if you're experiencing setbacks, that they don't represent failure but rather the chance at growth.

BASICALLY A NICHOLAS SPARKS MOVIE* KEEPING YOUR SUMMER FLING

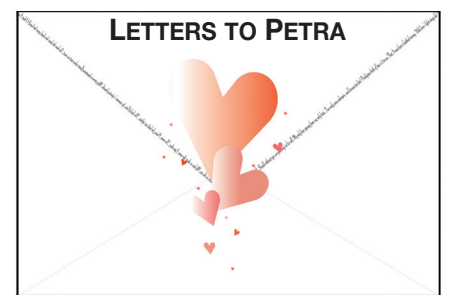
By Petra Davidson
MYSTICAST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Summer fling. The word used to describe a meaningless relationship that only lasts as long as the weather is above 60 degrees. A fleeting romance that thrives during the hottest months of the year. The only logical reason this type of affection is defined, is because of the adventure a short-lived relationship can have. It may be with your next door neighbor, the football linebacker, or a Jamaican man you met while on a cruise with your family to the Bahamas. No matter the person, the tough fact stays the same, it will always end after summer ... but what if there was a way to keep your star-crossed lover. There are three key ingredients to keeping the spice with your beau after the clock strikes September.

Step one, pretend like nothing's changed. ~~Step two, spend all your money on a trip back to Jamaica.~~ Step two, talk way too much. Step three, define the relationship.

Step one: Pretend Like Nothing's Changed. When fall rolls around and pumpkin spice lattes become blood in everyone's veins, a man is just what every woman wants. The cuddles around the fire, the pictures at the hay bales, and the perfect date to take home to the parents during the holidays. Can that date be your summer fling? Yes. Summer dates ARE the most fun, but in order to keep your honey interested, think of fun ideas both of you can do. If the spark fizzles out, so does the relationship. Here are some fun activities to keep the romance. Go on a double date with your brother and his ex-girlfriend, take a painting class, arm wrestle, visit Spain—easy things that allow for adventure and mystery in the relationship.

Step two: Talk Way Too Much. This is the bread and butter of a



relationship: communication. It's hard for many introverts to accomplish. If your person won't talk to you, in order to keep the relationship alive, I have one word for you: blackmail.

Step three: Define the Relationship (DTR). One of the final steps in your long lasting summer fling is switching that little tab from single to "in a relationship." Facebook official says it all. Everyone knows that Corby and Janet aren't dating until WE see they're dating. And in order for the public to know your summer fling has enhanced to a real relationship, your coming out party is making out in public. This can be grotesque to see, but it's a crucial step in ending the stereotype. Park benches, a crowded alley way or your great-grandma's backyard are great places to start your public making-out process. Finally, a promise ring shows the depth of the relationship. Promise rings have been scientifically proven to guarantee forever love. A friend of mine in high school gave his girlfriend a promise ring, and they lasted three months longer than they would've without the ring. Promise ring = DTRing to the MAX.

If a long lasting summer fling is something you seek, follow these three easy steps and see your success flourish. Go on lots of dates, pretend it's still summer, talk about all of your feelings, and then define your delicious relationship. Good luck and let the games begin.

*the author is inexperienced and has never had a relationship ... happy hunting.

PERSONA ROYAL 5: A GREAT GAME THAT NO ONE SAW COMING

By Travis Askerooth
REPORTER

How is it possible to take a game that is a 10/10 and make even better? Well, Persona 5 Royal takes that question, says “Hold my beer,” and comes out with a bang!

Persona 5 Royal is a 2020 Japanese Role Playing Game (JRPG) where the player plays as a young high school student who transfers over to a new school because he recently received a falsely charged criminal record. This causes him to eventually become a special thief that has the ability to steal Personas and change people’s distorted hearts. Along the way, he finds new friends and confidants, and as they climb in popularity as the group known as The Phantom Thieves of Heart, a mysterious power tries to crumble them and wash them from existence.

The original game was released Sept. 15, 2016. It was developed by Atlus and P Studios and published by Atlus. The game was a critical hit; it won numerous awards and is the best selling Megami Tensei game. Even though it was a hit, there were a few problems fans had with the original game. A certain Palace, which are giant levels where the combat resides, was despised for a lack of creativity

and repetition, some story plot holes, and a few gameplay quirks were getting on people’s nerves. Luckily, with any Persona game, they would release a “gold” version of the game that included more content, fixed and added different gameplay elements, and packaged more places and things to do.

When it comes to the game itself, it is both awesome and emotional. The game heavily depends on the player’s interest in the story and its characters in order to carry them further into the game. The game takes a long time to beat; around 80 to 120 hours, depending on the player’s experience. But it is easy to fall into this game’s universe with its characters, world building, dialogue, and visuals. Every character, minor or major, the game introduces has their own story and personality to make them stand out.

When it comes to combat, it is just as flashy and stimulating as usual.

Persona 5 has the most appealing artstyle out of the Persona series and with the combat being flashy and cool, the experience is dripping with style. The combat system is the turn based system, which makes strategy the core way to win in fights. The game also introduces a new Showtime gameplay mechanic where at random if a Shadow, the enemy of the game, gets to low health, the player can

activate Showtime, which will play a twenty to thirty animation with two of the characters performing a fancy finishing move. They are fun to watch, and it never gets tiring.

The stuff involving the Metaverse (the collection of most of the combat goes) is not the only thing that the game offers. The game also acts as a social simulation game. The player attends school, answers questions, hangs out with Confidants, plays darts, explores different locations, trains, etc. It has a day/night cycle, so every time the player does an activity, it passes the time, so keeping track of time is very important. There are a lot of side activities, and every activity will reward you for doing so. When the player hangs with Confidants, they get to look into their history and their struggles. Hanging out with them more rewards the player with upgrades that helps the player out. The player also has a social star that contains knowledge, charm, kindness, guts, and proficiency. Confidants would need a certain rank of these stats in order to continue their story, so there are a bunch of other side activities that’ll increase the stats. There is even an option to engage in a romantic relationship with any female in the game. When I mean any, I mean ANY.

What does Royal add in terms of

content? Well, it added a new place to explore with new activities, a couple minigames, two new Confidants and new Shadows. It allows more time at night to explore, and a Third Semester. The Third Semester is only activated if the player gets three specific Confidants to max level. Otherwise, it would play out the same ending from the original. Everything they added/changed here is for the better and makes it harder to go back to the original game.

In terms of flaws, some of the visual cutscenes, specifically in the anime style, still don’t look that clean and are a bit rough, although the new cutscenes do look better and flow well. The aforementioned Palace is better in some parts, but worse in others. The pacing can be too quick or too slow in some places, and a couple of animations are a bit stiff, but if the player is invested in the game, then these nitpicks aren’t dealbreakers.

Persona 5 Royal takes the original game and molds it into something better. Better combat, more activities, a new semester, and more content turns this game from a 10 out of 10 to an 11 out of 10. Even if a person isn’t into anime or the anime style, it is still enjoyable for the combat, story and characters alone. It is a game that doesn’t waste your time but steals your heart.

BINGEWORTHY: STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS

By Roger Marks IV
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Star Wars has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. As time went on more and more content was added to the already fleshed out universe.

So when Star Wars: The Clone Wars rolled around in 2008 I was excited. The movies skipped over this relatively long period of time that had a huge impact on the story.

This is what The Clone Wars did; it provided deeper story and intentions to characters that didn’t have it so good in the cinematic universe.

The show had entire arcs dedicated to what might be considered non-essential characters to the Skywalker saga, and that is what made it shine.

The show just finished its seven season run on Star Wars day—May 4, 2020—in a climactic end that ties nicely into the other shows and movies with the same timeline.

However it does raise some plot holes to no fault of its own. With countless directors, writers, producers and other shows to compete with as well, it’s not hard to see how some small issues could arise.

Like most animated shows the beginning art style is clearly made to be easily drawn and colored but as the show goes on, especially in the

seventh season, the artwork takes a more refined look while still being familiar. Colors become more vibrant and detailed in gradients. The variety of color in the same shot is expanded when it makes sense.

Possibly the most important part about a show is its writing. Without the amazing writing, The Clone Wars may have flopped.

The thing that TCW capitalized on was depth. They were handed an expansive universe with as much width as they could possibly imagine, which they also used quite well to their advantage.

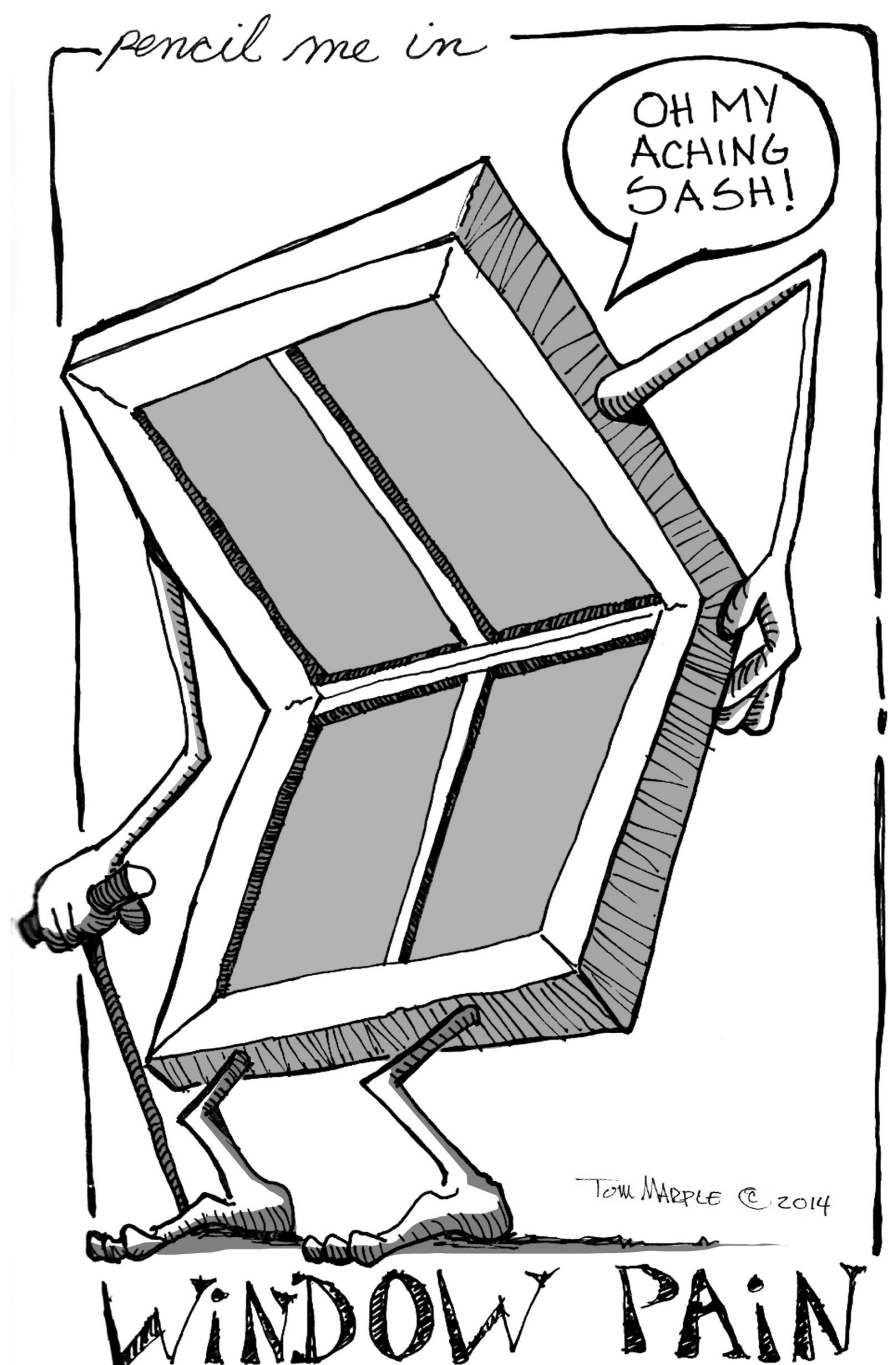
Characters that had been passed over in the movies now had deeper complexity rather than surface level. Rivalries were expanded. Relationships strained and strengthened. Motivations explained and justified.

And somehow, some way everything just made sense. When it was all laid out, the bigger picture was a little clearer.

I could go on and on because I love this series and the entire story. But there’s only one way that you can experience it. Just sit down and watch.

The state may be opened up from quarantine but why risk it? Sit down, grab your snacks and some water.

This is the next BingeWorthy show.



**KEEP DANCING
IN A QUARANTINE**

By **Kyleigh Hilbert**
REPORTER

Being home bound has put everyone on a new level of boredom. But some people have taken matters into their own hands to make the most of it.

One person doing this is DJ D-Nice (Derrick Jones), who has taken his talents to host online live parties known as ‘Club Quarantine.’

Using his kitchen as a studio, he has gone live on social media networks, such as Instagram, and simply does his job of being a DJ while millions of viewers can tune in and be part of it.

In March, DJ D-Nice and Club Quarantine had a visitor—Michelle Obama helped host the party while raising awareness by reminding people to register to vote.

Many other famous figures attended the event including Oprah, Joe Biden, Will Smith, P Diddy, and many more.

This past April, DJ D-Nice worked with Keke Palmer to co-host a one hour special. This special was to support the Save the Music Foundations.

In a recent interview, MSNBC reported that D-Nice talked about how people can party with a purpose. We can do something fun, along with doing something good.

In a world where it seems like technology is separating us, we can now use it to bring us together in new ways.

CHECK IT OUT:
[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/DNICE/?HL=EN](https://www.instagram.com/dnice/?hl=en)

**ANOTHER REMAKE TO REDEFINE
THE GAMING INDUSTRY**

By **Robert Mechaley III**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I was born in the same year as the release of the video game “Final Fantasy VII” published by Japanese company Square Enix, 1997. For much of my life I was told by friends that it was amazing and that I should play it. In 2015 when I first attended college I finally gave it a try and found myself unable to play it satisfyingly due to a pretty janky PC port I had bought. Finally after twenty-three years of my life I have played “Final Fantasy VII”, just not the original.

“Final Fantasy VII Remake” by Square Enix released to North American Audiences fully dubbed in English on March 2, 2020 to receptions of praise. I bought the game on a whim as I wasn’t a huge fan of the “Final Fantasy” franchise, but I kept my mind open as it seemed like a fun ride. Not only was I left with a pleasant surprise, but I will keep a countdown timer religiously for the second part of the game to release.

The game centers around the story of a mercenary named Cloud Strife, a former SOLDIER (it’s all caps for a reason), working with the eco-terrorist group Avalanche at the behest of his childhood friend, Tifa Lockheart. After a successful mission blowing up an energy reactor alongside Avalanche leader Barret Wallace, Cloud finds himself set on a journey to save the planet.

The combat of “Final Fantasy VII Remake” is incredibly satisfying and highly adaptive. The attacks dished

out by each character are unique and the upgrade systems for them allow for choices of play style. By equipping a weapon or piece of armor with Materia, a substance containing magic spells and abilities, a character’s role can change between attack, healing or buffing.

The next shining light stands in the form of animation and performance. While playing Japanese Roleplaying Games, I often find myself wincing at unexpressive animation and poorly translated scripts performed by people who sound like they want to go home. There is a stunning amount of detail placed into the

animation of characters, enemies and environments. It wasn’t always perfect, but I never expected it to be. The character writing is what stunned me the most with almost every character getting a chance to chew the scenery. I never thought I’d enjoy the kind of villainous laughing written in 1997 today and I’ll take that as a victory.

In conclusion, “Final Fantasy VII Remake” is a story best worth experiencing for yourself. Take your time with it as well since the full experience will be split across multiple games and it’s worth it to fully master the mechanics to their fullest.



Photo Credit: Square Enix North America

**COMMENCEMENT
CROSSWORD**

Michael Tomanek 15 March 2020

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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57	58	59			60	61	62			63	64			
65					66					67				
68					69					70				

Across

- 1. Aus. rock band
- 5. "Sonny" Corleone
- 9. What eagles do
- 13. Happen
- 14. "Hawkeye" Pierce
- 15. Black crystal
- 16. _____ Picchu
- 17. Apathy
- 19. Svrl. Ppl.
- 20. Bozeman Sch.
- 22. For example (Lat.)
- 23. TSRQ...
- 25. Award winning beer
- 29. Gets deal
- 32. _____ about time
- 34. Vowel trio
- 35. Blood kind
- 36. Tai _____
- 37. Deli ords.
- 38. Plath or Sexton
- 39. Plath or Sexton
- 40. Boat propellers
- 41. Spanish singles?
- 42. Bikini top
- 43. Navy opponent?
- 44. With 38-down, smoker
- 45. Can be little and white
- 46. Workday bane
- 47. Pirate’s shirt style
- 50. Precedes song and bird
- 52. In other words (Lat.)
- 53. Para. Structure (argument)
- 54. Feathered snake?
- 57. Pride of London (EPL)
- 63. Disc-Man Successor
- 65. Greek cheese
- 66. Vegan protein
- 67. Preserves
- 68. Oil grp.
- 69. _____-inet
- 70. Signature tool

Down

- 1. Road trip must-have
- 2. Soviet Union initials
- 3. Obviously!
- 4. To wad
- 5. A cuisine from the bayou
- 6. In the style of
- 7. Include
- 8. Scottish refusal
- 9. Other side of a 45
- 10. Lonely number
- 11. Sorrowful cries
- 12. Drug ords.
- 13. Texter’s surprise
- 18. Drug grp.
- 21. - - - - -
- 24. First name in arts & crafts?
- 25. Tire initials
- 26. Deli meat
- 27. Explosive type
- 28. Snake or air leak sound
- 29. Druggie
- 30. Sight-seer, 1st person (either)
- 31. Rental unts.
- 33. Definite article
- 37. South Pacific island with an echo?
- 38. A magical dragon
- 39. _____ Lanka
- 42. Poet Robert
- 43. Patriot’s love
- 46. Apple eater
- 48. Spring bloom
- 49. Gibson first name
- 51. Re-_____ (happen again, like in this puzzle)
- 54. Make a hole
- 55. Fish stew (Japanese)
- 56. Old-time plow need
- 57. \$ exec.
- 58. Stylish cat
- 59. Nice season
- 60. And so on...
- 61. Dial-up initials
- 62. Young farmers grp.
- 64. Young dog

Sports

Aspiring to Give Every Student a Voice

Kyler McGillis: The Next Chapter Begins

By Caden Shean
REPORTER

Not too long ago, the prospect from St. John, N.D., Kyler McGillis was announcing his decision to play basketball at the next level and chose Bismarck State College. Now, he does it again as his time is up at BSC.

Kyler McGillis started 55 of 57 games in his two years at BSC. In his first year, he averaged 11.3 points per game while shooting 40% from the field including 37% from the 3 point line. In his second year, he saw tremendous growth. With a majority of the starting rotation gone, he was

asked to pick up the offense and did just that. He averaged 18.2 points per game, shot 42% from the field and averaged 5 assists.

McGillis will head 102 miles east to the University of Jamestown in the fall to further his academic and athletic career.

"Jamestown has been a very successful program the past few years," McGillis said. "They have a good system of team chemistry and culture along with a good coaching staff."

McGillis has his tremendous work ethic to thank for his success and opportunities to be able to play the game he loves while moving up in the

basketball ranks.

"The Jimmies will be getting a player who wants nothing more than to win and be successful while doing everything in my power to try and do those things," McGillis said.

McGillis learned a lot from BSC in his two years that he can bring to Jamestown. A large part of that is from how well he was able to perform while being the main ball handler within the Mystic offense.

"I grew and learned a lot during my time at BSC," McGillis said. "I will be bringing leadership abilities and college experience to help Jamestown basketball excel right away."

As McGillis moves on from BSC, he has made good memories but is excited for the next chapter of his life.

"I will miss the many friendships and teammates I made here at BSC," McGillis said. "But I am very much looking forward to the next couple of basketball seasons."

From a former North Dakota Mr. Basketball finalist, to a 2-year college starter at BSC, and now to the University of Jamestown. This former St. John standout is making a name for himself in basketball and has no intentions of slowing down quite yet.



Sophomore Guard Kyler McGillis looks to drive past his defender in a mid season contest. (Photo: Submitted)

BSC OVERWATCH TEAM COMPETES



In their first year of competition, the Bismarck State College Mystics Esports Overwatch team took second place in the National Junior College Athletic Association Esports (NJCAA) Overwatch championship.

After defeating Carl Sandburg College (Galesburg, IL) during the semi-finals, the BSC Overwatch team lost to the Centralia College Trailblazers (Centralia, WA) in the championship match on Tuesday, April 28.

BSC Overwatch players include Ethan Reuter, Parker Doll, RJ Tare, Keenan Welder, Robert Bender, Robert Modin and Adam Hoffmann.

Pictured: BSC Overwatch team member Jestin Long Feather is the team's Super Smash Bros. Ultimate player. (Photo: Submitted)

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2020

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