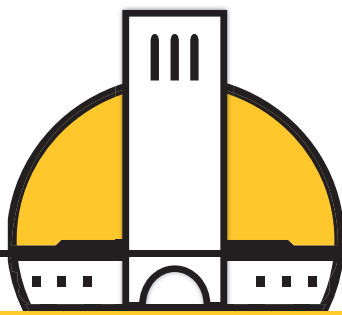


DAILY NEXUS



THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

“BEST of ’15”



2018-2019

THIS WEEK'S UP AND COMING

Thursday 6 June **SAGE Center lecture by Iain Couzin**
Psych 1312 | 4 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE YOUTUBE

Iain Couzin is the Chair of Biodiversity and Collective Behaviour at the University of Konstanz, Germany and Director of the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Department of Collective Behaviour. His work aims to reveal the fundamental principles that underlie evolved collective behavior, and consequently his research includes the study of a wide range of biological systems, from insect swarms to fish schools and primate groups.

Thursday 6 June **Kinetic Lab**
Ballet Studio | 8 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLEVENTSIN

KINETIC LAB serves as a creative laboratory for student-choreographers to delve deeply into the process of creation with the aim of practicing the foundational tools of dance composition while discovering and honing an individualized creative voice. Students are encouraged to see dance-making as an ongoing and evolving practice that, though developing a product to share with audiences, benefits from a dedicated focus on the process of making—this is where the learning resides.

Friday 7 June **UCSB Gospel Choir Spring Concert**
Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall | 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCSB EVENTS

Directed by Victor Bell, the UCSB Gospel Choir will present traditional and contemporary songs drawn from African American religious traditions.

MAGIC LANTERN FILMS PRESENTS:

CAPTAIN MARVEL

I.V. Theater
7 & 10 p.m.

Friday 7 June

\$4



Shakespeare in the park presents:
TWELFTH NIGHT OR, WHAT YOU WILL

Bring a blanket, bring a friend!

Anisq'Oyo' Park, Isla Vista | 7 p.m.

Saturday 8 June & Sunday 9 June

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WEATHER

As Weatherhuman strolled ze's way into work, ze was hit with a flashback we've all experienced - seeing a not-so-cute person you hooked up with last weekend at DTD.

Tomorrow's Forecast: Having better drunk goggles.

CLASSIFIEDS HELP WANTED

Hospitality Host - Full Time
Pence Vineyards and Winery is actively looking for someone to join their team to help in several areas with responsibilities largely focused on Hospitality and assisting in the Tasting Room helping coordinate appointments and greeting guests. Additional duties will include working with Events and Direct to Consumer Sales. Successful candidates will have an out-going and dynamic personality, enjoy interacting with guests, able to multi-task, have strong communication skills and thrive in a fast pace environment. Compensation is commensurate with experience. This is a great starting position for anyone looking to get into the wine business as you will be exposed to many aspects of how wineries work. For any interested candidates, please submit a resume and cover letter to info@pencevineyards.com.

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LGBTQIA+ Vignettes: Class of 2019

For the June 6, 2019 graduation issue and in honor of Pride Month, the Nexus asked graduating UC Santa Barbara students who identify as LGBTQIA+ to share how their college experiences have been affected by their identities.

The Nexus hopes to provide a platform – in this issue and in future ones – for LGBTQIA+ students at UCSB to share their lived realities on this campus. Two of those responses can be seen below:

Ángel A. Valdenegro
Contributing Writer

In June 2017, the city of Philadelphia raised its rainbow flag high for its first annual Pride Kickoff. The pride flag fluttered in the Philadelphia air, championing the experiences of millions of TLGBQ+* members across the world. It harkened to the activism that got us here and to the activism to come.

But the difference that this flag had as it marched through the streets of Philadelphia and through the many streets after that are the two stripes that adorned it on top. One black and one brown – an innocuous reminder that queerness is woven into more colors than just one.

Being here at UCSB has proven to me that I am those stripes. Let me explain.

My college experience has pushed and pulled, expanded and contracted, championed and sequestered the many identities that constitute me. In some contexts, my brownness is celebrated. My native tongue expresses itself freely and without harassment. I can wear rainbow buttons happily and without danger.

But in other contexts, as a lot of us have come to realize, we have to push aside who we are for an identity that is more immediate and palatable. We have to relegate our life experiences to just business or to whatever the sign on the door says.

At some point, many of us have felt the sting from the relegation I'm talking about.

When you're struggling to make ends meet that week, you probably don't want to tell your professor. Why make it about you?

When you're doing science, you're not a woman; you're a scientist. Why does it have to be about gender?

When you're an academic, you're not a person of color; you're an academic. Why do you have to make it about race?

When you're a non-traditional student, you're just a student. Why are you different?

And this kind of thinking is dangerous when we ignore the disparities and disadvantages that might exist in our settings. It is impossible to support one another if we do not understand the situations we exist in. I can't save you from drowning if I refuse to acknowledge you're underwater.

Because of that, being a person of color fighting behind the rainbow flag used to mean leaving our brownness at the door with the umbrellas. It meant fighting for a movement that never really promised to help those in the intersection of being a person of color and queer. (And don't even get me started on how much more we need to advocate for trans people.)

So the wisdom that our queer brothers, sisters and non-binary siblings in Philadelphia reminded us of that June is the diverse nature of being. That one descriptor does not fit all. We are not just gay. We are not just queer. Those words are just adjectives among a multiplicity of others.

So this Pride, go celebrate the diverse nature of being queer – heck, even the diverse nature of just being human. And even if you're not queer, I invite you to turn to the person next to you and appreciate them for the depth of who they are.

Go fight for each other. Celebrate one another.

*I did that on purpose.

Ángel A. Valdenegro is a graduating queer Latino physics major who wants you to google Kayden Clarke, Tamika Washington and Chynal Lindsey.

Kylie George
Outgoing Copy Chief

For those who have been by my side throughout every one of my phases in college (*cough cough Nexites cough cough*), y'all know all about my various dick-scapades: From the Night of Three to fucking a random dude I met at a bus stop, my thirst for peen is never quenched.

Possibly the craziest thing I've ever done to date, however, is willingly enter into a healthy, committed relationship for the last year and some change. Shocker: This person has a penis. Therefore, my relationship will appear heterosexual to the average stranger for (hopefully) the rest of my life.

However, this staunch dedication to cock has caused some problems for me throughout my time at UCSB, if not from external sources then from my own internal thought processes.

I constantly questioned – and sometimes still question – my validity as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community because before sophomore year of college, I had never acted on any of my feelings toward various women in my life to whom I felt attracted. I felt like the only way for me to prove to both myself and others that my bisexuality was a valid self-descriptor was by experiencing reciprocal sex with a woman.

I wasn't even completely out until my sophomore year of college and, even still, I haven't directly told my mom yet (if you're reading this, Mom, hey hello hi, I'm bi!).

For my entire first year of college, I thought that people in my dorm hall would be made uncomfortable with the fact that I'm attracted to girls, so I kept my identity on the down low. It didn't help that I was ultra-paranoid about the way people perceived me and if they liked me or not because of my – and I say this literally – crippling anxiety. I was also affected by the perceived lack of a queer community on campus, so I thought

being out would not be accepted by the majority of UCSB students or faculty, thus further encouraging me to beat down a large part of who I was and still am.

Not until I joined a sorority (Tri Delta, R.I.P.) did I feel comfortable openly sharing my deep attraction to that güd pu\$\$\$. Sure, it helped that over the summer I saw a psychiatrist and got put on a pretty high dose of Prozac to help with my anxiety, but I truly feel that I began publicly identifying as queer because of the amazing queer women I met in Tri Delta.

I'm fully aware of how sratty this next sentence is going to sound, but hear me out: My Big really inspired me to embrace a

large facet of my identity by sharing her own story and her various struggles that come with being gay. From bringing me down from a panic attack brought on by being pretty publicly sexually assaulted to opening my eyes to the awesome (and very present) LGBTQIA+ community on campus, I owe this woman a lot.

My journey to self-acceptance did not conclude at the beginning of sophomore year, though. I mean, what am I? Fucking Molly Ringwald in "The Breakfast Club"??? Good guess, but not quite. I still have to exist after the happily-ever-after.

Incidentally, though, I ended up sleeping with a woman for the first time shortly after this life-changing epiphany, and it left me with a bag filled with mixed feelings.

I took her home from a frat party (wearing a huge sweatshirt, pajama bottoms and fuzzy socks with my Birks, no less), and the deed was done. The only problem was that afterward, I didn't feel like I proved anything to anybody by doing it. The encounter felt just as empty as the billionth dick I sucked dry the week prior, and I ended up feeling like I had an even feebler claim to membership in the queer community than I did before.

Since that night, I have not slept with another woman, and at this point I may never get to. Don't get me wrong; my current partner is more than I could ever ask for in a lifelong companion.

I guess I'm still worried about how others perceive the image I put out into the world, which is dumb and I should stop that right now, but emotions don't work that way. I want it to be apparent that I'm queer and not just lying about it to get attention, but I'm struggling with finding a way other than tattooing "QUEER" on my forehead.

A friend was talking to me the other day about being bisexual in college, and she expressed a lot of frustration for the girls who identify as "bi-curious" because they give "real" bisexual women a bad image. I couldn't help but think about the ease with which I could be grouped in with the former, and I felt so invalidated. I'm not saying the friend was talking about me or even that I agree with their statement (which I very much don't), but I realized in that moment that I still don't feel deserving of the label "queer" or "bisexual."

I'm learning to embrace my identity and stand up when people comment on my "invisible queerness" brought on by my love for my heterosexual male partner, but I still have a long way to go to where I really feel like I can appropriately consider myself queer.



Spotlight Shines on Different Stages: Campus Groups Host Alternative Graduations

Evelyn Spence
Lead News Editor
Sanya Kamidi
Asst. News Editor

6,867 undergraduate and graduate UC Santa Barbara students will walk across the graduation stage in just over a week, receiving recognition for years of work both in the classroom and outside it.

But many of those will also attend alternative graduations – special ceremonies aimed at celebrating the triumphs and successes of minority or underrepresented groups on campus. These special ceremonies are held every year apart from the traditional walk, in recognition of the unique struggles these students face.

The majority of the alternative graduation ceremonies will be held in the next two weeks; several of them are profiled below.

Transfer Student Graduation:

As emphasized by former University-Owned Off-Campus Senator and Transfer Student Graduation Chair Anthony Hernandez, “transfer students have a lot of barriers to overcome to get to [UCSB].”

“I know [for] Latinx and Black students, only 50% of them in community college graduate within three years. So for [transfer students] to even be in this position [to graduate], especially people of color, it’s so monumental. It really takes a lot for us to get here and to even graduate from a four-year institution,” he explained.

“I don’t think a lot of us expect [to graduate].”

So for Hernandez, and for the numerous transfer students graduating with the class of 2019, the Transfer Student Graduation is an “acknowledge[ment] that we did beat the statistics and that we are here. You achieved this. You deserve it.”

This is the second year the Transfer Student Graduation has been held. Last year, the Transfer Student Graduation welcomed around 50 students; this year’s will see

over 120, according to Hernandez.

The current Transfer Student Graduation Committee is mainly led by fourth-years Neyra Patricio, Katherin Jordan, Sophie Weimer and Hernandez; the committee began planning for graduation during Winter Quarter, according to Hernandez.

Last year’s budget to hold the entire graduation was \$200. This year’s is \$2,000, an improvement Hernandez attributes to the Transfer Student Alliance’s transformation from an organization to an Associated Students Boards, Commission and Units (BCU).

To Hernandez and Patricio, having a transfer student graduation is incredibly important in a number of ways, but particularly because of the unique and shared experiences that transfer students go through.

“Just because [the ceremony is] different. Most transfer students only have transfer friends, at least the people that I know, so getting to have a graduation ceremony with people that you know [is good], especially because a lot of transfers value it.”

“We’re all really nervous for it to get here, but we also want it to get here.”

Hernandez, who was also involved in the planning of the Transfer Student Graduation during its first year, echoed Patricio’s sentiments.

He added that being on Senate with the 69th Senate and working on the Transfer Student Alliance allowed him to see students “get rewarded for all the hard work they’ve done.”

“Seeing it last year, how it impacted and how it meant so much to many students... There’s literally people crying [at the ceremony] and it was very emotional and very intense, but it was good,” he said.

Both Hernandez and Patricio hope the tradition of a transfer student graduation ceremony continues after they both leave UCSB.

“I hope we built the tradition and it keeps on going,” he added.

This year’s ceremony will be held on June 14 in Bren Courtyard at 5 p.m. There will also be a reception at 6:30 p.m.

Undocumented Student Services

The monarch butterfly, adorning a pin which many undocumented graduating students will be wearing as they walk the stage, is a symbol of

migration, Undocumented Student Services Coordinator Diana Valdivia said.

“To wear this pin is to recognize the impact migration has had in your life experiences. This pin is a small token of your resiliency and accomplishments,” a small note accompanying the pin reads.

Undocumented Student Services began to distribute the pins to graduating undocumented students last year, Valdivia said. The pins are meant to recognize both undocumented students and others who participate in the service’s programs.

At its year-end ceremony, the service recognizes different student leaders for their work and advocacy in the undocumented student community on

campus.

This year, Valdivia said they had approximately 30 students graduating, compared to around 25 last year.

“It’s good to know for [undocumented students] that they’re



graduating, that they’re not the only one that is graduating that has been through this,” she said.

This year, the service also handed out separate pins for students to give to their loved ones and supporters, one of which reads “Proud Immigrant Dad of a Graduating Senior.”

“We recognize that students get pins, get stoles and then we also know that it took a community effort to have folks graduate,” Valdivia said.

In the future, Valdivia said they hope to find a way to recognize students who may not be undocumented themselves but have family members or loved ones who are.

Lavender Graduation and Pride Awards

The Lavender Graduation – a graduation ceremony dedicated toward UCSB students who identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community – has been running for 19 years.

This ceremony, alongside the Pride Awards, has served as an “integral part” of the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD), according to UCSB alumnus ‘18 and RCSGD Programming Coordinator Dwayne Mosbey, who helped plan this year’s ceremony.

“[The Lavender Graduation] began to create a space for queer and trans students, especially when they were entering spaces they didn’t necessarily feel comfortable in or within an institution they didn’t feel was serving them,” Mosbey said.

The planning of this year’s ceremony was a “collaborative effort” between Mosbey, RCSGD Director Craig Leets and Associative Director Quinn Solis.

Mosbey explained that in previous years, the Pride Awards used to be separate; this year, they were “rolled together” because both are “made to recognize queer and trans students’ resilience and academic achievement.”

“We thought it’d be great for those two to be coupled together,” Mosbey said.

The graduation ceremony itself is modeled similarly to the typical UCSB graduation, Mosbey said. The ceremony will see graduates “walk” into the Student Resource Building forum, following a welcome ceremony with

a number of speakers, which typically includes the vice chancellor, a keynote speaker and a student speaker.

Mosbey said there are typically 30 to 35 people who partake in the ceremony; this year saw an uptick, rounding out to 45 students. Last year, Mosbey himself was one of the people who walked in the Lavender Graduation ceremony.



Black Graduation

Anthony Bolden, a fourth-year biopsychology major and the undergraduate speaker for this year's Black Graduation, said he almost turned down the opportunity to speak at this year's ceremony.

"I was kind of hesitant, just because I do have pretty good experience with public speaking, but I didn't feel like I wanted to add that [burden] on for myself," he said. "But then [the offer] gave me a little bit of moment of clarity, because I got a chance to look back and see how far I've really come."

"I kind of realized that it was a little bit humbling," Bolden added.

Bolden is one of the 55 Black undergraduate and graduate students who will be participating in this year's Black Graduation ceremony.

Michael Stallworth, co-chair of the organizing committee and second-year sociology and Black studies double major, said it's important for Black students to have a space where they can come together and celebrate their achievements.

"The educational system wasn't really built for people of color in general, but for Black students, we really had to fight for us to have our identity be present on campus," Stallworth said.

This ceremony is a way for Black students to do just that.

Stallworth said the ceremony will have a mix of student speakers as well as spoken word, musical performances and slideshows of the students.

Professor Jeffrey Stewart, from UCSB's Department of Black Studies, and Professor R. L'Heureux Lewis-McCoy from New York University's Department of Applied Statistics, Social Science and Humanities, are the two faculty speakers. Meridith Merchant, a psychologist from Counseling and Psychological Services, is the closing speaker.

Stallworth believes the speakers' words will leave an impression on the graduating students and is looking forward to hearing from them all.

"[The speech is] sending a message and it's setting the tone for someone's life," he said. "I think it's just really important to have speakers that really motivate and empower students."

Stallworth is also happy to see the graduates – many of whom have helped him in his two years at UCSB – step off the stage and onto a new chapter after college.

"[I'm] also just excited to see all the Black grads and be able to celebrate them because I think it's amazing how they've been really mentors for me throughout my time here at UCSB. I get to see them go off, and I get to follow in their footsteps."

Bolden echoed Stallworth's words, naming several other students who will be graduating alongside him as inspirations over the past few years.

In addition to talking about the achievements of the Black community at UCSB over the past few years, Bolden said he wants to highlight the growth of individual students like Zenzile Riddick

and Kuvimbanashe "Eddie" Chikukwa.

"This class of Black grads is phenomenal. One of my hallmates, she's going to freakin' Harvard, that's amazing, Zenzile. Since first year, I knew she was going to be amazing," Bolden said.

Bolden said he's proud to have seen everyone's growth over the past four years and where they're all headed.

"I'm proud to be part of the 5% that has come through here. I definitely recognize that a lot of people don't have such a positive outlook of UCSB like I have, not everyone's been blessed with the great experience that I've had here," he said.

"[But] after coming here, I think that my pride in being a Black man has done nothing but grown exponentially, because I feel like I'm representing my own people here."

A special part of the ceremony for Bolden is the fact that a large portion of the Black

graduates participating in the ceremony lived together in the Black Scholars Hall in Santa Rosa during their first year.

"We need to be around each other and enjoy each other's presence and see each other's faces and see us finish through," he said.

At typical graduation ceremonies, it's easy for Black students to feel like less of a

community, Bolden said.

"Seeing us spread so thin isn't the same, isn't nearly as powerful for us being together, having our own space, our own ceremony, our own opportunity to recognize one another."

Bolden said his speech at the Black Graduation ceremony will be one of the first times his family will see him in an academic setting.

"Now this is an opportunity for me to show [my mom] what I've been doing this whole time."

"This year we've been focusing a lot on being inclusive of Central American identities because that's a prominent issue, the erasure of Central Americans," Arenas said.

While UCSB is recognized as a Hispanic-Serving

in your classroom settings or even in your living settings sometimes," Arenas said.

"I feel like most students enjoy the Chicax/Latinx Graduation because it celebrates their identity and also their cultural background. They aren't represented in classrooms, but they do feel represented in the graduation."

In addition to infusing the ceremony with various cultural elements, the committee works to ensure that the ceremony caters to family members who attend.

The ceremony, held in Harder Stadium, will have over 500 students walking the stage. A lot of those students are first-generation and have parents who don't speak English, Cardenas said, so they will have a translator present so their parents can follow along as well.

"From my personal experience, my parents don't really know what I do here, they just know that I go to school and I'm studying," Arenas laughed.

Both Arenas and Cardenas said that while friends and family back home might not understand what they're studying, they're still very proud of them.

"I'd rather them understand the ceremony than just sitting there and see all these names called out. At least with [Chicax/Latinx Graduation] there's performances and Spanish," Arenas said.

Chicax/Latinx Graduation

The Chicax/Latinx Graduation ceremony is just as much about the community behind students as it is about the graduating students themselves, two of the organizers said.

Yesenia Cardenas, a fifth-year chemistry major, and Jessica Arenas, a fourth-year global studies major, agreed their favorite part of the ceremony is when the students walk into Harder Stadium.

Students are asked to bring two people to walk them in as live mariachi music plays in the background and photographers snap photos of them, the two said.

"A lot of students, they feel like they get their degree for family too, so it's nice that you can walk up there, it's almost like they're walking up there with you," Cardenas said.

Both Arenas and Cardenas sit on an 11-member organizing committee that begins its work one full year before graduation.

This year's cabinet, which organized the 45th Chicax/Latinx Graduation, was dedicated to giving more voice to graduating students throughout the whole process, Cardenas and Arenas both said.

Institution, Arenas said it can be hard to actually feel that they are supported or represented on campus.

"As a first-generation student, it's hard to navigate higher education, sometimes you don't see people that look like you,

and you don't see people that look like you,

and you don't see people that look like you,

Lavender Graduation and Pride Awards Cont.

"It allows the chance for queer and trans students to be recognized outside of the larger ceremony, and [anyone] can come to the Lavender Graduation. [They can express] their most gender expression and gender identity and feel comfortable with it."

Students can wear whatever they want and can also decorate their gowns and caps – "This is all about making sure [queer and trans students] feel comfortable and that they feel recognized."

All graduates who go through the Lavender Graduation ceremony are awarded purple cords, while folks who work at the RCSGD and people who win awards receive rainbow tassels.

The number of awards also varies, depending on the number of nominations. This year, 13 awards will be handed out, according to Mosbey.

Mosbey hopes students who go through the ceremony will take away one key thing: "We're allowing that space for them to feel supported, [so they] know that throughout their college career, the queer and trans community was here for them."

"And that we will continue to be here for them even after they graduate."

This year's Lavender Graduation will happen on June 9 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the Student Resource Building forum.



Pay-What-You-Can Photography Event Inspires Other Students To Give Back

Sanya Kamidi
Asst. News Editor

Henley Gate is synonymous with graduation photos. Dressed in their gowns, students flock to the scenic location to celebrate their years attending UC Santa Barbara.

But oftentimes these graduation photos can cost several hundred dollars, an expense many students can't swing alongside rent, tuition and basic needs.

That's why Kiyomi Morrison, second-year communication major, set up a "Pay-What-You-Can Grad Photos" event, hosted at Henley Gate this past Sunday.

Morrison was first inspired to host this event after hearing some of her friends talk about the prices that other photographers were charging.

"As someone who does art for a living for some of my jobs, I totally understand you gotta pay for it. But I have friends struggling for rent, struggling for tuition. I can't imagine an added fee," she said.

It was the desire to strike a good balance between paying artists for their art and making grad photos as accessible as possible that led her to create the event.

Morrison was initially going to stake out by Henley Gate alone, but then she decided to post on Facebook about her idea to get more photographers for the event. Once she had heard back from a handful of people, she set up a group chat for everyone to schedule themselves for shifts.

Niko Van Eimeren, one of the photographers at the event, said she signed up to help because she personally understood the struggle graduating students face when paying for end-of-the-year expenses.

As a fourth-year environmental studies major, Van Eimeren said she herself wasn't sure if she was going to get her graduation photos taken.

"[For] a lot of my friends, I took their photos for them at a discounted rate 'cause I know that it can be really expensive," Van Eimeren said.

Alejandra Gularte, one of the students who attended the event to have her photos taken, said she appreciated the event's impact on both graduating students and photographers.

"I found it was a way to help smaller photographers that maybe wanted to get practice. But also, for me, it's cheaper, because I pay a lot of money for school," Gularte said.

Morrison gives all the credit for the event to the photographers who signed up to help.

"This was only possible because people were volunteering their time to do their photos," she said.

"Photography isn't always something you'd think would be something you could do to help people," Morrison said. "Anyone can really do something like this, stuff like this means a lot to people."

She also noted that as a graduating student, it can be difficult to see all of your friends posting their photos and not be able to afford them yourself.

"Having a good grad photo to give to their mom – it's like a small thing in your day, but honestly would make someone's day," she said. "If you can, take time out of your personal life to do a nice thing once in a while."

Second-year art major Reannah Viray took inspiration from that idea and put her own twist on it.

Viray hosted her own pay-what-you-can event for graduating seniors on Wednesday in the Arbor, offering her art services to anyone who wanted their cap decorated.

"I was a photographer in high school, so I wish that I could have participated, but I didn't know how to until it was over, so I was like, 'what other way can I spare my time to people who don't have the resources or the income necessarily to get grad caps done?'" Viray said.

Viray usually paints graduation caps for other students for a base fee of \$30 with an added \$5 for each extra detail, so she said she understood why students often opted to not get them done.

"It's nice to be able to offer something that could be seen as a luxury to people that can't afford it. For the most part, it's just me, humbling myself a little bit and kind of honing into my low-income past, so it's just nice to be able to give my time away to people whose position I understand," she added.

Morrison said she thought Viray's event was "really sweet" and said she was glad to see other students being inspired by her own event.

"I think it goes to show that you can make a difference with whatever skills you have," she said. "We can just make a week of pay-what-you-can services."



SANYA KAMIDI/ DAILY NEXUS

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Letter From the Editor: Hello From Incoming Editor in Chief Hannah Jackson

Hannah Jackson
Editor in Chief

Hello everyone!

My name is Hannah Jackson, and I am the new editor in chief of the Daily Nexus. (Wow, that feels really weird to actually write out.) I am very grateful for the opportunity to be writing this letter and introducing myself to you all.

My road to stepping into the editor in chief position was certainly an unconventional one. I was never that person who walked into the office on the first day of freshman year (or even on my tour of the school) and decided that one day I was going to run this place.

I came to my very first opinion meeting with a friend during my freshman year on a whim and was very uninvolved in the Nexus. At the beginning of my second year, I managed to stumble into a position on the editorial staff, becoming one of the first two co-social media managers in the history of the paper. After that and up until now, I have served as one of the Opinion editors – a job that I have cherished dearly.

I am the third editor in chief that I know of to come from the Opinion section, and I am certain that it will have an impact on my leadership style.

Traditionally, most editors in chief hail from the News section (though this year our head honcho, the incomparable Jorge Mercado, came from Sports). Coming from Opinion does not mean that I will ignore the facts and be guided solely by my beliefs; in fact, I believe that News and Opinion are two of the sections of this newspaper that rely on a strong basis of facts to carry an argument.

My nontraditional road these past few years has allowed me to appreciate the multi-faceted beauty of the Nexus. Having written for five sections in my first two years, I have a unique understanding of this paper that not all former editors in chief can claim. I see all of these aspects as strengths coming into my position, and I am incredibly lucky to have a supportive staff of talented editors who will make this job even better.

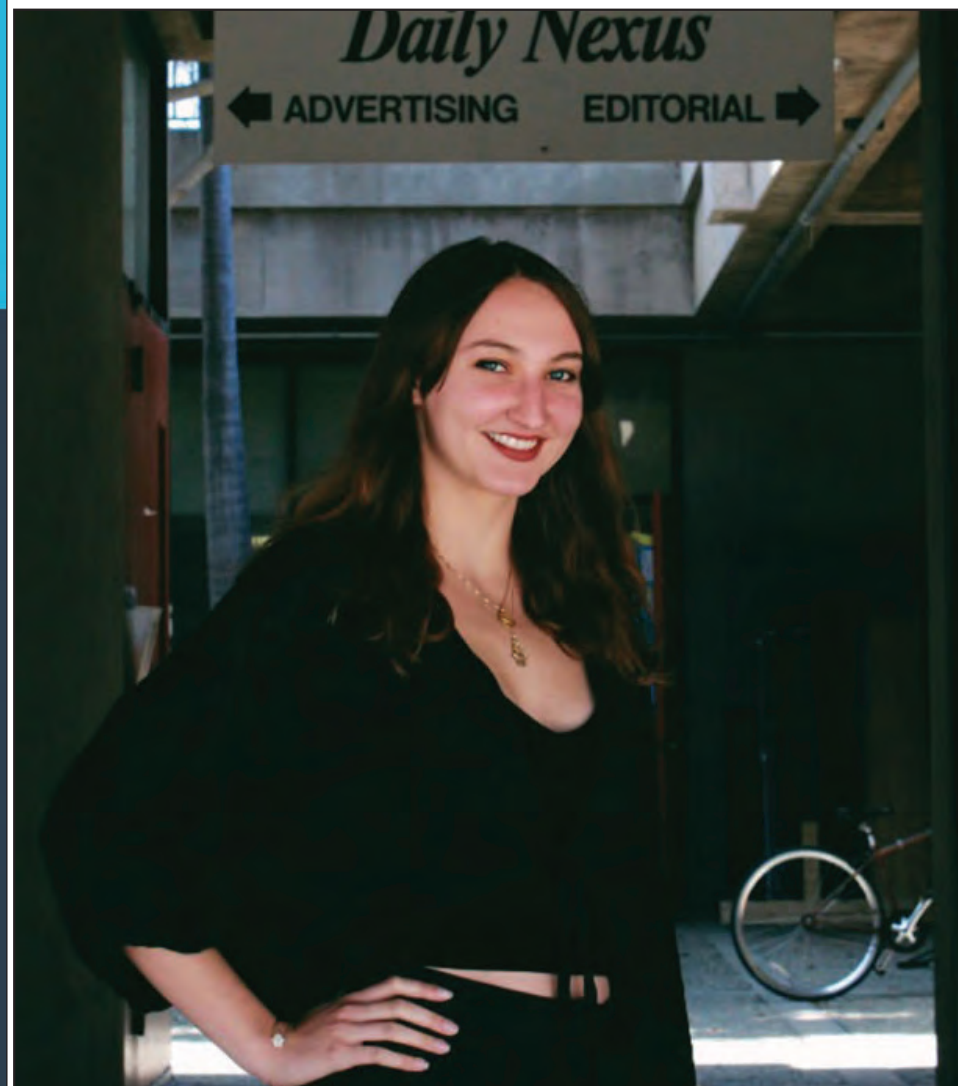
I cannot, for even a moment, claim that I got here all on my own. I am lucky to have been nurtured and supported by my wonderful, gifted predecessors – Supriya Yelimeli, Maura Fox and Jorge Mercado – all of whom have shown me what an exemplary leader looks like. I would not be here today without the editors, colleagues and friends who have read draft after draft, spent hours making edits, created art and even just silently sat with me as I banged on my keyboard like a maniac.

At the beginning of my second year – the very same day I was hired for the Nexus editorial staff – one of my senior friends encouraged me to keep up my writing and to continue using my voice. Though at the time it seemed like an eye roll-inducing comment, he was ultimately right. Students who work for the Nexus have a responsibility to use their platform to speak for not only themselves, but also to amplify the voices of the marginalized, the voiceless and the underrepresented.

Though the Nexus of past decades had earned a reputation for being one-track minded, I am committed to helping make this newspaper a voice of diversity and inclusion. As my previous editors in chief maintained, all voices are welcome here.

If you ever find yourself under Storke Tower, please feel free to drop by. I am more than happy to answer any questions, hear any concerns or even just chat.

Hannah Jackson
 eic@dailynews.com



SANYA KAMIDI / DAILY NEXUS

Hannah Jackson, in front of her home away from home away from home.

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BEST OF 2019

The *Daily Nexus* presents its annual "Best Of" Isla Vista awards for 2019!
Our readers chose their favorites around town such as food, music,
and places that light up Isla Vista.



It's the quintessential Isla Vista experience: biking down Del Playa Drive after a long day at school with the sun setting, wind blowing through your hair and friends waving to you from the sidewalk. It's the street that sold so many people on moving to I.V. in the first place, with its handful of quaint parks, eclectic houses and lively neighbors, who inevitably become friends.

From the balconies of so many houses on Del Playa Drive, one can see the local I.V. landmarks, like UC Santa Barbara's campus to the left and Platform Holly in the far distance on the right. In the early mornings and late afternoons, surfers are seen from Del Playa Drive riding long, smooth waves toward the shore. And during the summer, who doesn't love watching eager Isla Vistans run full-throttle into the ocean, blow-up raft in one hand, beer in the other? Of course, there's also the more wholesome sightseeing, like the occasional pod of dolphins flipping around in the waves and the seagulls flying close enough to touch.

From the 6500 block to the 6800, Del Playa Drive offers a special experience for every I.V. resident.

Best Place To Grab a Beer: Woodstocks

Honestly, if you're anything like me, you're pretty tired of doing the same stuff every weekend by the time you hit senior year. The same I.V. parties, the same daygers, the same beer die at the same houses. It gets old.

So the moment you turn 21 and you're able to enjoy a beer where you love to eat? That, my friends, is a game changer. And, quite frankly, there is no better place to enjoy a beer than Woodstock's.

The ability to kick back and drink a beer on a regular night is something that cannot be overlooked. A staple of I.V. culture, Wednesday Pint Nights provide a cheap way to drink a shitload of pitchers with a great group of friends. You also can't forget about trivia nights on Tuesdays – the fun of competing against other (equally) drunk people is unbeatable.

The variety is also solid. If you're like me and hate stouts, they have a good mix of IPAs, from Ballast Point to Sierra Nevada, and it's all pretty damn good.

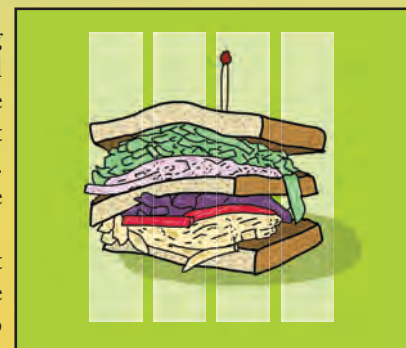
By the time senior year rolls around, the nights where you can enjoy a few pitchers with your best friends become priceless. And Woodstock's is the place to have them.

Best Sandwich: South Coast Deli

If you've ever caught a whiff of bacon while coasting through the Pardall Tunnel, you may have been enticed by the aroma of South Coast Deli. Located on the outskirts of the Tunnel, South Coast is the perfect location to stop in on your way in or out of campus. Quick, convenient and filling, South Coast offers a wide variety of sammies for any mood you may be in.

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, South Coast is appropriate at any time of day – whether you're recovering from a rough night, or if you want to fuel up for a study session, it's impossible to go wrong. Another area that makes South Coast impossible to beat is their excellent service. I've never met an employee that I didn't want to tip.

With that, I will leave you with the South Coast tips I've amassed over the years: If you're in need of a hangover cure, I recommend ordering Megan's Grilled Cheese. If you want a sandwich on the go, you can't go wrong with the Chicken Pesto. My biggest tip – and I cannot stress this enough – is to eat in, because underneath your sandwich you will be greeted by two lollipops.



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Santa Barbara

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(At Micheltorena)

Santa Barbara

10 E Carrillo St
(At State St)

Isla Vista

6521 Pardall Rd
(At Embarcadero del Norte)

Order Online At: SouthCoastDeli.com

Best Dessert: I.V. Drip

Nestled into a small, unassuming building is Isla Vista's hidden treasure: I.V. Drip. Undoubtedly the only place in town where you can find cookies, ice cream, sandwiches, smoothie bowls and coffee all in one tiny location, I.V. Drip is unlike any other spot. The crowning glory of I.V. Drip, however, is its wide variety of high-quality desserts. From a diverse portfolio of fresh-baked cookies to an assortment of McConnell's ice cream, patrons have the opportunity to create a colorful range of the famous cookie-wich. There have been many a night where I have fallen prey to I.V. Drip's enticing three-cookie deal (because why get two when you can get three?) This little hole-in-the-wall certainly lives up to its Best Desserts rep; every single option is a great one. However, here's my biggest piece of advice to anyone who wanders into I.V. Drip: look at the menu! There are many options beyond the case of cookies, cupcakes and brownies. I highly recommend the Paradise Bowl – perfect after spending a day lying on the beach or after a night of party-hopping on DP.

Best Drunchies: Freebirds

After a typical night of drowning their livers in as much alcohol as possible, most Isla Vistans can be found stumbling toward the holy spot on the corner of Embarcadero and Pardall: Freebirds. A tray of loaded nachos, an oozing quesadilla or a bursting burrito appears to be the desired way to end any night out on the town. With employees who seem to speak the language of the drunkards and a 3 a.m. closing time, it's no wonder this classic I.V. joint is the favorite drunchie spot of the Gauchos. Worried about the mile-long line that forms mere minutes after the midnight curfew? Never fear – the swaying, stumbling and mumbling masses provide sufficient entertainment as you wait. And it's worth the wait, because let's face it – nothing beats the squish and crunch of a loaded nacho as you breath in the spirit of a classic California night.



Best Hangover Cure: Bagel Cafe

There is nothing more magical nor fulfilling than a bagel. Think I'm wrong? Then you haven't had a Bagel Café bagel the morning after going unnecessarily hard.

Did you drink too much? Are you hungover? Does your tummy rumble and your head hurt? Do you love this shit? Are you high right now? Do you ever get nervous?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the remedy is Bagel Café.

A perfectly toasted ring of bread topped with a heaping glop of cream cheese can take the edge off the worst mornings that follow the best nights.

Not only are these bagels the best hangover cure in town, but walking en masse to Bagel Café with your best friends to discuss the events of the night before is a much loved Isla Vista tradition. The memories made while reminiscing over these bagels will be sure to outlast the hangover that brought you there in the first place.



Best Mascot: Mapaches



One of the first things you hear when you come to UCSB is our infamous chant: "Olé, olé, olé, olé, Gauchos, Gauchos!" whether it be at a soccer game or at a party on Del Playa.

However, many UCSB students are not satisfied with the Gaucho title. What started as a joke turned into a genuine campus-wide desire to actually change UCSB's mascot to the furry mapache.

Do not be fooled by their cute and cuddly qualities – mapaches will stare you down as you walk back to I.V. from the library late at night, guarding its territory (or rather, its selected trash can). Mapaches

are adorable, lovable, fierce, intelligent, loyal and sometimes even a tad bit intimidating, qualities that all UCSB students emulate.

Perhaps it is time to change our mascot to the mapache, as many agree that keeping "Gauchos" would be a continuation of cultural appropriation. Regardless, the mapache has already become UCSB's unofficial mascot. Mapache-related memes are scattered throughout the UCSB Zesty Meme Cuisine for Horny Teens Facebook page, and there are various mapache stickers for sale on Free & For Sale.

Just give it five years, and maybe we'll finally be the UC Santa Barbara Mapaches.

Best Drinking Game: Gaucho Ball

First thing's first: it's Gauchoball, not rage cage – show some school pride for crying out loud. As a show of respect to our forefathers, the inventors of this fast-paced drinking game, we as Gauchos ought to honor their contributions to the art of turning casual drinking into a frenzied panic over who's getting the bitch cup. Masters of their craft, the alumni who pioneered this field of competitive drinking have long since put away their ping pong balls and red solo cups, but thankfully we, the current students of UCSB, have dutifully carried on their legacies.

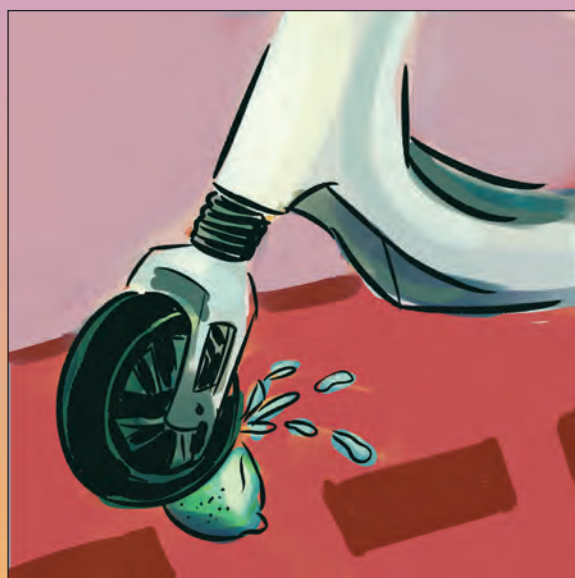
From Del Playa to El Colegio, Gauchoball has always been a welcome addition to die tables across Isla Vista. With its easy-to-learn rules and ability to accommodate large groups of players, it's no wonder Gauchoball is so popular. And though the game is deceptively simple in its premise – bounce the ball into the cup and pass it on – it is in actuality anything but.

Anyone who has played a round or two of this game can attest to the intense pressure that steadily rises as the stack of cups into which you must bounce your ping pong ball grows taller and taller. This rising tension in the game, coupled with the brilliant catharsis of the full beer awarded (most often punitively) to the person who gets the last cup, provides the perfect story arc to each playthrough of the game.

We at the Nexus like to think that our eponymous mascot, Joe Gaucho, would be proud of this longstanding tradition we've carried out as a community. Similar to the oral histories and traditions that have been passed down through generations for millennia, perhaps Gauchoball will one day cement its place as a fundamental part of the human condition. If not that, then it's at least certainly cemented itself as the easiest way to get drunk off free alcohol at a stranger's party without getting caught.



Best Electric Scooter: Lime



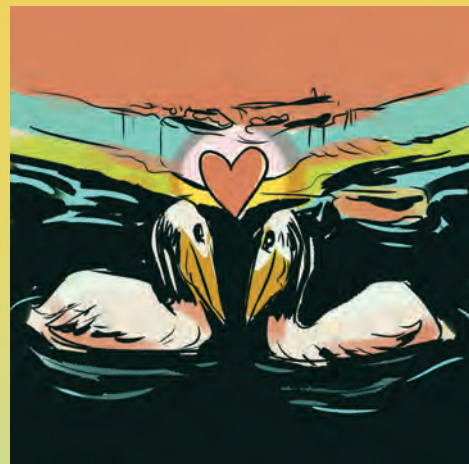
It's hard to remember a simpler time when walking was the only alternative and we had to actually move our legs to do stuff. Whether your bike is MIA or you can't bear to drag your buzzed body back home after a night on DP, Lime has proven itself to be our saving grace, more or less.

Needless to say, our hearts were stolen by Lime. The dorky kid that turns hot in college, Lime and its vibrant colors and slower speed were dismissed until Bird was out of the picture, after which Lime became our national treasure. However, having crashed at three miles per hour stone-cold sober on a Lime myself, I learned – like many – that no scooter can be trusted. At Student Health, my doctor shook her head when she heard what had happened.

"You're the 10th case I've seen this month," she said. Besides my pride and my right ass cheek, I was fine and fared much better than the rest of these daily scooter victims who come into Student Health so frequently that they've become their own injury classification.

Where Lime's liability ends and riders' liability begins may be a question that continues to require some ironing out, but for now Lime remains UCSB's favorite scooter, mostly because no one knows what that other new orange one is about.

Best Hookup Spot: Campus Point



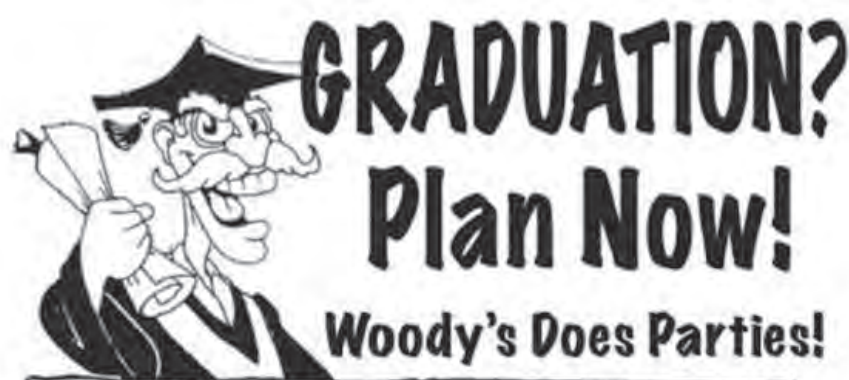
If your roommate kicked you out (again) or you drunkenly trekked backward thinking this is Sands Beach, fear not! Besides the Art Department bathrooms, Campus Point may very well be one of the most multi-purposed destinations on campus.

You can crush Yerbs, smoke, mess with tourists and, most importantly, make love. If you like Frank Ocean when doing the deed, try listening to the real thing. Research suggests that crashing waves set an ambiance like no other. And if you finish early or need a break, you and your lover can gaze at the sky to see if you've got what it takes to truly be star-crossed.

Campus Point hookups are coveted in the world of romance; it's probably on the sex-scene shortlist for the up-and-coming "Fifty Shades" movie.

And if you see a mysterious flashing light, consider relocating to the next tree. It's just your friendly neighborhood CSO attempting to keep the coast sex-free.

So throw your safe sex goodies – and anything else you might need – in a picnic bag and jump behind the nearest tree. Nobody will ever know. Just don't pull anything stupid in middle of that maze. Trust us.



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Best I.V. Band: Careless Cub



Though Isla Vista is home to several different kinds of bands and musicians, Careless Cub has truly left their mark on the community with countless performances this year, as well as the release of their new album Flophouse Palace. Comprised of members Grant Chesin, Andrew Becker and Ray Muhlenkamp, Careless Cub has managed to encapsulate what it's really like to be a beach-lovin', booze-drinkin' Gaucho through their music.

Although two-thirds of the band are fourth-years and will be graduating soon, Isla Vista

will never forget the band that dedicated their time to writing original music and performing it any chance they got.

Described as "singer-songwriter surf rock," Careless Cub explores a variety of different musical genres with their work as they strive to find their niche of choice.

What makes Careless Cub stand out from other local I.V. bands is their warm stage presence, relatable lyrics and, of course, the brilliant musicianship. In this short year, the trio managed to play several shows, write and produce an original album and attend school as full-time students. It's with this clear devotion and hard work put into their craft that has won Careless Cub the title of Best Band in Isla Vista.

Best Coffee: Caje

It's the quintessential Isla Vista experience: biking down Del Playa Drive after a long day at school with the sun setting, wind blowing through your hair and friends waving to you from the sidewalk. It's the street that sold so many people on moving to I.V. in the first place, with its handful of quaint parks, eclectic houses and lively neighbors, who inevitably become friends.

From the balconies of so many houses on Del Playa Drive, one can see the local I.V. landmarks, like UC Santa Barbara's campus to the left and Platform Holly in the far distance on the right. In the early mornings and late afternoons, surfers are seen from Del Playa Drive riding long, smooth waves toward the shore. And during the summer, who doesn't love watching eager Isla Vistans run full-throttle into the ocean, blow-up raft in one hand, beer in the other? Of course, there's also the more wholesome sightseeing, like the occasional pod of dolphins flipping around in the waves and the seagulls flying close enough to touch.

From the 6500 block to the 6800, Del Playa Drive offers a special experience for every I.V. resident.



Letter From the Editor: Merk's Goodbye To His Paradise

Jorge Mercado
Outgoing Editor in Chief

There are a lot of things running through my mind right now. Honestly, too many. But there is one truth I cannot deny.

I am sad.

I am sad to be writing this letter. I am sad that I have to say goodbye to my friends. I am sad that the life I have cultivated in the past four years will be gone in just a few days. But honestly, what I am most sad about is having to leave this place, the Nexus.

I get it. To some, a college newspaper should not be much to get worked up about. To me, the Nexus is a wonderful place that has taught me so much about myself and given me some of the very best friends I could ever hope to have.

I love remembering the days I would spend in the sports office with my old Co-Sports Editor Sean White, who is now doing big things with the Los Angeles Clippers. I love remembering spending time with Maura Fox in her office as I nervously asked what the hell I got myself into by running for editor in chief. I love remembering the countless meetings I had this year with so many different people because that is what it means to be an editor in chief.

I love remembering how every single person here touched my heart because damn near every person has. That is how special this place is.

Honestly, I am sad. But I am really happy about it, if that makes any sense. Being sad means I never got tired of this place. But like any great athlete, I would rather retire at my peak than hobble out of here as an eighth year (shoutout Nate Z.).

Four years ago, I joined this paper only wanting to write sports and that was it. I never wanted to care about other sections. I honestly was not really looking for friends and I thought being editor in chief looked like an awful job.

Well, things change, and I am forever thankful for the memories this place left me with. I am thankful that for one year I was able to run this paper and though I did not get to do everything I wanted, I did enough to leave satisfied.

I am especially thankful to everyone who was here with me this past year. Tamari Dzotsenidze, Omar Hernandez, Evelyn Spence, Ariana Marmolejo, Zoë Jones, Sanya Kamidi, Aly Witmer, Kylie George, Sarah Garrett, Laurel Rinehart, Tiffany Velazquez, Brandon Victor, Will Emmons and literally so many more that I am sorry I do not have space to continue, thank you for everything. Know that you will always have a friend in me – shoutout Toy Story 4 – and that I am so excited to see what life brings to each and every one of you.

There are two important people I left out of that list: Hannah Jackson, the new editor in chief, and Simren Verma, the new managing editor. I left them out because these two deserve to be especially recognized for the work they have done for this paper and what they will do as the people in charge of this paper next year.

I think I accomplished a lot in my past year here, but I don't think it will be anything compared to those two. Yes, that is a lot of pressure, but I would not say it if I did not have the utmost confidence in them.

Hannah is the strongest person I know. She will make the tough decisions to push this paper forward and make sure that everyone is being represented. Simren will provide such a presence to the office – not just for news but for every section, in a way that I believe will bring out the best in people.

I am excited to see these wonderful women take charge.

Finally, before I go, I just have some final words of wisdom to say to those of you who are still around. There will be a temptation to always impress others. I implore you to always be a genuine person above all else.

Essentially, I am giving you the age-old wisdom of to simply be yourself. When I first came to college I was scared that no one would accept me. And yet, even beyond the Nexus, I have best friends that will be with me for life.

Samuel Kamyzsew, Christian Badillo, Mark Gonzalez, Jeremy Bernstein, Cristian Guijosa, Jennifer Pulido and Ariana De Los Reyes are people that were there for me since day one. They accepted me and I am telling you that you will find happiness here if you open yourself up to it.

Also, don't be scared to fail. Failure is good. I have done a million things wrong, but without that, how would I have known what was right?

As long as you do anything with clear eyes and full hearts, there is no way you can ever lose.



ON THE MENU



WINNIE LAM / DAILY NEXUS

Where To Grub With Your 2019 Graduate

On The Menu Staff

Congratulations to the class of 2019. You did it, and what better way to celebrate your new degree than sharing a delicious meal with your friends and family? The On the Menu staff has curated a special list of all the different food spots for all you grads out there. Whether you're looking for something more casual or something on the upscale side, there's a place here for you!

Outpost

One of Goleta's best hidden brunch spots is located just inside the Kimpton Goodland Hotel. This is the perfect spot for a heartwarming family brunch without making the trek downtown and facing excessively long waits. Outpost offers an intimate setting with both indoor seating along with a full bar and outdoor courtyard seating that is very dog-friendly.

While the menu is pretty short in length, it offers a wide variety of different brunch cuisines, ranging from the typical egg plates to nutritious salads, yogurt bowls and the classic pancakes or french toast. I especially appreciate their wide selection of coffee beverages, even though these are not included on the physical menu itself. The almond milk cappuccino is especially satisfying. Another major plus of enjoying brunch at Outpost is their famous mimosas for all celebration purposes. If you're looking for an intimate, enjoyable setting to celebrate graduation, I definitely recommend taking your loved ones to brunch at Outpost.

Casa Blanca

Located in the heart of downtown and home to endless baskets of chips and salsa is Casa Blanca, a perfect place for large parties to dine at. Whether you're going for lunch or dinner, this incredible restaurant offers a variety of authentic Mexican cuisine with options for almost any dietary restriction. Their prices may be a little higher than your typical Mexican restaurant, but the quality of the food does not disappoint!

I personally recommend ordering one of their fajita dishes, which come out fresh off the grill along with warm tortillas of either corn or flour. Casa Blanca is also home to an extensive tequila bar with various margarita flavors to enjoy. If you are really in the mood

to splurge, their homemade guacamole simply cannot be matched. Casa Blanca is the perfect restaurant for spending a little extra cash on some delicious food with your family and friends.

Zaytoon

Another upscale restaurant downtown that offers a great atmosphere for celebration is Zaytoon. This restaurant offers both Lebanese and Middle Eastern cuisines in a comfy outdoor courtyard. The seating area is surrounded by greenery and creates a calming setting for all its customers. The menu itself also offers many healthy options and vegetarian dishes.

Their organic hummus and pita bread is a must-have when visiting this restaurant. In addition to bringing out your entrée, the waiter will also bring additional pita bread for the table to share. Zaytoon is a cozy restaurant that provides a peaceful setting for catching up with loved ones as well as fantastic food for the whole family to enjoy.

Stella Mare's

Let's say you and your family are looking to splurge a little for a graduation celebration because, let's be honest, you deserve it! Stella Mare's is the perfect place for you. This fantastic restaurant is located right by the Santa Barbara Zoo next to the bird refuge and has been serving French country bistro cuisine for almost 20 years.

They have amazing weekly offers like Bistro Tuesday, which includes their Prix Fixe Bistro Dinner Menu, and on Wednesdays they feature live jazz music. Their portion sizes are very generous, and all their dishes, whether it is an appetizer, entrée or dessert, will not disappoint. Stella Mare's is a perfect restaurant for a classy, relaxing dinner for you and your family.

On the Alley

If you're looking for something more lowkey than a traditional sit-down restaurant, head to the Santa Barbara Harbor. You can enjoy some beautiful views of the ocean, and while there are some exquisite waterfront dining options, On the Alley offers a casual outdoor dining experience perfect for larger families who want some tasty, inexpensive seafood that hits the spot. On the Alley has all kinds of food you'd expect

from a traditional American seafood restaurant, such as fish and chips, clam chowder, burgers and tacos.

I'd definitely recommend the fish and chips because it's such a classic dish, and the fish is perfectly crisp while retaining the moisture of the fish itself. The fries are well-seasoned and cooked just the way you'd want your fries to be. If you're looking to eat something more unique, try the crab cake burger. It's a nice twist on the traditional beef patty, and although the texture may be a little weird at first, the amazing flavors definitely make up for it. All the burgers come with their housemade potato chips, or you can substitute the chips with fries for an additional cost. Overall, this is the perfect spot to just chill by the oceanside and enjoy some classic American seafood.

Santa Barbara Fish Market

Santa Barbara is known for its seafood, so why not take your family to eat some of the freshest seafood in town? Although this isn't an actual restaurant, it's one of the best places to get fresh and delicious seafood for a very reasonable price. They have weekly specials on their fish, which is fresh from Santa Barbara or imported from around the world. Yelpers rave about their uni and oysters, which they claim is to die for. They have a fee to cut the fish into sashimi slices for you, but when it all adds up, you get an enormous amount of fish. The salmon and ahi tuna both taste extremely fresh. I could definitely imagine bringing this home and setting up a nice seafood platter with sashimi and uni. And on top of that, you can use your student ID for a discount, so get those perks in the fleeting moments you still have!

Chumash Casino Buffet

Skip the lines and RSVP list at restaurants in Santa Barbara and take a drive up to the Chumash Casino and Resort in the Santa Ynez Valley to dine at The Buffet. The Buffet opens from 4 to 10 p.m. daily, and each adult enters for \$24.95. Patrons have the option to choose from Mexican, Italian and Asian-inspired food stations. Guests can also grab seafood, sides from the salad bar and options from the comfort food station. If you have a sweet tooth, check out the dessert station for a variety of baked goods and frozen treats. If you are with a crowd that has a variety of food preferences, this buffet-style restaurant is the place to go.

OPINION

Farewell from the Editor: Thanks for the Stories



PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS



ALEX GARCIA / DAILY NEXUS

Laurel Rinehart
Opinion Editor

My earliest memories consist not of places or events, but of the thoughts swirling in my head and the stories I wrote to make sense of them. As a child I always had a nagging suspicion that adults were hiding something from me, that my classrooms and their office buildings were the sites of an elaborate game of dress-up in which no one would admit that the rules were actually rules. I filled my notebooks with worlds I could understand, where princess dresses were the new pajamas and each species of animal spoke its own language.

In college, the *Nexus* Opinion section was my outlet for constructing a sense of truth and meaning in my everyday experiences. When the 2016 election loomed over our heads and the internet turned into a battleground between strangers and even old

friends, I pled with my classmates to empathize with one another. When cycles of depression made the gulf between my expectations and the reality of college feel too wide to cross, I cautioned other students against the myth of college utopia. When I ended a toxic relationship and stepped into the dazzling world of being single in college, I wrote an article championing sex-positive ideology.

It was exhilarating to see my byline printed in black and white on a real newspaper I could hold in my hands, exhilarating to know that my ideas were now tossing and turning in other people's heads, not just my own. Even the anonymous hate comments brought a special kind of thrill; angry readers meant I was onto something.

Writing articles was only one of the ways this newspaper

changed my life. I became opinion editor my junior year and was welcomed into a home where everything was falling apart, but everyone belonged. My co-editor and I spent many long nights in our cluttered corner office working on print layouts, positioning our chairs slightly out of reach from the leaking ceiling water and taking occasional breaks to hold Vine compilation screenings.

Everyone in that newsroom came to the office in the afternoon because they had work to do, and most stayed until late at night because they didn't want to leave. We commiserated over print deadlines, hookups gone wrong, roommate schisms and the waiting period for C.A.P.S. appointments. It is common to walk into the office under Storke Tower and see one person on their feet animatedly recounting their day's events while a circle of others sit around the table laughing.

The *Nexus* is a group of people who understand the world through telling stories; telling stories is what brought us together. As an Opinion editor I have read and published ideas I instantly agreed with, ideas that changed my outlook on the topic and some ideas I frankly could never get behind. But whether I agreed with them or not, each story had value to me as a mental snapshot in time for another human being, a window into someone else's



ALEX GARCIA / DAILY NEXUS

HOROSCOPES

Happy Pride Month from Opin! This week is the horoscopes as queer icons which correspond to their astrological signs.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Alia Shawkat

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Lena Waithe

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Laverne Cox

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Sylvia Rivera

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

James Baldwin

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Freddie Mercury

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Matt Bomer

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Frank Ocean

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Margaret Cho

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Kate McKinnon

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Ellen DeGeneres

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Janet Mock

Salt Crystals?



Asbestos?

ALEX GARCIA / DAILY NEXUS

perspective on something as random as walking barefoot or as complicated as censoring hate speech.

I used to shut my laptop and breathe a sigh of relief after writing opinion articles, feeling like I had just carved the truth into a rough block of stone and crafted a finished sculpture to put on display. What I didn't realize is that ideas are not as black and white as the words attempting to pin them down onto paper. It is possible for two things to be true at once, for meaning to shapeshift.

Reading back over my own collection of journal entries, personal essays and opinion articles, I can

look back at my past selves through the eyes of the present and see where my perspective has already changed. In my article about the myth of college utopia, I wrote about how all UCSB students derive unrealistic expectations from their parents' wild college stories, unaware of my own privilege in complaining about the support network of college-educated adults who had guided me through the application process. In my article about sex positivity I lauded the

spontaneous and empowering nature of hookup culture, only to realize years later that the imperative to have casual sex can feel as much like a prison as it does a parade.

No matter how many angles I craft in an attempt to make the story of my time here all fit together, the only consistent theme that has arisen from the frenzy is fluidity. Though I may not be the same person I was when I sat down to type an article two years ago, those ideas spoke to me at one time in my life, and they comprise a part of the sum of who I am today.

There is a tradition in the *Nexus* where graduating editors write a quote of their choice in chalk on one of the office walls and sign their names into memory. My own chalking will occur in a few days, and I know exactly what I want to write. Years from now I hope to venture back onto this campus, walk into the newsroom and look up at the spot in the corner by the Opinion office where my name will be etched on the wall under a quote from one of my favorite Grateful Dead songs: "You are the eyes of the world."

Laurel Rinehart is still convinced that the "salt crystals" in the opinion office were really asbestos, and honestly, she doesn't care.



No matter how many angles I craft in an attempt to make the story of my time here all fit together, the only consistent theme that has arisen from the frenzy is fluidity.

VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE OPINION PAGE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE DAILY NEXUS OR UCSB. OPINIONS ARE SUBMITTED PRIMARILY BY STUDENTS.

AS Program Board Presents...



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Armchair QB



Steph Curry scored 47 points in a finals loss to the Toronto Raptors last night. He might have to go for 80 if KD and Klay aren't back soon.

SPORTS

Graduation

We wanted to give a shoutout to Outgoing Editor-in-Chief Jorge Mercado who will be graduating this year. You taught us so much, and the sports section won't be the same without you.

Daily Nexus Sports Awards 2019

Teams of the Year: Men's Tennis Continues Dominance While Women's Water Polo Comes to Life

Annika Pearson
Staff Writer

From a distance, the UCSB athletic department may give an underwhelming impression; the men's tennis team gives off anything but.

This year especially, our tennis program remains perhaps the most consistently successful sports program on campus.

With a roster stacked with nationally-ranked players and an All-American, the team gloriously finished their 2018-19 season with a 17-7 overall record and few historic moments under their belts.

The squad took home their fifth consecutive Big West title after sweeping notorious rival Cal Poly in the finals and going undefeated in conference play altogether. Coach Marty Davis earned his fourth consecutive – and 11th in his 20 years of coaching – Big West Coach of the Year title.

Advancing into the NCAA Regionals played at Stanford, the guys defied odds and took out No. 24 Texas Tech 4-1 having only previously faced four nationally-ranked teams (and beating only one).

The program had not made it to the second round of regionals in over 20 years.

The team was ultimately bested by No. 12 Stanford, but due to the individual performances of three Gauchos,

the Santa Barbara name continued to spread among the NCAA.

For the first time in program history, UCSB sent Nicolas Moreno de Alboran, Joseph Guillin and Anders Holm to the NCAA singles and doubles championships. Here, Guillin became just the sixth Gaucho ever to advance to the second round for singles, and the senior duo became the first ever to win a round in doubles.

Moreno de Alboran came out of his fourth and final season as an All-American – the third Gaucho in history to do so.

Santa Barbara's success can perhaps be traced back to the holistic strength exuded by its roster; simply put, it seems they have no weak links. Statistically across singles and doubles, the team kept all but three of their averages above .500, their conference stats even exceeding the .800 mark.

While Moreno de Alboran and Holm led the pack on the No. 1 court, the rest followed suit, contributing greatly to their all-around domination. Players such as senior Hironori Koyanagi for example, a local on court four, upped his game during conference play, bringing in wins for six out of his last eight games.

And now, to top off this season of accolades and success, the 2018-19 men's tennis team can add one more title to their legacy – best team at

Kunal Mehta
Staff Writer

The UCSB women's water polo team has been nominated as the *Daily Nexus*' team of the year after an impressive six-game improvement. They finished with an overall record of 22-8, including 3-2 in conference play.

One of the major reasons behind their improvement was the play of junior utility Sarah Snyder, who led the way for the 'Chos with 66 goals and eight assists.

The combination of both Snyder and senior utility Kate Pipkin made it very difficult for opposing teams to stop the Gauchos' offense.

Snyder has been the team's most consistent player offensively for two seasons now, but was able to take her game to the next level this past year.

While she has always been a gifted scorer, she was able to develop her playmaking ability this year.

More often than not, opposing teams would decide to double team her which would force her into committing turnovers.

That being said, this year she was able to find her open teammates for easy shots on goal.

Another standout this year was freshman attacker Caitlyn Snyder.

Posting an impressive 30 goals and 33 assists, Snyder was the third high-

est offensive contributor on the team only slightly behind Pipkin and Sarah Snyder.

It was clear midway through the season that the squad had very impressive chemistry. Specifically during power plays, Santa Barbara was able to communicate effectively despite being down a player.

A year ago, this team would have given up goals in this type of situation.

By fully buying into Coach Serela Kay's system, UCSB was able to improve in almost every statistical measure.

Another major difference was that the Gauchos had learned from their mistakes in the season prior.

They were no longer making the same mental errors that cost them the game in close matchups.

Veteran leadership from Pipkin and senior attacker Sarah Kreiser was the key difference as they kept the team focused and composed even when things were not going their way.

Santa Barbara also made major strides defensively behind solid play from both junior goalkeeper Kenzi Snyder and sophomore goalkeeper Becca Buck.

They were both active in front of the net, making it difficult for opponents to score. With a potent offense and a stifling defense, UCSB was able to comfortably win the majority of their games.



Courtesy of Josh Barber



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Steppin' Up on the Big Stage: Eric Yang and Hope Bender Take Home 'Nexus' Players of the Year

Brandon Victor
Assistant Sports Editor

After one of the finest individual seasons in UCSB baseball history, junior catcher Eric Yang is the *Daily Nexus's* men's Athlete of the Year.

During the offseason, Yang changed both his swing and approach at the plate, eager to bounce back from a sub-par 2018 season in which he hit 0.244 with zero home runs.

This year, Yang paced the team with an eye-popping .368 batting average, as well as a 0.479 on-base percentage. By getting on at such a high clip, Yang was able to consistently kick-start an offense that averaged more than seven runs per game.

Perhaps more impressively, Yang's increase in average also coincided with an increase in power, with the veteran backstop hitting seven home runs and chipping in 45 RBI.

As a catcher, Yang displayed his ever-impressive defense throughout the sea-

son en-route to a sparkling 0.995 fielding percentage. Few runners dared to run on Yang's arm, and those who did were thrown out 34.5% of the time – a solid number for a collegiate catcher.

Behind Yang's resurgent play, the UCSB baseball team finished the year with a 45-11 record, winning the Big West for the first time in 33 years.

Yang has already won numerous accolades for his on-field success this season. Earlier this month, Yang was named the 2019 Big West Field Player of the Year, becoming the first Gaucho to win the award since Cameron Newell in 2015.

And just this week, Yang was named as one of three finalists for the Buster Posey award, which is given to the top catcher in college baseball.

To top it all off, Yang was selected on Tuesday by the Cincinnati Reds in the seventh round of the MLB draft. With elite offensive production and tantalizing defensive tools, don't be surprised if Yang eventually makes his way to a major league roster.

Leonard Paulasa
Staff Writer

The Gauchos have posted excellent results during the 2019 track and field season, UCSB star athlete senior Hope Bender contributed plenty to UCSB's success. The *Nexus* recognizes Bender as one of our Athletes of the Year.

During the season, Bender eternalized herself in the history of Gaucho athletics by breaking, and/or adding onto, eight UCSB track and field records. Bender now has a total of 10 track and field records, holding first in three categories: the 100m hurdles, 400m hurdles and long jump, with the last two being set this season.

But Bender didn't just break the records she absolutely demolished them. To put it into perspective, alumni Amanda Rodriguez set the UCSB record in 2013 in the 400m hurdles with a time of 58.58. Bender broke that record by almost two seconds with a time of 56.64. Her long jump of 6.29m is also 0.13m longer than the former record holder, Kiely Gode.

Bender is also right behind alumna and current Olympian Barbara Nwaba in the heptathlon with only 46 points separating their school records. Bender has one last

shot to break Nwaba's record this week, as her outstanding performance in the heptathlon throughout the season garnered her a chance to compete in the NCAA Outdoor Championships, hosted by the University of Texas, which is currently underway and set to conclude on Saturday.

Bender also hopes to shine brighter, as her performance in the long jump during NCAA West Regionals two weeks ago was also enough to qualify for the Championships.

Bender's performance has been consistently above excellent this entire season, earning a multitude of Big West Athlete of the Week awards and earning her second consecutive Big West Conference Field Athlete of the Year award.

Bender pushes her abilities to their limits, knowing exactly what she's capable of and always seeking to break through plateaus. Additionally, while Bender's stardom rises, she remains humble and continues to seek guidance and support from her coaches and teammates.

It is due to her humble personality, exceptional performance, legendary work ethic and incredible drive to be the greatest that Hope Bender recognized by the *Nexus* as an Athlete of the Year.



ESTEFANI ZUNIGA / DAILY NEXUS



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Moment of the Year: UCSB Defeats Cal Poly, Clinches First Big West Conference Title Since 1986

Jorge Mercado
Outgoing Editor in Chief

When the final day of the regular season arrived for the UCSB baseball team, everything was on the line – the chance to host a regional game for only the second time in program history and, more importantly, the chance to win its first Big West title in 33 years.

In the Gauchos' way was their bitter Blue-Green rival, the Cal Poly Mustangs. The Mustangs had taken the first two games of the three-contest set and were hoping to steal the third at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium to stake a share of the league title and earn its way into the NCAA Tournament.

With it being senior day for UCSB, it would have been fitting for a senior to step up and be the hero. Instead, it was a young freshman who made all the difference.

Left-handed freshman pitcher Rodney Boone pitched an amazing game that day. In possibly the biggest game of his career, the freshman tossed 8.1

innings, striking out a career-high 12 batters and allowing just five hits and three walks.

The Gauchos supported their young arm at the plate as they tallied 10 hits and scored seven runs.

By the end of the seventh, the Gauchos had a commanding 7-0 lead.

Boone continued pitching into the ninth. After getting the first out of the inning, the freshman took his exit to an excited crowd that gave him a standing ovation.

Star junior closer Chris Lincoln came in and delivered the final two outs for Santa Barbara to secure the program's first league title since 1986 and just third overall.

It was truly an amazing moment after the final out of the day. Players rushed the mound and celebrated for nearly an hour afterward with fans and family alike.

The Gauchos may not have done as much damage in the postseason as they wanted, but there is no doubt this was a successful season capped off by the best moment of the year.



ANGIE BANKS / DAILY NEXUS

The Antidote to Senioritis: Kate Pipkin and Nicholas Moreno De Alboran Shine in Final Seasons

Jesse Morrison
Staff Writer

Following the program's most successful season in school history, tallying 22 wins, women's water polo's Kate Pipkin walks away with this year's Senior of the Year honor. The senior utility from Costa Mesa, Calif. was recently named to the D-1 All-American team for her second consecutive season. Pipkin received the award after an outstanding senior season, leading the Gauchos in total points scored (76). These points were earned as a result of her being second on the team in goals with 45 scored and second in assists earned at 31.

The senior captain was able to provide momentous leadership to a rather young team, which competed in a loaded Big West Conference. Pipkin made the most of her final season, playing in all 30 games and leading UCSB to a No. 3 finish in the conference tournament. After

another outstanding campaign, she was selected to her third consecutive All-Big West team. The achievement makes Pipkin a perfect three for three on All-Conference selections since transferring from Indiana after her first year.

Throughout the season, Pipkin showed off her well balanced attack, found teammates in their spots and finished shots when given opportunities.

Her scoring became imperative to the team's success late in the season, as she finished on a 10-game scoring streak, totaling 20 goals over those contests.

Pipkin has been a cornerstone piece to the UCSB women's water polo team throughout the past three years.

Her competitive nature and passion for the game helped drive this team toward great successes. Because of this, Pipkin has earned the honor of being this year's *Daily Nexus* "Female Senior of the Year."



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Nick Depierro
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara men's senior tennis star Nicolas Moreno de Alboran finished the season with a 28-9 record overall and a 15-3 performance in dual-match play while also taking home Big West Player of the Year honors for the second year in a row.

While previously holding the record for the highest-ranked Gaucho ever at No. 42 in the country upon the start of last season, de Alboran has viciously climbed the ladder where he now finds himself ranked No. 6 by the ITA Tennis National Ranking.

The senior stud is just the third Gaucho athlete to earn Division I All-American honors, following up David Decret's 1992 and Kip Brady's 1989 seasons.

As if we didn't already know of de Alboran's brilliance, he has also been invited to an exclusive 16-player wildcard tournament at the USTA National Campus in Orlando. He will be competing against eight of the top young players currently at the pro level in addition to the seven other elite college stars in which he has been recognized alongside.

So how did we get here?

UCSB started the season off strong, going 3-1 with wins over San Diego State, South Alabama and Fresno State.

Three straight losses to San Diego, Drake and Utah State now meant the Gauchos were sitting at a 3-4 record, hardly the start that winners of four straight tournament titles would expect.

Just as the group began to stumble out of the gates, they rattled off 14 wins in the final 17 games remaining to improve to an impressive 17-7.

De Alboran and Co. then proceeded to win their first NCAA tournament match since UCSB's 1998 win over Oregon.

Call him the captain or call him a leader – it doesn't matter what your title is if you can't step up in the big moments. De Alboran did exactly that, proving why he has been so monumental for the Gauchos this season. The comeback point for the captain provided the extra cushion to fuel UCSB's first NCAA tournament win in two decades.

Unfortunately, UCSB fell to the hands of No. 12 Stanford in the second round. The season overall was well fought by a well trained and hardworking team led by none other than Nicolas Moreno de Alboran.



JORGE MERCADO / DAILY NEXUS

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The university community joins together to give praise and thanks to those graduates who have demonstrated excellence during their years here.

The Thomas More Storke Award for Excellence,

symbolized by a bronze medal forged by Francis Minturn Sedgwick, is given to the graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding scholarship and extraordinary service to the university, its students, and the community. This year this distinction is awarded to:



Zenzile Saharee Riddick



The Jeremy D. Friedman Memorial Award

is presented in grateful recognition of outstanding leadership, scholastic excellence, and innovative contribution to student and community life at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in memory of Jeremy D. Friedman, undergraduate 1979-83. This year's recipient is:

Kuvimbanashe Edwin Chikukwa

Alyce Marita Whitted Memorial Award

This award, established in 1993, is presented to one non-traditional graduating senior who has demonstrated endurance, persistence, and courage in the face of extraordinary challenges while in pursuit of an academic degree. This year's recipient is:

Paige Farrenkopf

Yonie Harris Award for Civility in Public Discourse

is presented to graduates who best exemplify the principles of free speech and respectful dialogue and who foster a campus climate of civility and open-mindedness.

Samantha Sanchez

Michael D. Young Engaged Scholar Award

This award recognized the legacy of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Emeritus, Michael D. Young, particularly his commitment to empowering students toward principled leadership. It is awarded to students who have skillfully integrated their scholarly knowledge and/or values into action.

Jasmine McBeath Nation

The following seniors and graduate students have been selected as recipients of this year's

University Service Award

given in recognition of unselfish and dedicated service to the University, its students, and the community.

Georgina Isabel Aguilar
Jay Barragan

Christina Angelica Cruz
Kimberly Fuentes
Angie Nevarez

Alexis Glennie
Bianca Graves
Tara Habibi

Brooke Robyn Kopel
Jasmine Lee
Monica Mendieta

Emilia Petrachi
Sarah Soren

Below are listed those students who are receiving the

University Award of Distinction

given to seniors and graduate students who have contributed greatly to the quality of life by giving unselfish service to others within a particular area.

Johnny Balbuena
Chelsea Borg
Leah Brinkman
Maria Cecilia Jesusa Concepcion
Grace Erin Fox Tappin
Emma Horanic

Midory Ibanez
Madhumathi Kannon
Hazelynn Khoo
Kailah Korsh
Batsheva Labowe-Stoll
Theo LeQuesne

Sibongile Makatini
Andrew Morrison
Sequoyah Jennings Pollard
Cassidy Pyle
Makayla Rawlins
Isabelle Rose Rodriguez

Merryll D. Santos
Pamela Marie Estallo Santos
Kyle David Schlopy
Thomas Hugh Steel
Dorothy Tang
Alec Taub

Allison van Dorsten
Giovanna Vicini
Aditya Wadaskar
Brent Wells
Dana Yuen

Vice Chancellor's Award for Scholarship, Leadership, and Citizenship

This award is presented annually to one or more graduating seniors and graduate students who embrace the principles of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship — through activities that enhance UCSB's academic environment, contributions to a consequential project, or extraordinary service to the campus community.

This year's awardees are:

Anthony D. Bolden
De'Shaun Brown
Rachel Toshiko Chan

Destiny Monique Clara-Barnes
Spehell Colbert
Jailyn Hernandez

Berenice Lopez
Jocelyn Martinez
Nick Mazuk

Arthur Wilkie
Seung Hyun Catherine Lee

Mortar Board Award

The Mortar Board Award is given each year in recognition of the graduating senior having the highest cumulative grade point average in the graduating class, combined with the fewest number of transfer units. This year's recipient is to be announced at the ceremony.

SCIENCE & TECH

Isla Vista Compost Collective Plans To Double Composting Service for Fall 2019

Jacqueline Wen
Science Editor

Around 30% of landfills consist of food scraps and yard waste, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If these organic wastes were instead composted or disposed of in soil, soil quality could increase and provide nutrients for plants. By not occupying space in landfills and decomposing, compostable organic materials can also significantly reduce emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Dedicated to enabling Isla Vista residents to learn and execute this eco-friendly practice, the Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee of Isla Vista Surfrider founded the Isla Vista Compost Collective during Fall Quarter 2017.

"The Surfrider Foundation is a nationwide foundation that works on protecting our nation's beaches through advocacy with the government, beach clean-ups and other programs such as monitoring the water quality of our oceans or maintaining healthy soil in our gardens, which is what our compost program does," Siena Hooper, co-director of the Isla Vista Compost Collective (IVCC), said.

The composting initiative began with an idea by Jacob Bider, the other co-director of IVCC, almost two years ago.

"I returned to UCSB after my first year eager to make a positive impact on the community of Isla Vista.

As I moved out of the dorms and into a house on DP, I began to notice the excessive amount of waste produced by I.V. residents," Bider said.

"While there were existing efforts being made to handle the recycling and disposal of solid waste from residences, there were no efforts being made to properly dispose of organic or food waste," he continued. "I saw this not only as a problem that needed to be fixed, but also as an opportunity to provide residents with the ability to properly dispose, or compost, food waste from home. After joining the Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee of Isla Vista Surfrider in Fall 2017, I proposed that we create a compost program for Isla Vista, and we did just that."

IVCC first tested its composting service during Fall 2017, serving under 10 I.V. houses. Currently, IVCC services 51 houses in I.V. It composts an average of 600 pounds of organic waste weekly, with over 10,000 pounds of compost produced since the program's formation.

"If we are able to expand to 96 houses in the fall, then we'll be composting, on average, over 1,000 pounds per week. By the end of the 2019-2020 school year, we will have composted over 30,000 pounds," Bider said.

Each week, "Dirtriders" on bikes with a cargo trailer attached pick up buckets filled with food product from their designated houses. Then, they drop off a new, clean five-gallon bucket for their houses to compost in for another week.

Read more at dailynexus.com.



Courtesy of Siena Hooper

IVCC, which began its program in Fall 2017, will expand its weekly service to 96 houses in Isla Vista for Fall Quarter 2019. Sign up at islavistacompost.com.

Bren Professor Researches Logistics of Carbon Capture and Utilization

Sean Crommelin
Staff Writer

Researchers with UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, in collaboration with RWTH Aachen (Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen) University in Germany, have performed complex data analysis and modeling, aiming to understand the logistical feasibility of carbon capture and utilization.

Carbon capture and utilization, or CCU, is a process in which atmospheric carbon is captured and recycled into various materials. This is in contrast to carbon capture and storage, where atmospheric carbon is instead deposited in a location where it cannot enter the atmosphere.

"The concept of Carbon Capture and Storage, CCS, is widely known, but if you do that you are not really utilizing it. Instead if you turn [carbon] into plastic then you can create value out of it," Sangwon Suh, a Bren professor of industrial ecology and a co-author of the paper, said in an interview with the *Nexus*.

Plastics have become ubiquitous in the relatively short time since beginning production on a large scale. This coin-

cides with rapid global industrialization, which has resulted in dramatic increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

Suh and his colleagues began to wonder how carbon emissions could be harnessed and stored in plastic and other chemical materials.

"The question is whether we can turn this large volume of carbonaceous material that we are producing into an opportunity to store the carbon that is emitted into the atmosphere that creates the greenhouse gas effect."

To investigate this, those same researchers collected process-level data from the chemical industry.

"It's all about modeling. We're using data that covers about 80% of the greenhouse gas emissions covered by the entire chemical industry. There's a very detailed engineering model that covers the global chemical industry, so we analyzed greenhouse gas emission and energy requirements by these industries," Suh said.

The researchers then began to study the processes which could be employed when turning carbon dioxide into potential substitutes for petrochemicals, which are currently used in the manufacturing of plastics.

Unfortunately, according to their study

in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, CCU may not be as viable as originally thought. In order for carbon dioxide to act as a feedstock for CCU, hydrogen needs to be produced as an additive.

"Petrochemicals normally contain carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. With carbon dioxide, you have carbon and oxygen, but there's no hydrogen, so we have to

bring hydrogen from somewhere else," Suh explained.

"Currently the largest source of hydrogen that we are using at the industrial scale is coming from natural gas. If we use natural gas to source hydrogen, we are actually creating more greenhouse gas emissions than if we produced plastic with petrochemicals."

Read more at dailynexus.com.

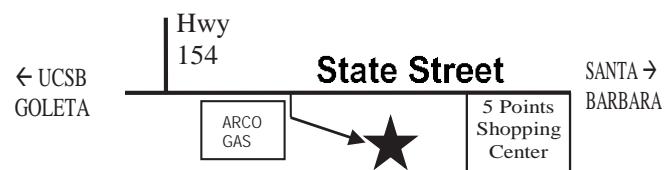
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NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

Graduating Alcoholic Takes Grad Photos in SOS Liquor

Ollie Tabuzzball
Nexustentialism Editor

In an unsurprising yet disappointing series of photos, it would appear that local senior and alcoholic Becca Chugg took her graduation photos in SOS Liquor, citing the memories and lessons learned from SOS that helped shape her college experience.

"I don't know where I'd be without Natty Daddys, peach New Am or the gold Four Loko flavor..." Chugg said, reflecting on all that happened over the last four years. When asked about the relationships she made, newfound passions discovered, her collegiate accomplishments and academic endeavors, Chugg responded, "And also Tito's. I don't know where I'd be without Tito's."

The senior is reportedly graduating UCSB with a B.A. in sociology and a passion for mixology, according to the bedazzled decorations on her grad cap. Moscow Mules aside, Chugg put in the work and earned



OLLIE TABUZZBALL / DAILY NEXUS

her degree from the nation's fifth best public university. With this impressive accomplishment under her belt, what's next for Chugg? So far, the only thing planned on the horizon for Chugg is the all-day Chili's happy hour on the Sunday of her commencement ceremony.

When Nexustentialism asked her family for comment on her grad

photos, Chugg's father, Mr. Chugg, responded, "Rebecca did what?" right before immediately hanging up the phone on our reporter.

Though Becca Chugg's photos captured the imaginations and Instagram likes of many, her grad photoshoot is not uncommon, especially in a place like Isla Vista. While this spike in alcohol-centric

graduation announcements may seem alarming to some, Chugg knows that it's all in jest. Sipping her usual morning White Claw, she concluded, "Hey, it's only alcoholism if you keep drinking like that post-grad."

Ollie Tabuzzball will, in fact, eat a buzzball.

Diploma Will Look Great on the Fridge

Bianca Bitchandahalf
Staff Writer

It's that time of year, Gauchos. Graduation is upon us again, and if the four-year-long bender that is UCSB undergrad didn't manage to take you down, then congratulations!

You did it; time to get that diploma and go make a difference in the world!

Oh, you don't have a plan?

That's okay, no one ever has a plan, but wherever you end up will lead somewhere great!

... You're moving back in with your parents, huh? Awesome.

Well, most grads' résumés only boast frat stardom and MIPs for cocaine, so you have nothing to worry about!

Recent studies have shown that university diplomas look amazing on the refrigerator.

In fact, so many grads choose to display that honorable piece of paper on the fridge rather than using it that this year UCSB will be handing out gilded magnets at the graduation ceremony.

The most frequent fridge diplomas, art degrees, provide a cute timeline of improvement when they're displayed proudly next the finger paintings your mom saved from kindergarten.

When you're sitting at the kitchen table in a nice shirt and sweatpants Skype interviewing for an unpaid low-level internship, it'll score you huge bonus points to have a degree in something totally unrelated to any job ever visible in the background behind you.

Next time you start to worry that your diploma might really be useless like everyone says it is, just remember how much bragging your mom or dad will be able to do about it when their friends come over for wine and cheese from Trader Joe's.

Move over, AYSO soccer participation trophy. Sayonara, third place spelling bee ribbon! There's a new proudest achievement in town, and its name is bachelor's degree.

Bianca Bitchandahalf is literally getting a degree in dance, so everyone can chill.



2018-19 | YEAR IN REVIEW

By Katherine Swartz and Max Abrams, Asst. News Editors

FALL QUARTER

SEPTEMBER 20 Multicultural Center Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Center marked the year with special programming, under Director Zaveeni Khan-Marcus.

SEPTEMBER 27 HOPR Arrives

Over 300 HOPR rental bikes filled the bike racks as students returned for Fall Quarter 2018.



OCTOBER 18 50 Years Since North Hall Takeover

UCSB recognized the 1968 incident where twelve black students locked themselves in North Hall until the university heard their demands for change.



NOVEMBER 15 Tarana Burke Speaks at UCSB

Founder and activist of the #MeToo movement Tarana Burke delivered a speech at UCSB about remembering survivors.

MARCH 7 Chancellor Yang Fulfills BSU Demands

Chancellor Yang promises to fulfill some of the Black Student Union's demands – several of which were first proposed in 1968 – including the creation of an Office of Black Student Development at UCSB.



MARCH 1 Rare Fish Discovered at Coal Oil Point Reserve

This was the hoodwinker sunfish's first recorded appearance since 1889, the first time ever seen ashore in the U.S.

WINTER QUARTER

FEBRUARY 7 The Morning After the Storm

UCSB and I.V. woke up in early February to dozens of fallen trees. Some damaged vehicles and buildings on campus while others hit homes in I.V.



JANUARY 17 CSD Finalizes Plans for Survivor Resource Center

In a collaborative effort with SASA, the I.V. CSD finalized plans to construct a 24/7 survivor resource center in I.V.

JANUARY 10 UCSB Defeats Cal Poly

UCSB rocked the Thunderdome following a massive win over longtime rival Cal Poly 65-56 in men's basketball.



SPRING QUARTER

APRIL 4 Deltopia and the Warm-Up

The beginning of April saw the annual unsanctioned street party known as Deltopia, where thousands flooded the streets of Del Playa Drive during the day. Later that night, UCSB held the Warm Up concert featuring JPEGMafia & TroyBoi.



APRIL 18 A.S. Elections

A majority of senatorial and executive seats go to the Campus United party.

MAY 9 Five UC Police Department Officers File Four Lawsuits

The Nexus reported that five UCPD officers had filed suits against each other and other members of the department. They allege misconduct, retaliation and racism among other offenses.

MAY 16 AFSCME Strikes Again

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees marched in their fifth strike of the year, at all UC campuses. They demand the end of contact negotiations, higher wages and better benefits.



MAY 23 Five Years Since the Isla Vista Tragedy

Five years after the I.V. tragedy, community members gathered to remember the lives lost in a similar way they did in 2014: blue lights, replicas of the original chalkboards and a walk from Storke Tower to Remembrance Garden.



ARTSWEEK

There is No Art to Succeeding: Farwell from a Former Editor

Former Artsweek Editor Zoë Jones reflects on her time at UCSB and her experiences with the *Daily Nexus*

Zoë Jones
Outgoing Artsweek Editor

By the time your eyes are reading this, I hope to have a job. I hope to be settled and content with the fact that I will never have another first day of school again.

Graduating is not at all what I expected it to be. Everything feels slightly anticlimactic and staged because it all is. You think about everything in terms of 'first' and 'last,' and every single interaction feels like it holds importance.

I am scared. I have no idea where I'll be in the next year, who I'll be living with or what city I'll choose to settle down in.

Our whole lives we're expected to plan everything out up to this point and then – just see where things take us. I don't know how that works: being tied so tightly to structure and expectations, and then just letting them all go.

There are so many things that I'll miss about going to school in Santa Barbara. I'll miss taking the bus to State Street when I didn't have the money for Uber, going to brunch at Cajé, studying in the windy heat and riding my bike while the sun is beginning to peek from behind the clouds. I loved it all.

Most of all, without a doubt, I will miss the *Daily Nexus* and its staff. Our smelly refrigerator, our trips to the convenience store on campus for snacks and our laughs that reverberated from those old walls. I've been a part of the *Nexus* from the beginning – and it has been a part of me since then, too.

College is not nice to your mind or your body, but I don't think it takes someone special to get through it. I think it takes something small and special in your experience to come out on the other side, having grown and standing tall as a better person.

When new writers joined Artsweek, I always told them about how I walked into our office beneath Storke Tower my freshman year, demanding to be pointed toward where I could write about music. I've practically lived beneath Storke since then, taking naps and dreading class time with



Courtesy of Zoë Jones

some of my closest friends. I got to write about music and then some. I was able to lead, and guide my writers' visions in the context of this campus. I was able to give people the ability to write words that will never cease to exist. I am so very grateful for this.

The way I'm writing right now is the way that the story of these past four years has happened: fragmented, sometimes sentimental, long. Sometimes painful, too. I struggled and I will not keep that to myself. Anxiety and depression are terrible things to go through while in college, but I am not only anxious and depressed, I am proud. I have

been through so much during my time here, and I still made it. I am proud of not only my trauma but my growth.

I wrote a lot of stories in one go, I missed deadlines, I neglected emails, but I grew and I wrote and I added many more people to the list of those that I love.

This story came out in pieces: on planes and trains, on lonely nights when my housemates were gone and I tried to teach myself how to enjoy being alone. On days I was running late for class, 10 minutes to go and my towel was still wrapped around me. Damp, like my eyes are right now. And music was there for it all.

I cried to songs, I fell in love with them while I biked and I showed them to boys I will never see again.

I am so proud of the words that I wrote during my time at the *Nexus*. I will always cherish my time as an Artsweek editor. This was all a part of my growth: a larger story that these four years are wrapped up in. Yes, the next few months of my life will be an adjustment. But I will always have my friends, these words and the music.



The way I'm writing this right now is the way that the story of these past four years has happened: fragmented, sometimes sentimental, long. Sometimes painful, too.



PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS

Save the Velvet Jones

Melody Pezeshkian
Staff Writer

If you've frequented the Velvet Jones in downtown Santa Barbara, you may recall entering the venue and walking down to reach the stage. If you've arrived early enough, you might have felt a fascination for how close you were to the artists themselves.

The Velvet Jones stands tall as the dive bar of music venues – in the most flattering way possible. You get a rich and unique experience here that you wouldn't be able to find at many other venues, even outside the Santa Barbara area.

If you haven't yet had an experience at the Velvet Jones, there's a chance you might never. With doubtless discontent, its current owners had planned on closing down the venue unless a new owner was solidified; but recently, after strong support from concertgoers, the owner has decided to tentatively reopen the Velvet Jones on an event-by-event basis.

The Velvet Jones has venerably been celebrated as a local hot-spot for performance artists and concert junkies alike. Ku'uleialohamae'ole Osako, third-year biology major and concert enthusiast, has only been to the Velvet Jones twice and hopes to have the opportunity to attend more shows at this small, tight-knit venue.

"The Jones is small enough that you're able to have a friendly and interactive experience with the artist," Osako said.

Her comment reminds me of a similar sentiment. Earlier this year, I visited the Velvet Jones to see Azizi Gibson and easily found my way near the front of the stage – something I wouldn't have been able to effortlessly accomplish at other reputedly intimate venues.

Not only have I had one-on-one and engaging experiences with the artists at the Velvet Jones, but I've also interacted with friendly staff members who hoped to ensure a positive experience for attendees.

In 2013, the Velvet Jones hosted a Panic! at the Disco show. For a small venue to host such a widely-known artist is an immaculate feat. While the line to enter the concert was large, fans who attended the show remarked that there was no noticeable barricade put up between the crowd and the artists. The lack of separation, generally necessary to maintain order at concert venues, is a strong indication of the venue's intimate niche.

In the next few weeks, the Velvet Jones will be hosting the Silversun Pickups, Gnash and the Mystic Braves. These shows, while exciting, only impart a glimpse of what the location has had to offer.

Among all its diversity, this venue unmistakably serves as a rap hub. In 2016, 21 Savage graced the stage

and J.I.D performed there just last year. Aside from the more famous artists it has hosted, the Velvet Jones offers small-scale, local shows. This past November, it hosted a Battle of the Bands featuring local artists like Brayell and Step Back J. On top of this all, the Velvet Jones provides some of the more affordable shows in the area.

The SB music community would be devastated without the presence of the Velvet Jones. Opportunely, the current production assistant, as well as the general manager of operations at the Velvet Jones, David and April Coyle, are working hard to salvage the venue that they've considered home for now over two years.

The Coyles promise that if they are able to secure ownership, they "plan to do everything [they] can for locals to get on the stage with bigger acts," but also promise to "compete with other venues' rental rates for local artists using Velvet Jones for their own headlining shows."

They also hope to turn to the community and gather input on how to further enhance the fans' enjoyment of the venue.

The Coyles are a well respected and trustworthy family that is apt to run a music-based business. David and his wife have an extensive background in the music industry and own the production company, Identity Productions.

"My wife and I are from Charlotte, N.C. originally. We moved here with a dream. We hoped we would find a living community where we could raise a child knowing she would have opportunity and work in the music industry. I've never had much in my life, but through everything, one thing has remained the same: my passion for music and the performing arts. My grandfather opened up the first dance studio in Charlotte, helping bring liberal arts to the city," David Coyle said.

Coyle hopes to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and continue to kindle the dreams that live within the walls of the Velvet Jones.

The Velvet Jones is simultaneously an ambient yet exciting scene, brimming with musical excellence. The Coyles are working to soon launch a crowdsourcing campaign as well, following the solidification of a business plan.

Potential patrons are encouraged to share the news with friends and/or contact the company directly to provide support. The Velvet Jones will also be hosting a fundraiser event; artists interested in performing are encouraged to contact the venue directly via email.

You can contact Identity Productions directly to support the cause either by Instagram DM or via email:

Instagram: @identity_productions;
Email: identity.productions2018@gmail.com



Courtesy of Urban Dance Co.

UDC Ignites Campbell Hall

Hannah Jackson
Editor in Chief

Urban Dance Company's fifth annual benefit showcase graced the stage of Campbell Hall on Saturday June 1. Hosted by Maddy Mokes and including performances by guests from UCSB and the surrounding area, the showcase was the epitome of what dance aims to be: supportive and uplifting. This aura of positivity was underscored by Urban's charity of choice, Everybody Dance Now!, a nonprofit that teaches street dancing classes to youth who would not have such opportunities otherwise.

The show began with some technical difficulties, yet the dancers maintained their composure and delivered a sharp rendition of their competition set, which expressed themes of patriotism and gratitude for freedom. And also booty shaking.

The piece was loaded with jaw-dropping moments, including a particularly impressive whacking section and a backflip. With sound issues behind them, the team kicked off the show on a high note and hyped the audience up for the incredible performance to come.

Host Maddy Mokes espoused plenty of wholesome wisdom throughout the night, adding an endearing touch to the breaks between sets. At one point, Mokes told the crowd that she heard someone express their nervousness backstage. She stated that nervousness equivocates to caring and hard work, earning heartfelt "awwws" and cheers from the audience.

The next UDC set showcased the talent of the first-years of the company. Adhering to the theme of monsters, the freshmen were able to showcase their specific talents and also their class's overall collective technique and skill level. The second-years of Urban offered a more contemporary take on hip hop, which added a nice reprieve from hard-hitting pieces prior. With a mash-up of several Billie Eilish songs, including "You Should See Me in a Crown," "Bury a Friend" and "Bad Guy," the second-years brought a refreshing piece to the show.

One of the most pleasant surprises of the show was Ventura-based company Undeclared. While certainly fun-sized, this group of dancers ranging in age

from four to 17 years old packed quite a punch. The kids brought the house down with their ferocious attitudes and excellent foundation of technique as well.

The show was filled with fun and funky highlights that were packed with personality and technical excellence. The UDC girls set paid tribute to the '90s, full outfits and all. The core members – comprised of the director, artistic directors, team captain and other administrative roles on the team – performed an iconic tribute to Justin Bieber, outfitted in purple, reminiscent of Bieber's earliest era.

The UDC guys' set was one of the most impressive of the night. It began very fluidly, with a smooth, R&B-backed piece with a seamless transition into a hard-hitting segment. The dancers showcased their diversity of talent within the many genres of hip hop in a very short amount of time. Yet what was perhaps most impressive was their willingness (and success) to play with stereotypical male gender roles, set to Lizzo's "Boys," of course.

A prime standout moment of the show was the freestyle competition which included members of Urban as well as their guests. The competition epitomized the supportive and lighthearted nature of dance, particularly as all of the participants and audience members rallied around the youngest member of the competition from Undeclared, who – let's be honest – absolutely killed it.

Adding to the diversity of the show was Urban's first-ever contemporary dance set. Set to Leon Bridges' gorgeous ballad "River," members of UDC expressed themes of community and victory while overcoming mental health struggles, something they noted that dance helps them achieve. The dancers beautifully conveyed these themes through their elegant and sophisticated set, which was both technically and emotionally stunning.

Year after year, Urban Dance Company continuously reminds UCSB why they are so phenomenal. In addition to their flawless technique, fun sets, song choices and amazing stage presence, they also continue to give back to their community. Whether it be an issue of mental health or children's dance educations, they are always stepping up.