Gambian Student Gains Asylum

Once sleeping out of his car and contemplating suicide, student Alagie Jammeh now has a bright future in the U.S.

Jammeh posted his Facebook status in September 2014, and by November he had already been stripped of his scholarship by the Gambian government, one of 70 countries that punishes citizens based on sexual orientation.

There was a knock on the window. “Hey, what are you doing here? Are you sleeping in your car?” a policeman asked Alagie Jammeh, an international student from the Gambia studying at UCSB.

Jammeh was in fact living out of his vehicle and struggling to feed himself, sometimes going days without food. The officer warned Jammeh he would be ticketed if he continued sleeping in his car on campus. In September 2014, Jammeh posted on Facebook that “No one should be denied their basic fundamental human rights because of their sexuality.” Though he took the post down two days later after receiving calls from relatives back home warning him of the government’s reaction to his statement, it was too late. By November, his presidential scholarship from the Gambian government was cut off.

Jammeh said he desired to be part of a community that embraces all people, irrespective of their gender identity. As a result of his newfound convictions, Jammeh found himself ostracized from his homeland and fearing for his life. “I was scared the Gambian government is going to send someone in America to kill me,” Jammeh said. “I was terrified that some people who disagreed with what I said on Facebook would eventually hunt me down.”

Located on the west coast of Africa with a population of approximately 1.9 million, the Gambia is one of 70 countries in the world that can imprison citizens for their sexual orientation. President of the Gambia, Yahya Jammeh — a distant uncle of Alagie — stated during his address to the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 that homosexuality is one of the “biggest threats to human existence.”

“The president of the Gambia has been saying that any gay person that come to the Gambia — we will slit your throat. We will kill you. You will go to jail for the

UCSB To Begin Using Students’ Preferred Names

The use of preferred names will give trans students the opportunity to use the name most fitting to their identity.

UC Santa Barbara will begin using preferred names in all campus services on June 16, affecting access cards, class rosters and faculty interactions with students.

Celestino Jones, second-year music composition major, came out as transgender during the beginning of his second year at UCSB. “I’ve been stopped at the dining commons before because I don’t look like a ‘Celeste,’” Jones said, after undergoing hormone therapy that changed his appearance.

He now has the opportunity to purchase a new access card with his preferred name without having to legally change his documentation. “It grew out of the desire to support transgender students specifically, because there are many transgender students whose legal name is not consistent with their identity,” Leesa Beck, the
The Weatherhuman thinks that the Feminism Is Cancer rally has some fair points: Those running it are like chemotherapy in that they just cause us all a lot of nausea and discomfort.

Tomorrow’s Forecast: Ze spends hir Thursday at hir grandmother’s funeral (who died of actual cancer this week) instead of at the YAL rally.
UCSB students and Isla Vista residents honored and celebrated the lives of the six students who passed away due to the events of May 23rd, 2014, through participating in a variety of memorial events held on and off campus. On Monday, 75 UCSB dance majors, barefoot and dressed in all white, performed The Table of Silence Project, a ritualistic dance that acts as a call for peace and unity during times of hardship and loss. Later in the evening, students and I.V. residents attended “Blunite” in Anisq’Oyo’ Park, where community members were able to come together to decorate paper lanterns and canvases with art, songs and messages in memory of the students’ lives.
Adding to his multi-city tour of California, Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders announced Tuesday that he will hold a rally at Santa Barbara City College on Saturday morning.

Sen. Sanders (I–Vt.) will speak to SBCC students and residents of Santa Barbara from The Great Meadow on SBCC’s West Campus, a large plot of grass overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The rally, titled “A Future to Believe In,” is free and open to the public. Doors open for the event at 7 a.m.

Sanders’s campaign said in a statement that Sanders will be speaking about money in politics, climate change, health care and how to make public colleges and universities tuition-free.

The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) said the 15x, an express line between UC Santa Barbara and SBCC, will not be running on Saturday.

Cynthia Boche, assistant planning manager at MTD, said none of the Saturday buses will get UCSB students to SBCC by 7 a.m., but that students may be able to arrive by 8. Boche said she expects an influx of passengers on Saturday morning.

“I think a lot of people from Isla Vista will be wanting to get to the event,” she said.

UCSB students can take the Line 11 bus to the downtown Transit Center and then take Line 4 or Line 17 to SBCC.

Actor Danny DeVito, who has endorsed Sanders, drew hundreds of UCSB students to the Arbor for several hours last week, telling them it was important to vote in the California Democratic primary on June 7.

People planning to see Sanders at SBCC should not bring bags, signs or banners and should limit belongings to small items like keys and phones, the candidate’s campaign said.

After speaking at SBCC, Sanders will head 60 miles north to address supporters at Santa Maria High School’s Wilson Stadium. Students can RSVP for the SBCC rally at Sanders’s campaign website.
The California State Assembly passed a bill Wednesday to ensure that community colleges in the state award class credit to students who pass their Advanced Placement (AP) exams with a minimum score of three out of five.

"Most students are not aware that different college districts have different AP credit policies," Assemblymember Das Williams, author of the bill, said while speaking before the Assembly on Monday.

The College Board states on their website that students who earn a score of three or above are "qualified" for the subject in which they are tested. Forty of California's 113 community colleges, however, do not grant credit to students who earn a score of three on their AP exams, according to the College Board.

Twenty-four of the 40 colleges require a minimum score of four, and six colleges require a score of five, which is the highest score possible for any AP exam. The remaining 10 community colleges have no existing policies for awarding credit to AP students.

Williams said the varying AP credit policies in California community colleges are problematic because students might have to retake introductory courses for subjects in which they are already competent.

"In an era of tuition increases, impacted classrooms and lengthy time to transfer in degree, [differing AP credit policies are] truly unnecessary," Williams said.

Williams introduced Assembly Bill 1985 (AB 1985) in February, a bill that would require two administrative bodies — the California Community College Chancellor's Office and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges — to award credit to students who score a three or higher on AP exams.

Williams said this resolution would create a "uniform policy" to streamline the AP credit process for California community colleges. If the bill allows students to replace college courses with AP credit, Williams said it will increase access for popular classes, allow students to graduate more quickly and make community college more affordable.

Assemblymember Donald Wagner from Orange County, however, said he finds there to be "an unfortunate side effect" in the "well-intended" bill. Wagner, in the Assembly floor session on Monday, said the bill "intrudes" upon the concept of academic freedom. He said lawmakers ought to respect the varying policies of community colleges as to what constitutes a suitable AP score for earning college credit.

"Historically in our country we've recognized the importance of academic freedom, meaning the right of the professors to decide for themselves," Wagner said.

Despite these objections, though, AB 1985 passed in the Assembly by a 73-2 vote. Wagner and another assemblymember from Orange County, Matthew Harper, were the only two to vote against the bill.

AB 1985 will now go to the California State Senate, where legislators will continue to review the bill in subsequent committee hearings.

Currently, different community colleges award class credit for various AP scores. This bill would create a more uniform policy, simultaneously alleviating tuition costs at CCs.
UCSB Writing Program Creates Science Minor

Maura Fox
Asst. News Editor

Starting next fall, UC Santa Barbara will offer a writing minor for science communication, teaching students to share scientific information with a diverse audience.

The writing program has been developing the minor for 18 months and will accept applications in the fall for classes beginning in Winter Quarter. Interested students will be able to enroll in two new classes — scientific literacy (Writing 159A) and science communication for the public (Writing 159B) — after they complete a variety of prerequisite courses from the writing or science departments.

In addition to completing the prerequisites, students must also assemble a portfolio of past writing work to be considered for the minor.

Karen Lunsford, associate professor of writing, said students in the minor are required to complete an internship or a third “capstone” course, as well as create another portfolio that will “showcase [the] capacities and abilities” that students accumulate in the courses.

While several political changes are based on scientific research, “it’s not enough for our democracy to rely on just the scientists,” Lunsford said. Instead, she said all organizations must seek to understand science and its worldwide implications.

“We've seen, very recently, several discussions going on in both the news and among politicians about things like climate change, questions about vaccinations, questions about various topics … questions all about policy making,” Lunsford said.

Lunsford said students from all departments are encouraged to apply for the minor if they have an interest in understanding scientific research.

“As long as you’re interested in a S.T.E.M. topic, we can help teach you how to read that material,” Lunsford said. “It is a different route from someone who already has that major, but we do need people coming in from both another audience.”

Professor Doug Bradley, who will teach scientific literacy in the Winter Quarter, said his class will specialize in learning the basic concepts of science and how students can use multimedia to deliver the information to a large audience.

Bradley said course assignments will have students presenting data in "unique ways" to connect non-S.T.E.M. people to the science field through scientific and quantitative graphics.

"In terms of science communication, good practice would be to connect as efficiently as possible with your audience, a broad audience … and convey ideas and issues to them that will get them to orient their lives in ways that accord with rational scientific thinking," Bradley said.

Professor Janet Mizrahi, who will be teaching science communication for the public, said her students will spend Spring Quarter writing press releases and news stories, creating websites and recording podcasts.

Mizrahi wants students to learn the best ways to communicate in the workplace through writing and technology, regardless of the career they eventually pursue.

"I hope they not only become better citizens and better writers, but also more marketable college graduates," Mizrahi said.

Bradley said “it is particularly urgent right now,” for students to learn from the minor because UCSB was recently ranked eighth in worldwide research by the international Leiden Ranking system.

“That means our professionals need to make darn sure the information they're conveying to the public is spot on target,” he continued. “We're trying to support that leadership that the campus is already showing and push it out even further.”

The Writing Program will begin accepting applications to the minor next fall, which will include submission of a writing portfolio.

Margaret T. Getman Service to Students Award

In honor of the former UCSB Dean of Student Residents, Margaret T. Getman, this annual award recognizes university staff and faculty who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the growth and development of students and to the quality of student life.

RECIPIENTS ARE:

Melissa Barthelemy  
History Department

Maritza Mejia-Wilson  
Orientation Programs

Michael Miller  
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

Laura Crownover  
Chemical Engineering

Bruce Tiffney  
College of Creative Studies

Please celebrate with nominees and recipients at a reception on Wednesday, June 1, 9 a.m., at the Student Affairs divisional meeting in Corwin Pavilion.

The award and reception are co-sponsored by Housing & Residential Services and the Division of Student Affairs.
rest of your life. We will not allow gay men or gay women in our society," Jammeh said.

Jammeh’s view on the gay community began to change when he and his wife, Leymah Gbowee, learned of the brutal treatment of their gay friends in Senegal. He was further influenced by his friend Esmirah Bason, who told him that individuals are born gay, rather than choosing to be so later in life.

Jammeh said that he would not allow his children to have any ties to the LGBT community. "If they are found to be gay, they will be taken away and given counseling," he said.

Simjee, who represents Jammeh in his asylum case, has been working pro bono for Jammeh. "He is a good person and deserves legal representation," Simjee said.

The two decided Jammeh should be represented by Public Counsel in Los Angeles because of a special agreement with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Asylum office in L.A. that would allow for Jammeh’s request to be processed more quickly.

"They have an agreement with the L.A. asylum office to hear their claims by April of the next year," Simjee said. "I believe they are processing cases faster.

Though Jammeh is still in touch with his mother, he no longer hears from any of his 17 siblings, many of whom called him shortly after his Facebook post in 2014 to share their disappointment over his pro-LGBT statement. "[They ask] is the American government trying to influence me, trying to change me ..." Jammeh said.

When she learned Jammeh had been living outside of his car, Jacob invited him to stay in her home during Spring Quarter 2015, during which time she said it took time for him to begin to feel comfortable because he didn’t want to take advantage of her hospitality.

"So I made him a dish that comes from Senegal; his mom is from Senegal, so I made this stew," Jacob said. "He said it was good. It wasn’t spicy enough. I made it pretty hot, but it wasn’t hot enough, but that I think that made him very, very happy because he couldn’t believe that I would do something like that for him.”

Jammeh said he does not want people to just feel sorry for him, but instead hopes people with talk to him as they would any other student on campus.

“Once of the reasons I am staying on an extra quarter is to have the experiences of college life without worrying about my [asylum] papers, without worrying about other stuff, but just be a student,” he said. "I wanted that so bad."
JAMMEH
Continued from p.7

Unwilling to drop out of school for fear of being an embarrassment to his country and unable to return home to the Gambia, Jammeh’s began contemplating suicide.

“There was a point where I give up, literally give up,” Jammeh said. “I’m not going to drop out of school, that’s not an option for me. I’m not going to go back to Gambia, that’s not an option for me either. I’m not going to do anything. What I am going to do now is just end everything, just commit suicide,” he said.

Jammeh was standing on the Goleta Pier at 1 a.m. determined to end his life in the ocean when he received a call from a friend. According to Jammeh, the conversation was nothing special. They talked about “stupid stuff,” but it was enough to make him reconsider taking his life.

For the full story, see dailynexus.com.

We just want students to feel like there are services in place that are recognizing the experiences that they are having.

-Dave Whitman

names, and students who want to use a different last name will be required to undergo the legal name change process. Although this allows for the use of fake names, Beck said she has spoken with schools who use preferred names and found that students “almost never abuse the system.”

“It would be like putting a weird fake name on LinkedIn or something. No one wants that to be the name their professors are calling them by,” she said. “So for now there will be no “policing” of the names entered. If it becomes a problem down the line, we will reassess.”

The registrar’s office will be working with the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) to publicize and implement the changes after Spring Quarter grades are finalized.

Dave Whitman, director of the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, said “a lot of people take names and pronouns for granted” because they never feel misrepresented by their legal name.

“Identities are static, sometimes someone goes by one name for a part of their life and they have a shift,” he said. “We just want students to feel like there are services in place that validate the experiences that they are having.”

At the beginning of each quarter, Jones said he would sometimes find himself staying quiet during roll call, waiting until the end of class to correct his teachers about his name.

For the full story, see dailynexus.com.
UCSB Looks to Secure Third in Conf. Standings

Jorge Mercado
Asst. Sports Editor

Comming off two solid comeback victories, the No. 19 UCSB baseball team will look to close out the season the right way as it hosts UCR in its final series of the season before the 64-team NCAA Tournament.

UCSB faces off against UCR in its regular season finale at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium on Thursday, May 26 at 3 p.m., Friday, May 27 at 3 p.m. and Saturday, May 28 at 1 p.m.

Preparing for its home finale this weekend, UCSB is 23-4 in home games.

Gaucho in Kansas for NCAA West Regional

Duncan MacPhee
Staff Writer

UCSB men's and women's track and field teams will each send six athletes to Lawrence, Kan. this weekend to compete for a chance at a berth in the 2016 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Ore.

This weekend's NCAA West Regional will begin this Thursday, May 26 through Saturday, May 28 at Rock Chalk Park at the University of Kansas.

The top-48 athletes from the West region in each event will meet in Kansas at the same time as the Preliminary round competition will kick off this Thursday, May 26 at 3 p.m., Friday, May 27 at 3 p.m. and Saturday, May 28 at 1 p.m.

The Gauchos will also look to counter with strong runners of their own such as sophomore first baseman Austin Bush who leads the team in RBI (43) and home runs (7). When his hitting is on point, Santa Barbara looks nearly unstoppable. In the 20 games this season UCSB has gone at least 10 hits; it has been able to come away with victories in 17 of those occasions.

The Gauchos will also look to take advantage of the fact they are at home since they have scored 166 runs at home this season compared to 94 on the road. They also bat and get on base 60 points better at home while also pitching an ERA of 3.70 at home, which is much better compared to 4.49. It also helps that they are currently 23-4 at home as opposed to 10-12-1 on the road.

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UCSB Anticipates Future, Rebuilds Roster With Recruits

Elliot Thornton
Staff Writer

Despite plummeting to the bottom of the Big West in 2016, the UCSB men’s basketball team persevered when it mattered most.

Having to battle through a plague of injuries yet still managing to enter postseason play on a momentum-nine-game-winning streak — the longest conference streak in school history — Head Coach Bob Williams can only applaud the heart of his players, especially the efforts of seniors DaJuan Smith, Mitch Brewe, T.J. Taylor, Sam Beeler, John Green and Michael Bryson.

As these four-year players prepare for their final goodbyes to theytastic tortilla tosses, the Gauchos Locos and their beloved Thunderdome, Williams and his coaching staff have gradually lured top-tier talent in its recent recruiting class.

Heading off the top of the Gauchos’ recruiting class, junior college transfer and Community College Player of the Year Jalen Canty provides a much-needed presence on the block. UCSB will lack next year’s production with the departures of seniors Beeler and Brewe.

Starting all 35 games for the City College of San Francisco last season, the 6-foot-7-inch, 245-pound forward proved to be essential to his team’s success, averaging nearly a double-double with 13.1 points and 12.1 rebounds per game with help lead his team to a CCCAA State Championship.

A defensive liability on the boards and versatile back-down post player, the former Washington State commitment will be seeing quality rotational minutes from the bench.

Currently in her fourth year as head coach, Nicole Barbeau at the outside hitter position, Allen and defensive sides of the net. Hailing from Redondo Beach, with her senior season earlier this year, Robinson was ranked No. 24 Class

A four-year member of the varsity team, Allen has gained five recruits and one transfer.

Gauchos Add Six Recruits, Earn No. 24 Class

Sean White
Sports Editor

After recording program lows in overall and Big West wins with a 7-20, 3-13 eighth-place finish last season, it can be assured that the UCSB women’s volleyball program is determined to redeem itself in the 2016 season.

Currently in her fourth year as head coach, Nicole Lamagre Wick will look to recapture the winning chemistry that amazed many in her debut season with the school in 2013, when she helped lead the Gauchos to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2013.

Awarded with the 24th-best recruiting class in the nation by PrepVolleyball.com, a primary focus of UCSB’s search for players was to replenish its offensive attack after losing former Gauchos outside hitter Ali Barbosa, along with opposite Latina Villanueva and Britton Taylor, who amassed 611 of the team’s 1,246 kills last season.

Expressing the earliest interest by signing Letters of Intent in December, Chico, Allen and Rice were the first to commit. For the second time in her career, Grunt was named a Big West Honorable Mention after ranking third in the conference in hitting percentage with a .355 average.

Thus far, UCSB has played in three matches this spring. Beginning with its alumni match on April 9, Santa Barbara has faced Loyola Marymount and UCLA over the past two months.

Although the preseason predictions of the Big West Media Poll are not always accurate in where teams will end up by the end of the season, last year’s third-place expectation may have been too much for the Gauchos, who declined after a 4-1 start to the season before enduring an 11-match losing streak.

UCSB’s 2016 regular season schedule has yet to be revealed.
The performances at Anisq'Oyo Park are usually host to some nice relaxing bands that reflect the laid-back spirit of Isla Vista. Saturday’s musical festivities were of a similar nature, until rapper Shwayze took the stage and livened up the place.

This past Saturday, the Surfrider Foundation Chapter of Isla Vista held their annual Concert for the Coast. The event featured booths with information about beach care and raffle prizes with proceeds going to Gaviota Coast preservation, and, of course, a free concert with Shwayze as the headliner. Audience size fluctuated throughout, but relaxing Gauchos filled Anisq’Oyo for the whole day, and the event functioned as a nice escape from the upcoming stress of finals.

Before Shwayze’s grand entrance, some alternative reggae bands warmed up the crowd. Cali Conscious, Rebel Shakedown, Layovr and West Swell, which consisted of some UCSB alumni and current students, were among the opening acts. These local talents created a sense of community among the park with their original anthems of Santa Barbara life. Their free-spirited beach vibes mixed perfectly with the shining sun and had the audience in high spirits. There were some familiar tunes in the air as well, as Layovr provided a nice Bob Marley medley and a cover of MGMT’s “Electric Feel,” and West Swell covered “Valerie” by Amy Winehouse and performed a mashup of Drake hits.

The typical widespread seated crowd of the park was quickly moved up to their feet around the stage as soon as Shwayze was set to make his appearance. His DJ came out first and offered the crowd their first chance to get “Shwayxed” with some EDM before the man of the hour officially performed. Although his opening track, a Bob Marley EDM remix, came off as slightly tasteless, the following hard-hitting drops effectively conditioned the crowd for the fun night to come.

Shwayze finally hit the stage at around 7 p.m. and the crowd reacted with appropriate energy (to say the least). He was accompanied on stage by the aforementioned DJ, as well as his hype-man/five-year-old son, Hendrix. Hendrix mainly just played around the stage as his dad performed, and occasionally was picked up to help mouth some of the lyrics. Although Shwayze made it a point to take hits from the various joints burning in the crowd as well as to continually remind them to “light up,” he often comically covered his mouth and watched his language when his son was listening.

The young rapper's set list consisted of tracks spanning throughout his career, including songs from his self-titled debut album as well as his most recent work “King of the Summer.” One of the most energy-inducing performances of the night included his 2014 hit, “Love is Overrated,” which the audience continually screamed along to. The throwback feel was clearly alive and well as Shwayze jumped around the intimate stage.

The whole crowd was alive with familiar remembrance as the summer partier performed the first hits of his career, “Buzzin’” and “C’mon and Lime.” The park knew of surprisingly large amount of the lyrics as the rhymes rung out into the air. Needless to say, because these two songs are essentially the staples of Shwayze’s career, they provided the most rewarding moments of the night. Although jumping and dancing saturated the entirety of the set, the most enjoyment came from his two biggest throwbacks.

In complete transparency, it doesn’t take a music analyst to know that Shwayze doesn’t exactly compare to the other acts that have come to UCSB this year, especially when the show took place a week after the extremely anticipated Extravaganza. However, this event was a raging success for multiple reasons. Firstly, Shwayze can actually put on a hell of a show with a remarkable amount of personality and likability. Secondly, it was a very heartwarming gathering of hundreds of Gauchos in the name of summer relaxation and quality music. Lastly and certainly not least, the community came together for a good cause — the preservation and protection of local beaches — and raised some good money. Love him or hate him, Shwayze’s here to have a good time, and the crowd was always down to join in.
If you venture into the Art, Design & Architecture Museum on campus before Sunday the 29, you will find an array of paintings, sculptures and multi-media fixtures that fall decidedly in the category of abstract. Beginning on May 14, six Master of Fine Arts graduate students at UCSB — Emily Baker, Vanessa Gingold, Morgan McAllister, Tom Pazderka, George Sanders and Shannon Willis — debuted their theses in an exhibition at the AD&A museum, which held a reception on Friday May 20. You can go and see the exhibits Wednesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. (8 p.m. on Thursday). If you’re worried about “not getting” any of it, don’t worry, there’s a lot of variety and plenty of the art is just plain cool to look at.

The installations each entail several separate pieces, usually around five to seven per artist. They run the gamut with regard to subject and medium.

Pazderka focuses chiefly on wood sculptures, found objects and charcoal drawings on tar paper. Pazderka’s exhibit revolves around famous (and infamous) individuals who spent time living in cabins in isolation. His subjects, each given a charcoal portrait in his piece “Freedom Club” range from the violent to the visionary. In “The Freedom Club Cabinet of Ted and Henry,” terrorist Ted Kaczynski (aka the Unabomber) shares a cabin fragment Pazderka uses. And the artist’s aversion to propaganda becomes ironic considering one of the Freedom Club members is Leni Riefenstahl, the infamous Nazi propagandist director (even more so given that her most noted work is Triumph of the Will, regarded as a masterpiece of both propaganda and art).

Sanders’ exhibit features mainly sculptures, composed mostly of a few skeletal, architectural frames. There’s a clear emphasis on the line quality of the structures and the workmanship behind the materials. The constructions are made mostly of wood and rope, and demonstrate a contrast between the utility of these materials and the pure, non-functional aestheticism of the final art pieces. Sanders comes from a painting background, and several paintings accompany the sculptures. These images also depict the geometric gridlines that comprise the bulk of Sanders’ exhibit.

On the other end of the spectrum from this extensive sculpture-work is McAllister. McAllister has several paintings on the back wall of the gallery in addition to a few wall-mounted, three-dimensional pieces. The paintings encompass large swaths of wall space; dubbed “Eleutheromaniac,” they are fairly conventional abstract images, boasting mainly hues and splotches of white, pink and red.

Sharing the largest and most open museum space with McAllister and Sanders is Gingold. Gingold’s exhibit includes again mostly sculpture-work. Her surrealist-inspired pieces draw heavily on both the human body and insectoid structures. The acrylic, pigment and wood of the pieces “Private Viewing” and “Egg Case” all resemble bone and skin, or even possibly exoskeleton. A large centerpiece evokes a cocoon. Much of the material for this installation is abaca paper; the process of reading the abaca paper involves wetting it, beating it repeatedly and allowing it to dry and crack. The more severe the beating, the stronger and more translucent the material becomes. While Gingold’s pieces are abstract, they remain accessible. In some sense they’re delightful — all in shades of light pink and resembling mobiles you might put above a crib — in another way they manifest body horror straight out of David Cronenberg’s films, even evocative of Lovecraftian images.

Diverging from the fixed pieces of her peers, Willis’ installation contains mainly video feed, played on either flat-screen TV’s or projected onto the wall. The bulk of her exhibit takes place in a dark room in a piece called “Falling in Love While Drowning.” The installation focuses more on mood than it does physical aesthetics. The video screens project images of a distressed Willis along with a young girl playing. The feeds imply some sort of tragedy, and largely suggest symbolism of time and progression.

The final exhibit (although likely the first in sight upon entering the museum) entails both a sculptural and a performative element. Baker’s work is a tribute to movement and the human form. The centerpiece of the exhibit is the paint streaks on the wall that she left when she climbed up a gym rope covered in paint. The prints that her body left appear like large, lettered calligraphy in dark pigment in “The Ascent.” Surrounding the gym rope in the middle of the room are hip and knee replacements that Baker cast in bronze herself. Also prominent in the room is “Spinal Shift,” a large, warped, yellow lattice-work made of latex, steel and bronze. Baker spoke to the Daily Nexus about the nature of risk in the performance (both physical and ego-wise).

“...As a competitive gymnast you’re constantly showing and trying to be better, and to be better you have to be vulnerable; you have to allow criticism, which you have to do in art as well,” Baker said. “There’s a lot of similarities in the gym that there is in the metal shop. You feel confident but you also might seriously injure yourself.”

She continues to perform (although, sadly, not the painted rope-climb) by hoisting herself upside-down on the pull-up bar in an impressive feat of athleticism in the piece “Quiet Practice.” She goes every day of the installation, at 3:30 PM. If you go, she’ll converse with you — there’s no artificial “performance” style of non-interaction.

The overall verdict of the six theses is that while not every piece of every exhibit is amazing, many of them certainly are. Using many different forms and methods to cohere into unifying themes and symbols and images also creates a unique and immersive art-viewing experience. If you’re by the University Center, or on campus all at for the last few days of the exhibition, you would be wise to experience some amazing artistic talent and drop by the museum.
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Fireside Foods For Your Memorial Day Camping Trip

Samantha Salazar
Reporter

With this weekend comes Memorial Day, and that means three-day weekend! So take advantage of the last long weekend of the school year and gather a group of friends and go camping. Before you take off, though, let me give you some advice. It’s easy to think of the essential list when it comes to camping: tents, flashlights and sleeping bags … but what about food? Unless you’re a super organized and prepared camper, it’s easy to forget what kind of food you need to take on your outdoor adventure. Here are some easy snacks and foods that will save you some space and make a successful camping trip.

#1 Hot Dogs
Hot dogs are one of the traditional, and my favorite, things to roast over a campfire. Sure, you can make it over a stove, but the minute you put it on a stick and place it over the fire, you start to see it turn dark and crispy. The hot dogs have that lingering wood flavor from the fire that makes you want to eat more and more. The best thing about hot dogs, though, is that they’re inexpensive and come in at least a pack of eight so you can share with everyone.

#2 Protein/Granola bars
It isn’t a fully successful camping trip unless you’re going on a hike or two. On the downside, you’ll be away from your campsite and any real meal you’ve prepared. Because it’s never fun to carry more than you want, protein/granola bars are good on-the-go snacks. They’re lightweight and will fill you up when you find yourself away from your site. The best part is that there are streams of different flavors and a variety to choose from so you won’t be stuck with the same bland flavor.

#3 Meat and/or Vegetables
Unlike hot dogs, meat can be rather expensive, but it can also last you your entire trip. When my family goes camping, we take a variety of meat, chicken and vegetables to cook. It feels like it never runs out, and if you aren’t feeling like having a certain type, there is always something different. Marinating beforehand is a good way to save time as you’ll just have to place the meat on the grill whenever you’re ready. It’s good to freeze your meat before the actual trip so that by the time you’ve arrived to your destination, it’s thawed. To save space you can put your marinated meat in large Ziploc bags and place it in your cooler.

#4 Fruit
Fresh or dried fruit are excellent snacks to take on a camping trip. It’s better to take fresh, non-perishable fruits rather than those that don’t last longer than a day or two. Fruit with protective shells — pineapples, watermelons, oranges — are more likely to last longer than those without. Dried fruit also doesn’t spoil and is really hard to crush. Like granola bars, dried fruit come in a large variety and are easy to carry.

#5 Beans
A can of beans is an easy, cheap meal in itself. With different varieties, you aren’t going to get tired of beans as fast as you’d think. Filled with protein, beans will fill you up and you’ll be ready to go off on another adventure. All you need is a pan and a fire to make these cold beans a delicious meal, or if you really want to be adventurous, open the can, place it over the fire and wait for them to heat up. Be sure to wait until the beans cool down before eating them.

#6 Drink Mixes
Gallons of drinks take up a lot of space in the car and are quite heavy. Taking a variety of drink mixes eases up the load. You won’t taste the difference and it’ll be cheaper than buying soda or juices people won’t drink. Assuming you’re already taking a sufficient amount of water, all you need to do is grab a packet of mix — or a spoon if you get the containers — add it to your water and drink away. A good thing about these dry mixes is that whatever isn’t used during the trip can be saved and used later.

#7 Powdered or Evaporated Milk
There’s not much to this other than conventional milk spoils easily. These are tasty, sweet substitutes that you can put in your coffee, cereal, oatmeal and the like.

#8 Trail Mix
Filled with nuts, raisins, chocolate and coconut shavings, trail mix has something everyone will love. You can either buy the prepackaged ones at the store or you can make your own, which means you can control what you put in it. If you’re not a fan of a regular trail mix ingredients you can leave it out or substitute it for something you enjoy.

#9 Salsa/Guacamole
Salsa and guacamole will take any ordinary sit-down and turn it upside down. These are both easy to make and are a yummy snack or delicious side to your meal. All you have to do is prepare beforehand, keep it in a container, and place it in a cooler so all you have to do is crack open the container when you get to your site.

#10 Marshmallows
Is it really a camping trip without marshmallows? Whether you’re eating them on their own or with graham crackers and chocolate, marshmallows roasting over an open campfire is the tradition of all traditions.
Environmental Conference Cuts Emission-Heavy Air Travel, Fosters Communication

Andrea Adams
Reporter

In his opening statement to the Environmental Humanities Initiative (EHI) Conference, Ken Hiltner, environmental humanities professor and director of EHI, made a call to action. "Academic conferences, as we know them, need to come to an end — now."

Hiltner was referring to the carbon footprint of most academic conferences, where participants travel great distances to convene and drastically increase carbon emissions, mostly due to air travel.

The virtual conference, titled "Climate Change: Views from the Humanities," features over 50 speakers contributing pre-recorded talks about diverse topics such as eco-psychology, art and poetry, fossil fuels and climate justice.

The conference materials, including all the talks and the Q&A content, will remain open access and publicly available, but the Q&A portion was only open for contributions from May 3 through 24.

"Another advantage is that it makes it accessible globally ... whereas [there are] scholars in the global south who can't afford to come to conferences in the global north — you have greater geographic diversity of people that are able to participate in this," Ellis said.

"It's an example of humanities and sciences working together and doing what neither can do independently without the other," Hiltner said.

Williams said that focusing on climate change from a humanities perspective rather than sciences perspective rang true with her as a participant in the conference. "This idea kept coming back to me that climate change isn't a scientific problem anymore — it's a political problem, it's a cultural problem, it's a communications problem."

Beginning at UCSB, the Environmental Humanities Initiative is composed of members across the arts and humanities whose main goal is to focus on pressing environmental issues.

Is There Anybody Out There?

Karan Maitra
Reporter

Famed astronomer Carl Sagan once said "The universe is a pretty big place. If it's just us, seems like an awful waste of space." UCSB physics professor Philip Lubin shares the same sentiment.

There are estimated to be more than 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone, and our search strategy so far has been "woefully inadequate," according to Lubin.

"With a telescope of diameter 10 cm and survey time of three years, we should be able to find with a 100 percent certainty, any signal in our galaxy," Lubin said.

"Our knowledge of life on planets is of the order of 10-20, and this number can be greatly expanded with remote sensing. Assuming there are life forms out there in similar or more advanced technological levels, we should be able to detect their presence with fairly basic equipment."

As the leader of the Experimental Cosmology Group, Lubin said the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) is increasingly possible and accurate with the tools available today. The search is by no means a small feat, but scientists are observing it at a higher frequency than they once did.

"One thing we are not doing, however, is broadcasting our own signal, even though we are capable of doing so. "I believe we should be transmitting our information to the universe, it's foolish not to," Lubin said. "We have been trained as children to fear the dark. We fear the unknown."

Since the advent of radio communications and television, we have technologically been broadcasting our location. However, since these communications only came about 50-60 years ago, our "signal" has only been broadcast 50-60 light years away, which is not far in a universe that is 13.8 billion light years across.

In a paper published by Lubin, he explains that extraterrestrial life can be observed to the order of 10^2 and possibly even 10^3 systems. UCSB is discussing a measurement strategy with La Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network (LCOGT) to use their station at Sedgwick Ranch for this search.

"We have evolved very rapidly technologically in the last 50 years," Lubin said. In his research, Lubin assumes that if a hypothetical intelligent species exists, they have a level of technology compared to that we have already achieved.

One of the enabling technologies of SETI is the recent dramatic progress in solid state lasers and laser amplifiers that can be combined together to form larger lasers to increase our own visibility. Using many smaller systems together to form large arrays allows for free space beam combining with no upper limit to power.

"We have never been in such a technological state … and hence it is logical to explore its ramifications in many areas, SETI being one of them," Lubin said. "All such remote sensing searches require us to make assumptions that may have no basis in reality … but it is all we have to go on and hence it should be pursued consistent with reasonable levels of effort."

The search for intelligent life outside earth has always been a high-risk, high reward notion and still is. A detection would no doubt forever change humanity, but for the better or worse our fear of the unknown, as Lubin puts it, holds us back from reaching out ourselves.
WANTED ASAP: HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, 5’9” + CAUCASIAN, BLONDE, BLUE OR GREEN/HAZEL EYES – EGG DONOR NEEDED BY LOVING LOS ANGELES FAMILY. WE ARE WELL EDUCATED PROFESSIONALS ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR AN EGG DONOR ASAP. COMPENSATION GENEROUS. PLEASE EMAIL US AT LAEGGDONOR@GMAIL.COM OR CALL (310) 497-7255 TO COORDINATE.
I grew up in the prototypical suburban sprawl of Southern California’s San Fernando Valley. It’s densely filled with humans — like, millions of humans. Yet not one of them on my street was my friend. I was growing up. Some of my friends in other parts of the Valley (sorry Central and Silicon Valleys, San Fernando Valley is the Valley) caught luckier breaks and fraternized with their neighbors, but in the end I think we all pretty much suffered the same fate.

The transition to college differed strongly from the no-less-tedious change of school I faced on four other occasions. Three graduations and a switch of elementary schools taught me that your friends are the people you see every (weekday), and while you can see someone you like from time to time and your interactions with them feel like real conversations, the bond between you and them is weak compared to the same rate, so they can’t really be considered friends in the same way. These infrequent friends are certainly not acquaintances; you know them too well or like them too much. Yet, I hesitate to call them friends without some sort of prefix; thinking about some of these relationships, even friends, evokes feelings such that I know they still occupy emotional territory, but that space is more a scrapbook than a scrapbooking club.

From preschool to two different elementary schools to middle school and high school, I lost friends at every transition. I think a great many people have, maybe all the people who lived in areas like mine. If someone didn’t live just down your block, you probably didn’t see them because they lived miles away, so school was the place I knew I’d regularly see people my own age and home was where I interacted with my family and TV. In my sixth grade I got a MySpace account. I had a pruned Top 8 and thought this social networking thing would grow my bonds with my classmates (former and contemporary) without bound. Surely, we would all be BFFs; that’s why we wrote it in each other’s elementary school yearbooks. However, Facebook was a novelty, and middle schools spoke dramatically less, even with MySpace and our propensities to lie about our ages on the internet. The one social middle school just wasn’t enough. We could talk and express our teenage angst with each other just fine, but we were not building experiences. Sharing a meme pales in comparison to the organic emergence of an inside joke.

When Facebook came along for the masses to use, I had entered high school and shed a fair number of my middle school friends. Mark Zuckerberg was a cold, but not quite as cold as the Social Network, saying to get on to Facebook but never to do anything. While everyone you are connected with on the platform is your “friend,” Facebook knows deep down that you care about some of your friends. Facebook uses its algorithms to detect the friends you are connected with and filter out Facebook friends you aren’t really friends with. For example, if you unfriend him, leaving me alone on the digital platform because you aren’t actually friends, Facebook knows and upon adding me, asked why I was starting shit with one of his friends. He invited me to try Facebook and upon adding me, asked why I was starting shit with one of his friends. I realized I didn’t know who this person was and instantly unfriended him, leaving me alone on the digital platform because we weren’t friends in real life.

MySpace and Facebook definitely facilitate interpersonal interaction better, and it knows it’s what’s going to keep it afloat, so Facebook throws money at making the best messaging app. However, in the end, it won’t be the thing that makes Facebook successful. While everyone you are connected with on the platform is your “friend,” Facebook knows deep down that you care about some people more than others or only want to hear from certain people, and their algorithms do the work of filtering out Facebook friends you aren’t actually close with.

Sharing is important while making memories is not. After all, Facebook has a share button, but not “let’s make a memory” one. You are worth your attention, so you would be worthless to Facebook if your attention was really on other people where it has to be, to be in the moment. Facebook is the published model of friendship, a model of passive emotional commitment, the highlight reels of our lives without the opportunity to make a highlight on the platform. It’s voyeuristic friendship at its utmost. This is not to say that Facebook is bad or wrong, just that it doesn’t keep the party going like other platforms. Facebook, unlike other platforms, just isn’t a place you can make memories and share them.

Gaming with people online is a whole other ball game. I think it’s one of the only places online that offers an arena for a real friendship to emerge and be maintained. The process of gaming has the elements of cooperation and competition that stimulate human interaction and facilitate the organic experiences that make a friendship real. The events of these experiences are the same, but the platforms on which we engage in them are different. Facebook is the publish/subscribe model of friendship, which is your “friend” Facebook knows deep down that you care about some of your friends. Facebook uses its algorithms to detect the friends you are connected with and filter out Facebook friends you aren’t really friends with. For example, if you unfriend him, leaving me alone on the digital platform because you aren’t actually friends, Facebook knows and upon adding me, asked why I was starting shit with one of his friends. He invited me to try Facebook and upon adding me, asked why I was starting shit with one of his friends. I realized I didn’t know who this person was and instantly unfriended him, leaving me alone on the digital platform because we weren’t friends in real life.

If you want to keep up with your friends, Facebook is a model of passive emotional commitment, the highlight reels of our lives without the opportunity to make a highlight on the platform. While there are moments that Facebook’s graph, living simultaneously in physical spaces and physical data centers, but only ever in those points of time from whence they came.

Benji Lampel wonders if the cycle of making and losing friends will continue our entire lives.