



PEACE PLACE PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

SAMIRA BARNETT

Contributing Writer

Peace Place is a domestic violence agency located in Winder, Ga. Their mission is to fulfill survivors' needs and devise a strategy for helping them in the most beneficial way. Their program is designed to address and treat domestic violence issues from all perspectives. This could be shelter, legal aid, help with a protective order or any other type of outreach service.

"We operate a shelter for women and children who are fleeing from abusive homes," said Traci Bledsoe, Executive Director of Peace Place. "We provide everything for them, including food, clothing, toiletries, whatever you use in your daily life."

Most women can stay in the regular shelter for 60-90 days. However, those who have a job but do not yet have the financial resources to live independently can live in a transitional unit. It has four apartments as well as a house for a larger family.

Individuals can stay up to a year and must pay a program fee to help with rent preparation. They are also required to contribute to a savings program and Peace Place will match whatever they put into their savings account at the end of the year.

"Our goal is to power them to be successful so that they can be independent," said Bledsoe. "There are some financial planning classes, budgeting classes, you know basic life skills a lot of these individuals don't have."

Peace Place tries to connect survivors with any benefits they may require, such as Medicaid or a child assistance program called CAPS so that parents can go to work.

Therapy, support groups and individual sessions are also available as resources. Everyone is welcome to attend support groups held every Thursday at 6 p.m. in person at Peace Place or virtually.

With the assistance of their child advocate, Lou Ann Puckett, Peace Place also assists children who may be affected.

"Children can be affected too even if they haven't been a direct victim of physical assault, they experience it," said Bledsoe. "Statistics say that if a child just has one supportive individual in his or her life then it can

really turn them around and go a great distance towards reversing issues growing up."

Peace Place also offers a teen violence prevention and support program. Emma James, the center's teen advocate, travels to different schools and clubs to demonstrate what a healthy relationship should look like. She teaches them how to recognize the warning signs of a potentially dangerous relationship.

There are many volunteer opportunities for individuals who want to get involved, such as working at an event, helping in the yard or working in the thrift store. Britta Lunsford, the volunteer coordinator, can be reached for more information.

To fund the organization, fundraisers such as the annual Gala are held. The Gala will be held in Jefferson, Ga. on Feb. 11. Dinner will be provided along with a dance, live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$75 each, with a table costing \$600. You can make a purchase through the website or contact the shelter via phone or email.

"One of the most important things for victims to understand is that it is not your fault," said Bledsoe. "Everybody deserves to be treated with respect and kindness. That voice that is telling you something is wrong, listen to it, and reach out for help because there is help."

For more information on the location for therapy and support groups, contact Laura Hyatt at lyhatt@peaceplaceinc.org.

"A victim may not even need to come into the shelter, they just may need someone to talk to," said Bledsoe. "Just pick up the phone and call and we will help you."

For those in an emergency, there is a 24/7 crisis line (706-387-0100) as their first point of contact for those seeking support of services or fleeing from abusive situations.



Image courtesy of Peace Place

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS

PAGE 1

Public Service Club Encourages UWG and Community to Vote!

By Alanna King

LIVING WEST

PAGES 1-3

Dr. Emily Friedman talks Critical Rolls and Actual Plays

By Jannette Emmerick

BSA Brings Women Empowerment to Campus

By Alanna King

Liberty Eagle Hosts Murder Mystery and Gala

By Brianna Welch

Poodles And Paws For A Cause Raises Awareness for "Adopt Don't Shop"

By Anna Roberts

Plant Wasted Now Open In McIntosh Plaza

By Anna Roberts

FOOD

PAGE 4

Interview with Worldwide Food Critic, Gregory Richards

By Christian James-Lattore

ENTERTAINMENT

PAGES 4-5

Black Adam Movie Review

By Christian James-Lattore

Entergalactic Review

By Samira Barnett

SPORTS

PAGE 5

IFC Olympics 2022

By Douglas Salter

DR. EMILY FRIEDMAN TALKS CRITICAL ROLLS AND ACTUAL PLAYS FOR LURE JOURNAL'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

JANNETTE EMMERICK

Feature Editor

UWG and LUR Journal hosted their 12th annual Undergraduate English Research Conference on Oct. 20 and invited Dr. Emily Friedman, an associate professor of English at Auburn University as their plenary speaker.

The conference dealt with topics, essays and research tackling a variety of subjects, including themes about Feminism, Tolkien, South Africa and even young adult novels like Twilight. For Friedman's talk specifically, she shared how her life served as a text in creating her own story and then moved on to speak about her career and research.

"I currently am someone who is writing for academic pop culture venues about the intersection between the eighteenth century and today," said Friedman. "My specific research interests include the history of audiences and how works have circulated in different time periods and in different technologies."

Friedman has published the book "Reading Smell in Eighteenth-Century Fiction," which is, as the title insinuates. For her next wave of research, she is exploring the history and forms of fanfiction, both in the eighteenth century and modern day.

"I have recovered never published manuscripts that are basically fiction that circulated outside of commercial print culture from between 1750 and 1900, which is a book project I am calling 'Before Fiction,'" said Friedman. "Most visibly these days, I am at work on a new genre in formation right now, which is referred to by audiences and practitioners as Actual Play."

"Actual Play," also known as live play, is what Friedman defines as roleplay games as performance for an audience. Typically through podcasts or livestreams, Actual Play incorporates comedy, improv and other genres.

"That includes Critical Role, which is the most successful of these," said Friedman. "[Critical Role] is the most successful kickstarter of all time in TV, film and animation. They have a multi-season deal with Amazon."

Critical Role is a Dungeons and Dragons (DnD) series live-streamed over Twitch which features multiple big-name actors and actresses in the voice acting business, including Travis Willingham, Matt Mercer and Laura Bailey.

Other successful Actual Plays include *Dimension 20*, *The Adventure Zone* and *HarmonQuest*. Additionally, outside of broadcasted Actual Plays, DnD and other roleplaying table tops are a popular activity among friends.

"We're really early on in the formation of this genre," said Friedman. "You've got a genre that's still trying to figure out: 'What is it?' 'How do we make it sustainable?' What's amateur versus professional— Does that even matter?' And I became fascinated by it because those

were the same questions that were happening to the eighteenth century novel, and to a certain extent, 18th century theater.

"I try to apply what I know as a narratologist and a book historian, and thus as a media historian, to try to connect what I think might happen [to the genre]," continued Friedman. "Or at least how I can study it with this kind of eye; this thing that is coming into being and trying to define itself."

Friedman and her students are amongst many scholars currently studying the creation and evolution of a genre in real time. Asking themselves what goes into the livestreaming production backstage and how the actors manage to sustain their narratives in a performative way.

"It's been fun to talk to students about those layers of performance because the pleasure of Critical Role in particular and those that follow that particular format is that not only are you watching a collective story being told. You're watching the people do the process of making," said Friedman.

With a surge of roleplay table tops in broadcasted entertainment, the field of theater, improv, and comedy will forever be changed. Actual Play is changing the digital landscape of performing arts wherein the audience, actors, writers and producers will determine the longevity of the genre.



Photo: Jannette Emmerick, The West Georgian

LIVING WEST

BSA BRINGS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TO CAMPUS

ALANNA KING
News Editor

BSA (Black Student Alliance) hosted their third annual “Sisters: Women’s Empowerment Panel” on Oct. 19 at the TLC. BSA hosted the event along with HerCampus, For Us Nursing, College Girls Rock, The National Council of Negro Women and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., all UWG organizations charted for and by black students.

This year, the theme was inspired by the 2000s television show *Girlfriends* that regained popularity on Netflix in 2020. Last year, the event was based on *Insecure*, another popular television series in the community. Panel guests brought up scenes and characters of the show and tied them to girl talk questions. Much of the content discussed men, sex and relationships. But this October, the panel discussion was different.

“This sister’s rendition is different because I wanted to talk about real time topics,” said BSA president Nycole Latham. “I really want to have an emphasis on women’s empowerment because I don’t see that a lot on campus and I wanted to be the change.

“I wanted to have different organizations come together and talk about things that are going on in society, especially in the Black girl world,” contin-



Photo: Alanna King, *The West Georgian*

ued Latham. “I like when we get together and have different conversations. They’re stimulating.”

The event began with an all-female panel that featured members of partnering organizations. Each girl talked about their role in their organizations and what they believe their real-life superpower is.

“I hope that we can shed some light on different things that have been going on in society like when we talk about our body, our workplace and friendships,” said Latham. “Just celebrating the different trends we’ve had and shedding some light on us and making it positive.”

Latham directed the conversation throughout the event, asking the panel guests about trending topics in the social media world along with age-old questions about womanhood and adult life. The audience didn’t shy away, adding their opinions and questions to the conversation with varying and diverse answers. Both the audience and the panel offered

a safe space for girls to talk about both humorous and sensitive topics.

Girls defined the soft girl trend on TikTok, shared the notions they would tell their younger selves, practical ways to practice self-care and the black women they look up to and why. Self-development was discussed in depth as the trending topic has many different angles. The answers generated a sense of community as many girls shared similar life experiences with each other.

“I want us to keep in mind that we always need to look out for each other outside of school in the real world and the workplace,” said Latham.

BSA has more events coming up to celebrate Black achievement and culture, such as The Black Project, The Black Excellence Leadership Awards and Showtime at the Apollo.

“BSA is always for black, the black culture and black history. We’re all about captivating history with every single event that we have,” said Latham.

LIBERTY EAGLE HOSTS MURDER MYSTERY AND GALA

BRIANNA WELCH
Contributing Writer

Liberty Eagle Academy is hosting a magical murder mystery dinner and gala on Nov. 12 at the Sunset Hills Country Club in Carrollton. This event starts at 6 p.m. and will end at 10:30 p.m.

This one night only event contains an assortment of fun activities for all of the guests that will keep them on their toes.

Jenny Herrin is an administrator at the Liberty Eagle Academy, which is one of the first recognized private schools in Carroll County which institutes the best of Montessori and traditional teaching methods. Herrin assisted with coordinating the

annual magical mystery gala, alongside the Sunset Hills Country Club.

“It is set in the 1920s, Gone with the Wind era,” said Herrin. “It’s kind of a who-done-it.”

The murder mystery will intrigue the guests with an enticing storyline adventure to solve who committed the crime. Though there is not a mandatory dress code for this gala, it is highly encouraged to wear fancy cocktail attire that match the 1920s era the storyline is set in to make the experience more entertaining for guests.

The murder mystery is not the only exciting event occurring at the gala.

“The ticket includes a silent auction, drink tickets, dancing, murder mystery and a DJ,” said Herrin.

This event is only for guests 21 and older due to

the alcoholic beverages being served. Tickets can be found on Eventbrite or on the Liberty Eagle Academy’s Facebook page. Tickets start at \$100, and the deadline to buy them is Nov. 11. Liberty Eagle Academy will provide childcare services while the parents are at the murder mystery and gala and it is \$20 for each child.

While there are no VIP tickets available, the staff and parents of the students at Liberty Eagle Academy can receive discounts. Discounts will not be available for club members since this gala is not conducted by the club. The Sunset Hill Country Club members are more than welcome to stop by and join the festivities if they so choose.

“It’s going to be a lot of fun,” said Herrin.



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LIVING WEST

POODLES AND PAWS FOR A CAUSE RAISES AWARENESS FOR “ADOPT DON’T SHOP”

ANNA ROBERTS
Contributing Writer

Poodles and Paws For A Cause was a fundraising event hosted by Alpha Xi Delta, Sigma Gamma Rho and Lambda Theta Phi on Oct. 21 at Love Valley at UWG.

These organizations collaborated to raise money for their independent philanthropies, along with increasing the awareness for the benefits of adopting pets from shelters.

“A lot of times when people are looking for a pet, they have a list of criteria they want their pet to meet,” said Ananda Jones, Vice President of Philanthropy for Alpha Xi Delta. “When at the top of the list, the number one thing they care about is that they love them and that the animal loves them in return.

Those who planned to attend the event were encouraged to bring along their pet. The organizations were handing out free treats for their furry family members.

The Greek-life organizations were able to partner with the Carroll County Animal



Photo: Anna Roberts, *The West Georgian*

Shelter to help promote “adopt don’t shop.” They wanted to educate on the importance of adopting a pet from a shelter rather than from a breeder.

“By adopting from a shelter, not only are you saving an animal from a not-great environment, you’re also giving it a second chance,” said Jones. “They’re not as expensive as buying from a breeder and you get just as much, if not more, love from them.”

The money raised at the event was split equally among the hosts, raising a total of over \$200. Each organization put their share of the money towards their respective philanthropies.

Tickets for admission were \$7 for adults and \$5 for children and UWG students. It was set up similarly to a fall

festival with yard games and activities available, such as cornhole, spikeball, a pumpkin painting station where guests could decorate their own pumpkin and a cake walk with the opportunity to win prizes. There was even food available, with a self-serve hot chocolate bar.

Poodles and Paws For A Cause was deemed successful by the organizers and they are looking forward to holding this event in the future.

“The event was really successful,” said Jones. “It brought out people from all councils, and we got to come together and make a difference in our community. It really helped us take big strides towards being more unified on campus, along with bringing awareness to such an important issue.”

PLANT WASTED NOW OPEN IN MCINTOSH PLAZA

ANNA ROBERTS
Contributing Writer

Plant Wasted, a local juice and smoothie bar in Carrollton, Ga, has recently moved locations to McIntosh Plaza.

Previously located on Adamson Square, the restaurant recently opened doors in McIntosh Plaza with the hopes of creating a more convenient shopping experience for consumers.

The smoothie and juice bar officially opened their original location on July 3, 2022 but recently began to prepare for a move in late September. They made their official announcement on Aug. 3, giving cus-

tomers a detailed explanation of their plan. After selling what was left of their inventory, they officially closed their doors on the square on Sept. 14.

“We recently decided to move to the McIntosh Plaza when the opportunity presented itself to offer better parking for our customers, and hopefully receive more foot traffic around our store,” said Sales Associate Haley Landry.

Plant Wasted’s official reopening took place on Oct.14, with the store providing its entire menu for customers. They offer a variety of products ranging from raw cold-pressed juices, superfood smoothies, detox cleanse shots, and wellness bowls. They hope that their products will help their customers regain energy and live a happier, healthier lifestyle.

“In our new location, we are going to be surrounded by many other shopping stores like we were at our

last location, but we now will have a huge parking [lot] directly across from our storefront,” said Landry. “We hope that not only will people walk to us once they finish shopping but that if they are coming directly to us that they have the parking availability to make it more convenient for them.”

Since the reopening, the store has experienced great success. The business is excited about the opportunity to expand and grow for the benefit of their customers.

Plant Wasted emphasized that the goal for moving locations is to grow wherever they are rooted and keep serving the community of Carrollton. For more information and updates, customers can follow Plant Wasted on social media @plant_wasted or visit their website www.plantwasted.com.

“We just want to make coming to our store the most enjoyable experience possible for them,” said Landry.



Image courtesy of Plant Wasted

FOOD

INTERVIEW WITH WORLDWIDE FOOD CRITIC, GREGORY RICHARDS

CHRISTIAN JAMES-LATTORE
Contributing Writer

Traveling around the world and trying different foods is a dream come true for anyone. For Gregory Richards, it’s not a dream but a lifestyle.

Richards’ love for food has seated him in over 400 diverse restaurants across the world. Critiquing a variety of culinary dishes has not only created close-knit relationships in Richards’s life but also given him a unique perspective on food.

“After working in culinary for years, I got tired of cooking but I never lost my love for food,” said Richards. “I was from New York City and when I moved to Atlanta, one thing I realized is that there were a plethora of food places down here.”

Richards had a goal to visit every single restaurant

in Atlanta. Once he set that goal in place, the exploring began. Richards focused on restaurants that served frequent specials, whether it be a happy hour or a buy-one-get-one free meal helped guide him through the restaurant’s menu.

“It was the passion for food that I never lost even though my passion for cooking and preparing food dwindled,” said Richards. “I never thought of it as reviewing. I just wanted to go to places where I could get quality food for a good price.”

This simple act of looking for deals on a menu grew into full-blown food critiquing at the various eateries, cafes, diners and bistros Richards has visited. This unexpected action then led to another side of food Richards loves— the social connections food has brought into his life.

“I’ve met restaurant owners, my biggest friend group made up of other social media food reviewers and bloggers who do

the same thing as I do,” said Richards. “Me and my friends get a lot of invitational meets from new restaurants that want feedback on their food. Experiences, where I get to meet new people who do what I do and have the same interest as me, is something I enjoy the most.”

Many become tired or burned out when completing monotonous routines. Richards made it clear that is how he felt during culinary school but when it comes to evaluating food that feeling never arose. It was the change of perspective in the same field that paved the way for his career.

“Even though I love going to these different restaurants and eating these different dishes, it’s about the experience food brings,” said Richards. “I go to restaurants by myself but when I go with friends or family we spend time breaking bread and laughing over food. It’s that experience that makes the food taste even better sometimes.”

BLACK ADAM MOVIE REVIEW

CHRISTIAN JAMES-LATTORE
Contributing Writer

Black Adam is the most recent installment in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU) and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson’s debut as a comic book character.

The movie was filled with many different cohesive elements that made it an entertaining movie. The film’s acting, special effects and pacing were all elements that made “Black Adam” stand out from the DCEUs most recent releases.

The acting in the movie was very foundational to the film because the casting choices were on point. Aldis Hodge playing Hawkman was the perfect casting because of the energy he brings to the role. In the comics, Hawkman is an instigator and is also problematic which is why Hodge brings intensity to the character every time he gets screen time. Pierce Brosnan as Doctor Fate brings a sense of wisdom in playing the character. Atom Smasher, played by Noah Centineo, and Cyclone, played by Quintessa Swindell, both do a great job at establishing chemistry in certain moments of the film. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson as Black Adam steals the show every time the camera is focused on him. Even though this is his first comic book film, his screen presence as Black Adam can be encapsulating to audiences.

The special effects in the film were spotless and exciting to watch. All of the characters’ costumes were incredibly accurate to the source material as if they were straight out of a comic book. Out of all the costumes on-screen, Dr. Fate’s costume stole the show with its bright gold aesthetics.

The action sequences were

very well done. Once again, staying close to the source material is what made the action sequences memorable but also look flawless. The characters interact with each other and fight as if they were given the comic book as a script. The cinematography played a big role in making the action sequences flow smoothly as well. Keeping the same color palette throughout the movie kept the film from being forgettable. Each scene and camera cut held great significance.

Throughout the two-hour runtime, world-building is established in the film. Black Adam’s country of Kahndaq is shown to be an oppressed country in need of change. Throughout the film, the audience is

shown how the oppressors of Kahndaq treat the native people but it doesn’t explore that part of the story in-depth enough. That is the biggest fault in the story. The film was marketed in a way that showed Black Adam as the savior of Kahndaq but outside of fighting the other super-powered beings, the systematic threat is barely spoken about after the first act of the movie.

This film may not be perfect but it is the right step in the right direction for the DCEU. The most recent years have brought nothing but convoluted storytelling and executive meddling within the DCEU films. *Black Adam* is the positive result of listening to fans and also staying unique in its storytelling.



Image courtesy of DC Comics

ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERGALACTIC REVIEW

SAMIRA BARNETT

Contributing Writer

Kid Cudi, an American rapper, debuts his new film *Entergalactic* on Netflix. This film’s cast includes hit stars such as Timothee Chamalmet, Ty Dolla \$ign, Vanessa Hudgens, Jaden Smith, Ketih David, Teyanna Taylor and Macaulay Culkin.

Entergalactic brings a mix of the award-winning film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*’s animation style and a classic love story between two young adults.

This adult-animated romantic comedy follows Jabari (Kid Cudi) and his next-door neighbor, Meadow (Jessica Williams), in their journey of falling in love while pursuing their professional dreams.

Jabari relocated to Manhattan after being hired by Cosmic Comics to develop his original character, Mr. Rager, into a comic book series. Shortly after his arrival, he ran into his ex-girlfriend Carmen (Laura Harrier). Jabari and Carmen rekindled their romance for a night before he realized he wasn’t ready for a long-term relationship.

Later, after being awoken by loud music from his neighbor, he went next door to complain. Instead, Meadow caught his eye; from there it was love at first sight. Meadow was an artist like him; they shared the same aspirations and goals in life. Both have also worked hard to get their artwork noticed.

Together they took things slowly,

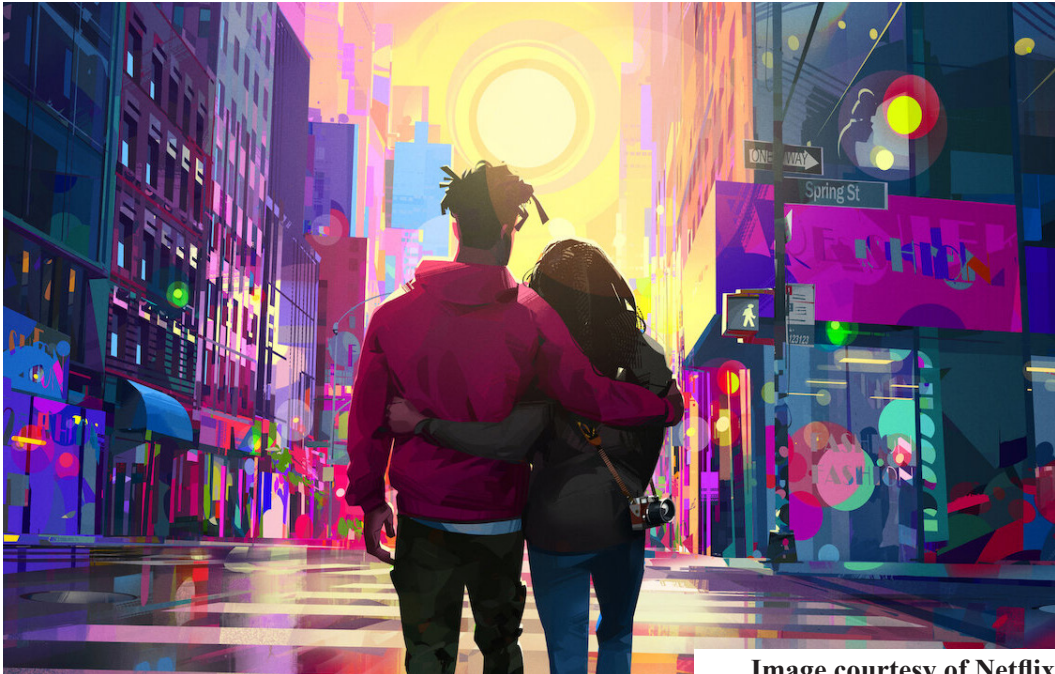


Image courtesy of Netflix

oblivious to the fact that they were in love with each other. The magical graphics throughout the film enhance the presentation of their feelings for one another.

It wasn’t until their friends persuaded them that they realized they should give a romantic relationship a try.

Their relationship was going well until a misunderstanding occurred when Carmen sent him an explicit photo of her wearing his T-shirt. Meadow was the first to see the picture. Jabari isn’t great at expressing himself and did not have an explanation. Meadow didn’t want to give him the time of day, so the two parted ways.

This film, like many other romantic series, has a phase where the couple breaks up only to find their way back to each other.

The film takes the audience on a journey through love, lust and sadness. In contrast to most films, the characters exist as spiritual vibes rather than as individuals.

The difference in this romantic comedy is that it incorporates dream-like elements to present the passion between the two.

The emotion, dream-like visuals and soundtrack are what is drawing an audience to this film. It depicts romance at its worst and best.

Although Kid Cudi is a rapper, his soundtrack in this film is not aggressive, like many may think; rather, it is the type of music that anyone can relate to. It gives a chill-soul-searching vibe.

This artistic film shows positivity, enhancing the colorful aspects through its characters and scenery. The story also celebrates African American culture. It was created not only to entertain people but to address issues like oppression and feminism.

Entergalactic is a wonderful work of art and an experience that is more than just a movie.

IFC OLYMPICS 2022

DOUGLAS SALTER

Contributing Writer

On Oct. 19 and 20, UWG’s fraternities faced off in a test of strength, athleticism and strategy. The Inner Fraternity Council (IFC) Olympics have returned to the UWG. The Inner Fraternity Council has eight different fraternities at UWG. The grand prize may have been nothing more than bragging rights and satisfaction, but when it is amongst close peers and rivals, that can go a long way, and overall the games are all in good fun.

There were four events over the course of two days. The first day of the events began with the fraternities playing basketball and dice toss. The second day consisted of playing chip-in golf and dodgeball.

Members of the IFC Board refereed every game. Fraternities were allowed to submit multiple teams to increase their odds of winning events. The point

system was determined by who finished in the top three. First place would receive three points, second place with two points and third place with one point.

“IFC Olympics was an idea brought to us back by our Philanthropy Vice President as a way to bind the IFC Greek organizations closer together,” said IFC Board Member Diego Alfonso Olivo. “This as well was a way to bring more fun light hearted events back to the Village. The four games showed different ranges of ability throughout the fraternities.”

The first event played was dice toss. The first team to 11 points won the game. After a battle worth dying for, Pi Kappa Alpha won dice toss, putting them in an early lead.

The next event was three on three basketball. The first games went up to 11 points while the championship game went up to 15 points. Sigma Nu dominated the tournament by never allowing more than four points in any game. That concluded day one.

“Day one was amazing.

It had a huge turnout for people playing in the games,” said Olivo. “The games were three on three basketball and dice toss. We had a huge attendance and even had some sororities show up to watch the games and support the fraternities.”

The first event of day two was chip golf. Two fraternities, Sigma Nu and Sigma Chi tied at the event.

The final event of the day was five on five dodgeball. Fraternities stood at either end of the basketball court with balls in the center. Several fraternities sent in multiple teams for a final push for glory. Just like two of the three prior events, Sigma Nu won dodgeball and the IFC Olympics.

“In terms of attendance, day two was less attended but was still fun nonetheless because of the dodgeball game played,” said Olivo. “My favorite part of the two days was seeing everyone enjoy themselves no matter what fraternity you were a part of, people were being competitive and having fun with each other and that’s all you could ask for!”