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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

University of California To Divest From Fossil Fuels

Climate Activists Say This Is Only the First Step in "Overarching Global Climate Justice Movement"

Sanya Kamidi & Evelyn Spence Asst. News Editor & Lead News Editor

The University of California system will soon divest its money entirely from fossil fuels, two of the UC's top financial officers announced in an op-ed in the Los Angeles Times on Tuesday.

For climate activists across the UC system, but particularly at UC Santa Barbara – where Chancellor Henry T. Yang was the first UC chancellor to take an active stance in favor of divestment, and the student government and faculty senate were the first in the system to support divestment – the victory was lauded.

The money is composed of a \$13.4 billion endowment and a \$70 billion pension, and will be divested "as of the end of the month," and "soon" respectively, the authors wrote.

The two financial officers, Jagdeep Singh Bachher, the chief investment officer and treasurer for the UC and Richard Sherman, chair of the UC Board of Regents Investments Committee, emphasized that the decision was not made because of "political pressure," but because of financial reasons. However, the two acknowledged that some may "see our action as born of political pressure, or as green movement idealism or perhaps political correctness run amok."

"So be it," the two said in the op-ed. "We are part of a university system where diversity of opinion thrives."

"We have chosen to invest for a better planet, and reap the financial rewards for UC, rather than simply divest for a headline."

But several activists at UCSB, including some of those who were present at the 72-hour protest held in Cheadle Hall in 2017 by Fossil Free UCSB, said the UC's decision to divest stemmed from years of student and faculty activism across the campus.

In particular, they believed a recent vote held by the UC Academic Senates, which found 77% of senate members wished to divest from fossil fuels, was a leading factor as opposed to financial reasons.

UCSB Ph.D. student Emily Williams, one of the founders of Fossil Free UC and a part of the Cheadle Hall protest, said she was "speechless and overwhelmed" at the news but denounced the claim that the decision was done for "purely for financial reasons."

"They have to say that," Williams said bluntly, explaining that she believes if the UC said they had divested from fossil fuels for moral reasons rather than financial reasons, there would be "mounting pressure" to divest from other movements like the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Williams noted that Bachher and Sherman's argument that fossil fuel investments are risky is something that the Fossil Free UC movement has been arguing since its inception.

"Them making that decision was really the result of years of students and faculty and alums, finally chancellors getting on board, really advocating for this," she said. "They wouldn't necessarily have even given this a look had the campaign not have advocated for it so strongly."

Several other UCSB climate activists – Ph.D. global studies student Theo LeQuesne, fourth-year political science major Cassie Macy and sociology professor John Foran – echoed Williams' opinions. "I'm just happy to come to some closure on this, it's been a fantastic movement," Foran said. "It should not have taken, of course, six years. We're not delighted by the reasoning given by the Regents, that it's [a] purely economic decision, we think that's kind of not true." the past several years, the group has held demonstrations at campuses including UC Berkeley and UCSB, all to encourage the Regents to divest from fossil fuels – but LeQuesne emphasized that it has been a long path to victory.

"We started off kind of really taking the UC Regents as equals and [we were] really interested in trying to work with them," LeQuesne said. "But about a year or two into that process, it because pretty clear that the UC Regents were not particularly interested in actually making this going forward."

He explained that around 2015, the group changed its strategy, moving toward "mobilizing the community approach." They decided to get "more disruptive," he said – "a more disruptive kind of movement, build approach necessary to really get the Regents to pay attention to us."

The group organized across UC campuses, campaigning to get all student governments to endorse the divestment and organizing sit-ins. LeQuesne emphasized that one of the movement's biggest successes was the 2017 Cheadle Hall sit-in, during which over 100 students sat in Cheadle Hall for over 72 hours until Chancellor Yang agreed to endorse students' demands for fossil fuel divestment.

Williams, who was present at the sit-in, said it was "powerful" to be there in that moment.

"There's a bit of nervousness because what you're ultimately doing is civil disobedience," she emphasized. "You're doing something that is against the rules, but you're doing it because you have so much respect for the institution and for the cause that you're working on that you really feel like you need to take a step and do something, draw attention to it and make a change."

While climate activists at UCSB were happy to finally see the Regents take tangible action for climate justice, Foran said divesting from fossil fuels is only the first step for the UC in the "overarching global climate justice movement."

"This is a small step in a long journey," Foran said. "We're up against the most powerful corporations in the history of the world and the governments they control. But today is a good day in that struggle."

For Macy, who was a first-year student during the 2017 sit-in and is now entering her last year at UCSB, her next steps are to ensure the UC "follow[s] their promises and fully divest," but she's also working on refilling the ranks now that many climate activists have graduated.

"The next steps are finding some people who can take the place of them and take the place of me in the future and just keep fighting for this environmental change," Macy said.

Foran and Williams also pointed to the Sunrise Movement as the next generation of climate activism at UCSB.

"[This is] for the fate of the planet. The fate of humanity is at stake here, so we're glad we could nudge the Regents to do the right thing, however begrudgingly," Foran said.



Upcoming Year Will Be UC President Napolitano's Last In Office

Evelyn Spence Lead News Editor

University of California President Janet Napolitano announced Wednesday morning that she will be resigning from her position on Aug. 1, 2020, ultimately completing a tenure of seven years.

Napolitano, who announced her decision at the UC Regents meeting at UC Los Angeles, took over as UC president after former President Mark Yudof resigned in 2013. She was the first woman to lead the 10-campus system and tackled several issues during her time in office, including legislation related to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in which the UC system sued the government on behalf of DACA recipients in September 2017.

However, Napolitano received heavy criticism following the decision to raise nonresident tuition and after the reveal of a state audit that found the president's office was mismanaging money.

She also faced protests during her initial appointment due to increasing the number of degrees awarded, closing graduate gaps, strengthening sexual assault and sexual harassment policies, increasing availability of student housing and moving forward with UC's goal to be carbon neutral and 100% reliable on renewable energy by 2025.

It was announced on Tuesday that the UC is pulling its money out of fossil fuels, divesting its \$13.4 billion endowment and \$70 billion pension.

Napolitano denied in a phone call the claim that she was resigning due to health issues, explaining that she had gone through chemotherapy in 2016 and 2017 and is now cancer free. She reiterated that the average time for college presidents to serve is six years.

After leaving her position, she will take a one-year sabbatical before resuming teaching at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy in the fall of 2021. It is not known at this time exactly what classes or subject she will teach, she said.

When asked if she would ever run for public office again, accept a cabinet-level position or accept a Supreme Court nomination, Napolitano said she has "no intention in those regards" but she would "never say never." In regards to Napolitano's successor, Chair Pérez said he will soon release the names of those selected to handle the nationwide search for a new UC president. The search committee will include students, faculty and alumni representatives, among others. Pérez said the committee will be looking for a president who will help the university "maintain its role as the top public research university in the world and one that serves as the public mission the people of California have come to expect, and one that builds on the board's commitment expanding to access and affordability."

"It doesn't acknowledge the fact that there was a movement demanding it, without which we wouldn't be here."

Fossil Free UC was founded by students across the UC system in 2012. For

Nexus File Photo

UCSB Rolls Out New Option to Indicate Pronouns on G.O.L.D.

Sanya Kamidi Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara is now the third University of California school – after UC San Francisco and UC San Diego – to give students the option to display their pronouns in university systems, a change that went into effect on Sept. 13.

Students can indicate their pronouns in Gaucho On-Line Data (G.O.L.D.); in the "About Me" section, students can select from he/ him/his, she/her/hers, they/them/theirs, ze/hir/hirs, "I do not use a pronoun," "Other, please ask," "I use all gender pronouns" or "None (will not display)."

Pronouns will be visible to all course instructors through Gauchospace and eGrades, with the goal of reducing misgendering for transgender and nonbinary students in classroom settings.

As of Sept. 17, about 1,000 students had indicated their pronouns through G.O.L.D., according to Craig Leets, director of the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD).

"If a trans or nonbinary student is going to a class that they know that they're gonna get misgendered in, not only are they less focused on the material, maybe less willing to go to that course, but there's a stress associated with that," Leets said.

"There is a significant negative impact on our students who are experiencing this regular misgendering in their classes, and so it was

really important for us to try and lessen that and this is one of the best ways that we could do that."

The RCSGD and the Trans Task Force have been advocating for this initiative for several years now, starting with former RCSGD director Dolan.

Leets, who started as the center's new director last year, spoke to the Daily Nexus almost a full year ago about the initiative. Over the past year, the center has been laying the groundwork for the implementation of pronouns, looking into what departments would be involved with the change and how much work it would take, Leets said.

"It was earlier this year that we got the approval from the university to move forward, and so this summer has really been when the bulk of the work has been happening," Leets said.

The Office of the Registrar, the Division of Student Affairs and Student Information Systems & Technology have been working on the technical end to change the university systems to accommodate pronouns, while Leets has been working on the marketing side of the project; news of the change was first announced in a campus-wide email sent out on Sept. 12 by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Margaret Klawunn.

While the initiative has been implemented at two other UC campuses already, Leets said the biggest hurdle in implementing pronoun functionality has been working around the lack of guidance from the UC system.

resource center for

SEXUAL & GENDER DIVERSITY

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her previous position as the U.S. Secretary of Homeland security.

At Wednesday's meeting, she thanked her fellow Regents, particularly Chair John Pérez, for all of their help.

"I believe the university is on a solid path forward," she said during the meeting. "Challenges, however, remain. With many new board members, with a new government and what will be seven years of service behind me, I think the university will benefit from some fresh blood."

In a phone call afterward with media outlets, Napolitano addressed her accomplishments, pointing out that she's held tuition flat every year except for one and saying the president's office has made "substantial progress" in implementing the audit's recommended changes.

"Members of the board and members of the public can [now] track the dollars in and the dollars out of the Office of the President in a better way," she said.

Before Napolitano officially steps down next August, she said she wants to focus on the same efforts she has dedicated the past year to:



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Dear Students:

Welcome all of you to the 2019-20 academic year! We are thrilled to be partnering with you as you participate in an exciting educational journey of discovery. Whether you are a returning, first-year, or transfer student, you will find unlimited opportunities to enjoy campus life by learning, exploring, and engaging together.

This year we are celebrating our 75th anniversary as a University of California campus. Over the decades, UC Santa Barbara has risen rapidly to become a preeminent world-class research university. This year our campus is ranked No. 7 among the top public universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report. We are also ranked No. 9 worldwide for producing Nobel laureates in this century, according to Times Higher Education in London. Our faculty are nationally and internationally recognized with so many top awards, including a Pulitzer Prize this past spring.

Vital to the excellence, creativity, and innovation at UC Santa Barbara is our commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. We are the first member of the prestigious Association of American Universities to be recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, and we are ranked by the New York Times College Access Index at No. 2 among the nation's top colleges most committed to economic diversity.

Cultivating our rich diversity is a hallmark of our university. We encourage one another to celebrate our differences, and to foster a community free of intolerance and discrimination. Together we work to promote a campus climate that is respectful, civil, supportive, and safe. These core values allow us to provide a living and learning environment where we can all pursue our dreams and reach our highest potential.

I am confident that the year ahead will be full of rewarding experiences. My wife, Dilling, and I look forward to seeing you around campus. Thank you for being a special member of our UC Santa Barbara family!

Sincerely, Non T. Young

Henry T. Yang Chancellor

Free Resources for Students On and Off Campus

As students move in and prepare for the start of another school year, the Daily Nexus has compiled a list of free resources available to all UC Santa Barbara students throughout the year. We'll be updating the list over the course of the next few days; if you know of a resource we haven't already listed, send us an email at news@dailynexus.com with "Free Resource" and the name of the resource in the subject line!

Free Printing: UCSB students can print up to 200 sheets of paper per quarter in black and white for free at four locations around campus: Phelps 1521, Humanities and Social Sciences Building 1203, Psychology East 1804 and Music Room 1400. Hours are available on the PrintSpot website.

Associated Students Food Bank and Miramar Food Pantry: The A.S. Food Bank, currently located on the second floor of the University Center, provides fresh fruits, vegetables, pasta, bread, canned goods and toiletries. You must be a registered undergraduate or graduate student who makes under \$14,484 per year – excluding "family income, spousal income, financial aid, scholarships, TA-ship, and fellowships" – to use the food bank. The food bank is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m during the school year.

The Miramar Food Pantry, which provides similar resources to the food bank, is located in the Sierra Madre Villages and is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m.

Microsoft Office 365: All UCSB students have free access to Microsoft Office applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneDrive, Excel and more, through the university for the duration of their college career.

Food Security/Supporting Orgs: UCSB students have created a public Facebook group where students or organizations putting on events with free food will share information about their events.

Condoms: Students can get free condoms at these locations around campus:

Santa Cruz | Lobby Women's Restroom Rm. 1013 Anacapa | Lobby ADA All Gender Restroom Rm. 1015 Santa Rosa | Lobby Men's Restroom Rm. 1018 San Nicolas | Lobby All Gender Restroom Rm. 1014 San Miguel | Lobby All Gender Restroom Rm. 1040 Manzanita Village | Restroom Rm.1011 in De Anza Building San Rafael | Lobby All Gender Restroom Rm. 1175A Santa Catalina North | All Gender Restroom Rm. 0429 Santa Catalina South | All Gender Restroom Rm. 023 Sierra Clinic (Silver Hallway) | All Gender Restrooms A & B Granada Clinic (Green Hallway) | All Gender Restroom Student Health Front Desk Health & Wellness Office Student Resource Building (SRB) | First Floor Men's & Women's Restrooms SRB | Women's Center Front Desk SRB | RCSGD Main Hallway

Menstrual Products in Residence Halls: The Residential

Housing Association (RHA) funds a Period Pantry program that

stocks period products in "all female-identified and gender-neutral restrooms" in each residence hall.

MATLAB: UCSB students have access to MATLAB, a programming platform "designed specifically for engineers and scientists" that allows you to analyze data, develop algorithms and create models and applications.

Counseling and Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.): All registered UCSB students have access to counseling services on campus. C.A.P.S. typically offers students short-term counseling – providing three to four sessions – with a session every two to three weeks. For students who are looking for long-term counseling, C.A.P.S. can provide referrals to other counseling services in the area. They also facilitate a Mental Health Peer program where students can speak with other students who "are trained to help students develop tools to better manage stressors related to school as well as relationships to family, friends, romantic partners, and roommates."

Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS): CLAS is a tutoring service provided to undergraduate and graduate UCSB students for free, both through small tutorial classes that "supplement large introductory courses by helping students understand key concepts, develop methods for independent work, and prepare for exams" and drop-in hours. CLAS also provides workshops for the development of academic skills, such as note taking and time management, and individual assistance with essays through the Writing Lab.

citations, personal injury matters, immigration and more.

Isla Vista Tenants Union: The I.V. Tenants Union works to educate community members in Isla Vista about their "rights and responsibilities" as tenants and has helped students who were unjustly evicted from their homes with relocation.

CalFresh: CalFresh, known federally as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.), provides students with benefits loaded onto the Golden State Advantage Card, which works like debit card and allows you to purchase food items at most grocery stores.

UCSB Sexual Violence Survivor Fund: UCSB provides assistance to student survivors of sexual assault or violence, domestic violence and stalking, including but not limited to: "changing classes, housing, or

a work

location, obtaining counseling, academic support and guidance, or other remedies to enhance safety," through the UCSB Sexual Violence Survivor Fund. The fund is donor-supported and student survivors do not need to engage in an official reporting process in order to request the funds.

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Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Testing: Student Health offers periodical free STI testing. More information about STIs as well as free testing can be found on their website.

UCSB Library: In addition to free study space, the library provides free subscriptions for online databases to all students. Students can go to the library website to search for articles by title or by subject to find extensive databases of peer-reviewed articles for research assignments.

UCSB Department of Recreation: Facilities at the Recreation Center are free for student use with an Access Card. This includes the main gymnasium, the Multi-Activity Court (MAC), Robertson Gymnasium, multiple swimming pools, locker rooms, three major grass and turf fields, sand volleyball courts and tennis courts. Find more details about workout services offered on their website.

Bus Service: Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District offers free busing for students with a valid Access Card. There are lines both in Isla Vista and on campus, which travel throughout Santa Barbara county. Visit their website for information on different lines and bus times.

Associated Students Book Bank: The A.S. Book Bank provides free quarterly textbook rentals. Go to their website to check book availability on the online catalog and fill out a checkout form. Students can then head to their office, located in the A.S. Annex across from Storke Tower, to pick up your textbook. At the end of the quarter, return your textbook to the office or another drop-off box.

Career Services: The Career Services office, located in the Counseling

and Psychological Services Building, helps students prepare for life after college, be it employment or graduate school. Career Peer Advisors and counselors are available by appointment or drop-in basis to answer questions or go over your resume. Career Services also manages Handshake, an online database of jobs and internships available to all students.

Associated Students Media Center: Located in the A.S. Annex across from Storke Tower, the A.S. Media Center provides cameras and other media equipment to check out for free. The center also has computers with Adobe Creative Cloud and other software available to use, and studio space for photo and video shoots. Besides equipment use, the center also offers free LinkedIn photo shoots twice a month and hosts Workshop Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. to educate students on various media technology and software.



Associated Students Legal Resource Center: The A.S. Legal Resource Center, located on the second floor of the Pardall Center in Isla Vista at 6550 Pardall Road, provides free legal consultations for students who are in situations "in which legal education would be helpful, unless it involves the university or another UCSB student." They often help students with matters like landlord-tenant disputes, criminal

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Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (C.A.R.E.): Services are available to students, staff and faculty who have experienced sexual assault, dating/domestic violence or stalking. CARE offices help with academic, housing and medical needs, as well as information on reporting options and connection with other resources. Advocates also assist in mitigating the financial impacts of interpersonal violence through the UCSB Sexual Violence Survivor Fund.

Food Not Bombs: This organization collects fresh produce and other donations, and each week cooks a free vegan meal in Little Acorn Park at 5 p.m. for anyone who is hungry. More information can be found on their Facebook page.

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Pronouns

Continued from p.1

"UCSB – and this is [applicable to] a lot of topics – worries that they will do something and then later the Office of the President will come and say 'Well, we want you to do it differently,' and so that will require us to do a lot of extra work to change what we've already been doing to respond to what the Office of the President wants," Leets said.

UCSB intentionally modeled the pronoun options after UCSF's systems, Leets said, with the idea that if the UC Office of the President (UCOP) decides to start collecting this data, UCOP can recommend that other schools follow UCSB and UCSF's methods.

While this implementation is a victory for the RCSGD, Leets said it was only the first step in making the university more inclusive for everyone.

The pronoun functionality is only currently available for students, but the ultimate goal is to allow people to choose pronouns through the Campus Directory rather than G.O.L.D., he added, which would allow for staff and faculty members to also indicate their pronouns.

Currently, all UCSB students, staff and employees can indicate their preferred name on the directory; Leets said the center is still working out whether or not pronouns will be publicly available or just visible to people affiliated with UCSB, noting that there may be students who would be opposed to having their pronouns publicly available.

"Eventually, we would want this data to be as accessible as someone's name, because names and

pronouns are used all the time, by everyone," he said. "However, as we're still exploring the impacts on campus for having access to people's pronouns, we'll have to decide if everything's going super well and we can release it in a public way."

The next big date for pronoun functionality is Sept. 19, when GauchoSpace will update to include pronouns. Leets added that said the center will have a meeting in mid-October to discuss the timeline for transitioning pronoun functionality to the Campus Directory, but noted that it would be at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year at the earliest.

The RCSGD also plans to use the upcoming International Pronouns Day on Oct. 16 as a way to spread the word about the pronoun functionality, such as through tabling in the Arbor. The center also plans to continue to market it during events throughout the year.

"We're just gonna keep telling people about it — we wanna get all students, and as many students as possible, to indicate their pronouns," Leets said. "That's something that I would really emphasize, is that it's for all students... It's not just for trans and nonbinary students. Those students might be the most impacted, hopefully positively by this new functionality."

"We want all students to indicate what their pronouns are to reduce the amount of assuming we do for other people's pronouns, because we can be wrong when we make those assumptions."

Foot Patrol to Launch Restorative Justice Program Offering Alternative Punishment for Ordinance Violators

Evelyn Spence Lead News Editor

Just four months after the launch of the Isla Vista Party Registration Program, the Isla Vista Foot Patrol will unveil another program aimed at creating a "bridge between law enforcement and the community" – this time focusing on alternate disciplinary methods for students who violate local drinking and noise ordinances.

The program, named the Isla Vista Foot Patrol Restorative Justice Program, is set to launch around the weekend of Sept. 20, in time for UC Santa Barbara's move-in weekend, Foot Patrol Lieutenant Juan Camarena announced during an I.V. Community Services District (I.V. CSD) meeting on Aug. 13.

"Restorative justice is an approach to justice that... identifies the harm that is done, how can that harm be repaired and who is responsible," Camarena said, adding that the purpose of such a program is to "strengthen ties between law enforcement and the community they serve."

An Isla Vista resident who violates specific Santa Barbara County ordinances – ordinance 36-2: consuming alcohol in public; 36-3: having an open container or 40-2: playing loud music outside of curfew hours – will now have the option of attending a two-hour educational workshop and completing four hours of community service instead of paying a fine. Violating these ordinances can cost a maximum of \$100 for first violation, \$200 for the second violation and \$500 for each additional violation that occurs within that same year, Camarena explained.

Foot Patrol Community Resource Deputy Justin Schroeder added that there are additional court processing and court security fees that can add anywhere from \$40 to \$100 to the initial fine.

In the workshops, individuals will be educated about the section they violated, how that violation affected the community around them and why the ordinance was created in the first place.

The workshops will be operated by the sheriff's office, the I.V. CSD, UCSB student organizations and long-term I.V. residents, Camarena said. The program also hopes to also partner with Santa Barbara City College to hold the workshops, as many students who attend the city college also choose to live in I.V., he added.

Additionally, if residents choose the workshop and community service route, the violation won't appear on their permanent record, Camarena said.

"[We want] education of the actual violation," Camarena said, citing the loud music ordinance that prohibits amplified music past midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. "[The program] would go into more details of [what it means] to disturb someone's peace."

He also stated there would be an attempt on law enforcement's part to reach out to the offenders and to ask feedback questions during the workshops, such as "How can we solve this problem that we have here? What things can we share with the community to prevent these types of violations?"

For the community service branch of the program, offenders will primarily work with the I.V. Recreation and Park District and the I.V. CSD.

"[The program] will educate the offenders of the consequences of their actions... I believe it will build trust and legitimacy in policing, it will give [law enforcement] an opportunity to reach out to the community and for the community to really understand law enforcement," Camarena said.

"It's not just us versus them."

The I.V. CSD endorsed the program at its Aug. 27 meeting, with Board President Spencer Brandt welcoming the attempt at offering alternative punishments for violations.

"Education is always gonna go so much further than a slap-on-the-wrist approach," Brandt said.

Eight International UCSB Students Unable To Begin Fall Quarter Amidst Visa Difficulties

Sanya Kamidi Asst. News Editor

Eight UC Santa Barbara international students will not be able to enter the country in time for the beginning of Fall Quarter 2019 due to federal restrictions on visa applications – eight of what seems to be dozens of international college

are from China. University spokesperson Andrea Estrada said she was unable to provide names and class standings. Singh said that OISS

singh said that OISS works with students to ensure they are



continuing student." Returning students who were denied entry to the United States were referred to an immigration attorney. UCSB and the UC Education Abroad UCSB admitted 5,925 international freshman students and 1,539 international transfer students in 2019, marking 21.4% and 16.3% of the respective admitted student pools. The university will not have finalized data on the number of new students attending until later this year.

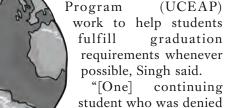
Across the country, international college students have had their visas denied or delayed

students across the country.

Simran Singh, director of the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), said over email that the students have been unable to get visas "either because they have been denied or because they are delayed by 'administrative processing," or because they have been "denied entry to the United States and have been turned away at the border."

According to Singh, two of the students are from Iran, one is from Turkey and the other five

aware of the various immigration policies and requirements. Once a student's visa application has been denied however, the office cannot do much to advocate for them except "provide them with verification of enrollment and continued good standing if they are a



entry into the U.S. was able to enroll in UCEAP and attend classes in another country," Singh said. and have been unable to start school on time. In one of the most high profile cases of the summer, an incoming freshman at Harvard University was deported after arriving in the United States, the Harvard Crimson first reported. The student, Ismail B. Ajjawi, was later allowed to enter the country just in time for classes to begin, the Crimson reported.

At the end of the day, "the university has little influence over Federal immigration operations," Singh said.



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5

A Look Inside UCSB's Blockchain Community

Max Abrams Asst. News Editor

For college students looking to learn more about blockchain - more commonly known as the technology supporting cryptocurrency – finding the right resources can be tricky. Because most universities don't offer accredited classes taught by professors, students often resort to teaching each other - such as at UC Santa Barbara, where over 650 students are actively learning and teaching each other about blockchain through a club known as Blockchain at UCSB.

One of the largest organizations on campus, the dynamic of Blockchain at UCSB is similar to most other clubs. Students gather to read papers published in the blockchain field, host invited speakers, attend studentproduced lectures and travel to blockchain-related conferences, according to Piergiacomo Palmisani, the club's incoming president and a graduate student in the Technology Management Program.

"There's a lot of people that are interested in learning but are not willing to learn [everything] by themselves. That's why Blockchain at UCSB exists. We can provide a quality education by teaching [students] all the essentials of this technology," Palmisani said.

While a passion for technology is common among all members, reasons

for joining the club vary. Some see it as a place where students "can potentially meet their new employers" while others have project ideas and aspirations that could be funded through connections made in the club, Palmisani said.

In one instance, Palmisani said Blockchain at UCSB connected a project called Reward Stream, designed by third-year computer science major Max Colbert, to investors. Colbert went on to receive \$50,000 for the startup after Blockchain at UCSB helped put his project on the map.

The one aspect of blockchain that the club will not support, Palmisani said, is cryptocurrency trading itself. The instant gratification and "quick return" of digital currency is alluring to many, he said, but students in search of investment advice will

not find it here.

Instead, the club is focused mainly on "legitimizing" blockchain's other uses - supply chains, data sharing and property ownership by drawing more recognition to the industry in hopes of spurring accredited classes down the line, according to Cameron Dennis '18, co-founder of Blockchain at UCSB.

By establishing accredited classes in universities, blockchain may reach those who never knew they had an interest in the technology, Dennis said.

In doing so, the "talent pipeline" for blockchain professions would have more room to grow, related endeavors through a new initiative launched by a venture capital-backed investment firm called MouseBelt. In August, MouseBelt University, a branch of the firm dedicated to investing in higher education, announced its plans to support UCSB, UC Los Angeles and UC Davis through an "accelerator program," which entails two planned \$500,000 investments for student projects and research funding to be split among the three schools.

According to Ashlie Meredith, university program developer at MouseBelt, UCSB will additionally be receiving a donation to the engineering department and the potential for student project funding in

of those investments."

While Dennis and Palmisani are both encouraged by MouseBelt's interest in supporting blockchainrelated endeavors at UCSB, and specifically the prospect of student entrepreneurs earning funding, they said there is still work to be done.

Palmisani finds that more universities nationwide need to be supportive of an atmosphere where the prospect of educating students about blockchain can become a reality. While investments from venture capital companies are a good sign for UCSB, those opportunities aren't extended to every school, he added.

> What does work, Dennis said, is teaching students in a "grassroots" style.

> "I go to conferences and I understand what's happening because I listen to these lectures or presentations. When I'm at a conference, I'll summarize all the points that seem most important and give a presentation on those points," he said.

> By taking home what he learned from conferences, Dennis said he enabled students to keep up with current developments in the professional sphere by teaching them what he learned. For now, Palmisani

Courtesy of Blockchain at UCSB

said he is looking forward to the

BLOCKCHAIN AT UCSB

> providing employment opportunities at Fortune 500 companies such as Microsoft, IBM and Oracle, which are already investing in the technology, he added.

> Dennis and Palmisani see the blockchain community as a halfway mark between a club and a classroom, thus bridging the gap between the two.

Paramount to Blockchain at UCSB's achievements is its success in establishing an accredited class dedicated to the technology, Dennis said. This coming fall, the College of Creative Studies will be offering a class about "blockchain development" which students can take for credit - a first at UCSB. "This class is fulfilling the original mission of

what we're trying to do," Dennis said.

UCSB will also be receiving support for blockchain-

exchange for equity.

Meredith said UCSB was one of 13 universities that MouseBelt initially worked with on student projects in the past, which made finding a home for the accelerator program easier because the club's success was already on MouseBelt's radar.

"I engaged in an exploratory effort to talk to as many student organizations as I could in the U.S. and Canada to get the temperature of blockchain at universities, what was going on, who had classes and how established these clubs were," she said.

"[Blockchain at UCSB] had a lot of partnerships with other organizations, even in Mexico with Blockchain UNAM. They've had multiple companies incubate and bring their ideas for potential funding. Even one of our portfolio companies came from one

upcoming year working with Blockchain at UCSB. Already included on the list of speakers the club will be bringing to campus is Julian Wheatland, former Chief Operating Officer of Cambridge Analytica, which was embroiled in scandal in early 2018 after millions of users' information was harvested without consent.

With invited speakers, conventions, hackathons and lectures, Palmisani said he embraces the work that needs to be done, despite the heavy load. But it wouldn't be possible without an affinity for blockchain, his driving force for running the club.

"You've got to have a lot of passion, otherwise I wouldn't be doing this. I would just play soccer - my other passion - but I'm not as good as a professional player," he said.

Formerly Incarcerated Student Wants To Make A "Blueprint" For Others To Pursue Higher Education

Max Abrams Asst. News Editor

Three months before he was set to be a free man, the idea of life on the outside had Ryan Flaco Rising up to his neck in stress. After losing nearly half his life to the prison system, his outlook felt bleak except for his hopes of going to college. He already had nearly a year's worth of credits thanks to a newfound passion for learning he discovered while in prison.

Rising - now two months into his time at UC Santa Barbara as a third-year comparative literature and interdisciplinary major - heard about a program called Berkeley Underground Scholars (BUS) shortly before his release, which helps formerly incarcerated individuals attain college degrees. Eager to learn more, he called Danny Murillo, co-founder of BUS, off of a contraband cell phone, who assured him there was hope after prison through education.

Upon release from prison, Rising became houseless, but BUS had not forgotten about him. Members of BUS flew to meet Rising in San Diego, where he was living after prison, to convince him to enroll in San Diego Community College and start his own chapter of Underground Scholars there, but multiple hurdles sent Rising on a detour.

Rising curbed his drug use after taking a class in prison on the pharmacology of drug abuse, but he was still admitted to rehab after leaving prison. He soon left, walking away from an offer to work at the facility so that he could go to school.

But upon arrival, Rising instantly felt out of place. While in class, the insecurities of his "tatted up" appearance and his age – a decade older than most - spiraled him into dejection.

"I wanted to quit. I didn't feel like I belonged. So I called Martin [Vela-Sanchez] up at Berkeley Underground Scholars and he goes 'Flaco, just do 90 days [at the college]. Do 90 days and shake as many hands as you can and you're going to see that people were there that went through the same exact thing you did," Rising said.

"Three years later, I'm getting my associate's degree, the first person in my whole entire family to get an associate's degree, to get any college degree at that."

While in community college, Rising learned to embrace his differences and founded the Urban Scholars Union, a support group for formerly incar-

cerated students. But two years wasn't much time, Rising said, and following graduation, he was looking to establish something bigger: "I beat prison and I used school as a platform to end the cycle of recidivism, I found a way out."

With an associate's degree under his belt, Rising began scouting universities to continue his education. He had applied to four UC schools - UC Irvine, UC Los Angeles, UC Santa Barbara and UC Berkeley - along with the University of San Diego and was accepted to all of them.

After visiting UCSB, Rising was sold – in part, he said, because there was no Underground Scholars program here. He felt a calling to carve out a program from scratch, despite everyone at UC Berkeley that was "waiting for [him]."

"Berkeley has Berkeley Underground Scholars, UC Irvine has UC Irvine Underground Scholars, UCLA has UCLA Underground Scholars, UC Santa Barbara has nothing and neither did USD," Rising said.

He hopes to make his own mark on the campus with the creation of such a program, one that would be the first of its kind at UCSB. Operating like most others within the UC system, UCSB Underground Scholars will support students released from prison in an effort to guide them through their educational experience and walk away with a degree.

"I have been trained by my mentors - the other students who have come before me - who paved the way so there's a blueprint that can be implemented to actually help other formerly incarcerated individuals," Rising said.

"So I came [to UCSB] with this blueprint in hand, like 'Hey look, there's a bunch of formerly incarcerated students that are going to get out with their associate's degrees and they're going to have their 60 units credits and they're going to be wanting to come here.' What are we going to do to prepare to receive them?"

Rising said he is currently working with the Office of Admissions, the Educational Opportunity Program, the Transfer Student Initiative, Assistant Vice Chancellor Katya Armistead and other Underground Scholar programs, in addition to seeking out a space on campus to house the initiative.

Although still in its early stages, Rising already sees the potential of having a space for formerly incarcerated students on campus. By extending a hand to someone who could use help in school, like

Rising himself, he said the initiative is a way to break the tumultuous cycle of the prison system, where many individuals often end up back behind bars because they never had the opportunity to pursue higher education.

"From correctional facilities to college, we're focused on helping people come back out and reenter through the college system because we're set up from the gate, we're set up to fail by probation and parole," Rising said.

"We got all these stipulations that are thrown on us. They put us in these re-entry homes that are in the ghettos with drug dealers and drugs around them. And they know that we're gonna fail and they know that we're gonna recidivate right back in."

Rising embraces his past, not only to use it as fuel for his ambitions, but also to show people like him that a life outside of prison is completely possible.

"I'm promoting college and I dub it as being a 'gangsta nerd.' I'm still that gang member. I still represent East LA, but I represent it in a new way,"

he said.

To Rising, two million incarcerated individuals in America is too high of a number for the country "that celebrates freedom the most." His solution extends beyond UCSB, where he hopes to see more unity in communities that are hurt the most by crime and incarceration. Oftentimes, he said, it's the absence of a legacy to aspire to that sends people to prison.

For Rising, it's the prospect of leaving a legacy for his children that motivates him to continue helping formerly incarcerated students as an advocate for education.

"My children have been through a lot, their dad hasn't always been there, I've been incarcerated," Rising said.

"But now, my daughter wants to go to college," Rising said. "My son, he wants to be an author."

"I'm building a legacy for them to follow." Sanya Kamidi contributed reporting.



Max Abrams / DAILY NEXUS

Rising wants to show others that the possibility of a college degree is attainable, even after prison.

Armchair QB

6



Spencer Ault

Staff Writer

Lakers star Lebron James recently attempted and failed to trademark the phrase "Taco Tuesday." Just what LA needed... another transplant trying to gentrify the city

are freshmen.

The season is still less than two weeks old, but this year's UCSB men's water polo team is off to one of its best starts in program history. With four games this weekend, including games against No. 6 Pepperdine and No. 1 Stanford, the Gauchos have a chance to stake a claim on the best start outright.

A 9-0 start to the season and wins over then-No. 4 Cal and then-No. 1 USC have propelled UCSB into a tie for the No. 2 ranking with UCLA.

It's the first time the Gauchos have been ranked No. 2 since October 2012, and the 9-0 mark is tied for the best record to start the season since 1988.

The Gauchos will get their chance to break the record on Thursday afternoon, when they host Ottawa University - Arizona. The Ottawa squad is 1-7 so far this year, including a 16-5 loss to the University of Redlands. UCSB crushed Redlands 18-4 this past Saturday, providing an indication of how Thursday's match might go.

Ottawa gets much of its scoring from freshman utility Shaine Sargis, who tallied four goals and four assists in their most recent match. Zackery Whiddon serves as the team's 6'6" freshman goalkeeper and has had an up-and-down go of it so far this season.

The Arizona branch of Ottawa University opened in 2017 as an offshoot of the main campus in Ottawa, Kansas. As a result, the Spirit team is quite young: all but four of the team's players

facing a tall task on Thursday. The trick for UCSB will be to avoid seeing the game as a simple warm up to the main event, a 5 p.m. game that same day against Pepperdine.

No. 2 Men's Water Polo Aiming For Best Start in Program History

One of the Gauchos' foremost rivals, the Waves are 8-1 on the season. UCSB provided the one blemish with an 11-5 victory over Pepperdine at the Triton Invitational.

Pepperdine has bounced back, however, taking down No. 9 Long Beach State, No. 11 UC San Diego, No. 14 Loyola Marymount and No. 19 California Baptist since then.

Sophomore attacker Balazs Kosa has provided the main force behind the Waves' attack with a team-leading 25 goals and 15 assists

The Gauchos held Kosa scoreless in the first meeting, but Kosa put on a show last weekend at the Inland Empire Classic, scoring eight goals in three games on Sunday alone.

If UCSB is able to silence Kosa again, or at least muffle him, the Gauchos stand a good chance of a repeat verdict and another powerful statement in early season Golden Coast Conference play.

Another win over Pepperdine would be one more strong point on UCSB's growing resume, but the real opportunity comes Friday, when the Gauchos travel to Palo Alto to take on Stanford, the number one team in the nation.

The Cardinal are 5-0 so far this year with wins over two ranked teams: No. 12 Princeton and No. 18 San Jose State. No team has finished within 10 points of Stanford so far.

Stanford has two 2018 first-team All-Americans, redshirt junior Those freshmen, and their four elder counterparts, will be two-meter Ben Hallock and senior driver Bennett Williams, returning to this year's team; both have excelled so far this season.

> The goalkeeper position is a bit more tumultuous, with third-team All-American Oliver Lewis now graduated, but the Cardinal have rotated between senior Andrew Chun and sophomore George Hagestad so far to solid results.

> UCSB will look to take advantage of the turnover in goal to become the first team not only to crack the 10-point firewall, but to pull off the upset. The Gauchos last defeated Stanford in 2016, but the team has broken longer losing streaks already this season

> The Gauchos cap off their weekend with a rematch against Fresno Pacific at Campus Pool on Saturday. The two teams met last Saturday at the Inland Empire Classic, where UCSB trounced Fresno 25-5.

> With just a week between the two matches, it's unlikely that this Saturday's result will be much different.

> The Gauchos maintained a consistent and scorching barrage on the Sunbirds' goal the first time around, scoring seven times in the first quarter and nine times in the fourth.

> Fans should expect more of the same at Campus Pool this weekend.

> It's a proper gauntlet run of a week for the Gauchos, complete with a warm up and a cooldown. Should the team make it through unscathed, or at least unembarrassed, they'll have made history and continued perhaps the hottest start in program history.



The UCSB men's tennis team will kick off exhibition play this weekend at the Battle of the Bay tournament in San Francisco.

Sports

SP()R'I'S

Gauchos Look To Get Back On Track, Face Fresno St. and LMU

Kunal Mehta Staff Writer

The UCSB women's soccer team, 1-2-3 on the year, is back in action this week as the squad takes on Fresno State at home this Friday and Loyola Marymount on Sunday in LA.

After a disappointing past week, Santa Barbara will look to get back on track by creating more opportunities on the counterattack where the squad has struggled as of late.

Fresno State has been extremely impressive this season as the team has an overall record of 3-1-1 thus far.

In their most recent matchup against Weber State, the Bulldogs dominated with a 2-0 victory.

Sophomore midfielder Mariona Segales and redshirt junior Emma Chivers lead the way offensively for Fresno State with two goals each. On the defensive side of the ball, freshman goalkeeper Milena Zink has accumulated 10 saves already on the season with a save percentage of 83.3%.

In order for UCSB to have success against Fresno State, it will be important for the 'Chos to pressure the bulldog midfielders into turning the ball over on their side of the pitch. This will allow Santa Barbara to find more opportunities for transition offensive attacks against a very talented bulldog team.

Loyola Marymount has struggled mightily this season as their current record is 0-5-2 – the team is on a two-game losing streak as well.

The Lions lost to No. 13 Washington State in Pullman this past Sunday as the team was unable to score an equalizer. Junior midfielder Maki Kono had the only goal of the night for Loyola Marymount and is currently the team's leading goal scorer.

Santa Barbara will need to be on their top game against the Lions who are much more talented than their record would indicate.

The Gauchos will need to find ways to win close games,

especially with the team already having three ties thus far.

That being said, the squad is extremely young and is still trying to find their identity as a team. With more game experience, not only will the chemistry increase but so will the confidence of the team.

One of the issues that Santa Barbara has faced primarily has been the inability to create opportunities to score.

Senior forward Shaelan Murison seems to be one of the few players on the roster who can consistently find the back of the net but has now been taken out of the game as opposing teams have double teamed her inside the box.

In order for UCSB to contend for the Big West title this year, another forward must emerge as a consistent goal scorer.

Sophomore forward Jessica Wright seems to be the most likely candidate to step up for the 'Chos as she has two goals already this season.

If more players start to score for the Gauchos, this will inevitably free up Murison for her own opportunities to find the back of the net.

Defensively, the Gauchos have been strong as the team has produced three clean sheets and has given up an average of only one goal per game.

Much of this can be attributed to the strong play in front of the goal by senior goalkeeper Hanna DeWeese. DeWeese has looked confident in front of the goal, leading to her save percentage of 80%.

The senior was just selected as the Big West Defensive Player of the Week, a fitting reward for a week which saw her give up a stingy .9 goals per game to go along with a .846 save percentage on average.

Moreover, UCSB's defenders have been formidable as well as opposing offensive players have struggled to get past them.

UCSB will face Fresno State at home this upcoming Friday at 7 p.m and Loyola Marymount on Sunday at 1 p.m, where the Gauchos will try to get back in the win column at Harder.



SIAVASH GHADIRI / DAILY NEXUS



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Sophomore setter Olivia Lovenberg sets up a teammate for a kill. Lovenberg leads the UCSB women's volleyball team with 239 assists on the season so far, a whopping 43 assists ahead of second place.

Omar Hernandez Sports Editor Nick DiPierro Staff Writer

The UCSB women's volleyball team swept UCLA and is now set to host Pepperdine this week fresh off a three-game sweep at the Thunderdome Classic.

The Gauchos finished with a 3-0 record overall this past weekend and suffered just two set losses, one to San Diego and the other to Harvard.

A dominant showing by UCSB's junior middle blocker Rowan Ennis was enough to earn her Big West Defensive Player of the Week honors. Ennis finished the weekend with 30 kills, 22 blocks and 11 digs while hitting .423.

A monstrous .650 hitting percentage and 13 kills easily put away Harvard in the last game of the tournament.

UCLA came to town Wednesday night to take on UCSB on Gauchos Give night.

The Bruins were coming off a 0-3 loss at Hawai'i and looking to get back on track before they face their infamous rival USC next Wednesday.

Despite their 5-3 record overall coming into this matchup, UCLA had previously won five straight games thanks to junior Mac May and her 112 kills.

The Bruins continue to be one of the few teams nationwide to have only played three sets each game, but the Gauchos were able to turn the tables in this matchup with a dominating performance that led to their first victory over UCLA since 1998.

UCSB ended up sweeping the Bruins (25-16, 25-16, 28-26), finishing with a season high in kill percentage (.394) and a season low number of errors (nine).

Lindsey Ruddins was yet again the most dominant player on the court.

The senior outside hitter posted a monstrous 17 kills which led both teams and was also the leader in total points with 19.

Ruddins has been on a tear to kick off her senior year, landing in the top-30 nationwide in both points per set and kills per set so far.

While her individual success is almost expected at this point, the way that the team has produced around her is what has really been special so far.

"I'm so excited for this team and for the future of this program," Ruddins said postgame. " I think that everyone is super dialed in to play their best, and just going out and taking it to these [top-ranked] teams."

Ruddins' performance was not even the most intriguing storyline of the night for the Gauchos however.

That distinction belonged to freshman outside hitter Tallulah Froley.

The Half Moon Bay native had a career night, posting her career high in kills (15) and coming through for the team when they needed it the most.

Froley closed out the first and last sets with crucial kills that guaranteed the win for UCSB, and posted an extremely efficient .667 kill percentage which she made sure to point out was partially a result of the great sets she received from her teammates.

"I honestly think if I'm in the mindset of 'just go out there and kill it,' I'll hopefully get [kills]," she explained. "[Setter] Olivia Lovenberg just gave me perfect opportunities and it was just fun to put away the ball."

The Gauchos were actually down to setpoint in the last set, trailing by a score of 21-24, before roaring back to claim the set 28-26 and finish off the historic sweep.

"We've had our backs against the wall a few times this season, even in five set matches, and that's been good practice for us because we found ways to preservere," Coach Welch pointed out postgame. "And it happened again tonight in a bigger moment."

Looking ahead, 4-6 Pepperdine come to town Friday night coming off four straight losses and will be looking to right the ship before it's too late.

UCSB has the upper hand in almost every major category, but it is the ability for teams to win the games they need to win that defines their mentality.

A win over the Waves is a must if this team is to compete with 9-0 Hawai'i and stave off 7-2 Fullerton.

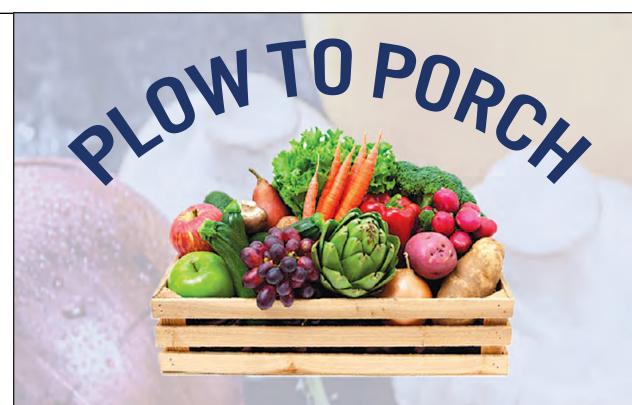
UCSB's seven-match win streak now puts them into a tie for the 12th best record in the nation and is their best start since 2002.

After a season that saw individual efforts win some games, the Gauchos have surged up the standings 10 games in and have proven to be cold-blooded killers.

With a 28-9 set record thus far, UCSB has excelled at punishing opponents early and keeping the pressure on.

The upcoming match against Pepperdine will kick off at 6 p.m. on Friday night at the Thunderdome.

UCSB Men's Soccer Hopes To Build Positive Momentum, Hosts Seattle U



Omar Hernandez Sports Editor

Fresh off a 2-0 road trip, the UCSB men's soccer team is set to return to Harder Stadium Thursday night to take on the Seattle University Redhawks. The Gauchos are 3-2 after having taken down Gonzaga and Oregon State in their last two games, while the Redhawks own a very symmetrical 2-2-2 record to kick off the season.

UCSB is coming into this matchup looking to continue to build positive momentum with a tough final slate of non-conference games looming at the end of the month.

The biggest question for the Gauchos so far has been the presence, or lack thereof, of their defensive players.

Early injuries to senior defender Faouzi Taieb and freshman Lucas Gonzalez, along with Hunter Ashworth and Noah Billingsley being called up to play for the New Zealand U-23 squad, left the team with a depleted backline to start off the year.

While there is no official return date for Taieb or Gonzalez (who seemed to have the more serious injury of the two), both Billingsley and Ashworth returned last weekend and have already made a world of difference.

UCSB conceded six goals in two losses prior to their return; since they have been back, they have scored four goals while conceding only one with two wins.

The Kiwis' sturdy defensive presence allows players in the middle like Sahid Conteh and Thibault Candia to have more of an attacking mindset instead of having to worry about supporting in the back third. Their ability to push the ball up has helped create space for the wingers and forwards as well.

Seattle University has had a textbook roller coaster start to the season.

The Redhawks have notched impressive wins against USF, who they handily defeated 5-0, and the University of Portland.

Their .500 record is slightly deceiving however, as both losses were to quality teams (No. 16 Notre Dame and No. 12 University of Washington) and they tied one of the best teams in the country in No. 4 Indiana University.

The team is led by redshirt junior forward Noe Meza, who has been a scoring phenom to start this season off. The Washington native leads both the team and the Western Athletic Conference in goals (four), and is also fourth in the conference in shots.

well (eight) and is not new to the Seattle U/ UCSB rivalry. He scored the pivotal goal in their 2-0 win over the Gauchos last year and will certainly be on the hunt for another against this season against the depleted SB backline.

One of the key facets of this game might actually not even have anything to do with the players themselves, but rather where the game is being played.

The Redhawks still haven't picked up a win on the road this year, losing their only away game and tying their only game on neutral ground. UCSB is trying to get Harder Stadium back to the fortress it was last season, when they posted an undefeated 9-0-1 record, but early injuries hindered them in their two latest home matchups against UC Berkeley and No.17 Virginia Tech.

The crowd might not be as large as this movein weekend when the team takes on University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), but if enough students are back to kick off the quarter then it could be one of the deciding factors.

The Gauchos will have their work cut out for them on the defensive end but their offense will determine how well they can compete against a high-powered Seattle squad.

Goalscoring has been by committee so far this year, with six different players scoring so far and no player scoring more than once.

One notable absence from the stat sheets this season has been star forward Rodney Micheal, who led the team in scoring last season but has yet to notch a goal so far this year.

Whether defense has been honing in on him more or it's just a personal slump, Micheal has not been the attacking force that the team is going to need to have a successful year.

Watch for him to try to take advantage of a Redhawk defense that just gave up three goals in their last game.

This game might not count towards UCSB's conference record, which will ultimately determine the team's chance at making it to the NCAA Tournament, but the Gauchos need to get some positive momentum as Big West play approaches. With a matchup against powerhouse

No. 2 Stanford drawing nearer, this game will be a good test to see how close this squad is to being able to compete against the top teams in the country.

UCSB versus Seattle U kicks off at 7 p.m Thursday night at Harder Stadium here on campus.

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ARTSWEEK Artsweek Ranks This Summer's Blockbusters



Kristina Valencia Artsweek Editor

Check out this list for the best and worst movies to come out of summer 2019!

1. "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" Although director Quentin Tarantino faced some serious criticism for the infamous Bruce Lee scene, "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" stands as one of the most original films to come

out of 2019. With this movie, we get to watch

how old you are.

4. "Child's Play"

While I absolutely despise this recent rise in reboots and remakes, I felt this new version of "Child's Play" held some kind of originality by altering the origin story of Chucky and thus changing the personality of this iconic horror character. Rather than just repeating the exact same story in the boring and overly-CGI fashion that most reboots tend to do, director Lars Klevberg instead gave horror fans an alternative version of the beloved Chucky doll. When compared to the original 1988 classic, this 2019 Chucky has a much more friendly approach to his murderous activities. Chucky simply just wants to be best friends with his child owner, and is willing to take out anyone who gets in the way of this mission. Although this version of "Child's Play" is playing off of the success of the original franchise, I can at least admire the creativity that went into changing the essence of Chucky, both in terms of personality and looks. Plus, who doesn't want to see a horror movie with Aubrey Plaza in it?

with a very lame and unfulfilling ending.

7. "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark"

As someone who grew up reading the iconic "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" books, the film adaptation left little to be desired. This film follows a group of kids who venture into a haunted house and find a book in which the scary stories seemingly write themselves, and soon, everything that's written in the book happens in real life. Along the way, we see iconic characters like Harold the Scarecrow terrorize the kids until

Kristina Valencia / DAILY NEXUS

eventually the movie runs out of characters and the movie ends. There were some genuinely scary parts of the movie that made it hard to not look away from the screen, but the CGI, generic dialogue and ineffective jump scares greatly tarnished the quality of the original "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" books and of the film at hand.

8. "The Lion King"

Disney, just please for the love of god, stop rebooting everything. Thanks.

Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio) make his big comeback in Hollywood stardom after struggling to find decent work as an aging, one-dimensional actor. Intermingled with this fictional narrative is the appearance of actress Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie), whose brutal murder history gets rewritten in a satisfying yet extremely violent way. While Tarantino weaves in lots of true, historical moments in the film, "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" is ultimately an exaggerated, daydream version of an idealized 1960s Hollywood; one in which second chances are given and justice is served to those who deserve it.

2. "Spider-Man: Far From Home"

First off: thank goodness this movie was filmed before the whole Sony and Disney debacle. While Marvel superhero movies can often feel cheesy and unoriginal, "Spider-Man: Far From Home" presented audiences with just the perfect amount of cheese, a brilliant cast and a crazy nail-biting twist ending that no one saw coming. As Peter Parker (Tom Holland) decides to take a break from his superhero duties and enjoy his school trip abroad to Europe, he befriends Mysterio (Jake Gyllenhaal) and finds himself, you guessed it, fighting crime once again in his Spider-Man suit. Besides Holland and Gyllenhaal, Zendaya also shone bright in this film as her character, Mary Jane, finally got more screen time and even helped Spider-Man discover who the villain was. Overall, "Spider-Man: Far From Home" is one of the few superhero movies to come out this year that I'm confident any person could enjoy.

3. "Toy Story 4"

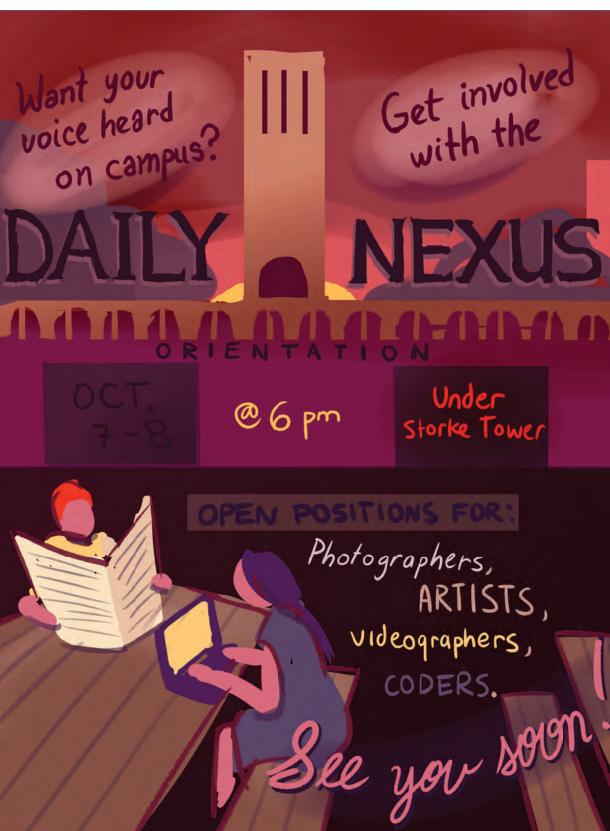
Was this movie necessary? No. Was this movie fun to watch and enough to satisfy your nostalgic need to cling onto iconic childhood characters? Yes. "Toy Story 4" captures another toy adventure sans Andy and reunites Woody with his love interest, Bo Peep – it's that simple. Unlike "Toy Story 3," the villain here turns out to be quite redeemable and even gets her own happilyever-after ending. There's not much to say about this movie, much like "Toy Story 3," as it doesn't measure up to the first two in the Toy Story film franchise but is still entertaining to watch. At this point, the Toy Story legacy has nothing new or special to offer its original audience besides these sequels that seem to do nothing but remind you

5. "Avengers: Endgame"

For a movie that's three hours long and filled with so many beloved characters, I just expected to leave the theater feeling more impressed, which is why "Avengers: Endgame" is so low on this list. In the crossover of the century, "Avengers: Endgame" shows all our favorite Marvel heroes working together at a second chance of defeating Thanos through a confusing use of time travel. Overall, this movie seemed to fail in its own inconsistencies and overly-cheesy moments. Why does Iron Man get a whole funeral and Black Widow doesn't? What does that mean for the past Captain America films if he has gone back in time to be with his love interest in the 1940s? Can snapping with the glove do anything you want or is it limited to just eliminating/un-eliminating 50% of all living beings on Earth? Could I read the comic books or online forums to get these answers? Maybe, but I won't because the film should have handled these questions itself.

6. "IT Chapter Two"

"IT Chapter Two" was one of my most anticipated films of 2019, however it turned out to be a major bust. This sequel takes us back to Derry after 27 years have passed where Pennywise has risen once again to wreak havoc. After an unnecessarily brutal opening to the movie, we see the kids of the Losers Club all grown up, living their separate lives all far apart from each other. Soon, the film seems to turn into a regurgitation of the first movie once everyone is reunited and is working together to take down Pennywise (again). The casting and acting of each character was amazing (probably the best part of the movie overall), but the film itself felt like nothing more than a compilation of flashbacks to the first film, finished off



9

NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

School To Start Soon

Emma Demorest Nexustentialism Editor

That's it. That's the joke.

This is the longest article Emma Demorest has ever written.





How To Fit In During Your First Year At UCSB

Annie Pepper Staff Writer

Settling in at any college can be difficult, but it can be even more difficult at UCSB because we're generally just better, and also hotter and cooler. Don't be intimidated though! Below are five of the most useful tips to fitting in, making an impression and adjusting to your new Gaucho lifestyle.

Buy the longest UCSB lanyard possible

At UCSB everyone knows that the best people are the people with lanyards. A lanyard around your neck invokes ideas of maturity and preparedness and also just looks really hot. To use this accessory to its potential, it's vitally important to put as many goddamn things on it as possible. Attaching your student ID, driver's license, passport and upward of six variations of pepper spray are the only way to really get your money's worth.

Get the perfect bike

What is the perfect bike? It's one with bright, obtrusive colors (think a neon pink, or a yellow beyond your wildest dreams), and a seat so big it can fit two asses. Science tells us the perfect bike must have a cup holder, for all those drinks you always have, and little tassels that blow in the wind as you pedal that metal monstrosity up the unforgiving Pardall hill.

Be Seen at the Ice Cream Social

Anyone who's anyone goes to the first year Ice Cream Social, and it's actually so fun and worth everyone's time. Here at the *Daily Nexus*, we recommend dressing in your Gaucho finery – the sweatshirt your parents bought you for \$85.99 at the bookstore, or the freshman swag shirt they will give you at the Thunderdome, which is always a really inconspicuous color (ex. bright yellow,

neon blue). Part of the joke, of course, is that there never actually is ice cream at the Ice Cream Social, but there are some freezer-burned popsicles from last year that will quickly run out. This is considered a local delicacy and it is culturally rude not to at least try to eat one.

Use every hashtag

In all of the six photos you will post to Instagram in the first week of college to prove to everyone you're making friends (even though you're super uncomfy the whole time), it's crucial to include some of UCSB's most coveted hashtags. These include #IVliving, #Gauchos, #oleoleole. If you have the time, it's also in your best interest to post a photo of Campus Point on Snapchat with the caption "can't believe I go here."

Sing!

Whenever you can and wherever you feel inspired to, it's so important for first years to express themselves through song. Whether it be on the eighth floor of the library or in the middle of the University Center during lunch, the sweet, unencumbered voices of innocent freshmen are more than pleasing for the weathered upperclassmen, as it reminds us of our youth.

Go really really slowly on the bike path

Life moves pretty fast – so take your damned time! Even though people around you might seem like they want you to go fast, they're just kidding around, it's actually an inside joke we all have with each other. When biking slowly, take in the sights, change the song on your Spotify, then change it again! We also recommend biking with a buddy. What better way to settle into your new campus by biking leisurely, side by side, with no room for anyone to get by.

Annie Pepper did all of these things freshman year and that's why she has fabulous skin and the hottest girlfriend.



ON THE MENU Get Hooked on Santa Barbara's Locally Sourced Fishery Program



Winnie Lam On The Menu Editor

Cooking with ingredients like fish, mussels and clams may seem intimidating, but considering that Santa Barbara is one of California's most abundant sources of marine life, it would be a shame if you never took a full dive into incorporating fresh seafood into your diet. Thankfully, the people at Get Hooked Seafood, a community-supported fishery program, are here to help you achieve a healthier and more environmentally friendly diet.

Get Hooked Seafood was founded by Kim Selkoe and Victoria Voss, who formed their team of UCSB alumni to work with local fishermen in order to provide access to local sustainable seafood for the community. They have both had an interest in the ocean throughout their lives and decided that they wanted to take a more practical and educational approach to work with fishermen and restaurants to make choices about their seafood. They have partnered up with the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara and Real Good Fish CSF in Moss Landing to bring

Photo Courtesy of Get Hooked Seafood

fresh seafood to their members at various pick-up locations in the Santa Barbara and Ventura areas.

Get Hooked Seafood wants you to "feel directly connected to your community and your food source," according to Voss. "When you eat our seafood you don't just have a piece of fish on your plate. You know exactly who caught it, the methods used to catch it and information about the species."

What makes Get Hooked Seafood different from simply buying fish at a grocery store or subscribing to meal prep delivery services is that the processing methods as well as the meat itself is more sustainable and healthier for your body. Eating seafood is a small way to make a difference in the environment because it has a smaller carbon footprint than other animal proteins, such as beef or chicken, since fishing wild-caught seafood does not require farmland or taking care of livestock. Get Hooked Seafood also uses significantly less packaging than typical delivery services and grocery stores, as members simply pick up their seafood in one plastic bag from an ice chest at their pick-up locations.



Additionally, traceability is a huge issue in the seafood industry, as opportunities for fraud are increasing and as a result, grocery stores and restaurants may serve fish that is not actually the species that is advertised. Get Hooked Seafood is a solution for that because they collaborate with local fishermen fishing out of the Santa Barbara Channel, so you know that the seafood on your plate is fresh and genuine. Additionally, since the fish is fresh from the coast, it hasn't travelled thousands of miles to get processed overseas, which lessens the environmental impact of the seafood and retains the freshness of the fish. Seafood in a packaged box from grocery stores is usually older and has to be eaten the day after purchase, whereas Get Hooked fish is so fresh that people can cook it days later without compromising the freshness of the meat.

In addition to the environmental benefits of eating seafood, incorporating seafood into your diet is also a quick and easy way to eat healthy. Fish is packed with important nutrients such as vitamin D and omega-3 fatty acids, which are crucial for optimal body and brain function and strongly linked to a reduced risk of many diseases. Fish is also considered one of the most heart-healthy foods, as it is strongly linked to a lower risk of heart disease and strokes. It's important to think about the long-term effects of what you are putting into your body, and Photo Courtesy of Get Hooked Seafood

is difficult to prepare and cook. This is not true at all and this misunderstanding may come from the fact that people are simply unfamiliar with seafood. In reality, cooking with seafood is actually very convenient, as you don't have to marinate it and it can be baked or fried, just like other types of protein. It's also great for those who are short on time. The recipes that Get Hooked Seafood provides on their website for their fish only take 15 minutes at the most, and they've conveniently included a few recipes per species. Additionally, there is a great diversity of options from Get Hooked Seafood. Santa Barbara has the advantage of the cold water climate from the north and the warm water climate from the south, which attracts tropical and cold water species to give a great abundance of seafood types. This allows you to be adventurous by trying new and different seafood varieties, but you can also opt out of some types of seafood if you just want to stick to the basics.

The way Get Hooked Seafood works is that you simply select the quantity of fish you want, choose between whole or filleted fish, pick a weekly or biweekly schedule and then find a pick-up location that is convenient for you. This fall, Get Hooked is coming to Isla Vista to expand their services. Members will be able to pick up their seafood from the Isla Vista Co-op, which makes Get Hooked Seafood a super convenient option for students to eat in a healthy and environmentally friendly way.

seafood definitely has great health benefits.

Despite these great environmental and health benefits, some are often turned off by seafood because they have the misconception that seafood

Get a Taste of the Bold Flavors of Mexico at Los Agaves



Rachel Lee Staff Writer

If you're ever craving some quality Mexican food with a modern twist, Los Agaves is the place for you. After hearing so many of my friends rave about this place, I decided to check it out. I went to their Goleta location right in the Camino Real Marketplace which is perfect for many car-less college students like me since you can just catch the 24x or 27 to take you there.

I really loved the atmosphere of the restaurant, it was a mixture of something comforting but also a little bit fancy. There's an outside patio with more of a modern decor that you walk through to go into the restaurant, but once inside it gives off a more authentic, traditional Mexican feel. At this location you order at the counter, choose your table and your food will then be brought out by the number given to you at the counter. What is nice about the outside patio is that it's in the part of the Camino Real Marketplace where there's a small and informal stage with some type of performance always going on. When my friend and I went, there was a small performer playing so we were able to hear some free music and enjoy the lovely Santa Barbara weather outside along with our meal.

I decided to order the Burrito Mojado with steak, which was their popular wet burrito, as well as the Los Agaves Salad, topped with oranges, mangoes, avocados and their homemade balsamic dressing. As soon as we sat down we were given chips and salsa and just a little while after came the rest of our food. The service was very quick and friendly. The servers there always came around checking if everything was all right with our meal and very attentive whenever we needed something. As for the food, one of my favorite parts of this restaurant was the selfserve salsa and condiments bar they had on the inside because I kept going back for more.

My friend and I tried all their salsas and thought they were all very good. You can really tell that they use fresh ingredients, especially when tasting the pico de gallo. The portions were worth the price you pay for. My friend and I were extremely hungry that day and we didn't even finish the entire meal. I could not get enough of their burrito with wet sauce. Their steak was also quite tender and cooked very well. My favorite part of their salad was the addition of the mandarin oranges and mangoes as they added a nice tangy flavor that paired nicely with everything else.

Overall, the food was phenomenal and I know I'm definitely coming back for more to try their famous Agaves Enchiladas.



RACHEL LEE / DAILY NEXUS

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11

Healthy tubule Normal flow

· Crystal occludes tubule

Re-established flow

Crystal passed to urine

Disrupted flow

· Dilated tubule

Persistent activation of mTOR, STAT3

sistent dilation, proliferatio

ADPKD kidney Persistent activation of mTOR/STAT3

and other pathways leads to continuous

tubule dilation and cyst growth

Activation of mTOR, STAT3

Tubule dilation by hypertrophy

SCIENCE & TECH UCSB Researchers Discover Mechanism Potentially Accelerating Progression of Polycystic Kidney Disease

Jacqueline Wen Science Editor

Polycystic kidney disease is an inherited disorder causing clusters of cysts to form in the kidneys that may lead to eventual kidney failure. Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) makes up about 90% of all PKD cases and affects over 600,000 Americans and 12.4 million people worldwide.

Individuals with PKD can face symptoms such as elevated blood pressure, possible development of cysts in other organs like the liver, higher chances to develop brain aneurysms and kidney stones and chronic side or back pain. Although there is currently no cure for PKD, numerous supportive treatments and lifestyle changes may help control symptoms and slow down or reduce loss of kidney function.

Much research is being done on PKD, including in Thomas Weimbs' lab at UCSB.

In their paper published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, the lab members identify a tubule dilation mechanism that may accelerate the formation of kidney cysts.

Based on diet, our metabolism results in the formation of different substances such as calcium phosphate, calcium oxalate and uric acid. Microcrystal versions of these molecules are produced daily and get harmlessly excreted through normal kidney function.

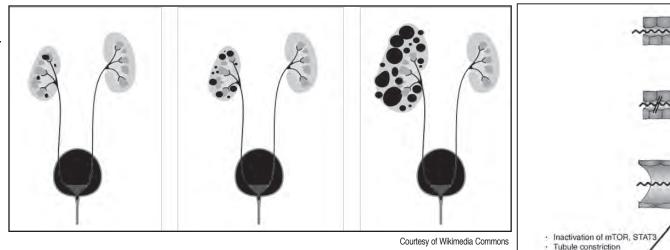
But for individuals with a propensity to form kidney stones, crystal deposits can get lodged in renal tubules. This may lead to kidney stone formation and cause health complications.

"You can imagine that if you're trying to filter the urine out – and the kidney has a lot of tubes – and if the kidney stones get stuck in any of these tubes, the kidney would stop working. There wouldn't be any kidney function equivalent to filter any more urine out. So there has to be a way to deal with these little microcrystals before they become stones," Jacob Torres, a postdoctoral researcher in the Weimbs' lab and the lead author of the study, said.

The scientists found that in response to calcium oxalate crystal deposition, a protective mechanism is triggered in which renal tubules dilate to flush out these lodged crystals.

While researchers in the natural sciences field studying kidney stones have observed dilated tubules before, "it has not previously been recognized as an active protective mechanism," the paper states.

The fact that the tubules dilate and how or why the dilation happens hadn't been thoroughly



PKD progression is shown, with a normal kidney represented on the right side of each diagram for comparison.

analyzed until now. The endogenous crystal clearing mechanism was "kind of unlooked at up to this point," Torres said.

Their findings further show that calcium phosphate deposition led to increased cyst formation and PKD progression. Calcium oxide crystal deposition in mice activated mTOR and Src/Stat3 signaling pathways accompanying tubule dilation.

"In a lot of diseases, mTOR is dysregulated because it's either overactive or underactive. Most of these are overactive diseases like cancer or PKD – that's when mTOR is doing too much. And that kind of tells cells that they can grow and proliferate," Torres explained.

The study reports that blocking mTOR signaling diminished tubule dilation and stopped effective crystal excretion. This suggests that these pathways are implicated in ADPKD and renal cyst growth, the investigators wrote.

Additionally, their results conclude that this protective mechanism can be a "third-hit" trigger accelerating PKD progression through causing dilated tubules to "overshoot" to form cysts.

Reminiscent to the third-hit model in the cancer field, the concept expresses that mutations "accumulate on top of each other" before individual cysts form in ADPKD, Torres described. The first hit occurs when a gene responsible for ADPKD gets mutated, either in PKD1 or PKD2. After several gene mutations and potentially through an environmental stressor, a somatic mutation may occur in a renal tubule cell (the second hit) and cause or continue a disease through a kidney insult, triggering a repair response (the third hit).

"There's a lot of debate about what kind of

sufficient trigger is the cause [of the third hit]," Torres said. "Studies show that now you need to have an injury on top of that second [hit] in order to cause a cyst to form ... And so our research is kind of building on that idea that microcrystals are acting as that third hit, the 'some other injury' trigger that's causing the cyst to form."

The protective mechanism

"is probably broken in PKD," according to Torres. "And then that might be a way to prevent the progressive decline of kidney function by minimizing or mitigating the crystal burden that patients have. So it kind of leads to a therapy or therapeutic approach for individuals that

have PKD." Potential treatments such as modifying diet can help reduce kidney stone formation and crystal deposition, Torres said. Taking steps like drinking less soda, which contains high levels of phosphoric acid, and avoiding foods rich in uric acid or rich in oxalate such as spinach and beans, can help individuals with PKD. Increasing water intake and taking citrate supplements can also help.

"A big piece of the puzzle is because PKD is a genetic disease, there's probably not going to be a silver bullet where people can just take this one thing and it's going to fix everything. So it's probably going to be a bunch of behavioral stuff that people are gonna have to do ... to make the biggest impact. And because it's so slowly progressing, people can preserve kidney function or extend it for 10, 20 years. They effectively cure the disease because they don't need to get a kidney

transplant," Torres stated.

Normal kidney

Normal tubule diameters and

Crystals cleared

flow re-established

He continued, "That's another big finding – just being able to put the power in people's hands rather than them waiting for somebody to find the cure for them. It's something that they can actually act upon just using some basic science."

In a joint effort with other individuals involved in the PKD field, Torres worked with different models of polycystic rats and eventually with humans with PKD. He highlights the "interesting" collaborative aspect that "blended all these different fields together to come up with the synthesis for our overall model of how this these crystals are triggering this disease."

Torres is next interested in detailing the different pathways implicated in the mechanism at the cellular and molecular level.

"In the paper, we touched on them a little bit, but we don't go into full detail. So that would be the next thing, just figuring out what exactly is going on. [We] always want to know a little more, flush the story out a little better."

Evaluating Cumulative Human Impacts on Marine Ecosystems

Hannah Hirou Staff Writer

As climate change rapidly makes its impact on the world, the existing scientific data monitoring and evaluating what changes are occurring and what impact they have may struggle to keep up.

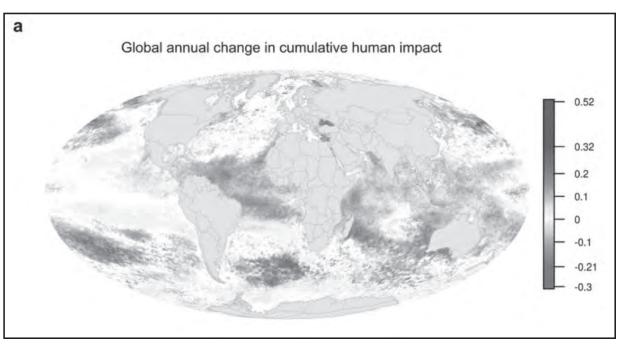
Due to the sensitive nature of marine ecosystems, the impacts of climate change are far-reaching for marine aquatic life. A fundamental gap in understanding how humanity is affecting the oceans is our limited knowledge about the pace of change in cumulative impacts on ocean ecosystems. What's more is the need to find out the locations, drivers and patterns of these changes.

Recently, UCSB researchers, including Benjamin Halpern and Melanie Frazier, and a Stanford University researcher, published their paper "Recent pace of change in human impact on the world's ocean" in Scientific Reports which addressed for the first time the combined impact humans are having on our marine ecosystems.

"To assess the pace of change in cumulative human impacts (CHI) we calculated and mapped the cumulative impact of 14 stressors related to human activities (including climate change, fishing, landbased pressures, and other commercial activities) on 21 different marine ecosystems globally for each of eleven years spanning 2003–2013," Halpern and Frazier reported in their study.

The 14 stressors included ocean acidification, sea surface temperature, sea level rise, shipping, nutrient pollution, organic pollution, direct human, light pollution, commercial fishing (five types) and artisanal fishing.

"We found that most of the ocean (59%) is experiencing significantly increasing cumulative impact, in particular due to climate change but also from fishing, land-based pollution and shipping," Halpern and Frazier wrote in their groundbreaking



Courtesy of Scientific Reports

Figure a shows the calculated annual CHI change with red indicating more change and blue indicating less change. Figure b shows the CHI in 2013.

g study.

These findings beg the question: What aspects of climate change have caused a doubling of impacts on sensitive marine ecosystems like coral reefs and mangroves?

According to Frazier, "increasing greenhouse gas emissions have resulted in large increases in ocean temperature which impact many ocean habitats and animals."

High sea surface temperatures (SST) account for 75% of CHI, making it the largest influencer globally. However, high SSTs along coastal ecosystems only account for 40% of CHI, while increasing sea level explained 41% of the increasing CHI.

"Furthermore, the consequences of increasing temperature are compounded by the resulting loss of sea ice and rising sea levels. In addition to warming, carbon dioxide emissions also cause ocean acidification," Frazier stated in an email.

In areas with low cumulative impact such as the Indian, Mid-Atlantic and Western Pacific Oceans, increased SST accounted for most of the CHI increase.

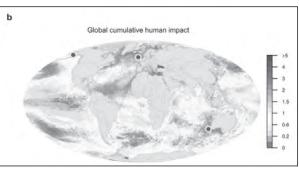
Despite the many alarming findings of the study, a handful of countries, including areas of Europe, Asia and parts of Africa, saw declines in the impacts caused by commercial fishing and land-based pollution.

"Some countries were able to stabilize, or even slow, the impact of some of the stressors on their ocean waters. This suggests that good policies can definitely contribute to improved ocean health," Frazier asserted.

Creating policies is rather hard-pressed in countries where economic and social viability under the current infrastructure is indirectly associated with destroying the environment.

"One of the best actions we could take to slow down our impact on oceans is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is challenging because it requires concerted action among many countries, and the political motivation to achieve this goal is depressingly low in many places," Frazier said.

Along with SST, ocean acidification played the second-largest role in increasing the cumulative human impact on average. Most countries saw an



increase in ocean acidification by 99% during the study period. This increase was not alone; other areas where high changes occurred were shipping with a 92% increase and direct human impact with a 70% increase.

"A reduction in carbon dioxide would also help prevent further ocean acidification, which can be damaging to certain ocean animals," Frazier addressed.

Ocean acidification is one of the largest threats to coral reefs which were among the most affected marine ecosystems along with sea grasses and mangroves.

Greenhouse gases remain one of the largest obstacles to overcome despite the numerous others.

The study detailed that the Paris Agreement would have a tremendous impact on the state of many marine ecosystems and significantly slow or halt the increasing trend of cumulative human impact.

As far as policies go, Halpern elaborated that, "there are a huge number of possibilities, because the different impacts come from almost every sector of human activity, on land and in the sea. So there are lots of options."

Nonetheless, there are many variables that are known stressors that the study mentioned it did not include due to difficult data sourcing such as deep sea mining, plastic pollution, offshore energy, aquaculture, noise pollution, terrestrial mining, logging and oil spills.

As far as making a difference as climate change takes its course, Frazier added, " I (mostly) haven't lost hope that we can come together to improve the situation." Opinion

Legalizing Psychedelics is the Key to Safe Tripping

Carley Weiler Staff Writer

When most people think of psychedelics, they think of acid or magic mushrooms. A typical response to these substances falls on opposite sides of the spectrum – from full-on opposition and disapproval to having hour-long conversations about the magical and unexplainable experience produced by psychedelics.

Just the sound of the word "acid" might make people think it should be illegal. The idea of putting something called acid into your body that is supposed to make you hallucinate and potentially take you down a road known as a "bad trip," causing permanent trauma - well, it's no wonder that acid has mostly negative connotations.

Then there's the viewpoint where people talk about experiencing an "ego death," when the body and mind detach from the ego and a deeper understanding of the world is gained through an outside perspective. Although this might sound like some granola hippie shit, many people I know, and research from several cases, explain how psychedelics can be used for therapeutic purposes, helping with depression, anxiety, addiction, trauma and other mental health issues. I'm not saying everybody with mental health issues should hit up their drug dealer and buy a tab of acid or take an eighth of shrooms. I would actually advise against that.

I'm all in favor of taking psychedelics, but not when there is such a lack of regulation and knowledge of these substances. That is why they need to be legal. Evidence of using these substances from the past and present indicate that legalizing psychedelics will make taking the substance much safer, as well as improve mental health and quality of life.

To understand the present use of psychedelics, we must look at the past, starting with where the magical substance was first used thousands of years ago. In Northern Africa, paintings of mushrooms on stones and caves can be found dating back to indigenous groups in 9000 B.C. The mushrooms are speculated to be psilocybin mushrooms, a naturally occurring psychedelic found in over 200 species of mushrooms all over the world, commonly known as "magic mushrooms."

Native American groups like the Aztecs and Mayans also had symbols and paintings indicating they consumed magic mushrooms as well, likely for religious and spiritual purposes. Although it can be controversial because there is no way to officially know if these paintings, sculptures, and carvings of mushrooms are the psychedelic kind, the recurring theme of mushrooms showing up in artifacts through time seem to

imply that they are. Even today, in several countries including the Netherlands, some psychedelics are legal, including "magic truffles." The goal of legalizing psychedelics in the Netherlands is to promote safe and responsible use when partaking in substances that create an altered state of consciousness. Legalization in the in a reduction

Netherlands has resulted of risks and increased awareness

SAM RANKIN / DAILY NEXUS

associated with psychedelics.

Still, for many, this idea may seem too radical and controversial. Just because they were used in the past and are legal in some countries today doesn't mean taking hallucinationinducing drugs is risk-free. Taking an unregulated drug always poses the risk of it being laced with dangerous substances, and a bad trip can lead to serious psychological problems.

However, keeping these substances illegal is only feeding the problem. The legality of psychedelics isn't going to stop people who are curious and want to experiment. Not to mention that they aren't very hard to get your hands on – let's be real: because of the accessibility and popularity of the substance, people are doing it whether it's legal or not. If people are doing it either way, legalization will only regulate the drug to ensure it's not laced with a harmful substance that could lead to physical and mental harm.

Although legalization can't prevent irrational or dumb decision making, it can help manage the substance so as to ensure its purity. Legalization would also educate people on the safest dosage to take. It's extremely common for people to take way more than what is considered safe - not out of recklessness, but simply because they lack knowledge. How does one know how many mushrooms to eat or how strong a tab of acid is anyway? On top of ensuring the substance's purity and adequate dosage, legalization would advise people about how to consume it and the risks involved. Distributors of psychedelics could give advice on how, when and where to take them - all of the technical details that don't seem to matter until you're tripping at a crowded football game and everybody's faces look like they're melting. An altered state of consciousness will always pose risks; however, legalizing substances that produce this altered state is the best way to ensure safe use.

Lastly, and most importantly, psychedelics should be legal for therapeutic and medical purposes. Taken under the right circumstances, they can help heal deep-rooted issues. Studies have shown that with the right dosage and environment, psychedelics can help treat mental illnesses like anxiety, PTSD, addiction and depression. In fact, therapy involving psychedelics have an extremely high success rate; up to 80% of people experienced better mental health after treatment. It's been said that the effects of psychedelics change one's perception of dayto-day life to create a deeper understanding of things as the profound secrets of the universe are discovered. Many people describe gaining a third eye as an awareness from an outside perspective shines light on big picture concepts. Superficial thoughts and beliefs disappear and a feeling of unity and one with the universe create a sense of knowing and connection. Or so I've heard...

To sum it up simply, we want our kids to be safe when they are doing drugs! There is no way to stop people from doing drugs, but there is a way to make sure they aren't laced with anything toxic that could cause serious harm. On top of safety and preventing harm, the historical and therapeutic uses of psychedelics are unique to anything else in the world. The U.S. is taking baby steps toward legalization as Denver and Oakland have become the first two cities to decriminalize psychoactive plants and fungi. We still have a long way to go, but at least we are starting somewhere.

Carley Weiler thinks psychedelics should be federally legal in the United States to promote safety and healing benefits.

A Beautiful Contradiction: The Freedom Dividend

Annabel Li Staff Writer

If you've been keeping up with the Democratic presidential debates, you may notice a black sheep in candidate Andrew Yang, embodied by his insistence on skipping the tie and his "gimmicky" plan to save our economy. The "Freedom Dividend," as he calls it, would provide every American with a monthly stipend of \$1,000. His plan is rooted in an idea that has, until now, only persisted in small independent experiments conducted in other countries: Universal Basic Income (UBI). Put simply, it is the concept that the government should provide citizens with a flat sum of money – no strings attached. In a previous article I wrote about UBI, I explored how implementing this scenario might play out for an everyday student. I speculated and daydreamed about the great things that this added source of security would bring: less stress, more opportunities for creative pursuits, more time after college to travel. This idea has become increasingly relevant with mounting pressure on younger generations to go into fields that are considered financially practical. A cultural shift is visible as statistics indicate that more and more students are flooding into S.T.E.M.-related fields while the number of people studying subjects like history and literature is dropping. The number of S.T.E.M.-related degrees in California has increased by 39% over a span of six years.

adeptness. Yang's policy, though simplistic, has a good amount of mindfulness and reason behind it. Recent studies show that members of the lower class experience a phenomenon of "tunnel vision" when it comes to meeting obligations such as buying toilet paper, paying off debt and feeding children. The effect of this tunnel vision is that they have less "mental bandwidth" to see their

example would be that a mother is stressed about making

enough money to buy food for her kids; she's forgetting to

call back the insurance company, pay the credit card bill

and apply for childcare assistance. She becomes diligent

in honing in on a single important goal and achieving it -

feeding her children. The result is that her kids are fed, but

she has no insurance, high interest to pay and no assistance.

Yang talks about the bandwidth phenomenon in interviews

and on social media. A tweet in July even comments on

these studies: "Getting the economic existential stress off our

minds would actually make us smarter, more rational and

the idea more or less as a speculative concept that was fun to

consider, but now that this issue has moved from the niche

intellectual spheres of techies and academics into national

cigarettes and alcohol. Herein lies the problem: No one

can be sure that a person will use this money wisely, so no

one can know for certain that UBI would ultimately benefit

interview, Andrew Yang replied, "I'm not naive enough to

believe that everyone would go and do what I would see as

optimally responsible." Yet he followed this with: "Big picture,

I think it's their money... it's going to be [their] life, [their]

results - that people will use it in ways that ultimately benefit

society – he recognizes the uncertainty in how many people

would actually use it this way. This response correlates to

Although Yang believes his policy will produce practical

When presented with such a possibility during an

Let's say I get \$1,000 every month and spend it all on

politics, I find myself feeling less optimistic.

Back when I wrote my first article about UBI, I treated

another conceptual argument for UBI, and that is one of libertarianism, small government and the freedom to choose. In a sense, he's highlighting the "no strings attached" appeal of his policy over the "we will be better off as a whole" appeal of his policy. Because again, none of us can really know.

The ideological beauty of UBI is the notion of the government having no jurisdiction over how you spend your

Back to School ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

All the pens in you<mark>r b</mark>ackpack will explode on the way to your first class and all your shit will get inked.

TAURUS **APRIL 20 - MAY 20** You will flatten a freshman when you're biking through a roundabout.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUNE 20 You will eat a UCSB waffle from the dining hall every morning first week and end up in Stud<mark>e</mark>nt Health.

You'll show up to your new I.V. apartment and it will be absolutely trashed from your

summer subleasers.

LEO JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Two days a<mark>ft</mark>er school st<mark>a</mark>rts your mom will unexpectedly show up because she "miss<mark>es her li</mark>l' bo<mark>o</mark> bear.'

VIRGO AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22 You and your new roommates will adopt a new strawberry plant named Rosie who will promptly die within a week.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

You will retake the math class you failed

If young adults felt more financially secure while making decisions about their education, perhaps these numbers would be different.

The primary argument for implementing a national UBI program is that once someone is freed from the financial imprisonment of working purely out of necessity, they would gravitate toward the types of jobs they feel passionately about. Andrew Yang connects meaningful work to "freedom from scarcity," drawing a causal relationship between having money and having options.

In a study reported by Forbes, 53% of Americans were found to be unhappy with their jobs. We can't fully grasp the consequences of this statistic, because it has always been a fact of life in America.

People work to pay their bills, support their families and buy food, and these reasons are good enough to keep them anchored to an occupation that doesn't bring much personal fulfillment. I grew up hearing about my mother's dreams of being a chemist and the pressure my father was under when he couldn't find a job in a lab and needed employment. The result of these circumstances is that they gravitated toward a well-paid field that was in high demand for labor at the time computer science.

Anecdotally and emotionally, I know this wasn't ideal for them, but what does this mean on a societal level? Many people other than my parents share this narrative. There is a hidden emotional and monetary cost incurred when members of a population must choose between fulfillment and financial security. We just don't know how serious this cost is, because we cannot envision an alternative when this is the only reality we've ever known.

This is all the more dramatic when it becomes apparent that the relationship is actually between financial security and

life in broader terms. and often get

stuck

SAM RANKIN / DAILY NEXUS

on short-term goals. A single

optimistic."

society.

choices."

sum, which Yang calls a "dividend" that makes citizens shareholders of America. The analogy is that we have invested in the government as taxpayers, and just like a corporation, when the government has disposable money, they should distribute it as a dividend, or return to shareholders.

> The justification for UBI is founded on a results-based payout: It assumes that people will become more productive and more creative, and that we will all be better off. This is exceptionally optimistic, and is essentially a bet on the goodness of humanity.

But what if this isn't the case? If people spend their money unwisely this practical promise of creativity and productivity is swept away. Without this argument, Yang's policy is only propped up by the belief that the government should not restrict or manage the way money is used. As you've probably noticed by now, the idea of limited government is not really the flavor of Democratic policy.

In fact, the one state that has implemented such a dividend for years now is historically Republican, and that is the state of Alaska. The Alaskan Permanent Fund is run by a state-owned institution, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (AFPC). It was established in 1976 after the state government started making money from oil reserves. Since then, it has been popular with constituents and run without issue, though the payments are not enough to live off of: last year, the annual dividend was \$1,600. The idea is that 25% of earnings from oil would go into the fund, and the annual payout would be based on a formula factoring in how much citizens earned that year.

Yang sees this as a model for his own policy, since a proposition with free money needs protection from voters who might vote to up the payout to an impossible amount. The idea of tying the payout to an asset, like oil, is a successful precedent to consider.

It is not just Yang's policy that makes him stand out in the Democratic Party. With no political background, his headline during the debates is always "entrepreneur." His collared shirts render him a charming invocation of the Silicon Valley aesthetic. And, indeed, his \$1,000-a-month plan not only applies an understanding of business to the state, but is also borne out of a very Silicon Valley concern, the worry that we will be left behind by technological innovation.

One thing's for sure: UBI doesn't fit into the conventional Democratic spectrum and has never been considered a serious topic of national conversation. With Yang's Freedom Dividend, that may be about to change.

Annabel Li encourages Gauchos to start thinking critically and innovatively about new ideas.

during fall quarter and ge an A+.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21 Your group of friends will go to CorePower Yoga togethe<mark>r</mark> and t<mark>h</mark>ree o<mark>f</mark> you will pass out during the class.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

You will find the love of your life in your Antarctica class.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Your new school year resolution to hit the gym every da<mark>y</mark> will expire af<mark>t</mark>er day two of classes.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 -FEBRUARY 18 Summer has killed your tolerance and

you will end up passed out after two beers.



