

"Journalism can never be silent. It must speak and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air."
- Henry Anatole Grunwald

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ERIK GALICIA | VIEWPOINTS

The Riverside Community College District is bracing for significant funding reductions as California attempts to deal with a \$54 billion budget deficit. Gregory Anderson, president of Riverside City College, says his administration is committed to protecting students

Budget shortfall expected State's pandemic-related deficit affects colleges

ERIK GALICIA

NEWS EDITOR

Fallout from California's pandemic related deficit may result in a budget shortfall of around \$16.9 million for the Riverside Community College District.

"We sit here in a very different fiscal situation than the one we were in a couple of months ago," Aaron Brown, vice chancellor of Business and Financial Services, said during the Board of Trustees meeting May 19.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed solutions to the state's \$54 billion deficit include cancelations of increases proposed in January, new tax revenues, use of reserves and vast reductions. California's Community College system has gone from proposed increases that exceeded \$300 million in January to facing a \$1.1 billion deficit for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The state's proposed solutions for Community Colleges include heavy cuts, the elimination of all one time funding proposals and of almost all planned increases

to ongoing funding. This could mean a Student Centered Funding Formula reduction of around \$14.6 million for the district.

According to Brown, the Student Equity and Achievement Program might see a reduction of around \$1.7 million. The Adult Education Program might see a reduction of \$230,000 and the Part-time Faculty Office Hours and Compensation Program might be reduced by almost \$200,000. The K-12 and Community College Strong Workforce Programs, which the district is the regional fiscal agent for, could see reductions

of around \$9.7 million and \$6.7 million respectively, in effect reducing education funding for the surrounding community.

The district also expects a revenue decrease of around \$5 million due to the campus closures.

"So much of the time, (categorical programs) are the answer to so much of the vulnerable populations," said Mary Figueroa, president of the Board of Trustees. "Some of the vulnerable populations that are

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Journalism instructor to retire Full-time Viewpoints adviser in his final semester after 24 years

ERIK GALICIA

NEWS EDITOR

The plaques that line the walls of the Viewpoints newsroom at Riverside City College are so many that they leave little room for much else.

However, Allan Lovelace, the full time journalism instructor since 1996, affirms that Viewpoints is not in it for the awards. He will be retiring at the end of the spring 2020 semester.

"It's not a beauty contest," Lovelace said. "Journalism should be a public service."

Still, Lovelace is leaving behind a legacy of recognized excellence.

RCC President Gregory Anderson attributes Viewpoints' accolades to Lovelace's fierce commitment to the First Amendment.

"These accolades demonstrate the trust that Professor Lovelace has in his Viewpoints staff and his proven ability to step back and let the student editors manage the paper, freely making decisions about the stories that would be run in the newspaper," Anderson said via email.

There have also been struggles the past 24 years.

However, Lovelace's dedication through tough times earned him a reputation as a fighter who bleeds journalism.

Wolde-Ab Isaac, chancellor of the Riverside Community College District, recalled Lovelace's advocacy during the 2008 recession. With funds low, Viewpoints was forced to use student generated advertisement revenue for its expenses. Lovelace made it known to administrators that students should not have had to do this.

"He was a true warrior," Isaac

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN LOVELACE

Allan Lovelace has taught journalism at RCC for 24 years. His colleagues consider him to be a strong defender of student media rights.

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NEWS BRIEFS

CARES Act Grants

The Riverside Community College District will continue disbursing remaining CARES Act funds to students during the summer and fall 2020 terms.

The summer application period will be from June 15 to June 26, with an anticipated disbursement date of July 9.

The fall application period is from Aug. 31 to Sept. 11, with an anticipated disbursement date of Sept. 24.

Eligibility and grants will be determined by a point-based scoring rubric, which can be found at www.rccd.edu/covid_funding_resources.

If you have questions, contact studentfinancialservices@rcc.edu.

Celebrating Retirees

A virtual recognition event is scheduled for June 11 at 2 p.m. to celebrate the contributions of retiring faculty. All members of the Riverside City College community are invited to watch.

Retirees with over 1,050 combined years of service will be presented with a token of appreciation and recognized in a legacy video. Additional details and the link to the ceremony are still to come.

Welcome Week and Summer Engagement

A virtual Welcome Week celebration for the fall 2020 semester will be held from Aug. 17 to Aug. 22. Incoming students will be informed about the RCC experience and available resources.

Summer Engagement days are also being scheduled. More details are still to come.

Correction

Viewpoints ran an obituary for RCC dance instructor Sofia Carreras in the May 14 issue. We misidentified Carreras' husband. His name is Brendan.

We apologize for the mistake.

All campus events and many local events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have news or information about events still happening that you want featured in Viewpoints, contact viewpoints.news@gmail.com.



ERIK GALICIA | VIEWPOINTS

Although the gates to the A.G. Paul Quadrangle remain locked May 27, the Riverside Community College District campus reopening task force is examining all college activities in an attempt to ensure a safe return to college. Administrators say its too

Task force examines reopening

Committee will present recommendations for safe campus

ERIK GALICIA

NEWS EDITOR

A task force is making recommendations for the safe reopening of the Riverside Community College District.

"This is a very large task," Robin Steinback, Moreno Valley College president and head of the new task force, said at the Board of Trustees meeting May 19. "It's much easier to invite people to leave than it is to bring them back."

The committee has put together workgroups to address lab settings, lectures, facilities operations, student services, academic support, communication and safety protocols.

Because the task force is still in its early stages, the groups have met only a handful of times. Workgroups are growing by the day as participation from student government, staff and faculty is invited.

"All stakeholders who are represented have been invited to participate," Steinback said. "We want this to be as broadbase a task force as possible so that we can do a thorough review and make thoughtful recommendations to Chancellor (Wolde-Ab) Isaac."

The task force has also created eight guiding principles, of which Isaac said the most important is the safety and well being of students and all employees. The principle of equity-minded decision making that ensures care for the most vulnerable students is also at the forefront.

"When we look at the rapid change to online, it's the least privileged of our students who are challenged most," Isaac said. "Therefore our goal to fight for equity is compromised by COVID-19. We need to go back to what works, what contributes to our students' successes."

The chancellor reiterated that all summer and fall 2020 lectures will remain online.

According to Gregory Anderson, president of Riverside

City College, the task force is reviewing all activities performed within the district's three colleges but it is still too soon to speculate on final decisions.

Many remain uneasy.

RCC student Sabrina Jacobo expressed skepticism and hopes that sanitization standards are held high. She urged for the requirement of masks and other personal protective equipment.

"One person's mistake can spread too quickly," Jacobo said. "I will not allow myself to be in a classroom where I'm too close to another student."

Elisabeth Thompson-Eagle, an RCC biology instructor, raised concern for those who are immunocompromised.

"Not everyone is in the same boat," Thompson-Eagle said at the RCC Academic Senate meeting May 18. "What if we have people who are not ok with doing face-to-face instruction, even with social distancing?"

According to Rhonda Taube, president of the District Faculty Association, reopening will be

based on guidelines set forth by the CDC and the American Federation of Teachers, which stresses social distancing and provisions for COVID-19 testing resources.

"We safeguard all our faculty working conditions and students," Taube said at that meeting. "We don't want to put anybody back into a situation that they don't feel comfortable in."

Isaac stressed the importance of acquiring safety advice from the proper people. Because the Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted against local health orders May 8, the district has been referred to the state's capital for safety guidance. This makes things difficult due to Sacramento's bureaucratic nature, according to the chancellor.

"We're dealing with a virus that is very new," Isaac said. "The symptoms it causes are changing by the day. We have to understand all precautionary measures."

Reductions loom as Community Colleges brace for financial crisis

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going to be impacted are those communities of color."

Figueroa pleaded for the district to be mindful of equity for the populations it serves.

"That goes for both our staffing and our student populations," Figueroa said.

Chancellor Wolde-Ab Isaac assured equity and access will remain a top priority but admitted prioritizing programs will be tough.

"If we cut, it's gonna go across the board," Isaac said.

According to Gregory Anderson, president of Riverside City College, savings have already been accrued by the cancelation of travel due to COVID-19. Moving forward, he said his administration will look to further reduce expenditures

while prioritizing protection of the classroom.

"We're going to try to keep the cuts away from the teaching and learning mission of the college," Anderson said. "If you cut there, you lose revenue. If we don't keep classes open for students to enroll and succeed, what are we doing as a college?"

Brown affirmed that the district's budget advisory council, created to map out the path forward, considers protecting students and employees a top guiding principle. If needed, the district will be able to transfer costs between funds to effectively absorb prioritized expenses.

The district also hopes the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on May 15, will be signed into law.

"The bill would alleviate

some of the financial burden on the State of California by providing colleges with nearly \$3.2 billion and the Governor with \$535 million to disburse to schools," Rep. Mark Takano, D-Riverside, told Viewpoints via email.

Although President Donald Trump has threatened to veto the HEROES Act, the district remains optimistic about its ability to manage the financial crisis. According to Brown, the upside to the state's May budget revision is that it sustains two years of free Community College, includes funding for Riverside City College's Physical and Life Sciences Renovation Project and provides for Student Success Completion Grants.

"We have a very large amount of reserves on hand," Brown said. "I'm very confident that we'll be able to weather the storm and



ERIK GALICIA | VIEWPOINTS

California's May budget revision will still provide funding for the Physical and Life Sciences Renovation Project at RCC.

come out the other end in a strong position."

The district budget advisory council will present the tentative budget for the 2020-2021 academic year June 9.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA COFFLAND

Shauna Kim, left, will serve as the vice president of ASRCC and Samantha Coffland, right, will serve as the president. Their terms begin at the end of the spring 2020 semester.

Student body elects new leaders

Incoming executives aim for inclusivity and transparency

ROSSANNA MARTINEZ

STAFF REPORTER

The student body elected a new president and vice president May 14.

Samantha Coffland will serve as president of the Associated Students of Riverside City College and Shuana Kim will serve as vice president of ASRCC next year.

Coffland, a microbiology major whose goal is to become a pediatric intensivist, began participating in student government during summer 2019, when she was first hired in Student Activities. Immediately, at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year, Coffland decided to run for Senate and became the outreach chair for the legislative branch.

"Once I was elected for Senate and began doing the work,

participating and planning the events, I fell in love with it and knew I wanted to continue to pursue the president's position," Coffland said. "I loved the idea of improving our campus, being the voice of the students, increasing campus life and advocating for the students."

Coffland is motivated by helping others and wants to make a positive impact at RCC as well as in other students' lives, regardless of how big or small the impact may be. She has a passion for community and mental health.

"I believe that having a sense of belonging in college greatly helps with not only finishing school, but enjoying the time that you spend here," she said. "I do not want any student to feel like they are alone or nobody cares about them. If any students do feel like they need a friend, I highly encourage them to come visit us

in Bradshaw 207."

As ASRCC president, Samantha will serve as the liaison between students, staff, faculty and administration. She will also present and enforce resolutions and policies that are approved by the Senate.

Coffland plans to improve the Public Relations Council, which will help increase communication with students as well as help students with the transition back to campus. She also plans to continue advocating the student's voice through her position.

"One thing that I plan to change at RCC is our communication with students," she said. "One of my goals is to find effective, accessible and equitable ways to increase communication with students."

Shauna Kim is a first year student at RCC who plans to transfer to a university as a

business major. As vice president, her main goal is to serve the campus and use the best of her ability to help students during their college years.

"From experience, I understand that Community College is overlooked and gets discouraging because of the experiences that are missed out," Kim said. "I want the face of all Community Colleges to change and be more of an option for all people to come into."

Kim aims to make university-style experiences available to RCC students.

"Whether that be educational opportunities, social lives (or) more extracurricular (activities) to encounter, I believe that Riverside City College is the perfect college to experience that in," Kim said.

According to the new leaders, communication is the biggest area ASRCC will be

focusing on, especially with the pandemic that has overwhelmed and affected many students. They are discussing the use of Canvas for updating students about events and resources. Kim said she completely understands the frustrations COVID-19 has brought to the spring term and wants to ensure that ASRCC provides all the resources necessary to help finish the terms strong.

Coffland assured that her administration will be there for all RCC students.

"We want every student to know that we are here not only to advocate for them and create a better campus, but we also are here to be a friend," Coffland said. "Our main focuses this year are community, transparency, and inclusivity. We want every student to feel included in our ASRCC family."

RCC says goodbye to Viewpoints' full-time adviser after 24 years of service

RETIREES from page 1

said. "He defended his students. He defended his program."

Lovelace has also built a reputation as a staunch proponent of equality, never backing down from confrontation with injustices. His strong belief in empowerment of disadvantaged communities could be heard often in the Viewpoints newsroom.

"He often reminds the RCC community that there is a larger society outside of our campus whose successes, challenges and systemic ills affect our lives and the lives of our students," Anderson said about Lovelace, who he considers to be the social conscience of the college.

Lovelace recounted one of his most cherished memories at RCC being when a student in his lecture class told him he made her feel as

if her opinion mattered. Another highlight of his career was seeing Laura Tapia, an undocumented student and former editor-in-chief of Viewpoints, become president of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges State Convention in April 2017.

"What a lot of people may not see at first because of the secluded nature of our newsroom is that Allan truly cares about our students and is very protective of them," said Matthew Schoenmann, the part-time journalism adviser.

Lovelace's compassion was put on public display when a former student, Nick Peralta, collapsed and began convulsing during the fall of 2018. Viewpoints students scrambled to help, calling 911 and moving road barriers on Terracina Drive themselves to make way for ambulances. Peralta recovered and Lovelace ensured his students' emergency efforts



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN LOVELACE

Allan Lovelace, right, is seen in 2004 with Viewpoints students who have won awards from the Society of Professional

were recognized by the district at a subsequent Board of Trustees meeting.

Roberto Hernandez, a former student who went on to report for The Press-Enterprise, acknowledged Lovelace as being a pivotal figure in his collegiate and professional career. Although he now works as the director of Administrative Operations and Marketing for the College of

Natural Sciences at Cal State San Bernardino, Hernandez continues to use what he learned at Viewpoints.

"He was there on the side of the students," Hernandez said. "He was there on the side of the values of journalism. Who knows where I would've gone had Allan Lovelace not encouraged me."

Lovelace said he will miss his students more than anything and

hopes to leave behind a legacy of passionate reporting that holds the powerful accountable. He urged Viewpoints students to focus on the content of the newspaper and write stories that matter.

"Everyday when I go into my office, I almost always have the door wide open and I hear you guys excited in the newsroom when you're working on something," Lovelace said. "I'll hear you guys joking around and having a good time. I'm not gonna get that anymore."

Schoenmann, who has worked by Lovelace's side for the past seven years, expressed a feeling of loss, echoing the sentiment shared by several colleagues.

"The program is losing its advocate and I'm losing a mentor," Schoenmann said. "But he's left Viewpoints in a good place. I just hope we can continue the legacy and make him proud."



IMAGE COURTESY OF YESENIA HUBY

Angel often finds himself composing landscapes in National Parks. He plans on visiting more parks when they open back up.

The shutter closes

Editor-in-Chief says goodbye

ANGEL PEÑA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I was shocked when I was appointed editor-in-chief of Viewpoints at the end of the spring 2019 semester. Emotions ran through my body and I was certain someone had made a mistake

I soon realized that regardless of what I felt, the future of the Viewpoints newspaper rested in my hands. I sought to establish a mindset of passion, commitment and ambition.

Having become accustomed to trial and error in my first few weeks as editor-in-chief, I realized that striving for perfection is good but achieving perfection is a feat that is impossible to reach.

I began to notice a change

soon after the first few hardships. It felt as if we were all working toward one goal, ensuring the success of everyone around us instead of just worrying about individual success.

My photography career also flourished during my two years with the program. Winning Photographer of the Year and other awards boosted my confidence going into the fall 2019 semester. These accolades, along with the help of Matt Schoenmann, the part-time journalism adviser, helped me get a freelance position with the Southern California News Group.

To future journalism students who may be reading this, joining Viewpoints was one of the best decisions I have made in my academic career. The people I've met, experience I've gained and

knowledge I've acquired are second to none.

I am confident that I am leaving Viewpoints in a better place than when I arrived, but it wasn't done alone. I had help from some very talented people.

My vision would have been incomplete without the contributions of Leo Cabral and Erik Galicia. I couldn't have done it without their help. To them, I am forever grateful. They are pillars of excellence and have shown what it really means to be a journalist. I couldn't be leaving the paper in more capable hands.

The friendships that have manifested in my time at Viewpoints will be cherished and last a lifetime. Like many others who have come before me, Viewpoints was my home and it will forever hold a place in my heart.

Student government creates stimulus

Unused spring 2020 funds allow financial relief for students

ERIK GALICIA

NEWS EDITOR

Student leaders have created a pandemic stimulus fund available to all Riverside City College students after federal guidance on the distribution excluded all students who are ineligible for FAFSA.

These restrictions left Nathalie Ntwali, a first semester RCC international student, feeling uncertain about her academic future.

"If I'm not able to pay for school in the fall, I might have to go back to Rwanda," Ntwali said.

The Undocumented Advocates Collective of RCC estimates the college is home to around 1,000 undocumented students, all of which are also ineligible for federal relief.

In response to these unaddressed needs, student leaders released applications for the Associated Students of Riverside City College Stimulus Award on May 13, intending to provide grants of up to \$300 to any applicants who have paid their student fees.

"It's for all students," ASRCC President Angel Contreras said about the award. "We're not going based on FAFSA. We're not looking into residency status. The only thing that we ask is that you have your student fees paid for the academic year of 2019-2020."

According to Contreras, ASRCC had an untouched surplus in its spring 2020 budget due to the campus closure, allowing student leaders to make the case for the aid package. The student senate approved \$55,000 for the

fund, which was pulled from a pool generated by payments of student fees.

The federal government's exclusion of international and undocumented students from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act prompted the California Community Colleges system to file a lawsuit May 11 against Betsy DeVos, the U.S. Secretary of Education, due to t.

"It is our hope that we stop the U.S. Department of Education from enforcing what we feel are arbitrary eligibility restrictions on relief funds that Congress approved to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19," Eloy Ortiz Oakley, California Community Colleges Chancellor, said during a teleconference with student reporters May 12. "We will continue to stand firm behind our (undocumented) students.

Our campuses will continue to be a place of safety and stability for them."

According to Oakley, the California Community College system worked with Congress on the language of the CARES Act that was signed into law and felt the intent was to allow individual colleges the flexibility to determine who should get emergency aid.

"We were operating on that basis until the Department of Education issued an F.A.Q. about the use of CARES Act funds," Oakley said. "In that F.A.Q. we saw language that was contrary to Congress's intent."

The lawsuit seeks an injunction that allows for local level flexibility in determining which students should receive aid from the federal bill. Because a decision will require time, Oakley recommended

Community Colleges slow their distribution of federal money in case an authorization to allow relief for excluded students is made.

ASRCC intends to distribute its aid as soon as possible.

"It shouldn't be that long," Contreras said. "We're reviewing all the applications as they come in. By the end of the first week of June, students should start getting their stimulus checks."

Incoming ASRCC President Samantha Coffland said she will review the student government's budget to see if a second stimulus award can be disbursed in the future but is not able to say for sure.

Applications for the ASRCC Stimulus Award can be found at RCC's website under COVID-19 online resources and should be emailed to StudentActivities@rcc.edu.

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“Our greatness comes when we appreciate each other’s strengths, when we learn from each other, when we lean on each other.”

- MICHELLE OBAMA

Norco College Host’s Live Concert

SAIDA MAALIN

LIFE EDITOR

Norco College student musicians and alumni hosted a five hour virtual concert for the community on May 22.

The concert featured 21 Norco music students. Genres included country, hip-hop, folk, metal, rock and alternative.

Featured artists included Kalie Jade, Damian Navarro, Farris, Emma Dark, Just Crystal and Old Scores, all who performed on “Beneath the Surface,” an album by 38 Norco student musicians.

“Norco Music is a vibrant community of student artists from Norco College who truly support each other,” said Brady Kerr, music industry studies instructor. We are so grateful that in a time of social distancing, our community could come together and create a livestream, interactive, virtual concert.”

“We had multiple genres represented,” he said. “Norco Music has a very diverse student population, so we wanted to represent that as much as possible.”

The Associated Students of Norco College, in collaboration with Norco ESports Association and Norco Music, decided to do a virtual concert titled “Quarantined: Bedroom Sessions” due to COVID-19.

“The ‘Bedroom Sessions’ took just over two months to plan, record, produce and organize,” said Kerr. “It was such a success, that if possible, we’d like to do another one in the fall.”

The concert was hosted on Twitch, a live broadcast platform that is free and open to the public.

“We had 446 unique viewers, 100 unique chatters, 1,287 live views and maxed out with 87 viewers in a single moment,” Kerr said.

After their individual sets, each performer conducted a live interview.

“I’m incredibly proud of everyone involved,” Kerr said. “It took a lot to make this happen. Not only the performers themselves, but all the behind-the-scenes work that went into making it a success.”

To listen to NOMU studio album “Beneath the Surface”, visit <http://www.norcomusic.com/music>.

Graduation speaker announced Ujima Club President to give 2020 class speech

SAIDA MAALIN

LIFE EDITOR

Riverside City College announced Roryana Bowman, President of Ujima Club, as the Student Commencement Speaker for the graduating class of 2020.

“Her character and discipline to commitment, self improvement and community service is impeccable,” said Kweku Williams, an RCC anthropology instructor.

Bowman is the first speaker in RCC’s history to be sent to record her speech at the school.

“It was a good experience because I have never done a speech like that,” Bowman said. “It felt presidential.”

Bowman was selected during a Zoom conference with other applicants during the speaker competition. The students who were not selected have the option to submit a recording of their speech, which will be displayed on the RCC graduation website.

“When Roryana puts her mind to something she gives it her all,” Crystal Hollie, RCC student, said. “Not only is she a great mother, role figure to others, president of the Ujima club, student mentor and a student instructional aide, there is no limit to what this woman



COURTESY OF FELISHA CARRASCO

Roryana Bowman, outgoing Ujima Club president, tosses her graduation cap during a photoshoot.

can do. Which shows us all, if you have a dream and a vision to go for it and don’t stop until you accomplish it.”

A group of administrators and faculty determined Bowman to be this year’s commencement speaker. Bowman was sent a letter by the selection committee

thanking her for sharing her story.

Selecting a candidate wasn’t an easy task for the committee, but Bowman proved to be a great representation for the graduating class of 2020.

“In order to inspire you must first become inspirational,”

Bowman said.

Bowman, who worked hard to graduate, was saddened by the decision to hold an online celebration for such an important milestone. She wishes the option for an in person ceremony were still available.

“In a way it’s very disheartening,” Bowman said.

Many students felt the same way.

“I don’t like that the graduation is going virtual because I feel that there were better options,” Hollie said. “But hey, hopefully I will be able to walk across the stage for my bachelors degree.”

Williams was saddened as well but expressed understanding for the decision.

“It is necessary in these troubling times,” Williams said. “I’m proud to see that the district prioritizes safety while being supportive of student achievement.”

This year’s virtual graduation will be held June 12th. Students should check their email for updated information.

‘The Half of It’ Movie Review Depicts realistic teenage LGBTQ+ relationships

STEPHANIE ARENAS

STAFF REPORTER

Director and screenwriter Alice Wu brought in a fresh and influential twist with a common trope in her new movie “The Half of It.”

Based on the 1897 play “Cyrano de Bergerac” by Edmond Rostand, “The Half of It” is a coming of age film based on the simple premises of friendship and sexuality.

Ellie Chu is a shy, Chinese-American high school senior who lives with her widowed father in a small town named Squahamish. She is known around her school for writing essays for her fellow students as a means to make extra cash on the side.

One day, she is approached by football player Paul Munsky, who asks her to write a love letter to another student named Aster Flores.

Chu initially rejects Munsky’s offer, as she is secretly in love with Flores

herself. However, after learning that her father is struggling with house payments, she accepts his offer.

Throughout the movie, Chu and Flores write letters to each other, leaving Chu to fall more and more in love with Flores and often forgetting that Flores believes she is writing to Munsky.

Actress Leah Lewis was the perfect choice for the role of Ellie Chu. Her character handles the topic of sexual orientation in the most delicate and thoughtful way possible.

“Love is not patient, and kind, and humble,” Ellie Chu says in the film. “It’s not finding your perfect half. It’s the trying and reaching and failing.”

On the other hand, there were a few questionable moments in the film.

Halfway through, Paul Munsky falls for Ellie Chu. In any other movie, this would create a huge conflict between characters. However, nothing really comes of it which leads you to wonder, why was this

added in the first place?

The film is a little over 90 minutes long but feels as though it drags on forever. While the plot is simple and entertaining, there is nothing special about it that would differentiate it from other generic high school movies.

Overall, “The Half of It”

was a pleasant and enjoyable film. The ending gave into a more realistic perspective of what LGBTQ+ teens go through in regards to relationships.

Wu managed to create a film that is light-hearted, down-to-earth and true to life in the best way possible.



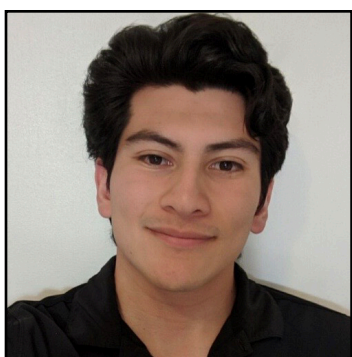
ILLUSTRATION BY JULIAN NAVARRO



ANGEL PEÑA | VIEWPOINTS

How Viewpoints impacts lives

Staff members share experiences from the newsroom



DANIEL HERNANDEZ

STAFF REPORTER

My first two years at Riverside City College were absolutely miserable.

However, I don't blame the college or the faculty members for my feelings of disenfranchisement. I was miserable because I was lonely.

In high school I only had two close friends. I met both of these life long friends in middle school and we stuck together all throughout high school.

After high school, both of my friends had vastly different plans for their futures. One decided to go to UC Davis to pursue biomedical engineering, while the other decided to enter the workforce.

Although I was proud of the both of them for choosing a path that made them happy, I was also hurt because I knew our paths would diverge and I was no longer going to enjoy the company that brought me so much joy for almost seven years.

So when I started attending RCC, I knew I had to start over and make new friends. That was easier said than done.

The lack of interaction I was able to get with my peers in the classroom on a daily basis made it difficult to make new friends. When I did have some time to interact with a new person, I was usually met with weird glances or

cold shoulders, as if many of the students just didn't want to give me the time of day or didn't care enough to bother with me.

So after many failed attempts of trying to interact with people, I gave up. I assumed that this was the culture at RCC. Everybody either minded their own business or already had an established friend group that wasn't open to adding a new kid.

For two years, I was alone.

My routine at school consisted of finding a place to sit by myself where I wouldn't bother anybody, call my best friends only to be greeted by that stupid "please leave your message after the tone" voice mail and just wait until my next class started.

I expected more of the same routine for my third year. I mentally prepared by telling myself that it was my last year and I could try again when I transferred.

Then I entered the Viewpoints newsroom.

Afraid and expecting an immediate cold shoulder, I was thrown off when the Editor-in-Chief Angel Peña greeted me with a big smile and asked me if I was there to join Viewpoints.

The kindness continued when I explained that I wanted to be a photographer and was immediately surrounded from all angles by other reporters and photographers exclaiming how happy they were to have more photographers on their team.

After my first day, I went home with a sense of relief. Even my parents acknowledged that I seemed happier than usual.

Since that day, I have become good friends with everybody in the newsroom and I have so many amazing memories of all the good times we shared throughout the fall 2019 semester. All the football games we drove to, all the jokes we cracked and all the hard work we put into the paper

“Being a part of Viewpoints helped me grow, not only as a photographer and journalist, but as a person as well.”

made me forget how lonely I felt before.

Before I knew it, the semester was over. During that winter break, I counted down the days until spring 2020. I was shocked because before I joined Viewpoints, I would hate even thinking about having to go back to school. Yet, one semester with Viewpoints changed the opinion of RCC that I held for two years.

Being a part of Viewpoints helped me grow, not only as a photographer and journalist, but as a person as well. Thanks to the amazing people in the newsroom, I was able to learn how to write stories, conduct interviews and, most importantly, to enjoy myself at school.

Unfortunately, this is my last semester at RCC. I just wish I could go back in time and join Viewpoints during my first semester.

However, I'm grateful that I was able to spend this time with everybody in the newsroom. It made me happy knowing that I was accepted at a college where I thought I was all alone.

So to anybody who feels like they are alone in college or that they don't have a place to call home, just know that Viewpoints will welcome you with open arms.

And to my family at Viewpoints, thank you.



LEO CABRAL

MANAGING EDITOR

I tried several times to find a place to fit in at Riverside City College with little success until I found Viewpoints.

I joined clubs and coalitions throughout the campus in search of something. I was not entirely certain what I was looking for. Comradery, solidarity or maybe a purpose.

The positions I held in some organizations were fruitless. In some roles I felt like there was not enough activism. In other roles I felt that I did not belong amongst my peers.

I joined Viewpoints in my second semester. I signed up as a staff photographer and kept a fairly low profile for a while. I genuinely believed I would not belong and that I was not good enough. I almost did not join at all until my journalism instructor, Allan Lovelace, showed his journalism lecture class the Viewpoints newsroom.

I have to admit, the newsroom regulars and editors were rather intimidating at first. But they were so kind and welcoming that I wanted to be everyone's friend. Plus, the newsroom was pretty cool.

However, I had classes and prior commitments to other organizations that required much of the time I could have spent in the newsroom, so it was not

until my second semester with Viewpoints in fall 2019 that I began to take on a more active role.

I did not join any clubs, I resigned from my previous roles, accommodated my schedule and I devoted myself to the newsroom.

It was the best decision I made in my academic career and I have attended multiple colleges.

Things changed once I placed Viewpoints as my top priority and began spending all of my time in the newsroom.

I applied to be the photo editor after Angel Peña, my former photo editor and then editor-in-chief, took me under his wing.

My relationship with the editors and advisers became more interactive and I loved it. I came out of my shell and became more confident in myself and in my work. I even branched out into other sections of the paper.

I was taken aback when I was asked to be the managing editor that same semester. Finally, I had found a place where all my hard work meant something. It was rewarding being part of a team of so many people from different walks of life whose unifying goal is public service.

In one year with Viewpoints, I have made many meaningful friendships, grown professionally and internally and have had fun while doing it all. When I came out to my staff as nonbinary and shared my chosen name and pronouns, everyone accepted me immediately without question.

Through late nights, deadlines and even pandemics, the Viewpoints team holds it together and is there for one another. I could not have asked for better or more accepting friends.

I found what I was looking for in Viewpoints.

EDITORIAL



IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Solidarity in virtual graduation

Hard work and degrees are not undervalued

The class of 2020 will have to attend its commencement ceremonies online at almost all colleges and universities due to COVID-19 safety regulations, including Riverside City College.

It is unfortunate that an entire graduating class has to celebrate this event that is meant to be in person through a screen. However, no matter the circumstances, the graduating class of 2020 should still come together to celebrate its hard work and achievements.

Graduating is an accomplishment that should be celebrated and honored.

The commencement ceremony is meant to congratulate and honor everybody who spent countless hours studying, writing, calculating and preparing themselves for their futures.

Of course, this year is no exception. But this commencement ceremony should also carry another meaning. During this year's ceremony, students should also take the time to remember everyone who helped them along their journey.

The journey of hard work and dedication that this graduating class has put into earning its degrees is not undervalued just

because they won't get to walk across the stage at Wheelock Stadium. The degrees that students earn still hold just as much weight as degrees earned at any other time.

Just like we are not alone in our current circumstances, we were not alone when we were working hard to get to this point. Let's take the time to thank and appreciate everyone else who made our academic careers possible.

Let's try our best to be supportive of everybody who partakes in this year's commencement ceremony.

Although we might not be able to congratulate everybody in person, we can still take time out of our "at-home ceremony" to call or text fellow classmates and tell them that you are proud of their achievements.

We are all struggling through these unprecedented times together and communicating virtually is one of the best ways to brighten up a classmate's day. If everybody who is participating in this commencement ceremony were to call one person, the day would be filled with many meaningful conversations with fellow classmates.

Viewpoints' editorials represent the majority opinion of and are written by the Viewpoints' student editorial board.

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California Newspaper
Publishers Association

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be kept to 250 words or less and include contact information. Deliver letters to the Viewpoints office in the room behind the Assessment Building. An electronic copy is required. Viewpoints reserves the right to edit letters for space and to reject libelous or obscene letters. Letters to the editor and columns represent the opinions of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the entire Viewpoints staff, Viewpoints faculty advisers, student government, faculty, administration nor the Board of Trustees.

PRINTING SCHEDULE

Copy deadline:	August	12
Photo deadline:	August	12
Ad deadline:	August	12
Next issue:	August	20

Viewpoints is a public forum, First Amendment newspaper. Student editors have authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

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JOIN VIEWPOINTS

A combination hard to beat

- 1) Earn three units of academic credit with Journalism 20 or Journalism 52.
- 2) Get desktop publishing or Internet design experience on computers with 27-inch monitors.
- 3) Build a portfolio of your work published with your byline. A portfolio of published work is essential to get a summer internship or full-time media job.
- 4) Get writing and editing experience covering interesting and exciting events.
- 5) Win awards. JACC award winners are recruited by universities.
- 6) Make money selling ads.
- 7) Learn how a newspaper works in print and online.
- 8) Become part of a team dedicated to public service and make a difference.
- 9) Have fun!

Wanted

Photographers
illustrators
writers
editors

How to Join

Mandatory orientations for Viewpoints students will be held in the Journalism Building at Riverside City College on August 25, 26, 27 and 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m. (attend any one of these meetings).