

SPRING 2023

.....
AROUND THE BEN

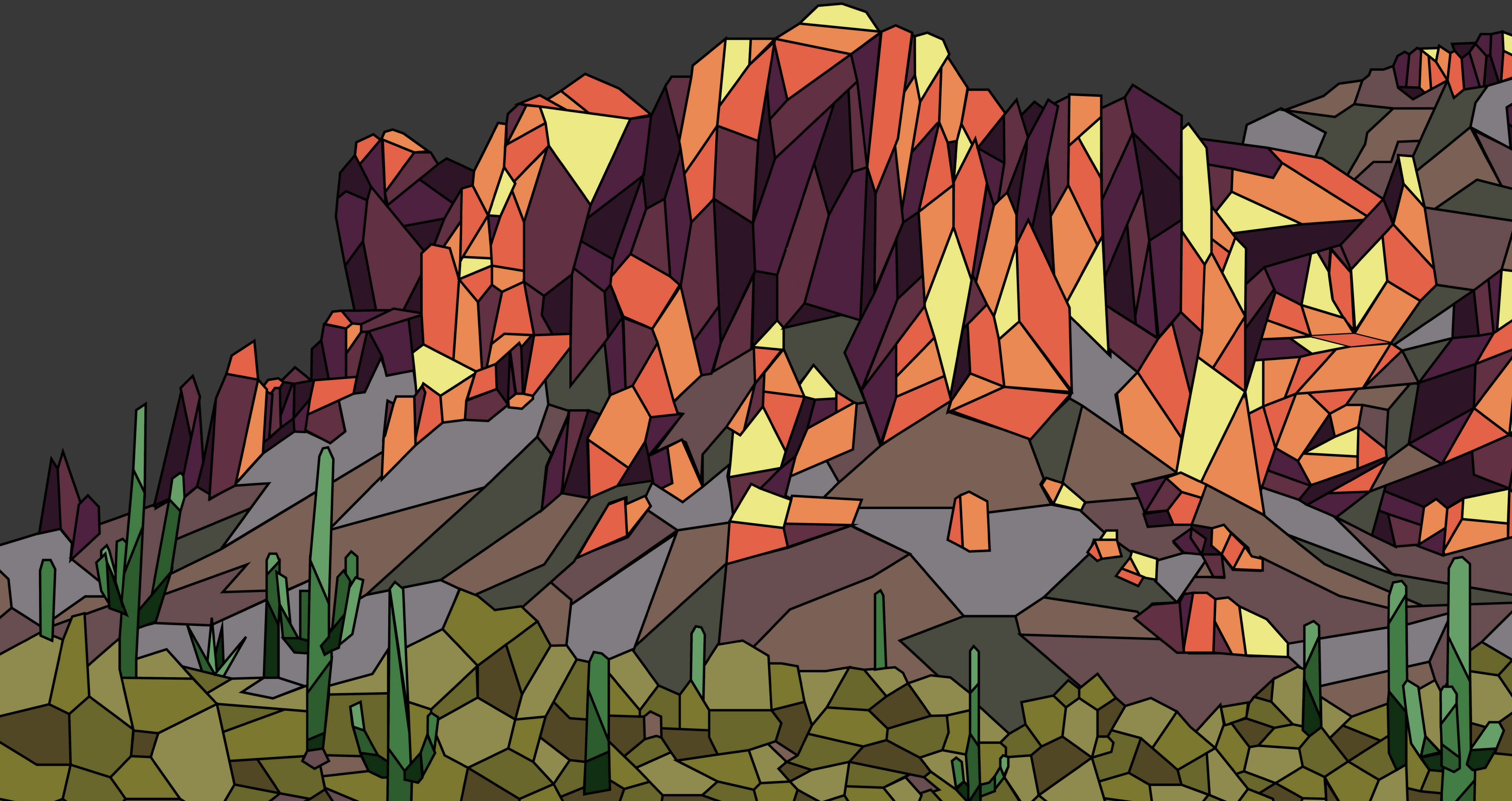


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Front and back cover was designed by Jonatan Amastal



Pictured above is Lake Tulloch in Jamestown California, a place I visit every summer. It’s something as simple as that, a little man-made lake surrounded by rolling hills, miniature cliff side, and of course the water that I find happiness in. It never fails to make me smile, even looking at the picture now I get the feeling. A boat filled with people I love, eating sandwiches, wake surfing, and swimming in little coves are what come to mind when I think of the lake. What is happiness, how does one become happy or achieve happiness. This has been one of man’s greatest mysteries since the dawn of time. We have pills, chemicals, and all kinds of “remedies” that people think that will make them happy, or at least have them feel some of it. But, happiness can be found anywhere as long as you are open to it and even looking for it a little.

Short Work
Tyler Butterfield

How to Find Happy??

Who the hell set things up like this anyway, being tired all the time, feeling frustrated, and somehow even more tired than I was ten seconds ago. These never ending cycles, feeling like that change you left in your pocket, and hearing it bang everywhere in the dryer, that’s how I feel, like loose change getting tossed around by my dryer, life. Endless revolutions of practice, class, homework, eat, sleep. Never ending, and going nowhere it feels like, like a dog chasing its own damn tail. Who the hell set things up like this anyway... me. I’m chasing my own tail going around and around, but somehow never getting dizzy, and like that dog having a hell of time doing it.

Editor's Note:

Cam'Ron and Izzy wrote profiles about each other for a class assignment. After comparing the nonfiction essays together, we noticed the fellow students had similar backgrounds and similar strength growing up.

Profile

Cam'Ron Davis

Through the Eyes of Izzy

A glance at the life of Izeyas Galindo

After one conversation with Izeyas Galindo, it is evident of the composure and humility that Izzy carries himself with. Growing up an only child raised by a single mother, Izzy was forced to mature at a young age. This maturity is unmistakably perceivable when speaking with Izeyas as we go into some of the personal and athletic goals for his future, while also discussing his biggest influences during his journey.

The 21-year-old California native notes that his hometown of San Jose has shaped who he is today. "San Jose made me grow up at a young age and taught me about perspective through all of the people I met over the years."

'Perspective' is a term used by Izzy throughout our time together; perspective and experience are some of life's greatest teachings. Although Izzy was raised by a single mother, she was able to provide different perspectives for a young Izeyas that would teach him that the world is much bigger than him. When discussing other influences in Izzy's life, he included his aunt, grandma and Derek Jeter.

As believed by many, it takes a village to raise a child and it appears Izzy's aunt and grandma did play their part in Izzy's upbringing. He speaks of them in a very high regard and claims they have taught him plenty from their own personal experiences and have prepared him for the highs and lows of life. As a child it is easy to view these lectures given by our elders as pointless but Izzy makes it clear that he did grasp the lessons given by his aunt and grandma.

Derek Jeter is one of the earlier influences of Izzy's love for baseball as well. But Jeter's sheer excellence has done much more for Izzy than just opening his eyes to the sport of baseball. Izeyas describes his inspiration from Jeter as "motivation." Izzy looks at Derek Jeter, like most of us, as one of the most successful athletes ever but his inspiration goes a bit deeper than this. Izzy looks at Jeter's excellence and wonders how he got to be where he's at.

Throughout his childhood he realizes that in order to reap the rewards of winning and being successful, one must put in the work when no one is watching.

Izeyas' idea of success for himself in the near future includes having a winning

season for the Benedictine Mesa baseball team. The junior understands what it takes to win as he was introduced to the feeling of having that first big win in his baseball career when his high school baseball team won the CCS Championship, Izzy describes the ceremony of the game as, "...that World Series feeling." Izeyas understands the importance of roles being played and accepted for any team to be good; he looks forward to playing his part in the winning environment that BenU baseball is looking to continue.

Izzy's love for baseball goes deeper than Benedictine baseball, deeper than the first home run he watched Derek Jeter hit. Izzy's love for baseball started at the age of three. Izeyas claims that the diversity of the environment of baseball has played a huge role in his passion for the game over the years. "The conversations on field and meeting new people always make it fun for me," Izzy states.

Looking beyond this year for Izzy, most if not all of his goals are viewed as very attainable for himself. Izeyas would like to play baseball at the highest level possible, specifically claiming he would love to play in the Dominican Republic. When asked why, Izzy states, "It would be a humbling experience, given some of the circumstances baseball players out there have had to deal with."

As Izeyas looks to graduate from BenU with a degree in communications, he looks forward to putting this degree to work as his baseball career comes to a close down the road. He would love to enter the sports broadcasting profession to stay attached to the game. Success is the main point of interest for Izzy as he prepares for life during and after baseball.

When thinking about the bigger picture, we started to discuss family and some things outside of baseball. Izeyas is not locked in on having kids in his future, but said he is open to changing his mind. He wants to retire here in Arizona due to his likeness of the heat and the professional sports environments Arizona provides. Izeyas also stated he has an interest in DJ'ing. "I love making different music playlists to match certain moods." He is also aware of the value this skill could add, he has learned the earnings of some of the more local DJ's in the college world and this is all the more reason for Izzy to pick up on a fun hobby like this.

He hopes to have honed in on his cooking skills more by the time he retires as he is currently starting to enjoy the process of cooking since being on his own. Izzy loves to barbecue as he has been cooking on his own for about two months now. He is approaching this as a new learning block to attack for himself.

Izeyas Galindo is a winner. His diversified approach to life will continue to help him on his baseball journey and far beyond as well. While speaking with Izzy, it is apparent that he values experience and perspective. With this mindset, Izzy will inevitably reach success and accomplish all of the goals he has set for himself.

Cam’Ron Davis, the definition of Inspirational!

Cam’Ron Davis is a 23-year-old young man who is from Flint, Michigan. Davis was only raised by his courageous and strong-willed mother. He is the oldest of four siblings in the family, and had to grow up at a very early age. Without a father figure in his life, Cam’Ron had to become his own man for himself. While his mom had to work and provide for the family, he had to take care of all of his siblings. He took the role of being the man of the house. If it had to deal with babysitting, grocery shopping etc., Cam’Ron took care of that because he knew he had to take care of the family as well. As Cam’Ron started to become older in life, he started having a great relationship with his grandfather. He looked up to his grandfather as an influence to his life as well as a father figure too. His grandfather taught him a lot of lessons in life, which made him the person he is today.

An escape for Cam’Ron was basketball. At a young age, he started playing basketball; ever since then the rest is history. Cam’Ron said, “Once I had the ball in my hand and I was bouncing it around, I knew it was something special.” It is crazy how a connection with just a ball can change a person’s life forever. That is how effective sports can be in anybody’s life. Cam’Ron also stated that “it takes my mind off of everything and love the basketball environment from the court to the stands”. Cam’Ron hopes he can play professional basketball overseas to continue his basketball career. Once playing basketball is over for him, he hopes to stay in the basketball industry by either becoming a coach or trainer at the professional level.

Cam’Ron really becomes an inspiration for his people that he surrounds himself with. From family to even his teammates on the court, he tries to be the best person and player he can be. Cam’Ron expressed that his mindset has changed from the past to the present. He ended up having a full time job when he stopped playing basketball for a moment. By not enjoying this job he had at the time, he started to realize to appreciate more of his younger days and to enjoy each and every moment in his life. He explained “anything in life can happen and be taken away from you at any given moment in time.” While finishing up the interview, Cam’Ron gave me a wonderful response about what he plans on doing after he is retired. He sees himself on the wealthy side with a beautiful house to himself, hopefully a wife in the picture and a couple of kids.

Should Steroids Be Easier to Access?

This informal poll found Arizonans divided about legalizing steroids. It is crazy to see the drastic change in the usage of steroids going around in the United States. There was a little amount of steroid usage in the early and late ’90s, but now the steroid usage has risen since then. There are a lot of fitness influencers in today’s age who openly talk about them taking steroids, how to get your hands on them as well. It creates this good and even bad influence on the youth by seeing these influencers talk about it like it is legal. With being influenced by someone, it rubs off that it is okay to do. It does not only have to deal with the fitness industry, it can happen in collegiate and professional sports as well. There have been many suspensions around each and every sports league with players getting popped for steroids.

While walking around the campus of Arizona State University, Nolan Gallagher, a student attending ASU, was open to having a conversation with me about the question of “Should it be easier to access more substances in the United States?” Nolan was just finishing his workout at the main gym on campus; he was in favor of legalizing the usage of steroids. He has been working out for the past two years now ever since the pandemic started. Gallagher stated, “They should be legal if they get tested before because you see painkillers and creams getting tested before use.” Nolan had a good point about painkillers being tested before usage; painkillers can be an addiction for someone and could possibly have their life taken away from painkillers. Gallagher also made a good point about steroids being beneficial for people with low testosterone and joint problems.

With the opposition of steroids being legal, Regina Lopez, a school teacher for Holdeman Elementary, was not happy about the question I asked her. She was unhappy that I was interviewing her about this, but she wanted to make her point across so I could alert the readers of this newspaper. She expressed, “I do not like the fact that the youth is being influenced in taking steroids because someone is telling them openly about taking steroids.” Lopez is opposed to steroid usage because of the amount of negative effects it causes on your body but also your mind too. “With the amount of negative effects steroids have, why would someone want to risk taking them.”

Artie Ramirez, a soccer player attending ASU, had interesting points about the usage of steroids. He was in favor of steroids being legal in the United States. Ramirez stated, “If you take the correct amount and you take care of your body, they should be allowed.” Ramirez provided information about a couple of his friends who take steroids at this very moment. They talked to Ramirez about the usage and having the correct amount. Allegedly, they have not yet experienced side effects so far. Ramirez also had a very interesting point about alcohol: “Alcohol and steroids can both kill you and destroy your body, so why should one not be legal.” Comparing steroids to alcohol creates a lot of raised eyebrows. Some people would agree and disagree.

A construction worker for the company of Armored Construction named Cameron Rynhard is opposed to the usage of steroids. He personally receives over the counter steroids because of having bad joints and major back problems from the overload of work over the years. He believes that the young and even people who do not have issues in their body should not be taking steroids. They need a valid and legitimate reason to take the steroid. Rynhard expressed, "By the youth taking steroids in today's age explains how the world is coming too. These kids and young adults do not care about their future, they are only living for barely one-third of their life!" In conclusion, it ended in a divided poll of the usage of steroids being legal.

Profile

Tyler Vandewater

JohnLuca Moschetto - Who Is He?

Chicago, IL born; now living in Mesa, AZ

JohnLuca Moschetto was born to Germaine and John at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital in Elmhurst, IL on July 19, 1999. He is the only child in his family and has enjoyed that part of life since birth. JohnLuca said, "Being an only child has allowed me to mature at a very young age. I was always used to doing things on my own and being very self-sufficient."

Ever since JohnLuca was young, he has taken a liking for the sport of baseball. While he played baseball, he also really enjoyed soccer. He especially likes watching the World Cup when it is on every four years. His favorite player is Cristiano Ronaldo because of how relentless he is on the pitch.

When he got to high school, he honed in on his hitting and pitching for his favorite sport: baseball. In high school, he was still hitting and playing outfield for his high school team. He says in high school, he enjoyed the same things he enjoys today: hanging out with his friends and spending time with friends and family.

Ever since high school, JohnLuca knew his game was better than the rest. His knowledge of the game was always far beyond what anyone else was thinking. "I've always been a step ahead of what everyone else was thinking out on the baseball field," JohnLuca said. "This is why I always knew I could be proficient at the next level, wherever that was."

After high school was over, JohnLuca had committed to Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. It was a place where JohnLuca could continue to play baseball and get a solid education. Their baseball team competed in NCAA DIII, a high step above any high school competition he was playing.

After a short time at Carthage College, JohnLuca didn't feel like it was his true "home." He finished out the year at Carthage but then found Benedictine University at Mesa, a top 25 NAIA baseball program and somewhere that was sunny year

round. JohnLuca said, "It was like the perfect fit."

Since arriving here in Mesa, AZ, JohnLuca has found his stride. He has been strong out of the bullpen and even helped Benedictine Mesa reach their first regional appearance in school history back in 2021. Along with baseball, JohnLuca loves riding his bike and going on rigorous bike rides. He will sometimes go on 70 mile bike trips in the morning because he enjoys it so much. JohnLuca hopes to participate in RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) this summer. "Bike riding for me is a way to get out and push myself past my limits."

Besides playing baseball, JohnLuca enjoys working in the classroom. He is a communications major and is closing in on his degree. With this degree, he plans to move back to the Chicago, IL area where he wants to find a career in coaching baseball. Along with coaching baseball, he wants to become a part-time firefighter so he can help people in his community.

Nonfiction

Cam'Ron Davis

Young Stars Are Taking the NBA by Storm

Emergence of young talent in NBA

As we all know, all good things must come to an end. When it comes to professional sports, accepting the decline of one of your favorite athletes can be difficult to witness. For the true fans of the sport, it can also be viewed as a time of excitement due to the fact that new, undiscovered greatness awaits at the end of the tunnel of these aging professional athletes. Although you may never be able to relive the moments of LeBron James winning his first championship in Cleveland or Vince Carter putting his entire arm in the rim during a dunk at All-Star Weekend or Kobe Bryant scoring 81 points versus the Toronto Raptors, it is important to appreciate those moments for what they are: greatness. These memories can be hard to let go of; as a fan, it can be even more difficult to witness these same players age and decline in success on the court.

For the generation that grew up watching players like Dwyane Wade, LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul and many more, times are beginning to get difficult as we are living through the process of watching all of our favorite players retire, decline in talent or athleticism. A lot of the players from the 2000s and 2010s are either out of the league or are taking a backseat to some of the younger, more exciting talent in the NBA.

The NBA today is mostly run by the youth. There are still exceptions that have yet to take a steep decline in their abilities on and off the court like: LeBron James, Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant. Specifically these three players are still at the forefront of the NBA; these three are still widely recognized as some of the best talent the NBA has to offer. LeBron being in his twentieth season is still dominating

the game when it matters most, Stephen Curry who just won an NBA championship and Finals MVP last season and Kevin Durant who just had one of the best individual seasons ever following an Achilles tear in the 2019 NBA Finals. But if one has been paying any attention this NBA season it is obvious the youth of the NBA are no longer afraid of these mega-stars. All three stars are still performing at very high levels individually, while all of their teams are starting the season off struggling, to say the least. All three players have begun this season with losing records and are searching for answers to turn their seasons around.

While players like LeBron, Steph and KD are struggling, other, younger players are coming to the light and showing why they should be considered the best of the best moving forward. Some of the most notable young players who are taking the NBA by storm are: Jayson Tatum, Nikola Jokic, Luka Doncic, Ja Morant and Giannis Antetokounmpo. While none of these players are first or second year players, they are all approaching their prime years and it is showing in every category possible.

Jayson Tatum, who battled LeBron James in a 7-game series in the Eastern Conference Finals his rookie season, has finally started to find his footing as one of the league's best. He led his Boston Celtics to an NBA Finals appearance last season in which he beat the Kevin Durant-led Brooklyn Nets, the Milwaukee Bucks and the Miami Heat before losing in the Finals to the Steph Curry-led Golden State Warriors. His route to the Finals was one of the most difficult in recent memory as he had to defeat some of the best talent in the NBA; he did so by averaging an outstanding 25.6 points per game, 6.7 rebounds per game and 6.2 assists per game in the 2022 NBA Playoffs. Tatum has begun the 2022-2023 NBA season with even more aggression and assertiveness with averages of 32.3 points per game, 7.2 rebounds per game and 4.1 assists per game. It is obvious Jayson Tatum is just entering his prime and will be around for a long period of time.

Nikola Jokic is the reigning back-to-back NBA MVP. Last season his team, the Denver Nuggets, were depleted by injuries but this did not stop Jokic from winning his second NBA MVP award and leading his team to the Playoffs, where they were defeated by the eventual NBA Champions. Jokic is one of the more unorthodox players the NBA has ever seen. With not an ounce of athleticism in his body, he still finds ways to dominate the game of basketball with his high-level playmaking, his difficult shot-making ability and his ability to make his teammates better. Last season, Jokic averaged 27.1 points per game, 13.8 rebounds per game and 7.9 assists per game. While his scoring and rebounding numbers are not as high as last season's, Jokic looks forward to prioritizing winning as his team has gotten healthy and he has his stars back to help him in hopes of an NBA championship this season.

Luka Doncic's greatness is completely undeniable. From the amazing stat-lines he produces on a nightly basis to the ultimate showmanship he serves every time he steps on the court, all NBA fans can agree that Luka is next up. Ever since Luka stepped foot on an NBA court his rookie season, he has been hitting big shot

after big shot, beating up on the older players of the NBA. A lot like Jokic, Luka is not very athletic at all but his pure skill and basketball IQ are what separate him from the rest. Luka has been playing professional basketball since he was 15 years old, though, and this is why he was able to dominate right away after being drafted in 2018. Luka is nothing less than a basketball prodigy as he has only averaged less than 25 points per game for one season, and that was his rookie season. He currently leads the NBA in scoring and is showing no signs of slowing down. The league is still scrambling trying to find ways to slow Luka down. Good luck, NBA.

Ja Morant is the underdog story that everyone loves. Ja Morant did not come from a big basketball school like Duke or North Carolina. He came from Murray State, which a lot of people had no idea of before Ja put Murray State on the map. His quick emergence in college led to Morant being picked second in the 2019 NBA draft behind Zion Williamson, who is an emerging superstar in his own right. Ja Morant is an ultra-athletic 6'2" point guard who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies. Ultra-athletic is almost an understatement when it comes to Ja. But he is much more than his jumping ability; he has made the Memphis Grizzlies one of the more feared teams in the NBA, especially when the Playoffs come around. Last season, he also lost to the Golden State Warriors in the second round of the Playoffs, but some fans may say they would have never lost if Ja Morant had not gotten hurt during the series. The World may never know, but what the league knows is that Ja Morant and the Memphis Grizzlies are on the way and they are coming fast. Ja is currently averaging 28.8 points per game, 6 rebounds and 7 assists per game. With one of Ja's known flaws being his ability to shoot three pointers, he is currently shooting 41% from three and this goes to show what type of player Ja is. He will only get better and that is bad news for anyone not playing for the Memphis Grizzlies.

Lastly, Giannis Antetokounmpo is the most dominant force in basketball since Shaq. He is a 7-foot, 250-pound force to be reckoned with when he is playing basketball. A lot of fans and players have mentioned how Giannis lacks skill and have illustrated how that will hold him back in the long run. But when one is able to literally just dunk over any and everyone it is hard to see a league where Giannis is not one of the best. He has found success in his style of play, utilizing his size and strength on every single possession, which has gotten him an NBA MVP award, a defensive player of the year award, an NBA finals championship and NBA finals MVP. So it is hard to say Giannis is having trouble finding success in this league. Plus his skill has improved every year, undoubtedly. Giannis has the chance to be recognized as one of the greatest ever if he continues this timeline of greatness that he's currently on.

All of these players have learned from the previous superstars of the NBA and have added their own spice to their greatness. The NBA is thrilled to be such a flourishing league, and the talent of the NBA will only get better with players like Paolo Banchero, Victor Wembanyama, Scoot Henderson starting their path to greatness as well. The NBA will be in good hands for years and years to come.

Stephanie Arredia



Poem

Stephanie Arredia

2AM Thoughts

It's been an eternity
Since you were kissin' on me
Forever since you been Gone
Lonely be as lonely do
I miss you but I miss me too
I used to know what I wanted; now I'm confused
What do I want?
What do you want?
My lips
Your hips
Sway with me
All over the city
We'll laugh and cry till the world turns purple
Bite me
Scratch me
Hold me
I ain't afraid of pain
Pain be afraid of me
I might be dark
I might be strange
But I love it baby
It feeds my veins and fills my heart
I like it rough
Don't let me start
I want to be worshipped
Like a queen
Come to my castle
Get on your knees
Eat my whole crown





Houseboat Getaway

Dapre Rogers

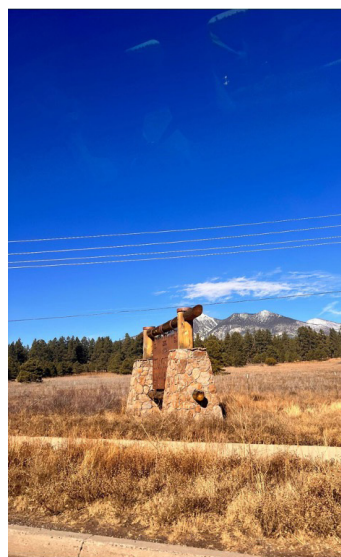
Growing up in a low-income household, I've never really had the opportunity to go on many vacations. Luckily, I have made some great friends who have invited me to join them. This picture was from a trip to Lake Pleasant when I was younger. We spent an entire week away from everyone with no internet service. This gave me a high appreciation for nature and being away from technology that consumes many of us and allows everyone to really live in the moment. This inspired me to see how this family found a creative way to vacation with the center of focus being family/friends, taking a step back from all the fun and just taking in the moment. This caused me to want to be able to experience this in the future with my family. Although I really appreciated my friends for allowing me to go on these trips with them, it also caused me to be a bit envious of what they had and more importantly what I didn't. This is just one little moment that helped guide my path and created the person I am today. So, in the future maybe I will be presented with an opportunity to enjoy more of these moments.



Las Vegas, Nevada
Damaryan Benton

August 4, 2022

I celebrate my cousin's 21st birthday in Vegas with friends and family. I lost \$10 at the slot machines and ate tons of good food.



Flagstaff, Arizona
Damaryan Benton

December 10, 2022

Friends and I go on a road trip to spend time together before we all go home for winter break. The snow was so nice at Snowbowl, one of our friends was eating it. We made hot cocoa, star gazed, and rented a Redbox movie.



Las Vegas, Nevada
Damaryan Benton

August 4, 2022

I celebrate my cousin's 21st birthday in Vegas with friends and family. I lost \$10 at the slot machines and ate tons of good food.



Las Vegas, Nevada
Damaryan Benton

August 4, 2022

I celebrate my cousin's 21st birthday in Vegas with friends and family. I lost \$10 at the slot machines and ate tons of good food.



Los Angeles, California
Damaryan Benton

March 18, 2023

I visited my cousin in LA for spring break. We walked the Hollywood Walk of Fame, partied at UCLA, and met some cool people in West Hollywood (WeHo). It ended with late night runs to Joe's Pizza.

Tyler Vandewater

South Chandler



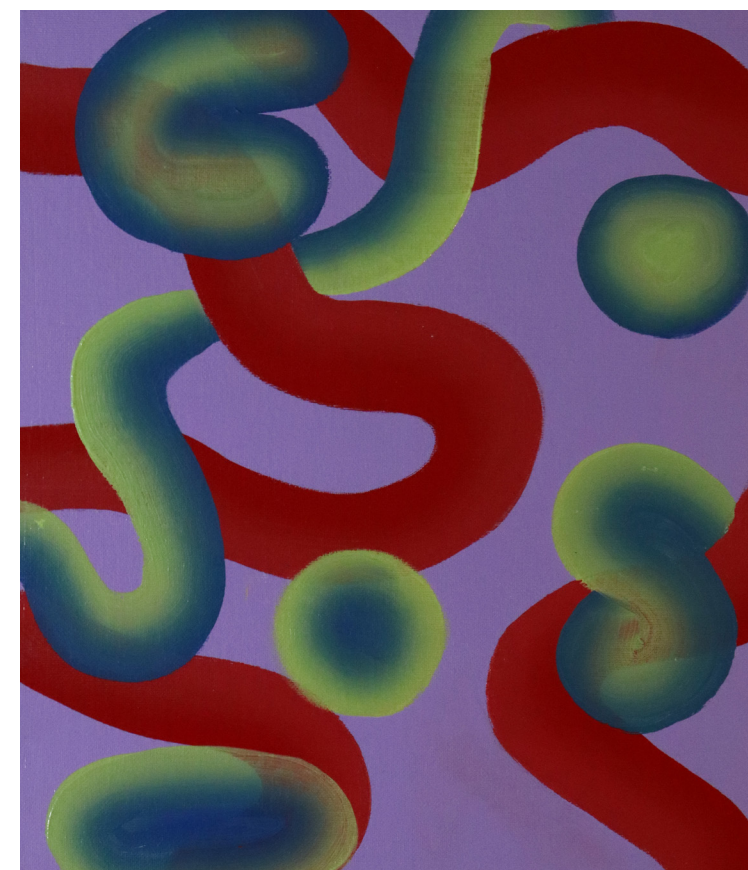
This is a picture I took at a country music festival in Chandler. I feel like it perfectly captures everyone having a great time and enjoying life like we all should.



Azucena Leon



Azucena Leon



Around the Ben 18



Name: Azucena Leon
Grade : Junior
Major: Fine arts
Minor: Spanish,
 Psychology
Subject: Dreams

I was born and raised in Mesa, Az. Growing up, my family really struggled financially, but with any extra change my parents could use they would buy me crayons and sketchbooks. I always used art as an escape to allow myself a more free and creative way of seeing things. Much of my art reflects that because many of my pieces are just done on a whim and I believe this is what makes art fun.



Allie Coldwell



21 Around the Ben



Allie Coldwell

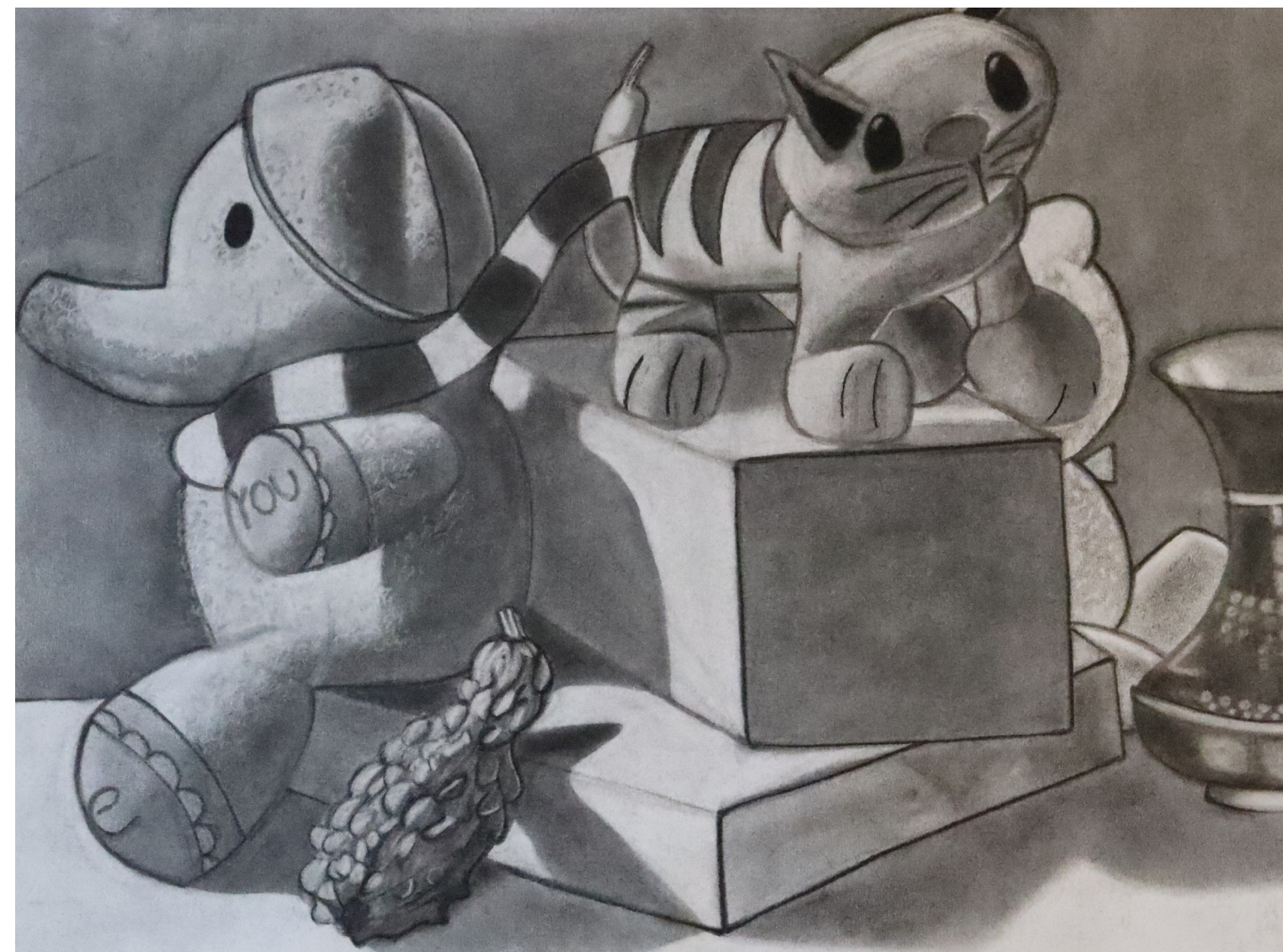
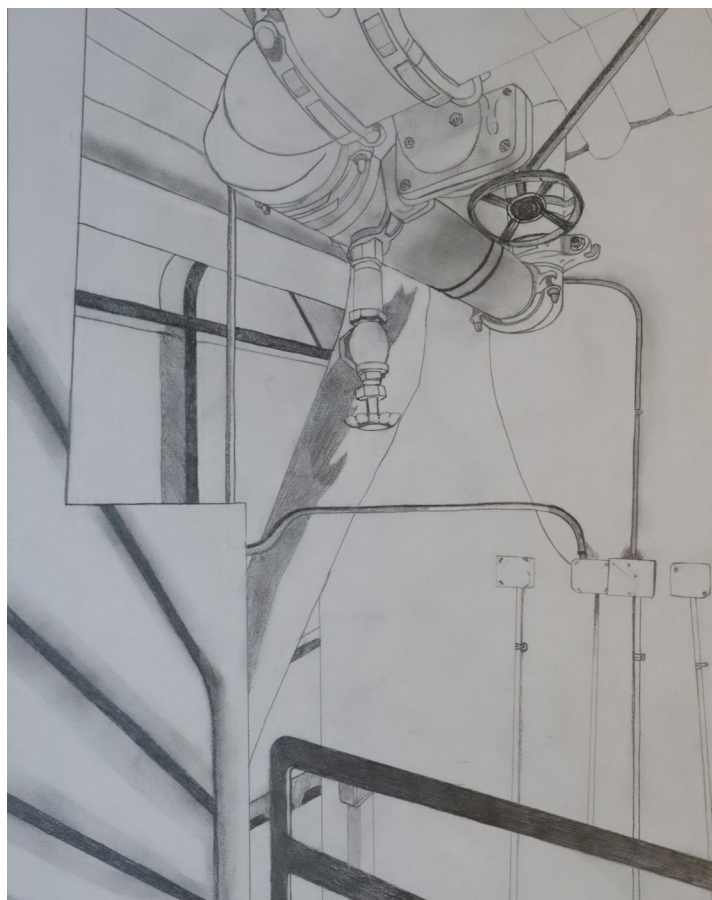
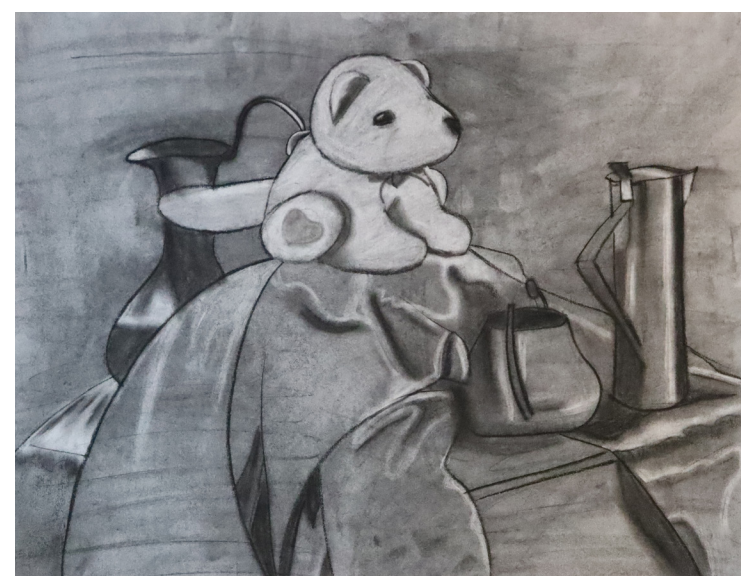


Name: Allie Coldwell
Grade: Senior
Major: Fine Arts
Minor: NA
Subject: Mix Media

I'm from Troy, Montana, played basketball all my life. I played 5 years here at BenU. I started my Fine Arts major my second year in school. Professor Tole has helped me express my art life and helped me be free for whatever art I wanted to do. I want to keep doing art for my hobby and as a side gig. At the end of the day, all I want is a British shorthair, a Bagget hound and my live to be grovy.



Belle Rose Jackson



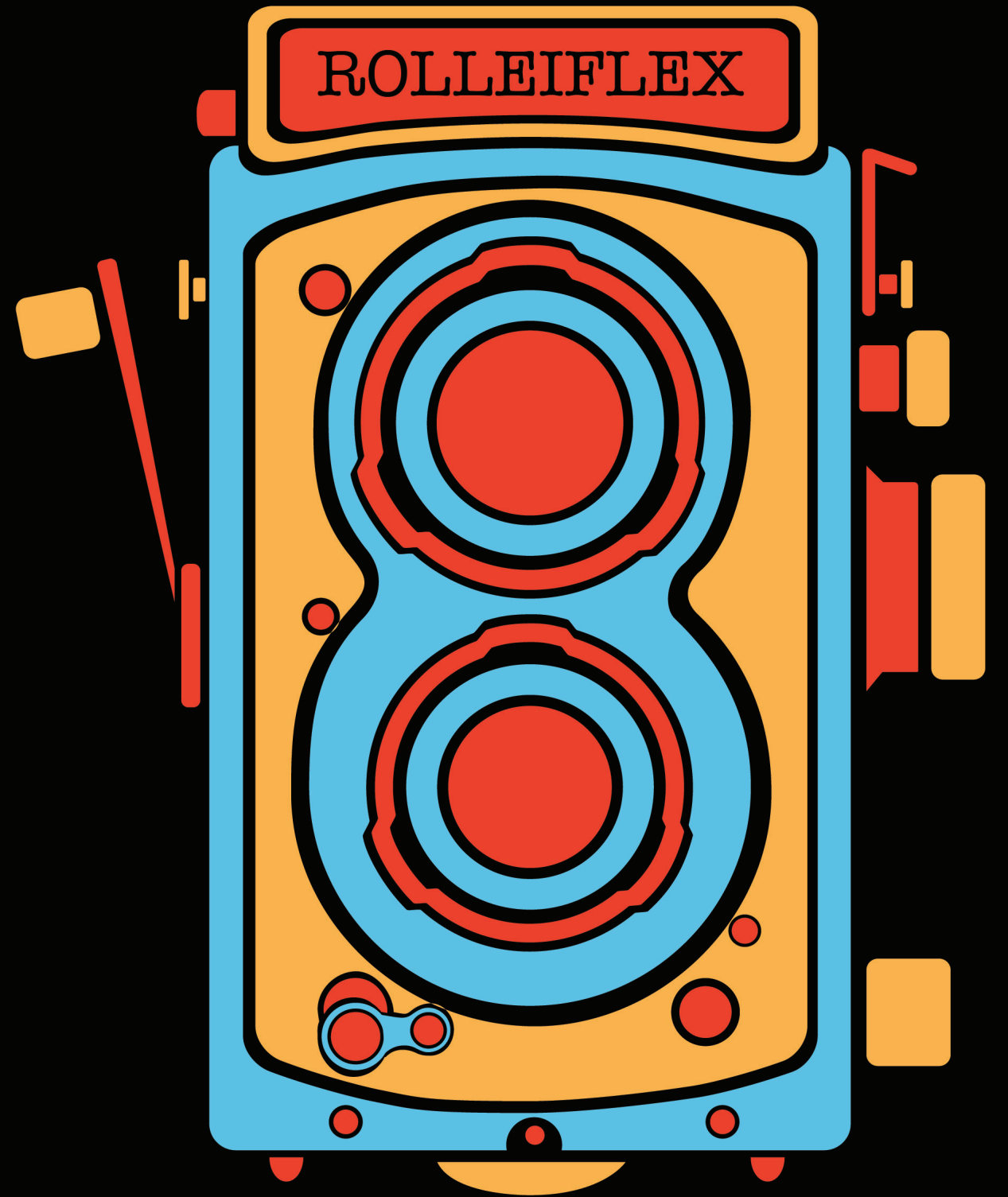


Name: Belle Jackson
Grade: Sophomore
Major: Fine Arts
Minor: NA
Subject: Still Life

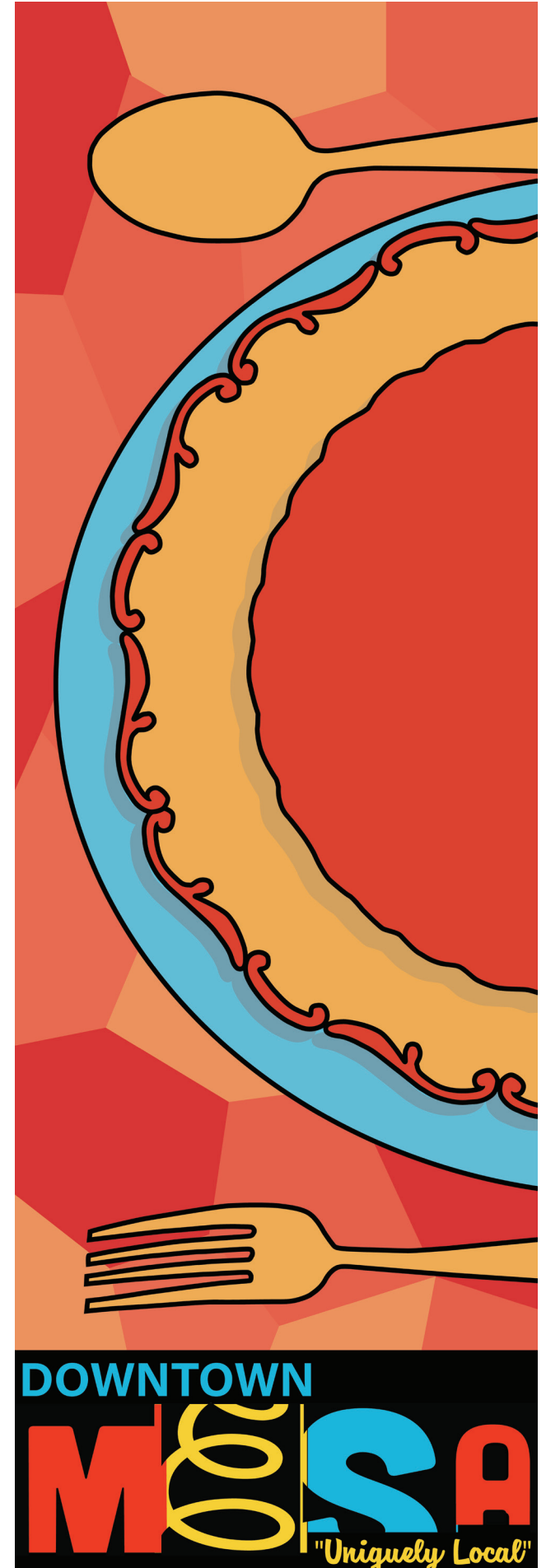
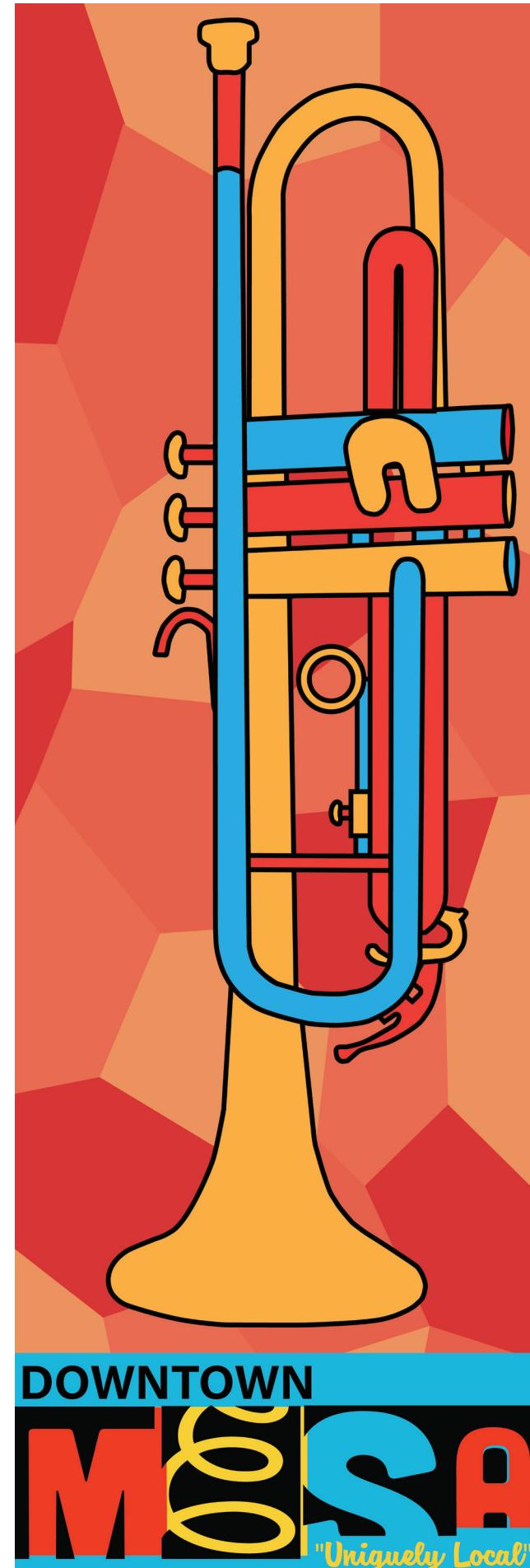
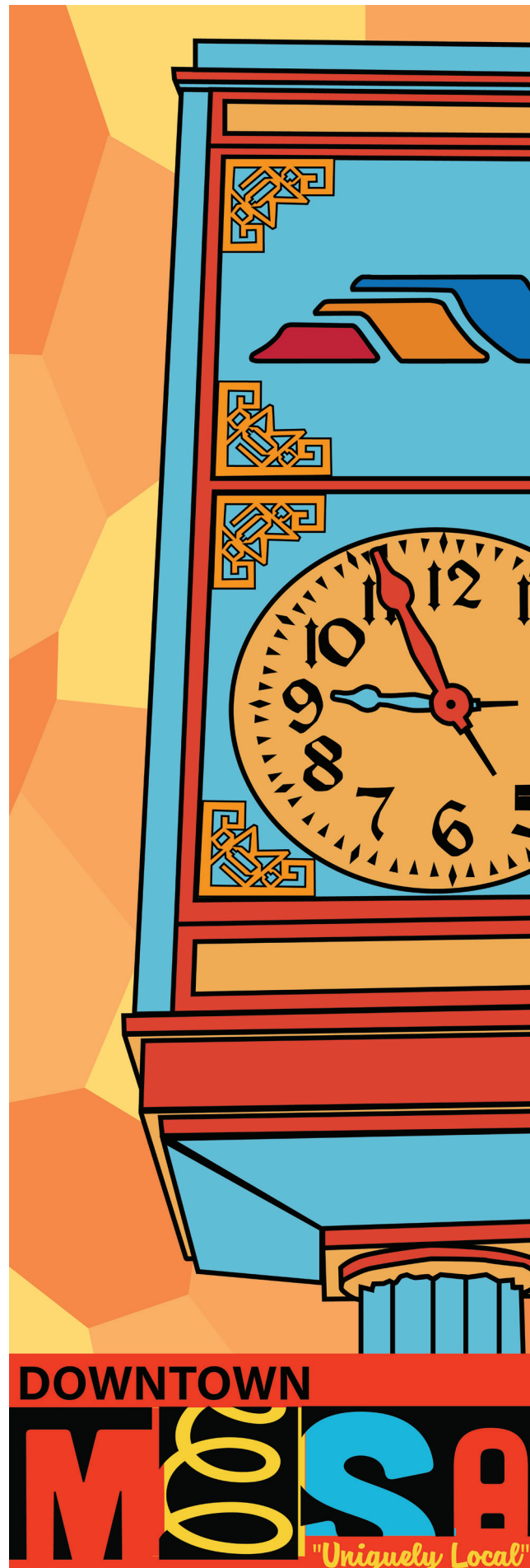
Since childhood, I've gravitated towards making art, whether it's on paper or in the kitchen. Now I have improved and found love in the history of art as well. My only goal is to either inspire or give others a sense of happiness.



Belle Rose Jackson



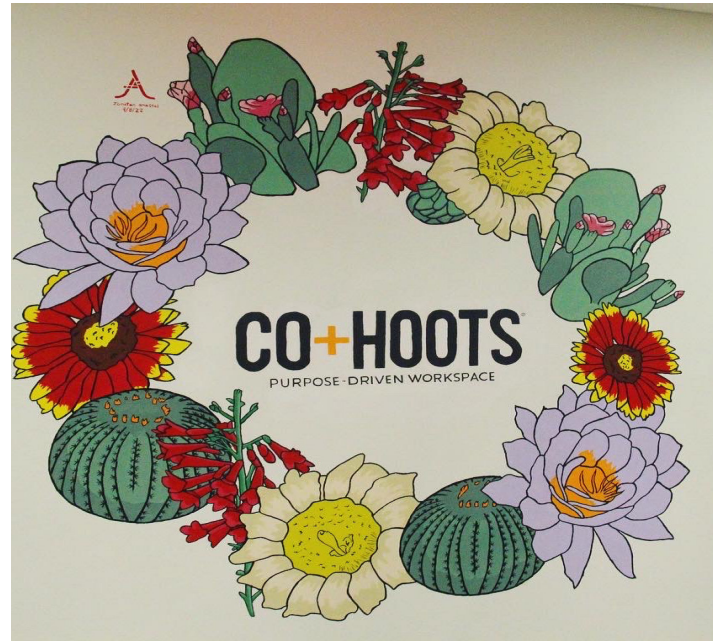
Jonatan Amastal





Wild Thoughts

Jonatan Amastal



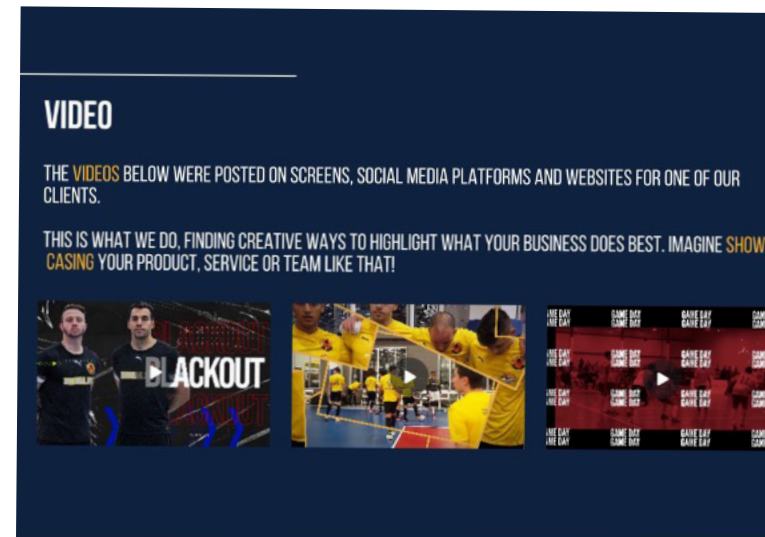
Victor Iran Barajas





Nathan Dos Santos

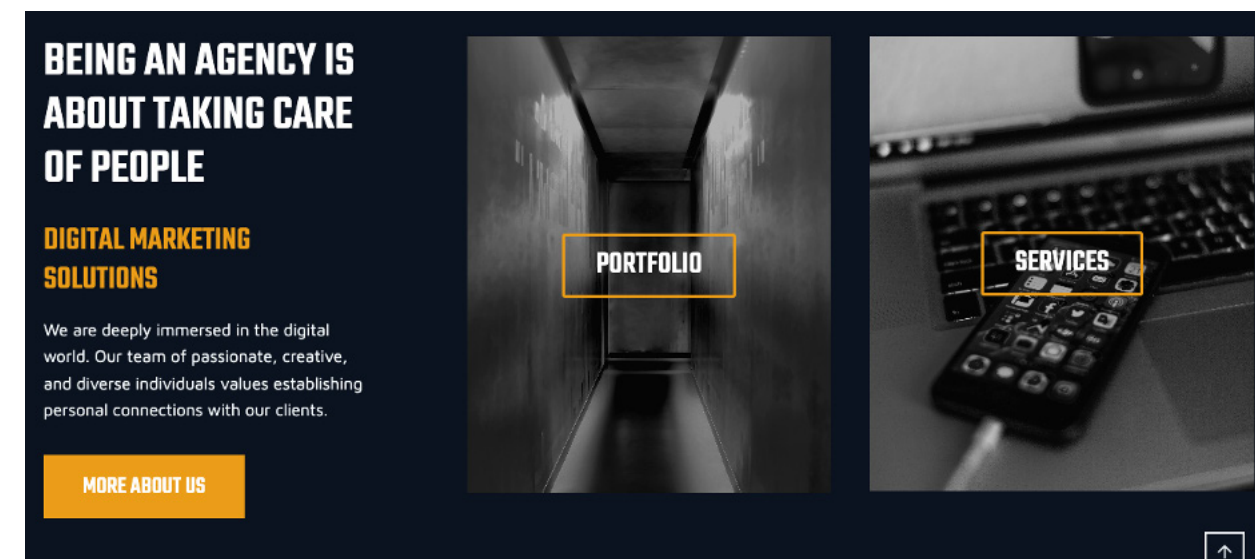
Website Design



Logo Work



Website Design



Nathan Dos Santos

Around the Ben

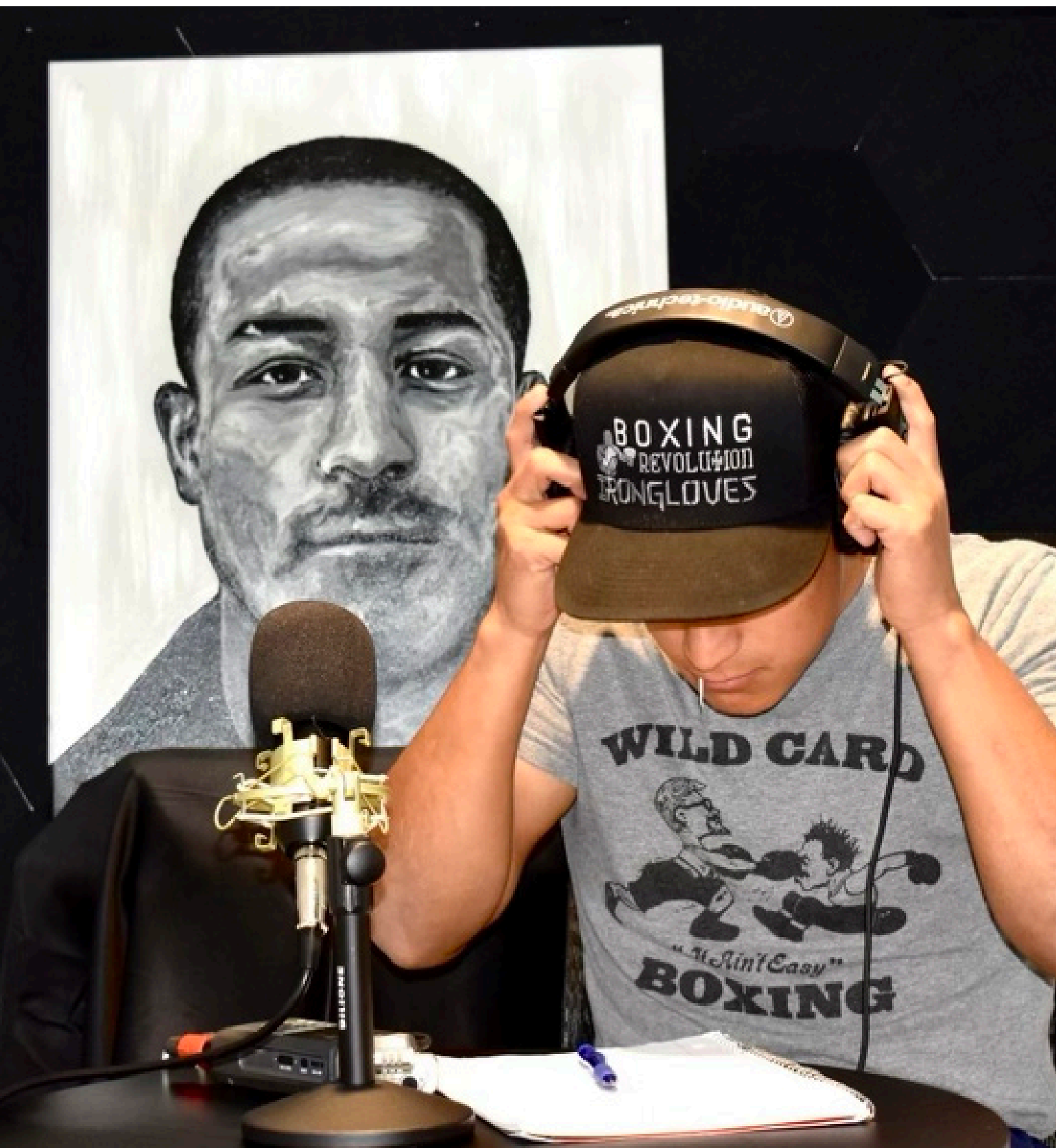
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Name: Nathan Dos Santos
Grade: Senior
Major: Graphic Design
Minor: Web Design
Subject: Web Design



Nathan dos Santos is an international student from Brazil, pursuing graphic design and business. A former student-athlete, you can find him either at Co+Hoots or in Room 203, which is the Graphic Design classroom. Nathan has a Digital Marketing business, Highlight Digital, aiming to promote students while creating digital marketing opportunities for companies. You can see some of his previous work below, but his happiest creation is Highlight Digital.

Luis Felipe Olandez Rodriguez



RIGOUR



VIGOR

Name: Luis Olandez
Grade: Senior
Major: Business Management
Minor: Entrepreneurship
Subject: Podcast



I was born in Mexico, came to the US when I was 3 years old for a better life and to leave the dangers Mexico had during my time there. After that, we settled in Las Vegas, NV, and when it seemed all was well, my dad passed away when I was 16 years old in 2015. Our family suffered evictions, lack of food and most importantly our mental sanity due to the high levels of stress, depression, and anxiety. My mom had to fight to get us through all of our struggles alone. Therefore, I always used music but most importantly Podcast shows to watch in which people would relay their stories and I would find myself having so much in common with the guest they had on in all the podcasts I would listen to that. It made me feel good and not alone. It gave me an outlet that I needed and the reassurance that I was going to be okay. My art is creating content and episodes in which I could allow the viewer to see themselves in myself as the host or my guests I have on.



Luis Olandez



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Jillian Siaotong



Place holder

Around the Ben

Mission Statement

AROUND THE BEN seeks to showcase the artistic and literary talents of students at Benedictine University at Mesa. This student-run magazine serves as an opportunity to build professional portfolios and experience for post-graduation life.

Our Goals

Showcases the artistic and literary talents and abilities of fellow students at Benedictine University in Mesa.

Provides a way for students to express themselves with their original work that offers artistic value for readers.

Provides a real-world experience for post-graduation and shows personal work for future jobs as well as create more opportunities for future jobs.

Informs students, faculty, staff, and the general public about what our campus provides and the futures that university programs can lead to.

Shares things that most people may not know or understand about our university.

Seeks to create inspiration.



The Team



Jonatan Amastal is a graphic design major at Benedictine University at Mesa.



Stephanie Arredia is a senior communications major. She has a guide dog; her name is River. Stephanie writes movie reviews for The Daily Ben, along with creating a Spotify playlist for students. Stephanie is very interested in photography and photojournalism. She hopes to take pictures one day for either a newspaper, sports or business.



Damaryan Benton is a communications major at Benedictine University at Mesa, and he’s also a member of the Benedictine men’s volleyball team.



Tyler Vandewater is a communications major and he plays baseball at Benedictine University Mesa.



Cam’Ron Davis is a communications major at the University of Benedictine-Mesa. He is also a member of the men’s basketball team



Dapre Rogers is a communications major at Benedictine University at Mesa. He is also a member of the men’s volleyball team.



Tyler Butterfield is a senior communications major and plays baseball for the school.



Adviser Rebecca “Becca” Dyer is a digital producer/copy editor at The Arizona Republic/azcentral and an adjunct faculty member at Benedictine University at Mesa.