

Letter From the Editor: The Screens Between Us Don't Have To Be Barriers

Dear Class of 2024,

Something about being elected editor in chief through a Zoom conference just didn't sit right. I mean that literally: There I sat at the desk in my childhood bedroom, when I should've been perched on one of the ancient couches or mismatched swivel chairs of the Daily Nexus office.

Still, I clung to a sliver of hope that, by the end of the summer, I would be writing this in my new office, unmasked, surrounded by the familiar sights and sounds of the editorial staff working away at our weekly print edition.

Now, nearly four months and 100 miles sit between that expectation and reality. In addition to the devastating impact on both people's lives and livelihoods, finding hope in future plans – only to be let down by cancellations, postponements and promises of updates to come – has become a regular feature of COVID-19.

When it's impossible to know what will happen two weeks, six months or a year down the line, how do you move forward?

The answer is you do what you can, one day at a time.

If working at a daily publication during a global health crisis and the defining civil rights movement of our generation has taught me anything, it is that the world keeps turning. Each day ushers in both new challenges and new stories of individuals and communities rising to meet them. People are still creating art, fighting for justice, advancing science and technology and making each other laugh. And as long as they do, the Nexus will be here to share their stories.

Where is "here" if not the underbelly of Storke Tower that has been our paper's home for half a century? Well, much like another, far more famous concrete jungle, the Nexus is more than a building – it's a state of mind. I'm proud of how our editors and staff members have kept the Nexus running these past months, with the added difficulties of distance, online communication and even different time zones.

Beyond adjusting to the status quo, the Nexus, much like the community we serve, continues to grow and change despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19. To those of you who are reading this article in print, the paper in your hands is proof that it's possible to move forward even when it feels like the world is standing still. As I type, writers and editors are crafting the stories contained in the following pages; copy readers are catching errors; illustrators, photographers and graphic designers are creating the visuals; and production is tying it all together.

The assemblage of our first print issue in months is bittersweet with the knowledge that our whole staff won't physically reunite until it is safe to do so. But someday we will, and in the meantime, we're making it work. I hope this brings you as much reassurance as it has brought me.

Quarantine has also been a time of internal growth for the Nexus. I stepped into this role with the objective of strengthening ties with the communities we cover and addressing the Nexus' longstanding lack of diversity. Over the past months, the Black Lives Matter movement has ignited long overdue conversations about racism and inequality across newsrooms nationwide, underscoring the need to take meaningful action at the local level.

This summer, members of our editorial staff have been developing the Nexus' first formal diversity and inclusion initiatives. As other editors in chief have taken care to emphasize, change is never easy, and progress is never made without missteps or mistakes. I feel it is important to reiterate that accountability is a two-way street. To demand it of the institutions we frequently cover without expecting – and inviting – the same would be hypocritical and counterproductive. The current editorial staff follows in the footsteps of those taken forward and backward by nearly 100 years of Nexites, and my goal is to build on the progress that previous generations have forged while leaving my own mark on this organization which has done so much for me.

Taking on this position would've been unthinkable without the people who are pillars of my Nexus experience: Laurel Rinehart and Ali Abouesh, who rolled out the welcome wagon for me; Jorge Mercado, who personifies leading with compassion; and especially Hannah Jackson, my predecessor and close friend who helped me overcome my initial imposter syndrome. Thank you for showing me how to get the job done and for being there for me as I figure it out myself.

It's been almost three years since I first stepped foot into a staff meeting, equipped with nothing but a love of writing and a bottomless well of opinions. A few quarters later, I became

an editor of the opinion section.

(That concrete jungle really is where dreams are made of.) I mention this because while the Nexus is many things – a platform for independent voices, a breaking news outlet, a social group – one thing it is not is a gatekeeper of student journalism. I am so proud to represent a paper that welcomes all students, whether or not they bring any prior knowledge or experience to the table, and teaches by doing. Had it not been for this open-door philosophy, my college experience would have taken place in an alternate universe.

However, you don't need to wait for the Nexus to physically reopen its doors in order to join.

To the Class of 2024: Even if it doesn't feel like it right now, you are part of the UCSB community, and you can be part of the Nexus community as well. To those of you who hoped to join a campus newspaper or are looking to experience some aspect of college virtually – we need your voices. I hope you choose the Nexus to stay informed, entertained and excited for the college experience that awaits you.

And to all readers: I look forward to the day that we can kick it in the office and eat the candy that always seems to be lying around there. Until then, I'm just a few clicks away. The screens between us don't have to be barriers.

Heads high, masks on and for the love of humanity, please register to vote.

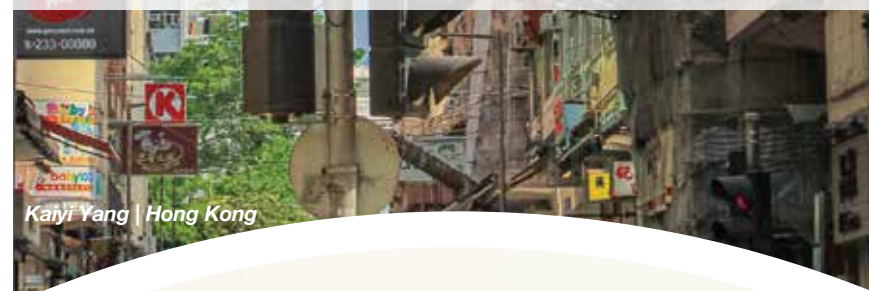
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Editor in Chief 2020-21

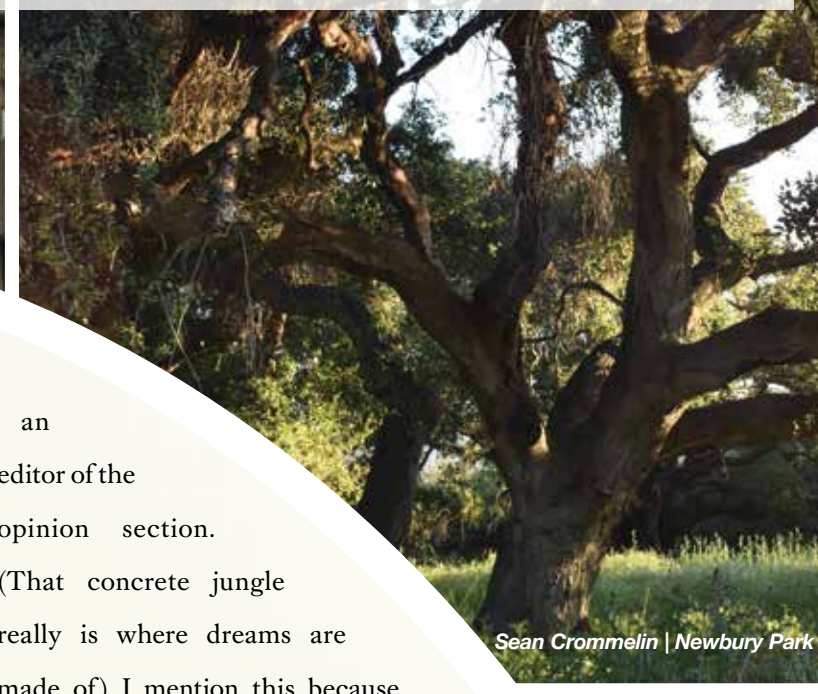
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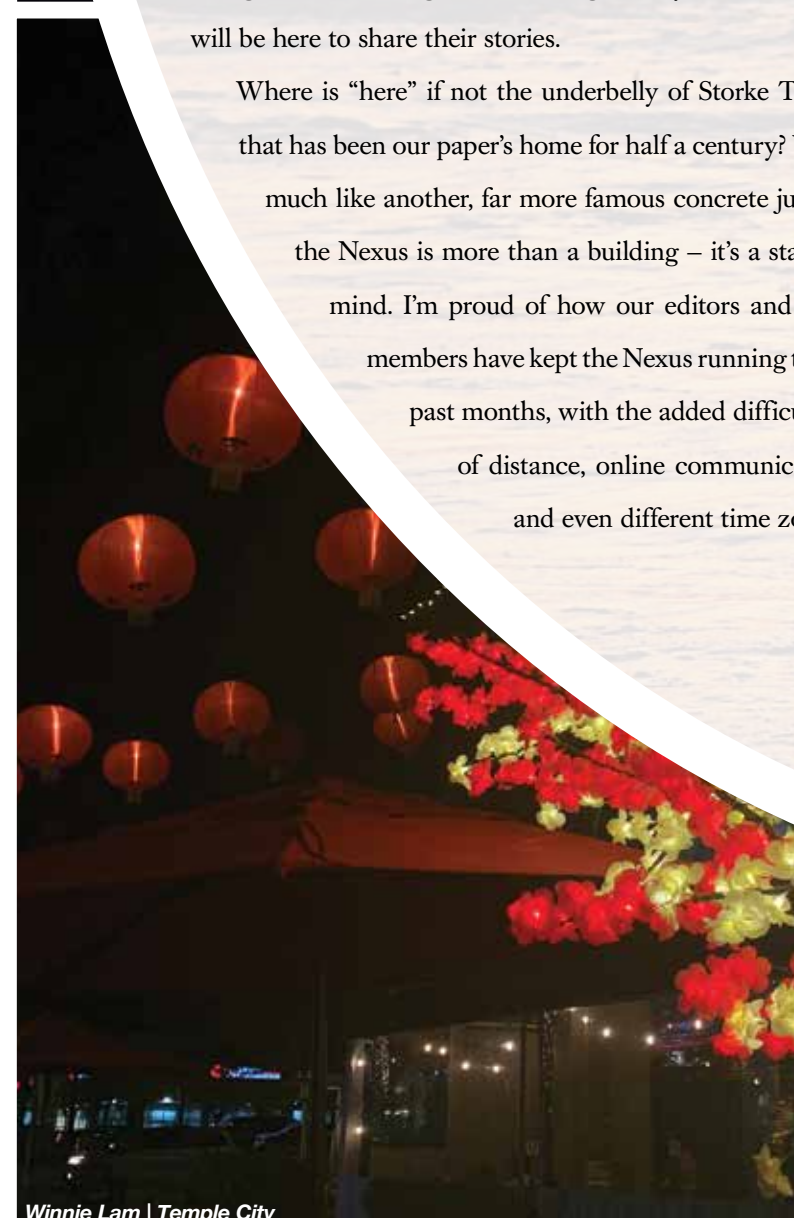
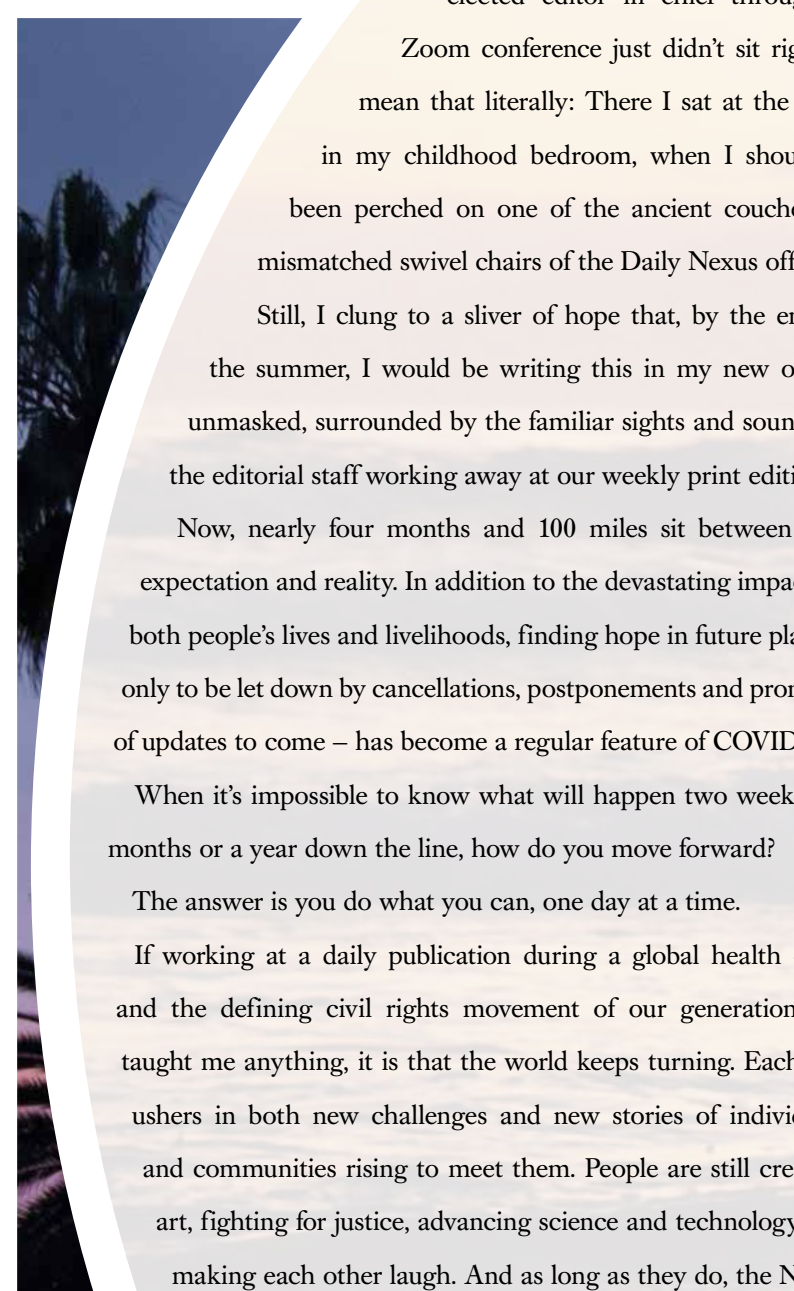
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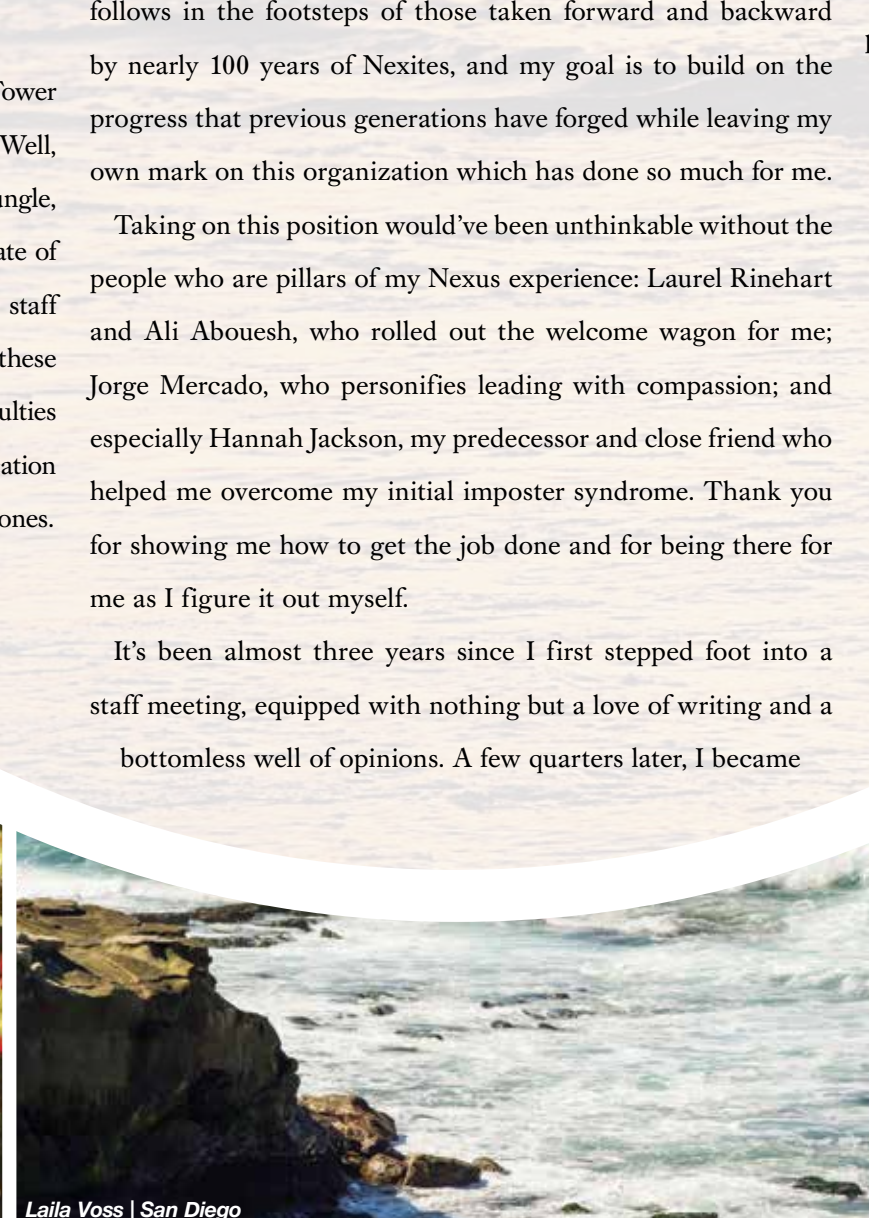
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Dear Incoming Students:

We are thrilled to welcome our first-year and transfer students to UC Santa Barbara! After years of hard work and preparation, you have reached this incredible milestone moment – the beginning of a lifetime of personal growth and intellectual adventure. As we look forward to our years ahead together, we acknowledge what a challenging and unprecedented time this is for our students right now. In the face of COVID-19, the start of the academic year will look very different from what we had all hoped. We know what a disappointment this may be for you, and for us as well, but we will not let it overshadow our enthusiasm and excitement over your decision to become a member of our campus community.

Over the past several months, you have been called on to sacrifice significant rites of passage for the greater good of public health. Already you have impressed us with your ability to adapt to an evolving situation, and to find opportunities for growth amid the many changes. Such invaluable inner resources will serve you well throughout your educational journey. And despite the unique circumstances, we are just as eager to partner with you on your path toward discovery and learning.

At UC Santa Barbara, you are joining a strong university family that values academic excellence and diversity. We are currently ranked No. 7 among the top public universities in the country by U.S. News and World Report. We are also ranked No. 9 worldwide for producing Nobel laureates in this century, according to Times Higher Education in London.

Paramount to the academic achievement and excellence at UC Santa Barbara is our commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. We are a Minority-Serving Institution, and the first member of the prestigious Association of American Universities to be recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. 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, and we are listed among the Top 20 colleges nationally with the most diverse student bodies, based on data from the U.S. Department of Education. Earlier this month, we appointed our new Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

This year, issues of equity, equality, and social justice have been at the forefront. We have witnessed and shared in the national outrage over the deep hurt and devastating effects of racism and discrimination on our country. As a university dedicated to educating the leaders of tomorrow, and learning from each other, we are committed to being part of the change. We encourage one another to foster a community free of intolerance and discrimination, and to promote a campus climate that is respectful, civil, supportive, and safe. These core values allow us to provide a learning environment where we can all pursue our dreams and reach our highest potential.

You have taken the bold step to advance your education during a time of much uncertainty. The year ahead may be hard in many ways, but together, we will meet this moment with grace and strength. My wife, Dilling, and I are proud and honored to have you at UC Santa Barbara, and we cannot wait for the day when you will fill our campus and classrooms with your vibrant energy – which we hope is very soon. Until then, our best wishes to you for the upcoming fall quarter.

Sincerely,

Henry T. Yang
 Chancellor

"I need to make friends with your future wife so she can call me the day that she pegs you."

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WEATHER

Ze is truly living the the college experience with zir's "friend" (entanglement) by drinking an entire box of Twisted Teas plus an entire box of Truly Lemonades while watching the "Bee Movie."

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Students and Parents Adjust Their Expectations for the First Day of Online College

Asumi Shuda
Reporter

Everyone remembers their first day of college.

Perhaps it marks the day you met your lifelong best friend or left home for the first time and had a teary goodbye with your family. Maybe you joined the wrong lecture and sat embarrassed in the back of the room, or even felt the sudden weight of adulthood drop on your shoulders.

But when the class of 2024 looks back on their first days of college, their memories could look dramatically different than those from all the years before.

With online classes and residence hall limitations, the university will not be welcoming students to campus with the normal celebrations. As a result, incoming freshmen have had to adjust expectations for the start of their college career.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Chancellor Henry T. Yang announced in June that courses for fall quarter would be primarily online, later confirming that less than 3% of classes would be in person and that freshman housing would be limited to certain single-occupancy rooms. This flurry of new changes placed many incoming students' fall quarter plans on shaky ground.

For incoming freshmen like Anshul Panda, learning that he would be spending the beginning of his college years behind a computer left him with mixed emotions. As a pre-statistics and data science major, Panda said his main concern is staying motivated while mourning the loss of the iconic freshman experience.

"Of course in college, students have to be more independent and self-motivated as people and in the classroom, but the students who are better at learning on their own may be better off than students who are not," Panda said.

Panda also said he worries about missing out on the classroom experience and personal interactions that come with in-person instruction.

For pre-economics major Priti Sharma, the first day of college might not look all that different from her last days of high school — conducted virtually. Regardless, after a summer of social distancing and quarantining, she said the jump into fall quarter will be a bitter welcome to the new school year.

Sharma decided to stay home for fall quarter but worries about

being able to make friends that could support her through her classes and that she could spend time with during her downtime.

"Because I am staying home for the fall, I am honestly really scared that I will not be able to find people to become friends with and study with," Sharma said.

Incoming first-year pre-biology major Audrey Pham said the news of an online fall quarter came as no surprise to her, as her

be open partially, and she expects that opportunities to meet fellow student peers will be forgone for this quarter. She also worries about being homesick while relegated to studying in her room.

"If I stayed home, yes, I would miss out on the whole dorming college experience, but in reality, there will probably be more to do at home than on campus," Pham said.

However, not all students are navigating online school for the

college has been a lot better than I thought it would be, even with classes being online, because of my online school experience and FSSP," Lou said.

Like Lou, incoming first-year English major Maya Dighe said the online fall quarter would not be a much of a transition for her, having been homeschooled for her entire K-12 academic career.

"I am used to taking classes online, so if anything, the transition for me would be

for an online format.

"I am hopeful that the professors are able to find creative solutions to compensate for the lack of in person interactions that will occur in the fall," Dighe said.

But not all students are as optimistic about the turnout for the online fall quarter. Kai Brady, a student tennis player, deferred his first quarter at UCSB after the tennis season was postponed. He hopes to spend the time until winter quarter training on his

staying home, practicing, playing in tournaments and becoming a better player overall."

For the parents of incoming freshmen, the reality of this school year has brought disappointment and concern. One parent, Charlene Roger, is concerned about risking COVID-19 exposure for her son, as he will be moving into the dorms this fall.

"My husband and I feel ambivalent about our son's start at UCSB," Roger said. "As expected, he has concerns on how everything will play out this year, as do we."

Roger worries mostly about the quality of education her son will receive from an online format, especially in conjunction with the cost of tuition.

"Although there may be additional costs involved in creating and offering an online instruction platform this year, we feel students should be entitled to a discount during the timeframe where their only option is online learning," Roger said.

Mitch and Rowena Preciado are also sending their son to UCSB this fall. They, too, have reservations. The Preciados said they are unsure of how well UCSB will be able to protect students from COVID-19 exposure and how living in single-occupancy dorms will affect students' social and mental health.

With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in I.V. heading toward 150 this week, the Preciados said they have doubts that students will follow social distancing and COVID-19 safety practices to keep themselves and each other safe.

"The more kids you have, the harder it is to control," Rowena said. "The virus is not something to mess around with. Your decision will affect other kids and you could bring the virus home to your parents if [you're] not careful."

Despite all of these challenges and the uncertainty ahead, some students say keeping a positive outlook for the next quarter could be the key to surviving college in a pandemic.

"I am trying to stay optimistic, as that definitely helped me get through these past couple of months, especially with my high school senior year being cut short," Pham said.

"I am also trying to find things to be grateful for, such as being able to spend more time with my family and friends at home."



KAITLYN SMITH / DAILY NEXUS

An artistic compilation of iconic UCSB locations, pictured left to right: the library, Storke Tower, one of the four dining commons, Del Playa Drive, Campbell Hall, San Nicolas Residence Hall and Freebirds restaurant in Isla Vista.

senior year of high school was cut short due to the pandemic.

"A couple of months ago, I was really hoping that [fall quarter] would be in person, but at this point, I have become used to the idea of online school," Pham said.

Pham is still struggling to decide on her housing for fall quarter and is weighing the options of staying home or moving to Isla Vista. UC Santa Barbara will only

first time this year. Kylee Lou, an incoming first-year psychological and brain sciences major, feels that she has an edge over most other students. She graduated in April from Connections Academy, an online public K-12 school, and is currently enrolled in the Freshman Summer Start Program (FSSP).

"I honestly feel like my transition from high school into

taking classes in person," Dighe explained. "However, I am pretty sad that we cannot attend classes in person because I was really looking forward to it."

Although she is disappointed that classes will not be in person this fall, Dighe also appreciates the precautions the university is implementing to keep students safe and looks forward to seeing how professors adjust instruction

own by following the training regimen of the UCSB tennis team.

"Since I do not know if we would practice or if players on the team would even show up this fall, I did not want to pay for the quarter to get half an experience," Brady said. "So I talked to my coach about it, and he recommended that I defer, so now I am planning on

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Back on the Same Wavelength: KCSB Alumni Return To Host Radio Shows From Around the World

Mariam Bagdady
Reporter

When the coronavirus pandemic forced UC Santa Barbara's KCSB-FM to move its operations online in late March, the show didn't stop. In fact, it got more creative. Former students – now DJs and producers from all over the world – are tuning in to support the show and host radio programs, brought together by the common cause to help the college radio station of their past.

From Peru to Japan, from New York to the beaches of Santa Barbara, UCSB alumni are working around the clock to ensure their cherished community radio station stays on air, according to Ted Coe, the current staff advisor for the station.

More than 23 alumni programmers rejoined the KCSB team at the end of June with new and updated programs that reminisce on shows going as far back as the 1980s, according to a press release from KCSB. The throwback programs include "Smooooothe Beatzzz," a jazz music show, and "reDISCOvery," an electronic and funk music mix.

KCSB has not only revived old shows but has welcomed an array of new programs as well, including the "KCSB Sample Platter," a new addition that provides a taste of two shows every Friday, including those of alumni, according to Coe.

Jesse Fuller '03 is one of the many to make a comeback. Fuller revived his old show "Itadakimasu" – a program showcasing different genres of Japanese music, including his newest addition of classical music.

Fuller currently lives in the Gunma prefecture of Japan, where he works as an IT infrastructure engineer and networker. He said that being across the Pacific Ocean and "getting connected [back]" with his KCSB family has been enriching, but a little strange after his 17-year hiatus.

"I'm super happy to help out and fill up some spots while it's necessary," Fuller said. "It's definitely a weird thing to go on [after] all these years, and especially as we all have moved around the world."

Many of Fuller's college friends have rejoined the broadcast, turning a pandemic-driven improvisation into a virtual,

on-air Gaucho reunion amongst the various graduating classes.

Bryan Brown '99, a network engineer in New York, returned to the KCSB radio scene after spending 11 years as KCSB's chief engineer. His show, "The Return of CoolMojo," streams from Long Island and features "a lot of live and not-so-mainstream jazz," with a selection of other music from genres such as R&B and soul.

Brown said that his return to the station and his show felt like a homecoming after being away for seven years.

"When I left, it was sort of like leaving home again. It had been a big part of my life for a very long time, and so to be able to come back and then to see people I hadn't spoken to or whose names hadn't crossed my mind in years was really neat," Brown said.

“It's almost like going back to my hometown. It's a real sense of nostalgia for me.”

Maiya Evans

Maiya Evans '05, a lecturer in the Department of Health Education at San Francisco State University, had similar feelings about coming back to KCSB. She's hosting the "Hey Girl Health Show," a new program on KCSB that examines health topics affecting women of color.

"You kind of leave school, you go off and you have your life, but so much of who I am or really so much of my leadership came from what I did at KCSB," Evans said. "It's almost like going back to my hometown. It's a real sense of nostalgia for me."

Her show uniquely expands beyond what KCSB's audience is accustomed to hearing from the radio station, focusing on current events and culture rather than music, she said.

Evans explained that her show, along with other alumni programming, is a way to showcase content that is not usually included at KCSB and is a way to represent new shows in programming that don't focus on

music.

"I'm not sure if anybody is talking about women of color and health in Santa Barbara," Evans said. "It's just a different voice that folks will get to hear ... I feel like having that kind of voice in Santa Barbara and in the community is very important."

While alumni said they were happy to be back with new and updated programming during the pandemic, their summer programming is a temporary fix to the ongoing recruiting shortage until new college students can join the team in the fall.

"That time in your life, it doesn't leave," Fuller said. "I would gladly give up my seat at any moment for somebody who's local. I would hate to take their spot."

Despite the temporary programming, current KCSB staff see this summer as a launchpad for helping student members network to form long-term connections with radio industry professionals, according to Coe.

Coe mentioned the possibility of continuing alumni-hosted programs as a regular feature on KCSB due to the addition of perspectives and content that were not covered on the show before.

"They have a focus that is serving other parts of our community," Coe explained.

Student General Manager Emma Mesches, a fourth-year biology major, had a similar outlook when it came to immortalizing the alumni programming.

"We're going to definitely have alumni with shows because they're producing super cool content that we wouldn't have. We can't really do the recruitment we usually would ... so it's been really nice having these alumni," she said.

With the combination of new students joining KCSB during fall recruitment and alumni joining the station for the summer, KCSB is making steps to diversify its programming into the future, according to Coe.

"The diversity of the station adds to the diversity of programming, and then you add to that that people are coming from outside of Santa Barbara and they're bringing in their flavor," Evans said.

"It just makes this [the] eclectic mix that KCSB has always been about."

From the Computer's Glow, FSSP Offers a Remote Freshman Experience

Yuriko Chavez
Reporter

UC Santa Barbara's Freshman Summer Start Program, a six-week program during which incoming freshmen take summer classes ahead of fall quarter and learn about UCSB's resources, is being held entirely online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under normal circumstances, the Freshman Summer Start Program (FSSP) would be held on campus and its attendees would dorm at the San Nicolas Residence Hall. However, health concerns have barred the program's students from experiencing its usual format – involving in-person classes and exploring UCSB's beachside environment – in exchange for one behind a computer.

Transitioning the program into the virtual world of online learning and socializing was not the experience that Ralph Gallucci, a professor in the classics department and one of the program's directors, intended.

The two main goals of FSSP for students have always been "to transition at the university to make friends, and to know where everything is and understand all of the opportunities and resources that are available," according to Gallucci, who also hosts the normally Campbell Hall-packing Greek mythology class, Classics 40, during FSSP.

Despite the challenge of online instruction, Gallucci said the program is still able to show students the university's resources virtually. With over 70 activities listed on Shoreline, the online platform for clubs and organizations, students can register and attend various workshops with multiple faculty

members and interact with other freshmen through Zoom breakout sessions, he added.

With students attending the online program entirely from home, FSSP has adapted; following an increase in size of 55 more freshmen than the year before, the program currently holds 530 members. And as a result of the virtual nature of this year's FSSP, students are also exempt from the traditional housing and program service fees, saving them almost \$3,500, according to the Summer Sessions website.

Keila Kazanjian, an incoming freshman and pre-political science major, said one of the main attractions of FSSP is "the idea of being able to get a head start on receiving credits and becoming more familiar with the university, as it has a very different system compared to high school."

Another incoming freshman and physics major, Anthony Lu, said that the opportunity to interact with and get to know his professors is one of the greatest benefits of the program.

Recently, Lu attended a seminar and learned about the importance of his professors and the amount of diligence and stress that the job demands.

"It really gave [me] a different perspective about the university and about professors that we see every day," Lu said.

While the virtual FSSP is able to share opportunities to its students, the socialization component of the program has noticeably changed. In lieu of socializing in person, FSSP now offers virtual groups on Zoom for freshmen to mingle and talk, according to Kazanjian.

James Li, an incoming actuarial science major, said that "Zoom definitely made it more awkward"

but that everyone "definitely gets closer after everybody introduces themselves."

Similarly, Lu said that even though he is in contact with numerous other freshmen, "it's a little bit harder to find people that I can specifically ... talk to personally and talk to one-on-one."

To close the communication gap, students have been using social media and creating "group chats that are made for a certain class or certain majors" to make up for lost in-person connections, Kazanjian said.

But despite the program's efforts to provide students with the conventional FSSP experience, some freshmen have decided not to attend the program.

"If you're at home ... you can't really experience living in dorms [or] making your friends," according to Hailey Pereyra, an incoming pre-biology major who chose not to attend FSSP due to the online format.

Instead Pereyra has been using Shoreline to interact with other students, as well as student life Instagram pages that have connected her to individuals and clubs that share her interests, she said.

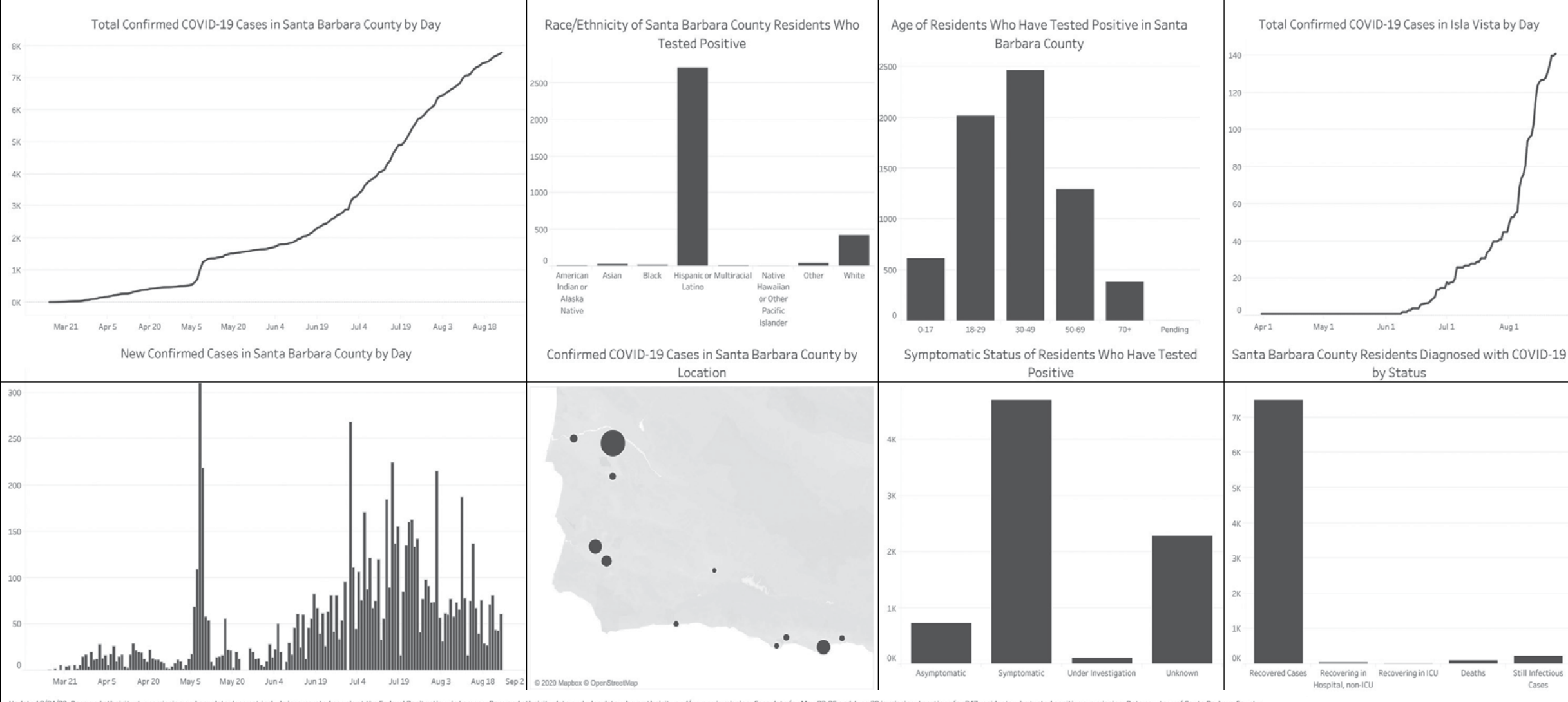
Despite a summer of virtual social interactions – and the inconveniences they bring – FSSP students are still grateful for the program and the opportunities it has to offer.

"In general, what I've believed before this pandemic, and still believe now during FSSP, is that online classes are never really ideal because it removes the physical interaction with both teachers and classmates," Lu said. "But they can still become almost equally as enriching to those who stay focused, are responsible and can adapt to new environments."



MARCELLO FRISINA / DAILY NEXUS

COVID-19 Cases in Santa Barbara County



Updated 8/24/20. Race and ethnicity, transmission and age data does not include incarcerated people at the Federal Penitentiary in Lompoc. Race and ethnicity data excludes data where ethnicity and/or race is missing. Case data for May 23-25 and June 30 is missing. Locations for 347 residents who tested positive are missing. Data courtesy of Santa Barbara County.

UCSB Students Describe Their Paths to Higher Education, Often Paved by Family Sacrifices

Arturo Martinez Rivera
County News Editor
Sofia Mejias-Pascoe
Deputy News Editor

This year, the UC system – one of the largest public university systems in the nation – admitted the most diverse class of students yet. This fall, while the pandemic quiets the college towns around California, new freshman and transfer students will be welcomed virtually to their first day of college, while some returning students will begin their last year.

At UC Santa Barbara, nearly a quarter of admitted freshman and transfer students are Latino or Chicano and over 40% are Asian American. Black students represent 4% of the admitted student population; American Indian and Pacific Islander are both less than 1% each.

While the UC system touts its most diverse admitted class to date, the road to higher education remains paved with economic, social and linguistic roadblocks. Many students' journeys to UCSB began not with themselves, but with their parents.

We asked students from a variety of backgrounds to share how their family's journey shaped their futures at one of the world's top public universities. In the submissions we received, students detailed the sacrifices made by their parents that brought them closer to higher education.

The family of incoming freshman Jessy Gonzalez spent years pinching pennies, working as gardeners and living with extended family in an apartment to get by, the freshman said in a submission to the Nexus. Now, those sacrifices have paid off.

"However, flash forward many years, and my parents were finally able to start a successful company. They bought a house, their own cars, and are now helping send me to study at UCSB. I am a proud first-generation student, and I can't ever thank them

enough," Gonzalez said.

For a third-year art major, who chose to remain anonymous, their parents worked as a janitor and contractor so that their children would never have to.

"Their biggest gift to me was their support," they said in a written statement.

We also talked to a handful of students who described what their journeys looked like from the beginning to now, at UCSB.

Ana Guerrero's journey began outside the United States. A Ph.D. student expecting to get her degree in education in a few months, Guerrero moved from Mexico to Goleta at a young age, and said she felt as if she grew up in two different worlds – "living as a local Mexican immigrant family in Goleta, yet also in a university environment."

Both parents worked labor-intensive jobs: her mother worked as a housekeeper, while her father became a mechanic for the San Clemente Villages – university-owned graduate student housing – after working as a gardener for most of his life, she said.

As a graduate student, Guerrero lived at San Clemente for two years and would occasionally run into her father while he was working there as a gardener; moments where she bumped into him around San Clemente followed her throughout her college career, serving as a reminder of how her parents shaped her childhood, Guerrero said.

"They did everything they could to really just provide us that college diploma, but just that in itself gave us a whole different life than the life they had and the life we would have had if we didn't get through college."

Guerrero said she never envisioned herself attending graduate school at UCSB. Even as a student at Santa Barbara City College, she said she felt intimidated and distant from other students, like an "imposter" in her own community.

Later, Guerrero graduated

from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in sociology and returned to UCSB where she obtained her master's degree in education. Guerrero's two siblings also pursued degrees in higher education, something she attributes to the impact that the education system has had on her family.

"We saw how someone in school, [how] the education system, [can make] that difference for us, I suppose. And so maybe that's kind of something we wanted to get back," Guerrero said. "[To be] a cultural broker and support them, encourage them in following their career aspirations, just like someone did for us."

For other first-generation college students, Guerrero stressed "the need to bring their entire self with them and not try to leave parts of themselves behind to fit in or to feel like they belong."

"They're there because the academic setting needs them; the learning spaces need them. We need diverse voices, we need to voice experiences. And so to really feel proud of who they are and where they come from because just in itself that is super valuable," Guerrero said.

The journey to UCSB for Jeanine Kaileh, a third-year biopsychology major, began over 5,000 miles away, across the Atlantic Ocean. It starts with a love story, she said; her parents met in Spain after leaving the Middle East.

Kaileh's father grew up in occupied Palestine territory in a farming family with seven siblings. From a young age, her father wanted to become a doctor and "defied all odds" when he moved to the U.S. in 1967 to pursue medical school, she said.

Soon after that, his education took him to the University of Granada in Spain to earn a medical degree, despite only knowing how to speak English and Arabic. It was there, she said,

that he learned everything about being a doctor in Spanish.

Kaileh's mother received a bachelor's degree at the American University of Beirut before fleeing to Spain as a refugee during the Lebanese Civil War in 1988. When she arrived in Spain, she met Kaileh's father – and fell in love with him.

Their journey later brought them to the U.S. after having Kaileh. Kaileh's mother restarted her college career after moving to California, since her Lebanese degree didn't transfer. Next year, she will graduate with a master's degree in special education. Her father got a job as a doctor for Valley Health Team, a federally funded clinic in Fresno.

After 25 years of working at the same hospital, her father is now the chief medical officer there.

"When I was little, I would go visit him at work a lot too. I would just be so in awe that he had this huge office and he would put our pictures up and just have that there with his diplomas and certificates all up everywhere," Kaileh said.

"I think that is something that I still look to to this day, when I'm feeling unmotivated. I see all of that and all of that hard work and how he got to where he is."

Kenneth Mejia, a fourth-year economics and accounting major, said his parents' hard work has been a constant theme throughout his life. He remembers a lesson his father learned in his own life: "It doesn't matter where you come from. You may have different disadvantages from other people, but you can still get the same thing," Mejia said.

Both of Mejia's parents came from the same farming village in rural Mexico and migrated to the U.S. together in their 20s. After settling down in Orange County, his parents started working graveyard shifts at Target, coordinating deliveries and taking inventory.

Working at Target for 20 years, Mejia's father rose up in the ranks



Courtesy of Ana Guerrero

Guerrero is pictured with her parents and siblings when she was about 2 years old. From left to right, Ana, Isaias, Carolina, Patricia and Adrian.



Courtesy of Jeanine Kaileh

Kaileh is pictured with her parents and sisters in a photo from Dec. 2018. From left to right, Razan, Husam, Layan, Najwa and Jeanine.

and was eventually promoted to supervisor. However, the language barrier was only one part of the challenges he faced.

"Normally, to be supervisor, he had to be white and know a good amount of English, have some education and he got it," Mejia said.

"He didn't have the education, that language, but he was able to overcome that barrier and be a supervisor, so that was what really surprised him," he continued.

When Mejia himself started working at Target after high school for his first job, he realized how hard his parents had worked

to give him an opportunity for higher education.

"I thought that was crazy, working in retail every day for the past 20 years. That made me appreciate them more, what they do, what they struggle to do and provide me a better way of living," Mejia said.

Despite the roads that each family took to higher education, one thing is certain: Their parents are incredibly proud of how far their children have come.

"It's just making it all count for them, making it all worth it for them and them being proud," Mejia said.

UCSB Library Prepares for Possible Fall Quarter 2020 Reopening



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

Michelle Lee
Reporter

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic, UC Santa Barbara's University Library is currently making preparations to reopen its doors to students, staff and faculty for fall quarter.

After being closed for the past six months, the library recently underwent a massive deep cleaning – maintenance staff disinfected all public areas, dusted and polished stairwells, washed the fabric on chairs and even scraped over seven buckets' worth of gum from underneath the tables, according to a UCSB Library Facebook post.

In addition to extensive cleaning, library staff have implemented drastic changes in the structure and layout of the library to further ensure student health and

safety. Once the library reopens, student access will be restricted to sections of the first two floors in an effort to follow state and county guidelines limiting building density by percentage, while still maximizing student study space, Deputy University Librarian Alan Grosenheider said.

"It's much easier for us to manage if it's limited to a section of the first floor, or a section of the second floor, thus allowing us to not have as many people managing it, which allows more students to have seats," he added.

Grosenheider also noted that Building A, the newest addition to the library, will likely be the first of the two floors to reopen, and study space will expand from there.

Along with floor restrictions, the library has also reduced its

seating capacity to keep students six feet apart and encourage social distancing, according to Dave Kujan, library building operations manager.

"A table that normally would have had eight people ... in group study rooms is reduced down to one chair in a room," Kujan said. "I would just say that from the amount of study space we have opened up, student health and safety is paramount. If we just open up all our seats to the students, it would be opening up a problem."

Kujan also said that the library is in the process of implementing a seat reservation system, which students must use to enter the library.

"We are going to require the reservation system for students to come into the building so we can do better tracking if we have an

issue and maintain a controlled environment for health and safety," Kujan explained.

The library is also enforcing other state, county and campus public health guidelines, like frequent handwashing and facial coverings. The library has ordered more hand sanitizer than "we ever have before" and implemented hand-wipe stations throughout the building, Kujan said. Facial coverings will be required for all staff and visitors, and those who do not wear one will be provided one or asked to leave by staff upon refusal, he added.

Despite sweeping changes in its structure and layout, the UCSB Library will strive to remain as an active resource for all students and faculty, both in person and remotely, according to Hannah Rael, library communications and marketing manager.

Rael said that in-person resources such as GauchoPrint and computer desktops will be open for use, along with the recently established pickup and mailing service available to all UCSB staff and students who wish to access physical materials.

As a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the University Library carries a mission to promote "intellectual engagement with the world of ideas and the creation of knowledge," according to the library website. To continue this mission amidst current pandemic

circumstances, the library has broadened its digital database to offer key in-person services that facilitate learning, Rael said.

That means moving services, such as course reserves, online.

"We're working with faculty to get some of those up electronically, whether that's via an e-book or we have staff scanning certain sections to make sure we have those available now," Rael explained.

And the librarians, who normally provide in-person research consultations, will now be at the service of students via Zoom, she said.

"Obviously it's not safe to meet face-to-face, but they're still ready to answer questions. We [also] have a 24/7 chat service that's available online if people need to get in touch with a librarian at any time," according to Rael.

These digital services are accompanied by the library's vast digital collection, which encompasses nearly 90% of the University Library's entire collection, Grosenheider said. Additionally, by gaining emergency access to the HathiTrust, a collaborative digitization service for academic and research libraries, the library has enabled students and faculty to immediately access digitized material across all UC libraries.

"The biggest service the library provides is ensuring access to the vast amount of electronic resources

that make up most of the use of our collection – electronic journals and books. When we look at what is viewed or downloaded online versus what is checked out in print, it's a 9-1 ratio," Grosenheider noted.

With the reopening of higher education facilities dependent on state and county public health guidelines, the official reopening date of the University Library has yet to be decided. Public health guidelines are constantly evolving as more information about coronavirus is made available, which creates challenges in establishing a timeline for reopening, Kujan explained.

"The county is changing. We were doing great, and then all of the sudden we weren't doing great, [and] everything that's going on in I.V. [is] just leading to more complications. So [there's] this idea that we've done a tremendous amount of planning for the hopeful reopening ... [just] to put it on hold," Kujan said.

Uncertainty aside, the University Library is working closely with campus administration and university task forces to coordinate its reopening under the safest possible conditions, along with the rest of the campus, Grosenheider said.

"We are doing our very best to ensure everyone's health and safety – both [for] the students as well as the library employees," he said.

The “Uphill Fight that the Black Community in America has Constantly Been Fighting Toward”: UCSB & I.V. Community Speak on Black Lives Matter Movement

Arturo Martinez Rivera
Sofia Mejias-Pascoe
Katherine Swartz
Holly Rusch
Max Abrams
Nexus News Team

People around the world know George Floyd's name. His death and his final words – “I can't breathe” – ignited Black Lives Matter protests and drew millions to the streets across the U.S., and around the world earlier this year.

Black activists have been at the center of the fight against racial injustice, galvanizing a nationwide reckoning with police brutality after Floyd was killed by a white police officer in May. Outrage over the police killings of Black people – Breonna Taylor,

Tony McDade, Stephon Clark, Philando Castile, Janisha Fonville, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Atatiana Jefferson and countless others – has mobilized millions to stand up and fight for change.

City councils are renaming schools and streets that were originally named after racist figures in Texas, California, Virginia and more. Officials in Berkeley and Minneapolis have promised to reform police departments or disband them altogether. Statues honoring Confederate figures are being taken down – through both toppling during protests and sanctioned removal – across the country.

On the streets of Isla Vista, UC Santa Barbara's college town in

which 3.2% of the community identifies as Black, a protest calling for justice for Floyd in May drew close to 1,000 people, holding signs and chanting, with fists held high in the air. But as protest headlines disappear from mainstream news, it remains unclear how the Black Lives Matter movement has changed, or will change, the community of Isla Vista and UCSB.

We asked seven prominent figures from the Black community of Isla Vista and UCSB exactly that: What does this movement mean for the I.V. and UCSB community? And what is the future they envision for the Black community here?

Here are the hopes, visions and insights they shared with us.

Celebrating Black Voices



Dahlia Hylton

“Now more than ever, the cries of #BlackLivesMatter [are] being spoken around the globe,” Dahlia Hylton, former director of the Office of Black Student Development (OBSD) at UCSB, said in an email to the Nexus before leaving the university in August.

“And living in a space of duality – joy and sadness – is something we have to reckon with on a daily basis,” she continued.

Hylton arrived at UCSB in January 2020 as the inaugural director of the OBSD. The office represents the fulfillment of one of BSU's primary demands, which Chancellor Henry T. Yang promised to address in March 2019.

As the first person hired within the OBSD, Hylton said that improving the experience for Black students at UCSB means not only inclusion, but “appreciation.”

“The beautiful part about being a brand new office, with no precedent, is that we can develop this space into something that evokes exactly what our students need. And that's a sense of belonging; that's security; and acknowledgment,” Hylton said.

While offices designed to serve Black students including the OBSD are a step in the right direction, the university is still ignoring one of the smallest demographics on campus, according to Sekani Robinson, a doctoral student in the sociology department.

“[Black students] needs sometimes get overshadowed or they get low-balled,” Robinson said.

As the Black Lives Matter movement has emphasized, Black people face unique, pressing problems that require specific solutions, Robinson

added.

“This movement really highlights that we're not going to throw a ‘people of color’ thing on this, but [ask] Black students specifically, ‘What do you need?’” she said.

For Robinson, a Black student in a graduate program in which “there are very few of us,” she feels the university is seeing the struggle of and listening to the voices of its Black students for the first time.

“They're like, ‘Okay, we need to listen and hear out Black students,’” Robinson said, adding that it's also important to support Black voices without tokenizing them. “It's almost like this new thing that they're hearing now.”

Ethan Bertrand, board director for the Isla Vista Community Services District (I.V. CSD), said that nationwide calls to reform police departments and condemn uses of force against protesters have been echoed in Isla Vista.



Sekani Robinson

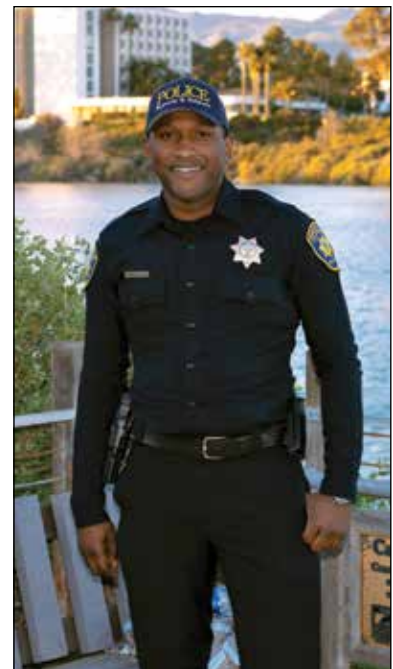
“I've heard from my constituents, my neighbors and my friends about them not feeling safe around law enforcement officers,” Bertrand said.

Bertrand acknowledged that meaningful change to police systems will take time, but individuals can start by engaging in community conversations that get to the root of police presence.

“What does safety mean? What does racial equity mean? How can we promote public safety in a way that also promotes racial equity?”

One of the most important questions to ask, Bertrand said, is whether “people are

experiencing racism or structural racism through the ways that we keep our community safe.”



Ariel Bournes

And if the answer is yes, then “our community is not safe.”

Ariel Bournes, who graduated from UCSB in 2012 and currently works as a community relations officer at the UCSB police department, said he looks back at his college experience with mixed emotions.

“I enjoyed my time here and I don't want to speak negatively about my college. I love my college, but the reality of the situation was, in many circumstances, the color of my skin was the first thing that people saw and it put me in a position where it was something to be overcome, which is ridiculous.”

Looking to the future, Bournes envisions a community in which Black voices are more than just heard.

“I'm imagining a space where we are celebrated, not just tolerated. Not just having our opinion sought during times of crisis, not being seen as, ‘Oh, you know, they're the squeaky wheel, what can we do to make their voice go away?’”

Bournes says Black voices need to be included as “a valued perspective.”

“This is a people group that has a rich history in our country, dealing with these issues ... addressing these things, being the leaders [of] these causes. Let's utilize this resource and let's expand this resource. Let's equip this resource, let's support this resource.”

Supporting the Black Community at UCSB

Undergraduates, graduate students and faculty who spoke with the Nexus described the changes needed at UCSB as twofold: Black students and faculty should be better represented in the UC system, and those who are already part of the UC need to be better supported.

Only 5% of undergraduates and 4% of graduate students at UCSB are Black, and those who spoke to the Nexus said that there are two key ways to raise these numbers: reviving affirmative action and hiring more Black faculty.

Anne Charity Hudley, a professor in the linguistics department, director of undergraduate research and North Hall Endowed Chair in the Linguistics of African America, said that affirmative action has suffered from “bad framing” since the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996, which prohibited state government institutions, including public schools, from considering race, sex and ethnicity in admissions or employment.

“I would love to see people really start to advocate and explain to people why affirmative action is repair work on an unjust and unequal system, rather than this notion of giving benefits to women and people of color,” Charity Hudley said.

In November, Californians will vote on Proposition 16, a measure to reinstate affirmative action. The UC Board of Regents unanimously voted in June to support ending the ban on affirmative action in hopes of diversifying its student body. Charity Hudley said that advocating for Proposition 16 is one of the most important actions that people can take to support Black students.

October 2018 marked half a century since UCSB's Black Student Union (BSU) released its first set of demands to enact change for Black students and faculty on campus, but many of the group's initial calls for change remain unanswered by UCSB administration. At the time, BSU called for an “increased hiring of minority persons,” “the appointment of Black coaches ‘whenever this becomes possible’” and the “non-condonement of any harassment by any students, whatever color.”

BSU again called on UCSB for change in 2019, when it asked the university, among other demands, to “[recruit] more Black students in order to increase our Black student population.”

But aside from recruitment, Black UCSB students and faculty

emphasized that real change cannot occur without effective retention, and that the university should bolster its support for the Black students and faculty that are already here.

“We as a university can't champion the fact that we care about diversity without providing the resources to sustain your diverse student population,” said Raymok Ketema, a rising third-year doctoral student in the history department who also attended UCSB as an undergraduate.

Ketema noted that graduate students, compared to undergraduates, give more weight to faculty diversity when choosing a school. She said “90%” of her choice to attend UCSB came down to the opportunity to work with Mhoze Chikowero, an African history professor and Ketema's faculty advisor.

“I do think that having more Black faculty in any given department will increase the pool of applicants that are interested in UCSB,” Ketema said, adding that she was “super disheartened” to learn that out of the nearly 3,000 graduate students who attended UCSB during the 2019-20 school year, only 83 were Black.



Anne Charity Hudley

Ketema said that more Black faculty need to be hired across campus – not just in the Black studies department – and that no department should have only a single Black professor.

“I think that we should have many Black faculty in each department, so that you can have community even within your departments,” she said. “I don't think there's anything wrong with acknowledging that there's different cultures with every given background.”

“Blackness is diverse and we should acknowledge that and have as many resources as we can to kind of prevent students from falling

through the cracks, because not all Black students feel comfortable in all the same spaces.”

Alexandra Gessesse, a former Associated Students senator who graduated this spring with a degree in philosophy and Black studies, said that UCSB should prioritize diversifying the resources that are made available to Black students.

“There's no way we can have one Black student organization serving the entire Black student population ... We have African students. We have Nigerian, Somali students, Ugandan students who come from such diverse backgrounds that are grouped and categorized as Black to be put on campus. And then we're subjugated to everything that falls under that umbrella,” said Gessesse, who founded the East African Student Association at UCSB.

Beyond creating new academic and social resources for Black students, those which already exist must be better funded and supported by the university, Ketema and Gessesse emphasized. Both cited the Black/African-American Scholars Floor in Santa Rosa Residence Hall as a vital way to bring together Black undergraduates, but Gessesse said that Black students who don't live on the floor may not “know what resources are there for Black students.”

Ketema said the resources currently offered across campus are “surface level” and difficult to access, and that UCSB needs to close the gap between students who need help from the university and the offices that can provide them that help.

“The goal would be that Black students will have easily identifiable resources available to them without having to jump through a million hoops to get it to them, because it took me a really long time in undergrad to learn about my resources and access them,” Ketema said.

In the meantime, Black organizations across campus have already started to fill that gap by providing vital social and academic resources for students, Ketema said. The campus administration needs to financially support the work these organizations are already doing, she added.

“This school has money,” she said. “It shouldn't be that hard to properly support and back the Black workers that are trying to do the work that the university should technically be doing.”



SICHENG WANG / DAILY NEXUS

In May, a protest calling for justice for George Floyd drew close to 1,000 people, holding signs and chanting with fists held high in the air. Here, protesters gathered in front of Storke Tower.

Transferring Responsibility

The responsibility of educating others about racism is a task that often falls on the Black community and other communities of color. However, upholding that responsibility quickly becomes a burden, Gessesse said.

"When it comes to Black students talking about why you shouldn't be racist, all of a sudden, it's like this is our duty. And it's not our duty. It's our duty for our community. But it's not a duty to educate others and empathize with us," Gessesse said.



Raymoko Ketema

Many of the sentiments from the original 1968 BSU demands, including the need for Black representation, support for the Black community and space designated for Black students, are mirrored in the demands BSU presented in 2019. A majority of the issues lie within the design of higher education – a system that continuously favors white histories over Black histories, Ketema said.

"It's a deeply embedded systemic problem, and I'm not confident that any of the recommendations I make will necessarily improve the lived experiences for students because realistically this institution wasn't designed for me to be here. So, as long as it's functioning as it was structured, I don't think I'll ever feel like I'm supposed to be here," Ketema said.

At UCSB's Counseling and Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.), Black students are severely underserved, Ketema said.

There are currently five staff members that identify as Black, according to C.A.P.S. Director Brian Olowude. Two psychologists, Meridith Merchant and Mario Barfield, were hired in September 2013 in order to

better serve Black students, as a result of the BSU demands and Yang's agreement to fund the positions. However, when Merchant was promoted to Assistant Director of Mental Health Initiatives and Inclusion in May 2019, Barfield was left as the only clinician available to meet with students who requested a Black psychologist.

According to the 2018-19 C.A.P.S. annual report, students that identified as Black, African American or African accounted for 8.6% of all students that visited C.A.P.S.

"We desperately need more Black therapists," Ketema said. "Everybody's talking to the same people. And I think it can also deter Black students from going to see a therapist when you realize that everybody's seeing the same therapist."

The responsibility for making the university-wide changes to better support Black students falls on the administration, Gessesse said.

"[Is UCSB] financially investing in our well being? ... Are [they] investing in the resources that I need as a student? Are [they] getting the departments more faculty?" Gessesse said.

From the original BSU demands in 1968 and the subsequent demands in 2012 and again in 2019, it's time that UCSB administration addresses the failures of higher education that Black students have been pointing to for decades, Gessesse said.

"Do I have to keep checking on the Chancellor to do his part?" Gessesse said. "Or is the Chancellor going to do his part because he understands the task? He's good at doing [these] annual reports, why can't he do his reports and check in with the demands he signed on to?"

"Why do Black students have to hold them accountable?"

North Hall



Alexandra Gessesse

Ketema said a university's focus shouldn't be on educating white students about Blackness. Rather, the university should focus its efforts on improving Black students' educational experiences.

"I don't know if I feel like it's my duty to advocate for white students to learn about anti-Blackness. I feel like sometimes it's better for my energies to be put towards improving situations for Black students instead of trying to teach white students about fundamental anti-racist, anti-imperialist ideas," Ketema said.

Building for Lasting Change

Three Black women co-founded the Black Lives Matter movement in 2013 after Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old Black teenager, was shot and killed in 2012 by a neighborhood watch coordinator, who was later acquitted of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges.

Seven years after breaking ground, the movement is bigger than ever before, but supporters still stress that advocacy and allyship are needed long-term.

"My biggest fear is that this will be, whatever, a two-week, three-week moment. And then we all go back to things, our normal lives," Bournes said.

The kind of change needed for the Black community requires continued allyship and part of that means continuing sometimes uncomfortable conversations about race, Bournes said. Since the start of the protests, his text inbox has been flooded with messages from people asking him about race and police brutality, he added.

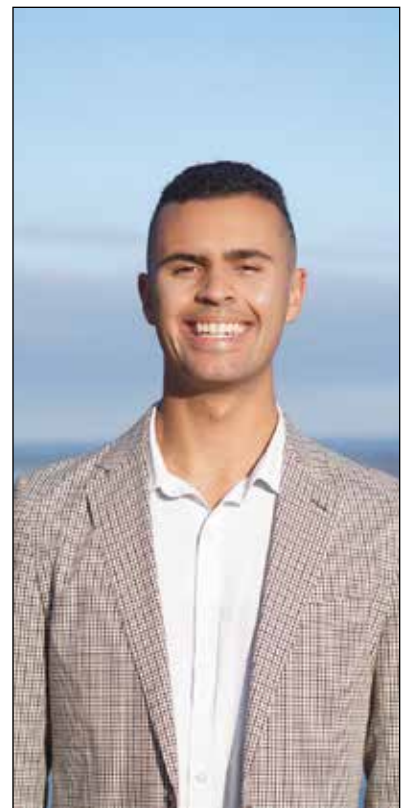
"I can't tell you how many conversations I had where it's like, 'Hey, Ariel, this is the first time I've thought about race. This is the first time I've thought about police brutality. This is the first time I've thought about these issues. I understand that you've been thinking through and dealing with these things your whole life, so can you talk to me about them?'"

These conversations, though exhausting for Bournes, are worth having for the change they could bring, he said.

"If I'm going to exhaust myself, this is the cause I want to exhaust

myself for, making sure those who have been marginalized historically are given a voice and are given their moment," Bournes said.

Bertrand has led the charge for the same cause within the IV. CSD. At a meeting in June, the board unanimously condemned police brutality, declared racism a public health emergency and created a working group dedicated to police reform and anti-racism efforts.



Ethan Bertrand

"I think that policing has focused a lot on maintaining order and control, but not enough on creating a healthy community where all of us genuinely feel safe in a holistic way," Bertrand said.

In an effort to reimagine the

role of law enforcement in IV., the working group, comprised of Bertrand, Board President Spencer Brandt and Board Director Jay Freeman, is looking into community-oriented policing solutions.

Bertrand said these solutions should fit the needs of the community it serves. In IV., where Bertrand said "many of the issues involve alcohol and drug emergencies," solutions should focus more on "harm reduction and wellness."

"We have a big opportunity there to foster a community of equity and innovation, to prepare and to build the bench of leadership for folks who will fight for racial equity, wherever they go after Isla Vista."

Black Lives Matter isn't the first movement to fight for justice in the Black community, Gessesse said, but for some, it may be the first they experience in their lifetimes.

"For some young Black people, this is their first time engaging in a Black power movement. For their parents, it was Rodney King and for their grandparents, it was Emmett Till," Gessesse said.

What has changed since then is not so much what the movement is fighting for, but who is listening, she said.

"The things that people are experiencing, as early as 1925 to [the future in] 2025, are still the same thing," Gessesse said.

"I think it's important that BLM right now, as it stands today, is a humbling reminder of the same argument and uphill fight that the Black community in America has constantly been fighting toward."

Hundreds Gather for Candlelight Vigil in Remembrance of Those Lost to Police Brutality

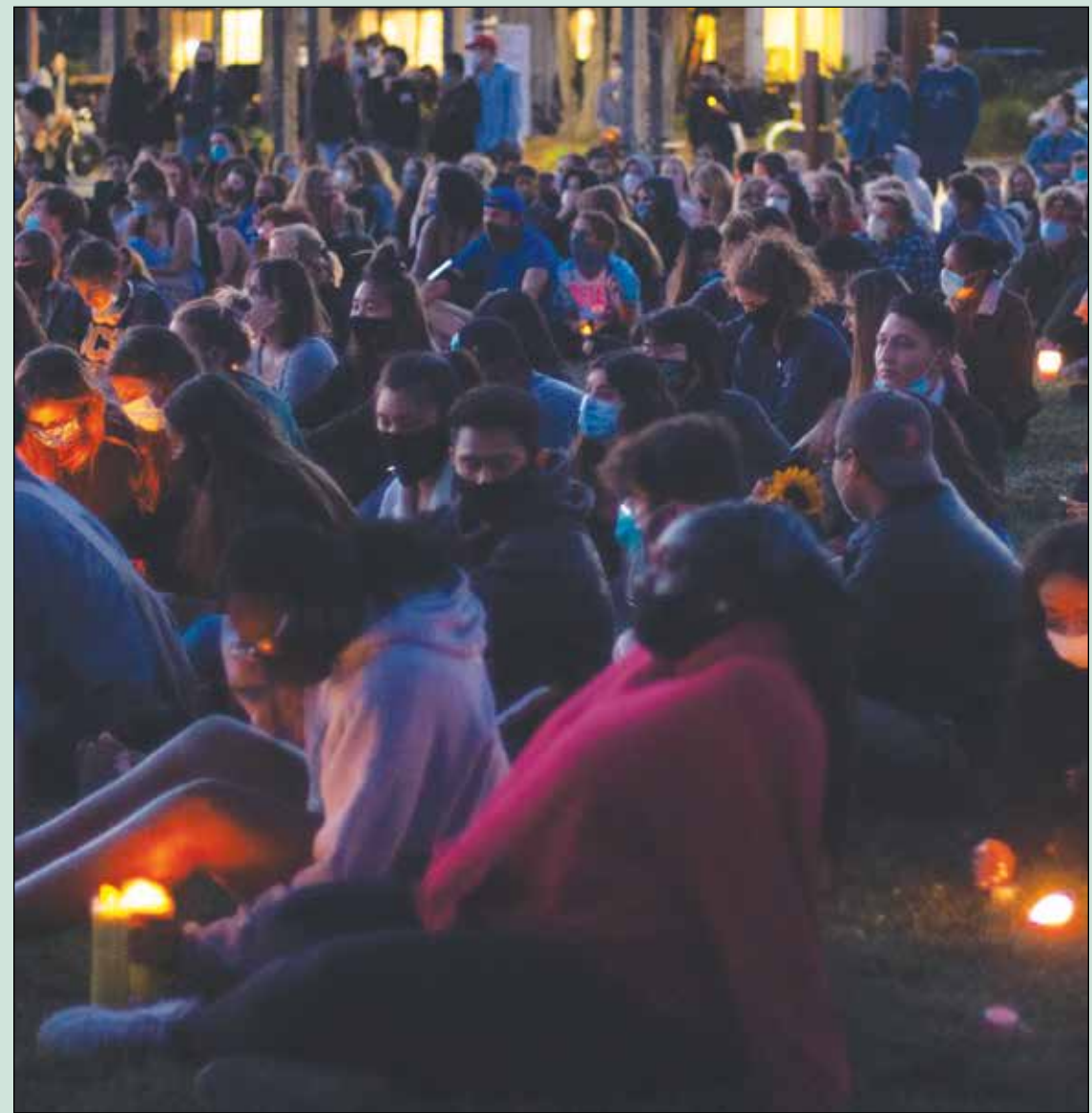
On June 7, hundreds of community members gathered for a candlelight vigil at Sea Lookout Park in remembrance of those lost to police brutality.

Candles in hand, attendees listened as Black students and

community members shared feelings of grief and pain while offering advice on how non-Black allies can stand in solidarity and fight against racial injustice.

Signs, posters and candles

from the event are still standing three months later, serving as a reminder to Isla Vista residents the necessity of continuing the longstanding fight against police brutality.



ALASKA YOKOTA / DAILY NEXUS



SICHENG WANG / DAILY NEXUS



SICHENG WANG / DAILY NEXUS

A Trip Through Isla Vista in 24 Hours

Sicheng Wang
Photo Editor

Just west of the UC Santa Barbara campus, Isla Vista is an integral part of life at UCSB. The town is dominated by students at UCSB and Santa Barbara

City College. This young population defines a vibrant culture for Isla Vista, as seen from its residents' obsession with surfing, grab-and-go food, front-yard activities and many more essential elements of I.V. life.

Although the coronavirus pandemic means most incoming students will begin their journey away from the campus, we hope these photos taken over a 24-hour period can provide a glimpse into the daily life of the community.

3 a.m.



SICHENG WANG / DAILY NEXUS

When the student population of Isla Vista is fast asleep, essential workers are laboring to keep the town running. Here, a truck driver unloads vegetables near the intersection of Seville Road and Embarcadero del Mar, where several popular restaurants are located.

6 a.m.



KAIYI YANG / DAILY NEXUS

There is nothing more exultant than seeing the sunrise in Isla Vista, especially on the way to campus. Though the campus is closed and all instruction is remote, some students are still up early in the morning.

9 a.m.



KAIYI YANG / DAILY NEXUS

Most residents of Isla Vista are still at home during this time, while stores start preparing for the day's work. Despite fewer students living in Isla Vista, most stores are still open and providing the community with service and convenience.

12 p.m.



KAIYI YANG / DAILY NEXUS

People dine at Woodstock's Pizza, a restaurant popular among students. During quarantine, restaurants have proceeded with outdoor business in Isla Vista. The outdoor tables enable people to enjoy their food and time with friends while maintaining social distancing.

3 p.m.



SICHENG WANG / DAILY NEXUS

When the afternoon sun beats down on Isla Vista, one's backyard is the place for yoga, beer die or at-home concerts powered by a Bluetooth speaker. Even under the unusual circumstances nowadays, one can still enjoy a socially distanced drink.

6 p.m.



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

The evening sun on a drying wetsuit is quintessential Isla Vista. That's because surf culture is not just a pastime here — it's a way of life.

9 p.m.



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

As the sunlight retreats beneath the horizon, it gives way to Isla Vista's nighttime glow from street lights and neon signs. At SOS Liquor, a splash of light and a natural vignette brought this eclectic storefront to life.

12 a.m.



SICHENG WANG / DAILY NEXUS

Coal Oil Point is the westmost corner of the stretch of shoreline that holds UCSB and Isla Vista. Away from artificial light, it is the ideal place to see the galaxy on a summer night.



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS



Summer 2020

Dear Gauchos:

Welcome! We look forward to having you join our UC Santa Barbara community. This is not how we envisioned the start of fall quarter, but we are thrilled to have you join us. Whether you will be logging on here in Santa Barbara or from somewhere else, please know that we recognize what a challenging time it is to be a new student. Many of you have already celebrated recent milestones in unexpected ways, spent five months away from friends, and faced financial and personal challenges. Many have also been directly impacted by COVID-19, and our hearts go out to those dealing with the loss or illness of a loved one. We have also seen xenophobia, increases in racist incidents against Asian-identified people, and the senseless killings of Black Americans that sparked protests and spurred a call to action for anti-Black racism. These are important issues of our time and you will be invited to engage with us in discussion and action and to adopt our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As we weather the COVID-19 pandemic together, it is critically important that each of us commits to following local and state health guidelines. On campus we will be required to wear face coverings, wash our hands frequently, and keep a physical distance of at least 6 feet from those we do not live with, among other precautions. To keep you safe, faculty and staff have committed to following these directives as well as avoiding gatherings of over 10 people, monitoring daily symptoms, and complying with all health orders in place for Santa Barbara County. We trust you will do the same to protect yourself, fellow students, faculty, staff, and community members. It is important to note that the goal of these precautions is the health of our community, and that the University is committed to a public health approach when responding to noncompliance.

At UCSB we value healthy and respectful dialogue. We value civility, dignity, and differences of opinion that ultimately help all of us to learn and grow. The diversity of perspective and life experiences that our students bring to UCSB is one of our greatest assets. We recognize the extraordinary benefits that our international students, undocumented students, non-traditional students, guardian scholars, first-generation students, students of underrepresented backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ students, veterans, transfer students, and so many others bring to UCSB. You belong here and we will continue to support you through these uncertain and challenging times.

Particularly as we embark on a period of time when many of our interactions with each other will be online, it is vitally important to be thoughtful and considerate in how we communicate with each other. Consider whether you would say something differently if you were saying it to someone in person, and if humor or sarcasm will translate without verbal inflection or visual cues.

Moreover, November 2020 will bring a presidential election that promises to be contentious and about which many students will have strong and divergent opinions. Despite our best efforts to the contrary, we all may find that there are times when our free expression (either verbal or online) offends or causes discomfort in others, just as there may be times when we become offended or uncomfortable when listening to the expression of another. It is in these times that we reflect on our campus values, take a moment to listen or learn, and express our views thoughtfully and empathetically. It may help to review our Principles of Community. Free speech is not unconditional, however. Speech in which a direct threat is made, or that harasses a particular individual is not protected speech and is a violation of our campus policies. ("Harassment" is defined in the Student Conduct Code, section 102.09.) UCSB also has time, place, and manner regulations that ensure that free expression does not disrupt classes or the orderly operation of the campus.

UCSB values respectful interpersonal interactions, as well. This is more than a value; it is an expectation. There is no tolerance for sexual violence or assault of any kind, including sexual activity without fully informed and conscious consent, dating or domestic violence, and stalking. These actions, whether committed on or off campus, are violations of UC policy, campus regulations, and the law. We are committed to providing education to help prevent sexual violence, as well as resources that support survivors and encourage reporting. Ending sexual violence is a goal we must all work towards by confronting actions and attitudes that perpetuate such behavior.

Like our greater society, UCSB is not immune to COVID-19, acts of intolerance, sexual violence, or other misconduct. Please seek assistance from the following resources if you are affected by these issues:

- Student Health Services, for medical care, COVID-19 information and advice, or to confidentially report an infection or exposure (805) 893-7129, UCSB-COVID19@ucsb.edu, or <http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/home/> coronavirus. Additional COVID-19 information can be found via the Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health
- UCSB Wellbeing, features a one-stop shop for many Student Affairs services available online during the pandemic and information about how to contact each of these resources (many of which are also mentioned here), <http://wellbeing.ucsb.edu>
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and 24/7 Counseling, 805-893-4411 or <http://counseling.sa.ucsb.edu>
- To report a bias incident or for information and support resources, <http://studentlife.sa.ucsb.edu/bias>
- CARE Advocate Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence or Misconduct, (confidential resources and information on reporting options for sexual violence, sexual assault, abusive relationships, and stalking), 805-893-4613 (24-hour advocacy line) or <http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/CARE> or <http://sexualviolence.ucsb.edu>
- Title IX/Sexual Harassment Policy Compliance Office to officially report incidents of sexual violence, sexual harassment, dating or domestic violence, or stalking to the University, 805-893-2701 or <https://oeosh.ucsb.edu>
- UCSB Police Department, 805-893-3446 or www.police.ucsb.edu (911 in an emergency) and Isla

Additional resources for addressing campus climate issues are available from the Dean of Students Office, Educational Opportunity Program, MultiCultural Center, Dream Scholars Resource Team, Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, and the Veteran's Resource Center (contact information available at www.sa.ucsb.edu). Each department listed offers student involvement opportunities. We hope you will lead the way in making sure our campus is a healthy, safe and welcoming place for all.

Sincerely,

Margaret Klawunn
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Katya Armistead
Assistant Vice Chancellor/Dean of Student Life

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Here's What You Need To Know About I.V. CSD Elections This November

Sofia Mejias-Pascoe
Deputy News Editor
Arturo Martinez Rivera
County News Editor

The Isla Vista Community Services District will have three seats up for grabs on its board of directors this November, marking the first time that voters will get to elect new officials to the board since its creation in 2016.

The openings for the 2020 ballot include two seats with a four-year term and one seat with a two-year term. Incumbent Director Ethan Bertrand is running for reelection unopposed alongside Marcos Aguilar, a former UC Santa Barbara student and long-term Isla Vista resident, also unopposed, for the two four-year seats.

Two current UCSB students, Catherine Flaherty and Daniel Mitchell, are competing for the two-year seat. Both are entering their junior year at the university and currently hold positions in the Associated Students (A.S.) Senate.

The Isla Vista Community Services District (I.V. CSD) is a seven-member board which includes the UCSB appointee George Thurlow and the Santa Barbara County appointee Robert Geis. Five of the seven seats are elected by the public, and one of those elected members is the board president. The current board president is Spencer Brandt; he and Director Jay Freeman hold seats that are not up for election this year.

Father Jon-Stephen Hedges, an assistant pastor and longtime advocate of the houseless population in IV., is leaving his seat after serving on the board since its inception four years ago. Kristie Nguyen, a fourth-year sociology major at UCSB who was appointed in 2019 following a vacancy is also leaving the board. Nguyen is the first woman of color to serve on the board.

Voters established the I.V. CSD in 2016 as the unincorporated district's first form of self-governance. The establishment came after years of community activism calling for a local source of leadership and a voice for the community. Measure R, which passed in 2018, gave the district its first form of funding through a user utility tax.

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the I.V. CSD has estimated a budget of approximately over \$1.26 million; about 40% of that will be directed toward community programs. The board has the power to establish localized programs that focus on the specific needs of IV. and in the past has worked on lighting projects, the I.V. Community Center, the beautification program and graffiti abatement.

In previous years, the board has faced criticism from the community for a lack of representation of the marginalized groups in IV. Five of the seven board members are white men, and only two members are people of color; the only woman on the board, Nguyen, is leaving her seat this fall.

Here's what you need to know about each of the candidates running for positions this fall:

Bertrand is a current director and former president of the I.V. CSD board and a political science major at UCSB. He served as the board's first president, leading the I.V. CSD through its historic first two years in existence. He recently led projects within the I.V. CSD such as the anti-racism and police reform working group with Brandt and Freeman.

Bertrand's priority for the next four years is improving public safety and crisis response through the board's anti-racism working group. Bertrand is a supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement and frequently brings racial equity issues to the board, including initiating the board's recent discussion on the California Legislative Black Caucus Police Reform Package.

During his time on the board, Bertrand has helped lead efforts to create the I.V. Community Center, fund an interpersonal violence investigator position with the UC Police Department and expand the Community Service Officer (CSO) program.

Bertrand previously served on the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District and participated in the Associated Student Government at Santa Barbara City College. Bertrand is running unopposed and will not appear on the November ballot.

Aguilar graduated from UCSB in 2014 as a double major in English and philosophy. He worked in the UCSB Library as an undergraduate and currently serves as its diversity and engagement assistant. He's lived in IV. since 2010 and is running with the endorsements of the Democratic Party of Santa Barbara County, Brandt and Bertrand.

Aguilar's priority is navigating I.V. through the challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. He also wants to focus on improving public safety in IV. through fostering police-community relations and increasing housing sustainability and affordability.

"Plenty of people are paying tons of money to live here and they're working multiple jobs and they're paying for tuition. How do we make these hurdles smaller for students?" Aguilar said. "How do we bridge that gap to make this a more affordable community?"

Another priority for Aguilar is to direct attention and resources toward the needs of underserved communities in IV., including houseless and family populations. He hopes to tackle this through collaboration with landlords and property management groups.

Aguilar plans to join the board's anti-racism task force, which focuses on developing alternative methods to traditional policing. Through his work with the UCSB Library and its Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, he has taken part in conversations about the role of police in the library and how students are

affected by that relationship.

He has limited experience with the I.V. CSD and has never attended a board meeting. Despite this, Aguilar said he would like to be a part of the district's growth during its "very young period."

Aguilar is running unopposed and will not appear on the November ballot.

Flaherty is a rising third-year at UCSB double majoring in history of public policy and political science. She's also currently serving on the 2020-21 A.S. Senate as an off-campus senator, which she does not believe will be a conflict of interest if she is elected; consequently, Flaherty does not plan to resign from Senate if elected to the I.V. CSD. She is also a member of the sorority Alpha Chi Omega.

Her platform includes creating an I.V. planning commission to improve lighting and parking in the community while streamlining composting efforts. She supports the movement to defund the police and wants to move I.V. toward community education efforts and increase the CSO program. Flaherty also wants to ramp up awareness surrounding the coronavirus pandemic and continue community face mask handouts.

Flaherty has never attended an I.V. CSD meeting. She is a self-described "third generation Gaucho" and believes her "deeply personal ties" to IV. give her an edge over her opponent, Mitchell.

"I really do give everything 100%. I thought a lot about running and I ran because I know I will do a good job and I know that I will work with and collaborate with other people to really make real change and tangible change for the everyday student in their everyday life," Flaherty said.

Mitchell is a third-year UCSB student majoring in music composition and is planning to double major in political science. He is also a current A.S. College of Creative Studies senator but plans to resign from that position if elected this fall.

Mitchell's biggest priority is helping IV. recover from the coronavirus pandemic. He plans to do this by increasing the operating hours of the I.V. CSD's current mask handout program.

Other priorities on his platform include basic needs distribution, which he would address by implementing hygiene giveaway tents and food drives in IV. Mitchell said he also wants to build affordable housing in IV. to assist the houseless population.

"I think I'd be the best to serve in this seat because I'm very ambitious. Obviously everything that I have, all my plans, they might not all get accomplished, but the fact that I would push for them and be really hard working and aggressive when it comes to tackling all the problems we have in IV... I think that certain drive is what really [distinguishes] me as a candidate," Mitchell said.

Voters will pick the next I.V. CSD directors on November's ballot.



Courtesy of Ethan Bertrand

Ethan Bertrand, current director and former president, is running for a four-year term.



Courtesy of Marcos Aguilar

Marcos Aguilar, a UCSB alumnus and library president, is running for a four-year term.



Courtesy of Catherine Flaherty

Catherine Flaherty, a UCSB third-year undergraduate, is running for a two-year term.



KATHERINE SWARTZ / DAILY NEXUS

Daniel Mitchell, also a UCSB third-year undergraduate, is running for a two-year term.

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Armchair QB

Somebody should probably tell Paul George that the NBA came back from its hiatus.

SPORTS

UCSB Athletics

The Big West Conference announced that fall sports will be postponed through the end of the calendar year. For now, men's and women's basketball are still scheduled to begin on Nov. 10.

Marella Swims 10 Miles for COVID-19 Relief

Brandon Victor
Sports Editor

Dan Marella was never serious about swimming 10 miles in the ocean – at least, not at first.

Sure, Marella had picked up open-water swimming during quarantine, but that was largely out of necessity. With the closure of swimming pools due to COVID-19 regulations, Marella, a rising UC Santa Barbara junior and men's swimming team captain, had begun training with a group of older swimmers, including his assistant coach, Mark Stori. After the group had finished a six-mile open-water swim to celebrate a group member's birthday, Stori jokingly told Marella that he should do a 10-mile swim.

"At first, I didn't take it seriously," Marella said.

A few days later, however, Marella decided to turn that off-the-cuff statement into reality. On Saturday, Aug. 15, Marella swam 10 miles from Isla Vista, beginning close to El Embarcadero Road, to the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

"The whole thing came together naturally," he said. "I decided that if I was going [to swim 10 miles], I wanted to do it for a cause."

Marella began to brainstorm causes he was passionate about, causes in which he could help make a difference. While Marella considered raising money for Black Lives Matter, UCSB Swimming had just recently held a fundraiser for the movement. Instead, Marella opted to raise money for COVID-19 relief.

"I was motivated by the fact that America has done such a poor job containing this virus," he said. "There's been a real lack of awareness from people on the news who aren't wearing masks, and even people in IV."

However, COVID-19 relief falls under a broad spectrum and Marella wanted to make as tangible a difference as possible. Rather than donate to a national organization, Marella opted to raise funds for Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara County. According to the UCSB Athletics Department website, Marella set out to raise \$10,000 for the hospital.

"It's really hard to gain attention for a worldwide issue," Marella said. "There are thousands of people in Santa Barbara County, and I want to hopefully create a trend where others can have an impact on their local community."

The donations were distributed to Cottage Hospital in two separate funds. The first (and larger) fund covered COVID-19 home kits – given to people that test positive but don't necessarily have to go to the hospital. These kits included items such as pulse oximeters and thermometers which allow patients to monitor their symptoms at home in hopes of preventing the hospital from exceeding capacity. Marella spoke directly with Lynn Fitzgibbons, an infectious disease specialist at Cottage Hospital and Gauch alumna who spent her collegiate career playing for the water polo team, and decided that these kits would help alleviate stress for health care workers.

The second fund would help Cottage workers with daily tasks, such as child care.

Since the idea came to fruition, Marella trained every single day, swimming around four miles daily. Typically, Marella starts his swim at 66 DP and goes all the way to the Goleta Pier and back. For Marella – a lifelong pool swimmer – perhaps the biggest transition into open-water swimming was dealing with the current. While he swims with the current on the way to the pier, he had to learn

to navigate swimming against the current on the return.

"Every so often, I have to look up and make sure I'm still going in a straight line and not drifting," he said.

In addition, Marella had to combat the mental fatigue associated with such a long swim. In the pool, Marella's main event is 400 meters; Saturday's swim was 16,093 meters – over 40 times longer.

"It's really easy to get lost in your head," Marella said. "You constantly analyze how you're doing in terms of technique, and how you're feeling."

But outside of those adjustments, the transition to open-water swimming was relatively effortless for Marella. With every swim, Marella felt himself getting less and less tired, and ultimately he felt confident enough in his stamina to brave the 10 miles. Confidence in his own ability soon overtook the doubt that had earlier bugged his mind.

"There's always that what-if, but after swimming more and more, I knew that I could do this," Marella said.

Ten miles later, when Marella reached the Santa Barbara Yacht

Club, he had made his off-hand conversation with Stori a reality; and, more importantly, he had

raised over \$12,000 for COVID-19 relief, \$2,000 more than his initial goal.



Courtesy of Dan Marella

Pre-COVID-19, Marella had focused on the 400-meter distance in the pool. Now, he has turned his attention to open-water swimming.

Cannon Hosts Official UCSB Baseball Podcast



Courtesy of Kevin Cannon

Annika Pearson
Asst. Sports Editor

It's not every day that the person sweeping the dirt after baseball games one day is the same person interviewing an MLB all-star the next – unless you're Kevin Cannon, the director of facilities and now official podcast host for UC Santa Barbara baseball. Following the abrupt ending to, well, life as we knew it, Cannon decided to merge his day job with his passion for sports broadcasting.

In the midst of what was initially a baseball-less summer, Cannon started up a quarantine project, a podcast titled "Gauch 9." In it, he utilizes his behind-the-scenes experience with the players, coaches and staff to illuminate the laudable line

of talent and work ethic which has defined UCSB's baseball program.

Cannon transferred as a student to UCSB in the 2011-12 school year, the same year Head Coach Andrew Checketts joined the blooming program. Each individual continues to brighten the legacy of UCSB baseball.

Cannon's now almost decade-long relationship with the UCSB baseball program – the players, coaches, staff and alumni base – began, ironically, with his rejection from the team itself. Forced to reconcile with the cut, Cannon eagerly inserted himself into the program by becoming a student manager for the team. Cannon executed a myriad of tasks until he graduated: everything from field maintenance and press box management, to throwing

batting practice for players.

He stayed involved after graduation, pursuing his interest in sports broadcasting for the baseball program while also continuing to fulfill the field and team duties. After travelling to the College World Series in Omaha with the 2016 squad, Cannon officially joined the program as a paid employee. Currently, he serves as the director of facilities in which he manages field and stadium maintenance and improvements and also acts as an administrator of student managers and work-study crews. And, yes, he was the one responsible for adding lights to the stadium this past season.

Beyond the logistical day-to-day tasks, Cannon is often interacting, travelling and collaborating with the team. Consequently, he has been able to develop unique relationships with the players, one which balances a high level of respect and appreciation with light-hearted, friendly banter.

"I like to keep it light with them. I want them to be my friend, but at the same time I kind of want them to respect the work I do. I'm out here busting my tail, and they recognize that ... I'm doing a lot of stuff for them, and I try and remind them on a daily basis that they're in a good position," Cannon said.

By now, Cannon has watched nine seasons' worth of players come in and out of the UCSB baseball program, and he understands Santa Barbara's second-tier status – despite its Division I ranking – when it comes to athletic recognition. Across all sports, Cannon holds a genuine appreciation for the overlooked talent and work ethic of Gauch athletes.

With UCSB baseball, it is no different. He prides the program on its continuous emphasis of work, grit and player development. He lauds the deep tradition of growth and talent that the UCSB baseball program has harbored without the attraction of an irresistible stadium or brand-new uniforms.

Simply put, Cannon is critical to a smooth season of Gauch

baseball – and the perfect person to head a podcast about UCSB's baseball program.

This appreciation for baseball, for Gauch baseball, is reflected in conversation, in Cannon's work and most pointedly in his podcast. "Gauch 9" captures an unexpected load of professional success, lessons learned and mentorships based and formed within the UCSB baseball community. Interviews with Gauch alum-turned-MLB stars and coaches like Michael Young and Skip Schumaker give a glimpse into the depth of the university's overlooked athletic program. Check-ins with current players provide just a bit of sound reassurance of normalcy among the daily chaos of the pandemic.

There is a casual fluidity in Cannon's conversations with these guys – he knows his shit, and it shows. When asked about it, he attributes the quality to that universal language that baseball enthusiasts, players or not, seem to all share. It's that undeniably impressive ability to reference on command what might seem to an outsider like irrelevant statistics, dates or even a random play in that one inning during that one game.

Passion for baseball in a time without baseball undoubtedly underlines each of the 18 episodes.

However, the podcast just as much retains an accessible quality, one strong enough to engage listeners outside of this immediate bubble of fanatics. In its most basic form, the podcast is an ongoing human-interest story. It explores the process of athletes recognizing their potentials, making impactful decisions, being surrounded by influential people and reflecting on their characters as players.

Cannon says he thinks of the podcast as a platform for players to dig into their athletic and personal journeys.

"You can go on and be yourself," he starts. "I want to find out things about you that define who you are, like where you came from. What were your motivations? Where did your inspiration come from? Why do

you work so hard? ... What were the characteristics you had as a kid and trying to recognize that 20 years down the road? ... There's a reason you're here."

Cannon initially called the podcast a "quarantine project," explaining that it was meant to distract listeners from the increasingly disheartening news that began unfolding in the early days of spring. The Gauchos' 2020 season – one that he and others claimed had College World Series potential – had just been abruptly yanked from the players amidst the surfacing pandemic. The roster had played the third game of what ended up being its last series on March 8, only days before the university announced it would move the final days of Winter Quarter 2020 instruction and exams online.

"We have unfinished business," Cannon reflects. From his perspective, the team had broken into a formidable stride since the onset of the season. Their stream of wins was a collaborative effort in the truest form and had different players stepping up in critical ways each game. Cannon admits that after seeing the momentous success of the young team, the cancellation felt

"kind of like a slap in the face." However, he recognizes that, in the best-case scenario where athletes are allowed to resume playing, the same success might be replicated in the upcoming 2021 season.

Yet still, five months later, this thought remains merely hopeful speculation. In the meantime, Cannon employs the "Gauch 9" podcast to re-engage Gauch fans, players and alumni and, at the very least, continue to keep Santa Barbara baseball on people's radar.

When I asked Cannon to recommend an episode or two for a new listener, he humbly struggled to narrow it down.

For a Gauch baseball all-history lesson: Episode 5 with Al Ferrer. For some A-game interviewing with an MLB all-star: Episode 6 with Michael Young and Bob Brontsema. And for a dive into the world of sports broadcasting: Episode 12 with Travis Rogers.

To listen to any of the 18 (and counting) episodes on "Gauch 9," check out the UCSB baseball website or the podcast's official Instagram page (@ucsbgaucho9podcast).



The official podcast
of UCSB Baseball

Hosted by: Kevin Cannon

ARTSWEEK

Streamlining the Social Aspects of Music, College Students Introduce Their Vision for Paddle



Courtesy of Nicholas Cerofeci

Sunidhi Sridhar
Artsweek Editor

From left to right: Matthew Dull, Sam Nicholson and Nicholas Cerofeci, co-founders of the Paddle app.

As the nation clocks in six months of lockdown, many college students have suddenly found themselves with an unprecedented amount of spare time on their hands. For some, including Nicholas Cerofeci, a second-year College of Creative Studies writing and literature major, this seemingly endless quarantine has been the perfect time to turn budding entrepreneurial ideas into reality.

Along with his childhood friends and fellow college

students Sam Nicholson and Matthew Dull – who attend Pepperdine University and UC Berkeley, respectively – Cerofeci has been working on developing a music and social media hybrid app called Paddle.

“The idea of Paddle is to combine music streaming services with social media – if Spotify combined with Instagram, and instead of sharing your pictures, you’d be able to share songs and albums and artists that you enjoy with your friends. You’d be able to

stream [the music] right there on the app as well,” Cerofeci said.

Over a phone interview, Cerofeci said that the concept behind the app came naturally to him and his friends, all of whom are avid music lovers. With free time to spare, the trio looked into the logistics of their project and decided that they wanted to try something new. Much more difficult than brainstorming the initial concept, however, was coming up with a name for the app. “We

had the idea long before we ever had the name,” Cerofeci revealed.

“Me and my friend Sam were sitting in his living room and we were just making noises to figure out what we wanted the name to be. Just spitting out random ideas and nothing was coming to us.” They decided to go with an arbitrary name – Paddle.

The three friends are working with Algoworks, a mobile app design company, to create a beta version of Paddle with funding they have received through their Kickstarter campaign.

“We have a basic layout of what the frames are going to be and what a lot of the pages are going to look like, but we’re trying to take it slow and make sure that we get the vision that we really want instead of going straight to the final product,” Cerofeci explained. While he hopes to have an early version of Paddle available to download on the app store within the next six months, Cerofeci emphasizes that he and his partners prioritize the quality of the app over timeliness.

Facebook, arguably the most revolutionary social networking service of the century, was started on a college campus,

similar to several other social media companies that boast millions of daily users. Cerofeci and his partners plan to use a similar strategy to launch Paddle, taking into account the aspects of social media that college students gravitate toward. Nicholson and Dull will introduce the app on their own college campuses, while Cerofeci intends to promote the app among students at UCSB.

“Everyone uses Spotify or Apple Music, and almost everyone uses Instagram, so we know that those are two things that college kids are into. They are our primary demographic as of now, but we do plan to take Paddle to a further audience and really expand on it.”

As is the case with most startups, the process of developing and launching Paddle has not been without its challenges.

“We’re just college kids trying to learn how to start a business. Even the semantics of figuring out the legality of this or that is very complicated, a lot more complicated than I thought,” Cerofeci admitted. He said that he and his partners “kind of started going for it,” and that they adapted to find solutions

for any problems that arose. He hopes that the momentum they have started to build will allow them to navigate any future development issues.

Cerofeci is optimistic about Paddle’s place in the perpetually growing realm of social media, music-streaming services and consumer-friendly technology.

“The key to Paddle is that there is nothing like it. You have your streaming services and you have texting and you have all those separate platforms, but there is nothing that combines all of them into one. We believe that music is going in that direction, and digital media and social media are also going in that same direction, so we tried to jump ahead of the curve.”

Now, in the early stages of the app, Paddle is simply a project that Cerofeci and his partners are passionate about and that keeps them occupied at home. Nonetheless, Cerofeci has given some thought to his future goals and said he may consider pursuing a career in the music industry. “As a writing and literature major, the entertainment industry is the place to be. If something like Paddle can help me get my foot in the door, then that’s worth it.”

In Review: “Karma 3” Showcases Dave East’s Consistency and Grit

Jadon Bienz & Evan Gonzalez
Reporters

Dave East is a perfect example of the modern multi-talented rap artist. Growing up in Harlem, he became a prospective basketball prodigy in high school alongside now-NBA superstar Kevin Durant, which he references on his song “KD.” East’s college basketball career was not fruitful, and after he dropped out, he was incarcerated for six months. His release from prison prompted his transition to rapping and acting, including his portrayal as the Method Man on Huli’s “Wu-Tang: An American Saga.” In recent years, East has primarily attracted recognition as a rapper. In 2014, East signed with Nas’s Mass Appeal Records, and in 2016, he was selected as part of XXL’s freshman class. His music catalogs the plethora of his experiences, with his latest album, “Karma 3,” exploring his new life of luxury as a redemption from his past.

The album’s title highlights the fact that East believes he will reap what he sows – trauma and growth. Although he has come a long way in his career, his heart remains rooted in his upbringing; the album cover art features a grayscale photo of him and his friends. The third installment in East’s “Karma” series, the album emphasizes his personal and artistic growth from his previous projects. In comparison to East’s earlier discography, “Karma 3” features far fewer R&B-inspired cuts. Instead, the tracks focus on his raw lyricism and storytelling. His voice and delivery are highly memorable as well – a smooth yet assertive mix of ASAP Ferg and Nipsey Hussle.

East is known for his juxtaposition of old school techniques over modern trap-inspired instrumentals. The album’s production remains fairly formulaic: dense 808s, sharp

hi-hats and a melodic sample form the basis of every track. However, the sampling pulls from many different genres, which prevents the tracks from sounding homogenous. “Thank God,” one of the most satisfying tracks, features a creeping piano tune, while “Mission” roams into R&B space with its bouncier 808s and backing vocals.

Among the most sonically notable moments on “Karma 3” are the vocal features. On “The City,” Trey Songz interpolates the hook to Jay-Z’s classic come-up track “Heart of the City,” and East’s gruff bars contrast well with Songz’s higher falsetto. The prolific Mary J. Blige’s dramatic vocal performance on “Know How I Feel” is a stylistic throwback to the old-school New York rap that East draws inspiration from.

Unlike Jay-Z, however, East highlights the dangers of his old life rather than just glorify the struggle. He laments the death of Los Angeles rapper and philanthropist Hussle multiple times on the album, and he still finds himself dwelling on his past, admitting, “I’m traumatized, just look in my eyes, I need therapy,” on “Believe It Or Not.” These flashbacks appear in his music as well. On “Said What I Said,” East admits, “I see my homie that died when I look in the sky,” while on “Know How I Feel,” he recalls, “My man got life ... They think this money make it all good, how?”

East also spends plenty of time showing off the lavishness of his present life. Bars such as, “It look like I’m chokin’ my Patek ‘cause [it’s] blue in the face,” on the track “Menace” showcase the dark sense of humor he has developed as a result of his experiences. “Mission” has East portraying his current life of luxury and fame, from staying at a Four Seasons hotel to being surrounded by paparazzi, as a reward for his previous ambition. In regards to

his future, East notes, “Rappin’ and actin’, I’m just tryna keep up with Pac,” on “Believe It Or Not.”

Though East’s narratives and diverse flows are engaging, there are a handful of moments that make the album a rather difficult listen, especially those with featured artists. Popcaan, a familiar voice for those who enjoy Drake’s “If You’re Reading This It’s Too Late,” phones in with a repetitive feature on “Unruly.” Bino Rideaux’s use of autotune on “Blue Story” is a crutch for poor singing instead of an instrumental tool, which makes the verse sound like that of an overzealous and underskilled Lil Baby. Many of the other features are less engaging than East’s own performance, leaving the songs less satisfactory than they could have been.

“Karma 3” also suffers from overambition at times. Despite being highly memorable, “The City” borders on messiness due to an amalgamation of retro-style rapping, trap drums, R&B singing and an undermixed sample. The cinematic feel of “Stone Killer” is overdone, as if the producer forced a generic trap beat onto an actual cinema score.

East’s consistency ultimately makes his latest project a solid endeavor, though his collaborators’ contributions punch above their weights. Four years after their XXL freshman nominations, East and his fellow classmates have not fallen into the creative slump that plagues so many freshman nominees. East proves himself capable of balancing his many talents as he continues to work his way up in life, improving his musical craft en route.

Rating: 6/10

SBIFF Film Talk: “Vera Cruz” Showcases a Colorful Hidden Gem of Local Architecture



EVELYN SPENCE / DAILY NEXUS

Joshen Mantai
Staff Writer

Beyond Santa Barbara’s clay tiling and Spanish-style architecture lies the colorful vibrancy of the Vera Cruz House. Located at 521 Santa Barbara Street, the small abode with eclectic artwork over its neon green framing is the vision of artistic architect Jeff Shelton.

Director and UCSB film and media studies professor Christopher Jenkins’ film “Vera Cruz” follows Shelton’s housing project as the architect gathers the wider Santa Barbara community to decorate the exterior of the radiant house. The individual panels on the house are filled with paintings by local artists, children and everyday citizens. In the film, Shelton’s imagination was described by locals as that of an “8 year old” – but one who is masterful, playful and incorporates “the best parts of childhood.” Shelton’s architectural style infuses creativity into his buildings through a mix of mediums like

painting, sculpture and ironwork.

Shelton’s initial pitch for a house in downtown Santa Barbara covered in paintings was easily approved by the city’s review board, which he describes as nothing short of a “miracle” because of the expected pushback regarding the content of the art. However, Shelton promised no profanity, nudity or political statements to be contained in the artwork. Projects like Shelton’s are typically not approved in other areas of Santa Barbara, like the Upper Eastside. His inspiration came from the idea to garner paintings based on comforting memories, stemming from individual stories from the painters’ life.

Shelton’s ability to foster a sense of community with this architectural project becomes apparent as hundreds of artists come together to contribute art to the property in the documentary. The artworks arranged on the exterior ranged from a painting of the Washington Monument to a depiction of aspen trees in the white snow on a dim winter night. Shelton ended up contributing about 70 paintings to the property

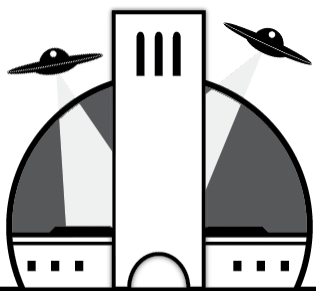
to fill the empty gaps, and Jenkins even contributed a few pieces himself.

In the latest installment of SBIFF Film Talks, Santa Barbara International Film Festival’s online series of conversations about local films, Jenkins and Shelton sat down to discuss the filming process and manifestation of their dual visions. The film footage was captured over two years, using time-lapse photography and constructed camera poles to show the growth of the property’s art over time due to the slow development of architectural projects.

Shelton elaborated on his initial dismay at being followed on camera, as he said he would much rather spend his time at the drawing table. However, Shelton’s process was one worth documenting, as the inclusion of community effort and beauty of each artist’s innovation came to life.

Jenkins’ soundtrack purposefully incorporates playful and spirited music that fit the imagery, without employing traditional composers. In a similar atypical fashion, Jenkins chose to forgo titles and introductions of the participants in the film so as to not distract from their thoughts and sentiments. In the interview, Jenkins emphasized his reliance on intuitive filmmaking in observing and discovering priceless off-script moments for later scenes, a tenet he relays to the film students he teaches at UC Santa Barbara.

While the Vera Cruz House may be quite ordinary in structure and size, its facade – where the walls are flipped to have the art displayed on the exterior instead of interior – is anything but. The idea originated from Shelton’s thought that while not everyone has the means to buy art for their homes, they can alternatively walk by this house and enjoy art from the outside. To the citizens of Santa Barbara, the value of the Vera Cruz House to the community is clear – it uplifts the neighborhood spirit.

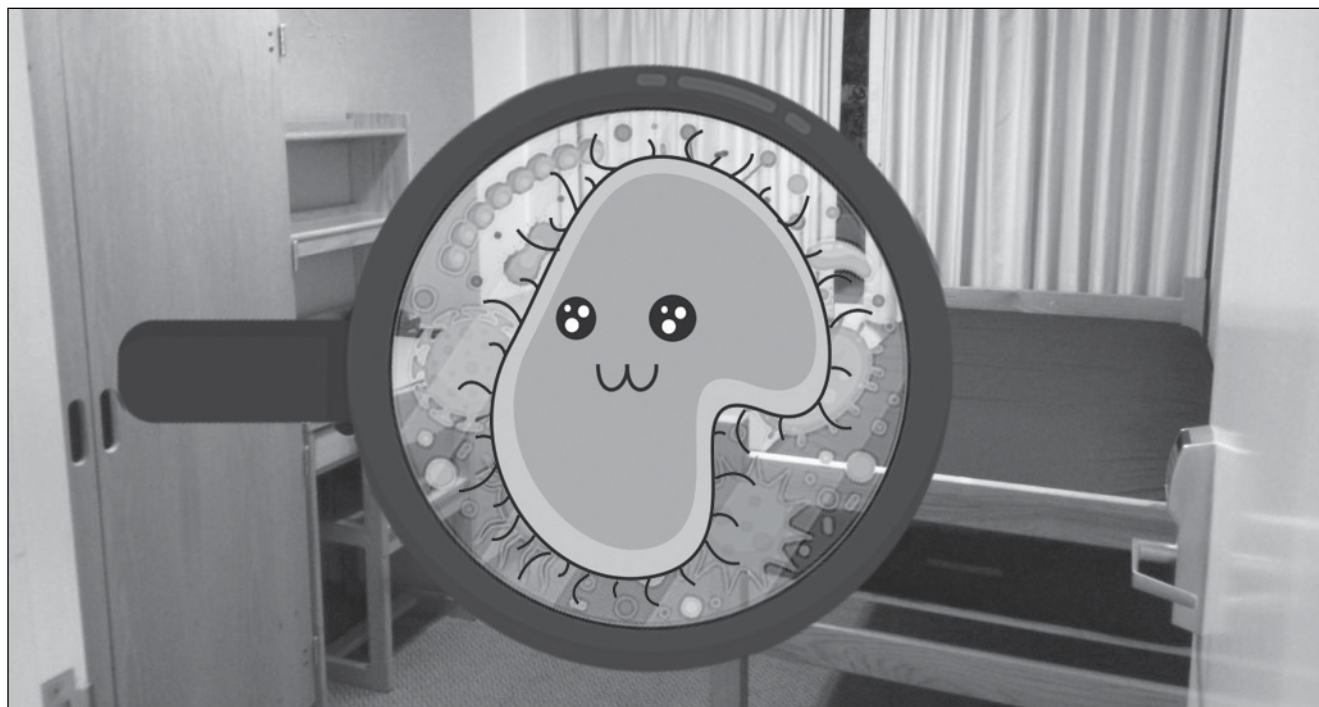


NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

UCSB Promises No COVID-19 in Dorms, All Other Germs Still Okay

UPDATE: Months Later, Times Still Strange, Uncertain



EMMA DEMOREST / DAILY NEXUS

EMMA DEMOREST / DAILY NEXUS

Max Myszkowski
Nexustentialism Editor

Natalie Kothergirls
Esteemed Staff Writer

Responding to the growing fears of prospective students set to live in on-campus residence halls come fall quarter, the university announced today that it was confident there would be no COVID-19 contamination present in student housing and that students could expect the usual cesspool of bacteria, viruses and other infectious agents that have come to be viewed as an essential part of the college dorm experience.

While many students have expressed fears over the spread of the new coronavirus through the famously contagious bowels of the on-campus residence halls, the university has offered solace in the knowledge that these buildings will contain nothing beyond the usual microbiota, bugs and varmints that comprise an important part of building the immune system necessary to survive four years in Isla Vista.

"While COVID-19 poses a great threat to our community and will be stringently kept out of the residence halls," Chancellor Henry T. Yang said in a meeting today, "the university promises students in on-campus housing that the usual range of STDs and common colds, as well as the overall miasmatic aura of the residence halls, is to remain unchanged."

This announcement has prompted students across the greater Isla Vista area to fondly recall their experiences

contracting and spreading various pathogens during their time in on-campus housing.

"Oh, boy, those were the days," one former on-campus resident said. "My roommates and I all got the stomach flu together during my freshman year in FT – there's no roommate-bonding experience stronger than waiting in line to puke into the suite's only toilet with one roommate while the other occupies it with a seemingly incessant stream of the squirts."

Prospective students have been warned that, although the dorms have been declared a "safe space" from the ravages of COVID-19, they are nonetheless stocked with creepy-crawlies and contagions of all shapes and sizes – the prognoses of which can (and often do) dwarf that of the novel coronavirus. In order to legally cover their bases, the university has released a list of symptoms that may be caused by the endemic pathogens of UCSB's fine dormitories, including but not limited to: anal itching, bloating, constipation, nausea, miscellaneous fluid excretions, hair loss, confusion, cough, diarrhea, dizziness, excessive flatulence, aches and pains, dry mouth, wet ear and spontaneous combustion (again, just covering all its legal bases).

Max Myszkowski wishes all new students a happy school year and recommends they focus on growing as many new white blood cells as they can before fall quarter begins.

As California rounds off another month under quarantine, news has broken that the times we are in still remain both strange and uncertain.

Though these times may be strange, they are also uncertain. While nobody knows exactly what will happen next, we will undoubtedly find ourselves enthralled by the peculiarity of the situation we are in. The past few months have been odd and cause many to feel unsure. Everything remains up in the air as the world tries to navigate the labyrinthine nature of these times.

"We are aware that these are uncertain and strange times," said the Toyota advertisement on your car radio, for some reason, to ensure that you may have peace of mind surrounding your car-buying needs as the world experiences a bizarre and ever-evolving pandemic.

In fact, these times are so uncertain and strange that any sense of normalcy is immediately frowned upon and kicked to the ground.

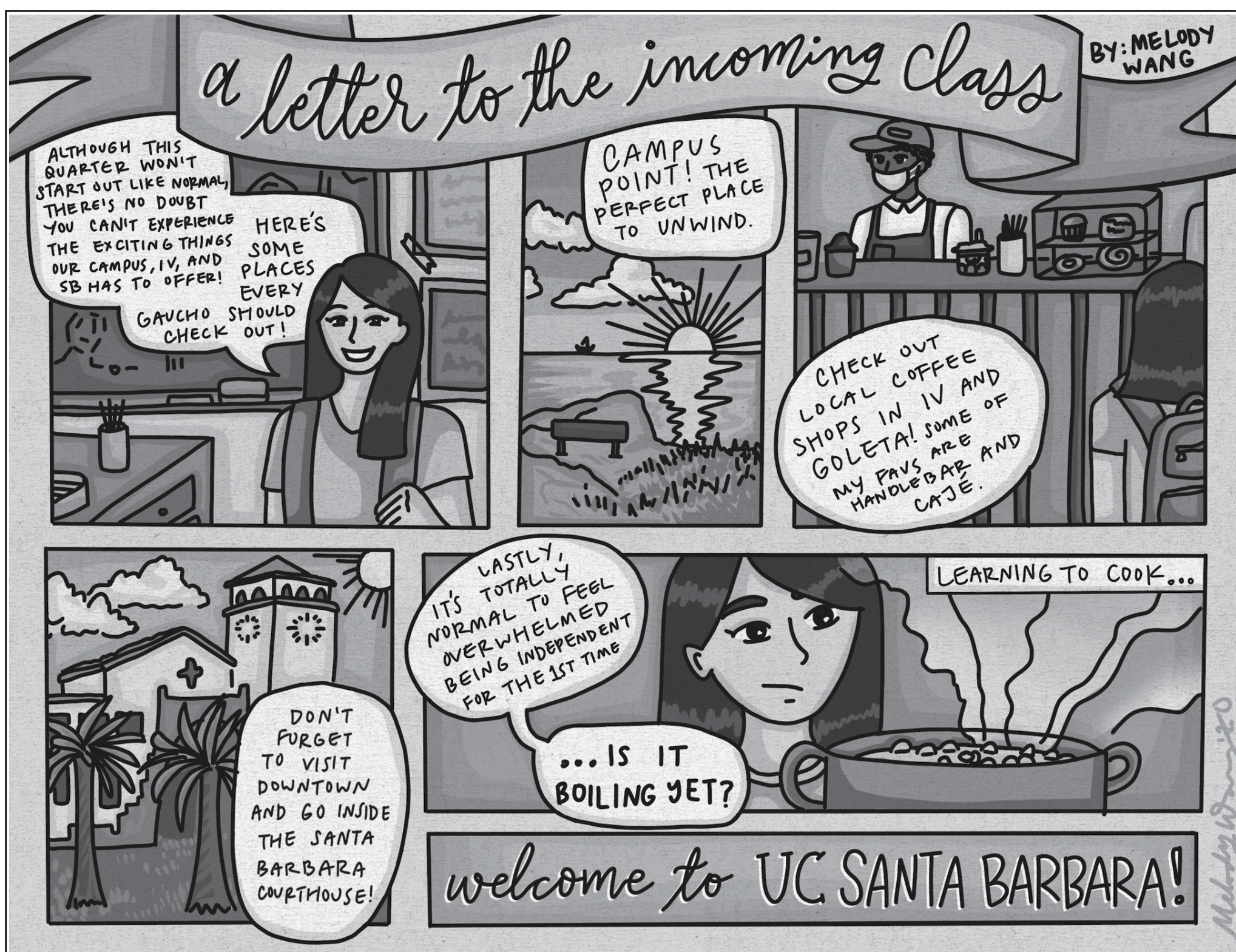
"I actually like quarantine," That One Person You Hate said. "It's given me so much time to really work on myself and be productive."

That One Person You Hate added that they are quarantining with their significant other, doing cute shit all the time and posting it on their social media to remind you during these perplexing and incalculable times that you, specifically, are not only worthless but also lonely and unlovable, you lazy hog, and that's probably why your ex cheated on you.

With a growing population of lazy hogs and no foreseeable end to these unprecedented and abnormal times, the world is thrust into a state of indefinite uncertainty. Things are not normal; in fact, they are the opposite. They are not certain, either – rather, times are anything but predictable. As we navigate these strange, uncertain and especially uncertain and strange times, it is imperative, no matter how stuck in your childhood bedroom you are, no matter how long ago you interacted with another person besides your immediate family, no matter how vitamin D-deprived you are from staying inside and no matter how neglected your shoes and jeans may feel, to remember one simple fact: We have absolutely no idea when or if things will return to normal.

Natalie Kothergirls has cried every day for two (and now almost three) weeks.

DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS



ON THE MENU

Homemade Japanese Food: Salmon Onigiri

Winnie Lam
On the Menu Editor

Onigiri is a Japanese food made of rice balls formed into a triangular shape and wrapped in seaweed. I used to eat these all the time as a kid because I loved the fun packaging and how they were super convenient to pack for lunch. Onigiri comes with a variety of different fillings such as crab meat, miso paste, teriyaki chicken, tuna and much more. My favorite type of onigiri is the type that's filled with salmon, which is what I used in this recipe because it's light, filling and a great source of high-quality protein.

INGREDIENTS:

 (for 8 onigiri pieces)

- 1/4 pound salmon
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 2 cups of short-grain white rice (or sushi rice)
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 4-5 tablespoons furikake (dry Japanese rice seasoning)
- 8 small strips of nori

DIRECTIONS:

1. Wash and cook 2 cups of rice. While the rice is cooking, bake or pan-fry your salmon. Blot any excess oil off with a paper towel and let it cool down.

2. Break the salmon into small pieces with a fork. Add the soy sauce and gently mix it into the pieces of salmon.
3. When the rice is done cooking, transfer it into a large bowl, add the rice vinegar and gently mix the rice until well incorporated.
4. Add the furikake to the bowl and mix until it is evenly distributed. You can add more or less depending on your preference.
5. Using a piece of plastic wrap, shape a golf ball-sized sphere of rice into a triangle, but don't press too hard. (Shaping the rice with plastic wrap prevents the rice from sticking to your hands and makes it easier to clean up.)
6. Press the center of the rice triangle with your thumb and add half of a spoonful of salmon into the indentation. Cover it up with a little more rice and mold the onigiri until you are satisfied with the shape.
7. Use one strip of nori to wrap any flat side of the onigiri and enjoy!

This recipe is definitely time-consuming with all the molding and shaping of the onigiris but after a bit of trial and error, it actually becomes a very relaxing task. It's also a very customizable recipe because you can experiment with a variety of different types of furikake and fillings for your onigiri. They make the perfect lunch or snack, and three of them are usually enough for a full meal.



WINNIE LAM / DAILY NEXUS



An Easy and Delicious Recipe for S'mores Crescent Rolls



Lilliana Linan
Staff Writer

Looking for a way to use leftover crescent rolls? Or looking to satisfy your s'mores cravings? Now you can enjoy these summer classics without getting a campfire ready. These s'mores crescent rolls are quick and easy to make, and they can be enjoyed as a snack, a dessert or even for breakfast. They work great as a finger food, and anyone with a sweet tooth will love these warm, fluffy treats.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tube of refrigerated crescent rolls (I used the Pillsbury Original Crescent Rolls)
- 2 graham cracker sheets
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 3/4 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1 cup Nutella (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Open the tube of crescent rolls and lay out each individual triangle onto a greased tray.
3. If using Nutella (for those who love chocolate), use a spoon to spread a layer of the hazelnut

spread onto the puff pastry.

4. Put the graham cracker sheets into a Ziploc bag and use a rolling pin to crush them. Then sprinkle the crumbs on top of the Nutella layer, or use them as a base layer if opting out of the Nutella.
5. Sprinkle on the mini chocolate chips and add the mini marshmallows.
6. Starting at one of the two longer ends of each triangle, roll up the puff pastry pieces.
7. Bake at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for 10-12 minutes.
8. Use the remaining Nutella to drizzle it on top of the rolls or use it as a chocolate dip.

This recipe is very useful for using up any leftover dough you may have because it's difficult to store once the tube pops open, and s'mores crescent rolls are much more exciting than plain ones. Using Nutella for this recipe makes for a less dry and more sweet pastry, but if you're looking for the classic s'mores flavor, using the mini chocolate chips is best. The mini marshmallows melt too fast and the puff pastry absorbs them during the bake; so another good idea would be to add marshmallow fluff inside the rolls, or use marshmallow fluff as a dip. This is also a fun recipe to make with friends or little ones, since its measurements don't need to be precise and the instructions are straightforward.



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LILLIANA LINAN / DAILY NEXUS

SCIENCE & TECH

“I Really do Believe that we Owe it to Future Generations to Protect These Areas”: UCSB Lecturer Creates Website To Spread Awareness of Public Lands



Courtesy of Christian Puga

Tule elk stand in a field of grass in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Almost 250,000 square acres in size, the monument holds the largest native grassland in California.

Sean Crommelin
Science and Tech Editor

“When I talk to my students about [public lands], I just put my hands [out] in every direction from UCSB. There are extraordinary state, county and national public lands all around us.”

Those are the words of UC Santa Barbara lecturer Deborah Williams who, in collaboration with a number of undergraduate students at UCSB – including Phoebe Rogers, Samuel Desre, Jason Mathias, Christian Puga and Whitner Grange – created a website, Great Public Land Destinations: Santa Barbara and Beyond, to raise awareness of the diverse natural and historical areas that surround UCSB.

The compendium provides information about 50 public land destinations within a 300-mile radius of Santa Barbara, specifically using Campbell Hall as the epicenter, which Williams chose because of the adjacent bus

loop.

Williams was raised in the San Fernando Valley near Los Angeles and lived in a household with a passion for public lands – a passion that Williams inherited. In the early '60s, Williams and her family explored the varietal and bountiful nature of California, from the quietude of places like Carpinteria State Beach to the majesty of the Sierra Nevada. By Williams' own account, her father had one of the first available REI memberships.

Prior to working as a UCSB lecturer, Williams lived in Alaska for 37 years, acting as an attorney for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as serving as the executive director of both the Alaska Consumer Advocacy Program and the Alaska Lung Association. From 1994 to 1999, Williams served as the special assistant to the Secretary of Interior for Alaska, advising the secretary on over 220 million acres of national land.

“The exact title of my class is Public Lands and Waters – Law and Policy. When I moved back to California four years ago, I realized that I needed to go [and] either visit or revisit public lands that I had never been to in this area, or hadn't been to in 30 years,” Williams said.

“[While teaching my class], I realized that a lot of my students didn't really know about the public lands around us and didn't understand the scope and diversity of public lands around us. That got me to thinking, ‘Wouldn't it be nice to have a website like this for my students, UCSB students and other college students in the Santa Barbara area?’”

Thus, the seed for the website was planted. In Williams' mind, it would be a tool for discovery and exploration, meant to stoke curiosity and bring to attention the many ways that public lands can serve anyone who visits them.

Along with featuring the flora and fauna of California's natural

landscape, Williams also wanted to shine a spotlight on public lands which are of particular historical or cultural significance; among these sites, she included Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park, a cave near Santa Barbara harboring centuries-old rock art by the Chumash people.

The website highlights a wide swath of public lands, taking users as far north as Yosemite National Park and as far south as Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. From east to west, one can venture off to Joshua Tree National Park and hit the road to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

The real meat of the website, however, is dedicated to local public lands, the likes of which are most accessible to students at UCSB, including sites like Rattlesnake Canyon, the Baron Ranch trail, many of the parks in Isla Vista and Ellwood Mesa.

The undergraduate students working alongside Williams helped inform her about many local spots, provided input and

criticism for the website and also lent Williams photographs of some of the destinations.

Of particular note, Grange – who is on the board of directors for the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District – introduced Williams to the numerous local parks scattered all throughout I.V.

Visitors to the site can narrow down locations by filtering for their intended activity, such as surfing, backpacking or even picnicking, as well as desired distance from Campbell Hall.

Now, with a template in place that is being continuously refined, Williams is hopeful that more people will capitalize on the concept and create a Great Public Land Destinations website for their own locales.

Williams emphasized that she is always reminding her students that they have a voice in how public lands are used, protected and ultimately preserved for those who come after us.

“I really do believe that we owe it to future generations to protect

these areas, and that the best way to protect these areas is to visit them and care about them and take the actions necessary to protect them,” Williams said.

Perhaps more difficult than finding places to feature was deciding what not to feature, as Williams said.

“The hard part was narrowing it down to 50,” she added. “Several people have asked me, ‘What's my favorite?’ And I don't have a favorite. They're like 50 children, all of whom have such special qualities.”

“Look at the Chumash Painted Caves, for instance. You're in this gorgeous setting and you can just go out there, let your eyes adjust to the light and transport yourself in time. While there, you can admire the Chumash ancestors and their cosmology, be grateful for their stewardship of this area and appreciate their rich culture.”

“How do you compare that to Yosemite? And how do you prioritize? It's not possible.”

Who Decides — Or Is Able — To Stay Home? Researchers Observe Mobility Drop Among the Wealthy and Increase Among the Poor During Quarantine

Sean Crommelin
Science and Tech Editor

When the novel coronavirus began its rapid spread across the United States in March, several states issued emergency declarations with the aim of restricting movement and preparing states for a surge in hospitalizations.

States also attempted to ramp up social distancing amongst members of the population. With an available vaccine still months away at best, social distancing has become the primary method for reducing the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which propagates most commonly through contact with infectious droplets that can get into the mouth, nose or eyes. These droplets are released from infectious individuals through coughing, sneezing, speaking and singing.

However, not everyone has participated in social distancing equally.

One researcher at UC Santa Barbara's Department of Economics, Olivier Deschenes, collaborated with researchers and economists from UC Davis and Stanford University to document the relationship between one's

income and one's adherence to social distancing guidelines. They published their findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The foundational research is among the first of its kind to examine the role of income “as a predictor of social distancing behavior,” Deschenes described in an email to the Nexus.

Deschenes primarily works in the area of environmental economics, where he studies how environmental regulations affect health and socioeconomic outcomes using many of the same methodologies employed in this research.

“[That] is how I was approached to join the team,” Deschenes said, adding that a collaborator on the piece, UC Davis professor Michael Springborn, was formerly a Ph.D. student at UCSB.

In order to quantify mobility amongst the population, the researchers made use of four mobility measures taken from mobile phone location pings, drawing from three different sources of data: Google Community Mobility Reports, PlacelQ and Safegraph.

These mobility measures, collected at the census tract level,

included three factors. First, they counted the “percentage of devices staying completely at home,” with “home” defined as the location of the device at night over a baseline period. Secondly, they observed device exposure, a measure of the average number of devices present at all of the locations a device visited in a day. Thirdly, they included the median distance all of the devices in a household traveled outside their homes. And finally, the researchers also looked at the “percentage change in device presence at locations of retail and recreation relative to the 5-week period from January 3 to February 6, 2020,” Deschenes explained.

“One major difference with COVID-19, compared to most other areas of research, is that

there was no previous research. Everything we know about the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 (including social distancing) was discovered starting in March 2020,” Deschenes said.

However, there is still precedent to be found in studies looking at how previous pandemics have restricted mobility.

“There is a smaller literature looking at restrictions to mobility in previous pandemics. For example, [Springborn in a 2015 paper] uses variation in home television viewing behavior as a proxy for changes in the level of daily social interaction in Mexico during the 2009 A/H1N1 [swine] influenza pandemic,” Deschenes said.

But now, unlike in the

circumstances shaping Springborn's research, the almost universal ownership of mobile phones in the U.S. gave the team a treasure trove of “near real-time data” with which to track mobility among wide swathes of the population.

In analyzing the data, Deschenes and his collaborators observed a striking phenomenon. Before the pandemic and the ensuing establishment of stay-at-home orders, mobility was highest amongst those in wealthier census tracts and lowest amongst those in poorer tracts. However, once the pandemic hit, the pattern reversed, and the researchers found that the poorest census tracts became the ones with the highest mobility.

The report listed several factors that may have contributed to these results. Drawing from other studies, the researchers noted commonly observed discrepancies between the wealthy and poor's access to information, differences in political preferences which could impact how one processes information and also differences in one's attitude toward risk depending on one's income.

Notably, the authors speculated that less adherence to social distancing guidelines may be a

result of the fact that many lower-income earners lack the capacity to work from home, constraining their ability to social distance.

According to the report, the fact that poorer communities also face a higher incidence of preexisting health conditions and have less access to health care “suggests a double burden of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“One implication is that given the lower ability of low income individuals to social distance (in part due to the nature of the work they do), they should be a priority group once a vaccine is available,” Deschenes said.

“Higher-income [earners] individually have more opportunity to work from home and thus social distance, even without a vaccine.”

As Deschenes and his collaborators continue their research, they intend to add another dimension to their analysis: the spread of the disease and its relationship to the enactment of restrictions.

“We are also interested in learning if the mobility limitation measures had an impact on COVID-19 case and mortality numbers,” Deschenes said.



KIYOMI MORRISON / DAILY NEXUS

OPINION

Covid Crushin': Ditch Your S.O. or Stay a Simp

Emily Kocis
Asst. Opinion Editor

majority of the aspects of normal college life, it is vital to mark this time as an important transition in your life.

Melanie Ziment
Opinion Editor

Without A Partner Is the New WAP of Quarantine

Like most other incoming college freshmen right now, you're probably getting ready to do one of two things this coming year: hunker down in your childhood bedroom for a quarter of virtual classes or move into an apartment or dorm because you tragically signed a lease before schools abruptly switched to remote instruction. In both scenarios, the obvious key to a successful first year of college, coronavirus or not, is to get rid of that love-sucking leech of a significant other.

That's right, dump your partner. Relationships look very different right now. With a growing number of states pushing back plans to reopen or reimposing restrictions, couples are having to find new and creative ways to spend socially distanced time together. Going from seeing your significant other every day at lunch to not at all isn't easy, but it also isn't an excuse to endanger your life or the lives of others. Whether it's through Zoom dates or masked picnics six feet apart from each other, the dating scene has drastically changed.

This is not to say that coronavirus has made dating impossible, but is this new level of commitment and effort worth it to preserve an already doomed relationship?

A staple of the freshman year experience for couples across the United States is the big turkey drop. After high school sweethearts give long distance the good college try, someone typically gets dumped when Thanksgiving rolls around and everyone heads home for the holidays. Inevitably, high school lovers break up before either partner takes their first college final.

However, with many college freshmen staying in their hometowns amidst the pandemic, the turkey drop now seems obsolete. But don't be fooled. The dreaded drop has not been canceled, just postponed.

Sure, right now, you may feel invincible, like nothing in the world could possibly extinguish your brightly burning teenage passion, but what happens when you go back to school? Colleges will eventually reopen and, as you finally move into dorms filled with hundreds of your horny peers, breaking up will be unavoidable.

Even if you don't take my word for it – the cold, hard numbers don't lie. Data journalist David McCandless observed that there is a spike in breakups conveniently about two weeks before Christmas when examining Facebook relationship status data. So not only is the turkey drop a mainstay of the college rumor mill, but it's also backed up by some pretty serious data.

While the dreaded dumping may not be a threat this year, it is guaranteed to resurface whenever it is safe enough for couples to go back to college in person. Ultimately, you may as well save yourself the heartbreak, tedious arguments and the overall effort of staying together for another year before the inevitable "it's not you, it's me."

In a time of virtual classes, breaking up with your high school partner can also be an important first step in asserting some desperately hard to come by independence. With Zoom University sorely lacking a

Put simply, you are going to feel like you're still in high school if you're still dating your high school sweetheart. There is no way you'll feel like a college freshman if you're dating the person who you hung out with during passing period and who walked you to the gym every day. And if the extent of your college experience this year is going to be logging onto Zoom lectures, being single will at least make sure you can virtually flirt with the cute kids in your classes.

It's time to determine whether the boy who helped you with a worksheet in AP Biology or the girl who did all of your work for a group project in 10th grade is in it for the long haul, or just deadweight. If it's the latter, don't be the asshole who strings them along for another year.

In the spirit of wholeheartedly embracing breaking hearts this quarantine, here are some of my favorite, socially distant ways to dump your high school sweetheart.

If you're feeling non-confrontational, might I suggest breakup by carrier pigeon or message in a bottle? Perhaps you can get some excellent job application practice and write them a cover letter, or just keep it to what they already know by styling it as a college rejection letter. If you feel like really embracing the spirit of virtual learning, some other options include breaking up over Zoom chat, ambushing a supposed Zoom date with a "Why we should break up" PowerPoint presentation or just leaving them in the Zoom waiting room and hoping they get the message.

If all else fails, one major pandemic perk is that you can always pretend to have the coronavirus and ghost them.

Emily Kocis really hopes you don't take her breakup methods seriously.



EMILY LIU / DAILY NEXUS

Is This the Death of the Turkey Drop?

It's a tale as old as time: Two high school sweethearts graduate and move to college across the country from one another. Though they care for and love one another, communication through the phone is hard, and as school begins, feelings of jealousy and isolation start to creep in. Both partners are making new friends, having different experiences – maybe flirting with a new classmate – and ultimately start to grow apart. By the time Thanksgiving rolls around, it's time to see each other one last time in person before ending the relationship.

But, as with all things, 2020 has left its mark on relationships and has left couples wondering whether the pandemic has temporarily brought an end to this Thanksgiving trope.

Now, with many colleges conducting their classes online, many students are choosing to stay at home with their folks. With your S.O. staying in the same city as you, many incoming freshmen might choose to stay with their partners. And to them, I say hurrah! In the words of the love god Al Green, "Let's Stay Together."

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes, "pandemics can be stressful," which is the nice way of saying that being confined within the same four walls with nothing to do besides endlessly scrolling through TikTok can absolutely wreck your mental health. Whether you were previously struggling with your mental health or not, months of social isolation and uncertainty have undoubtedly taken their toll on your mental state. In fact, a CDC survey showed that young people are reporting increasing levels of anxiety and depression as a result of COVID-19.

Therefore, having a strong support system has never been more essential to your well-being. Studies have long noted the positive impact that healthy relationships can have on mental health. Your significant other can be a necessary person to vent to, a shoulder to cry on or a crucial distraction from the craziness that is ensuing.

Not to mention that breakups fucking suck and can be extremely detrimental to your mental health. A global pandemic is certainly not the time to be going through it.

Besides these great reasons to stay simping, here's another one: If you don't want to break up with your partner, don't! Just because society dictates that it's the smart, logical thing to do doesn't mean that it's what's best for you. And while the argument usually goes that you should be out experiencing college and not hung up on some long-distanced high school S.O., trusty coronavirus has swept these excuses away for you (goodie!). If you are happy with your current chosen person there's no good reason to rush into breaking up.

If all these good reasons haven't convinced you yet, then I have one final thing to point out: Who else is there to have sex with (following the NYC Health Department guidelines of course) during the many months of quarantine that are yet to come?

Melanie Ziment has had too much time to ponder the question: If you aren't boinking to Al Green, does it even count?

HOROSCOPES

The Signs as Albums Released During Quarantine

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

"Folklore" by Taylor Swift

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20

"Fetch the Bolt Cutters" by Fiona Apple

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20

"The New Abnormal" by The Strokes

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22

"You and Your Friends" by Peach Pit

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

"Neon Future IV" by Steve Aoki

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

"Blame It on Baby" by DaBaby

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

"It Was Good Until It Wasn't" by Kehlani

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

"Chromatica" by Lady Gaga

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

"Women in Music Pt. III" by Haim

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

"Black Is King" by Beyoncé

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

"What Could Possibly Go Wrong" by Dominic Fike

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

"Ho, Why Is You Here?" by Flo Milli

Ask AJ: One Marijuana & Too Many Yerbs



PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS

AJ
Advice Columnist

How many cans of yerba mate can I safely chug in one go before I can no longer feel my own pulse and can read people's minds?

I don't know if this is just me, but that's precisely how I feel after just one poorly timed yerb.

I had never tried canned yerba mate before coming to UC Santa Barbara, and that minty deliciousness changed my life forever. Nothing delights me more than the unnerved glances of my classmates when I crack open a fresh yerb at an 8 a.m. section. Luckily, there's no shortage of the drink on campus. From vending machines to free Associated Students Program Board giveaways to the full pallets of the stuff sold in the Tenaya Market & Eatery, you'll have countless opportunities to experiment with your own caffeine tolerance here in Gaucholand.

HOWEVER, I feel that the normalization of caffeine addiction, especially for overworked and already stressed college students, is an insidious aspect of our college culture. I'm sure you already know of the possible health risks of over-caffeination, but what bothers me the most is how caffeinated drinks, especially yerba mate, are often overpriced and come with wasteful packaging. Is all of this really worth it for a temporary buzz? HOWEVER (part 2), if you're looking for

the specific benefits you mentioned, I would recommend just taking a yoga seminar.

I want to try one marijuana. Does Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) have any tutoring sessions where you can try one marijuana?

Listen, I'm gonna tell you this because you seem cool, but you have to promise not to tell anyone else. What you're gonna do is walk up to the front desk in the Student Resource Building and ask for Jerry. He'll give you the secret CLAS menu, and you can figure it out from there.

Now that you've tried your one marijuana, let me take it one step farther. If you're the entrepreneurial type, I'd recommend CLAS' tutoring groups on biology, chemistry and economics for some great inspiration to one day start your own pot farm. You can even take advantage of the drop-in sessions on language and writing to have a qualified tutor proofread your promotional materials for your new, highly regarded business.

CLAS also offers resources on time management and student employment opportunities, which I believe will lead you to the highest degree of success in both your academic and psychedelic pursuits.

A senior told me back in fall that the UC Police Department (UCPD) has a secret vomit investigations unit (he called them the "Puke Police"), where detectives would sample vomit and bodily fluids left on the street, DNA test the samples, identify the person and then have the district attorney file charges against the perpetrator for misdemeanor littering. I accidentally vomited my entire Smirnoff Ice and remnants of beef stroganoff on Del Playa last weekend. How long does the investigation usually take before I get found out? And will UCSB find out about the charges?

So, knowing the state of our criminal justice system and the reputation of the UCPD, I have

no doubt that this is absolutely true, and you should be very scared. Luckily, Isla Vista is such a mess of "bodily fluids," as you put it, on any given weekend (or weekday!) that you've got some time before The Law gets around to knocking on your door. In the meantime, I recommend you take a good look at your life choices and try to figure out not only what possessed you to drink Smirnoff Ice, which is offensive enough on its own, but why you thought it would be a good idea to mix it with beef stroganoff. It sounds like that one's on you, dude.

In all seriousness, you probably (probably) have nothing to worry about. The UCPD is still on the hunt for that bobcat that was prowling campus last year, and the raccoons undoubtedly got to your spilled leftovers long before the cops did.

I once let my tortoise play in the ocean. However, he refused to touch the water, even though tortoises are natural swimmers. What is wrong with my tortoise?

I'm no zoologist, but it sounds like you've got a classic case of TWA (Tortoise Water Aversion) on your hands. I would recommend a course of exposure therapy for your little shelled friend, starting with simply holding him near a running tap and gradually increasing exposure until he'll happily splash around in the bathtub. Over time, he may be willing to try the ocean again, but patience is key. There's no way to force your tortoise to embrace his "nature."

There is also the possibility that your pet does not even know what a tortoise is meant to do, due to a lack of interaction with other members of his species. If this seems to be the case, I'd say bring your tortoise down to the pond in Storke Plaza and encourage him to mingle with the turtles that live there in blissful harmony with the koi fish and CALPIRG tablers. Perhaps he'll even catch a glimpse of the famed man-sized turtle associated with that particular student group. Beware, though, for once exposed, he may not want to leave that paradise.

Got questions for AJ? Send them in to opinion@dailynews.com with the subject "Ask AJ."