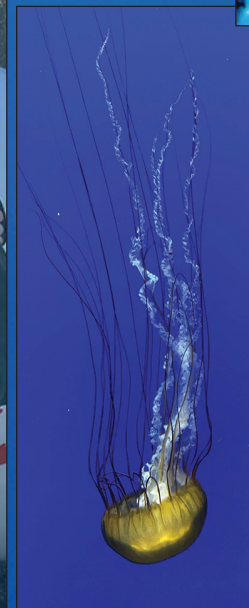


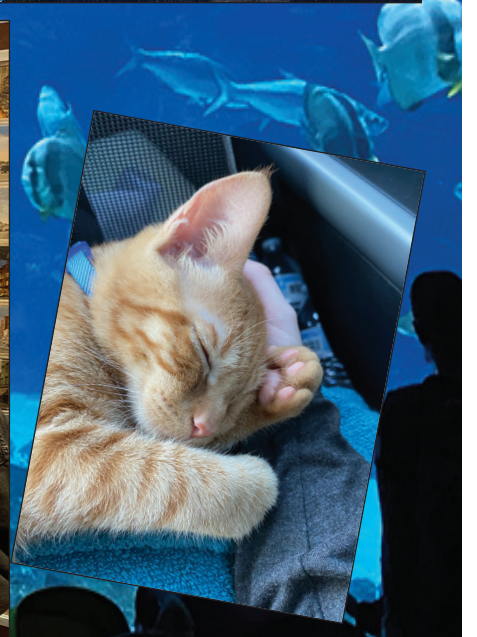
THE BOCA BEACON AROUND THE WORLD



■ The beginning of 2022 started off with a road trip to Atlanta, Georgia to visit the Georgia Aquarium. Summer, Bailey (FSC alum '21), Katie (FSC alum '20) and I spent the first night in Jacksonville, FL before driving the six hours to our hotel in Marietta. Bright and early the next morning, we arrived to the Georgia Aquarium. It was a peaceful, almost haunting environment while we made a bee-line for the underwater tunnel towards the 6.3+ million-gallon tank. Ever since I watched the Pitch Perfect 3 scene in front of the Ocean Voyager exhibit, it was a dream to see the whale sharks (and of course, Tank the sea turtle). The windows took up the entire room as whale sharks, goliath grouper, stingrays, sharks, and a variety of other fish swam by. After spending time there, we attended the sea lion, dolphin, and 3D Theatre presentations that occurred throughout the aquarium. Katie's favorite was the sea lion presentation as she got to watch Katie the sea lion drench those daring enough to sit in the Splash Zone. We then toured through each exhibit and got a closer look at the sharks, penguins, tropical fish, and harbor seals. We were able to learn more about sea life that we have never seen before, such as the Weedy Sea Dragon. My personal favorite was our walk through the Cold Water Quest exhibit as the beluga whales were having fun swimming in their tank. While manatees would usually smush their faces into the glass, beluga whales would divert at the last moment and start to chase the harbor seals. It was the coolest bucket list experience and we spent almost five hours exploring the aquarium.



After the aquarium, we toured through the World of Coke and tried the famous Beverly drink which was popular in Italy before being discontinued in 2009. It holds the reputation for being extremely bitter and after quick consideration, most of us were not fans (although we did love the iced tea and Coca-Cola samples). We also got to walk around Olympic Park and take a drive throughout the city before heading back for the night.



As we got to the hotel, our night became even more interesting. As Summer opened the car door, a very tiny orange kitten tried to jump in (far right)! He was shivering in the hotel parking lot, so we made the spontaneous decision to rescue the cat. After making sure he wasn't lost or microchipped, we adopted 7-month old Atlanta Peaches who now lives a very comfortable life in North Port, FL. After a crazy trip, we drove back to Florida with new memories, new merchandise, and a new cat!



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