

# OTTER REALM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

MAY 11, 2017

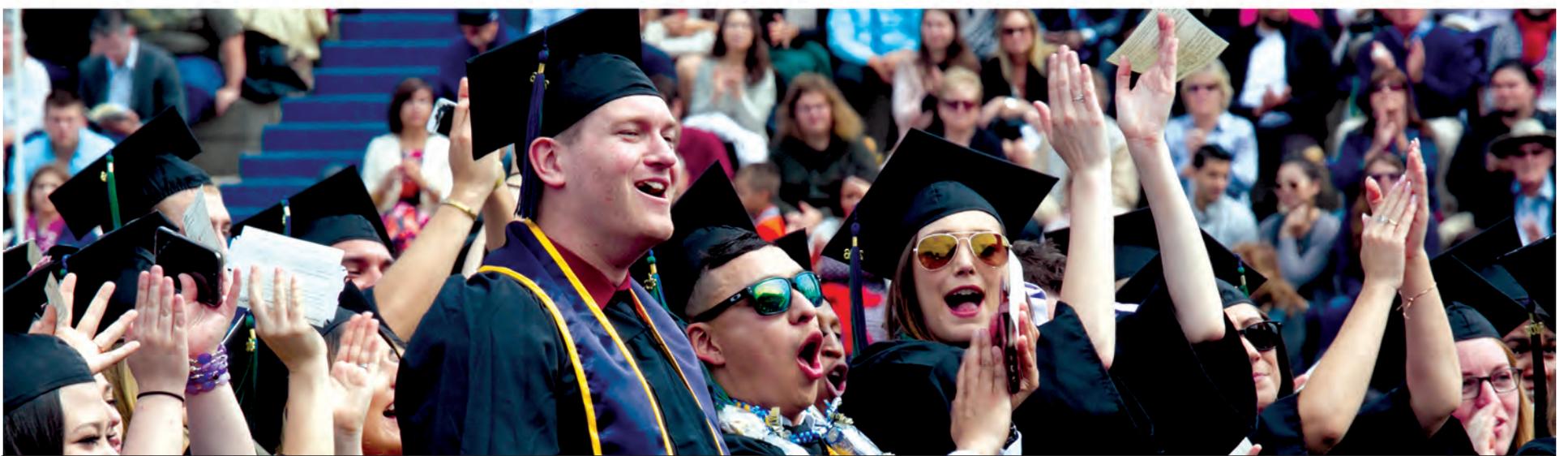
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## GRADUATION 2017



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THE TRUTH ABOUT SO-CALLED  
**"Ghetto" Salinas**

# FAREWELL

## FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Kelly Galten  
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Well, here we are; the end of another year. Some of us will be graduating, going on to bigger and better things. Some will be continuing the good fight here, making grades and keeping our heads up. Some of us will be preparing to graduate next year, figuring out capstone and future endeavors. As I myself join this last group, I am gearing up for an intense two semesters. Due to such pressures, I regret that I will have to leave the Otter Realm as this year closes.

I have had so many memories as editor, and I will not pretend that it has been easy. There were times I knew I was falling short, and times I knew I could be proud of my work. I have watched as the Realm adapted and adjusted to two new staffs, and as we won our awards at the National Collegiate Journalism conference. In that moment, hearing CSUMB recognized again and again for the marvelous work of its students, I knew the Otter Realm was just as strong as it has been for years.

I have received many questions about the future of the Otter Realm, but even with the uncertainty surrounding our future I am confident that this paper will thrive. I encourage you, reading this right now, to try your hand at journalism next semester. This is not only for the benefit of the Realm, but to offer you an opportunity.

I have been very privileged to put my voice out to the campus and community as Editor. I know there are millions of people and thousands on this campus who feel as though they do not have a voice. The POC

*The POC students, the undocumented students, the LGBTQ+ students, the female students, the islamic students, the students with disabilities of the body and mind, you are what makes CSUMB a school I am proud to attend.*

students, the undocumented students, the LGBTQ+ students, the female students, the islamic students, the students with disabilities of the body and mind, you are what makes CSUMB a school I am proud to attend. You all keep this campus honest. You hold a mirror up to society and say, do you like what you see? You have a louder voice than any of us, and I would only ask you to use it. The Otter Realm will always be a platform for you, all you have to do is say the word.

# OTTER REALM

The Otter Realm is a student publication produced by the HCOM 389 class. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Otter Realm, CSUMB administration, faculty, or staff.

The Otter Realm serves two purposes: It is a training lab for students who wish to develop journalism skills, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. The Otter Realm Editorial Board will determine what to print based on these pages and reserves the right to edit for libel, space, or clarity.

Advertising revenue supports Otter Realm publications and events. Letters to the Editor should include first and last name and should be submitted via email. The Otter Realm reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason, and anonymous letters will not be published.

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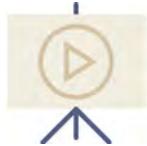
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# Capstone Festival




Spring 2017

*Wednesday, May 17th*

**Business**

1:30pm - 7:00pm  
Joel and Dena Gambord Business and Information Technology Building,  
Rooms 104 & 112

**Hospitality**

1:00pm - 1:30pm  
Joel and Dena Gambord Business and Information Technology Building,  
Rooms 104 & 112

**World Languages & Cultures**

12:00pm - 4:15pm  
World Languages & Cultures Building - North, Room 118

**Mathematics & Statistics**

12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Chapman Science Academic Center, Room S222

**Music and Performing Arts**

10:00am - 2:00pm  
Music Hall, Room 100

**Psychology**

8:30am - 3:00pm  
Heron Hall

**School of Natural Sciences**

9:00am - 5:00pm  
Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Room 1188

**Service Learning**

5:30pm - 7:30pm  
University Center, Ballroom

**Social, Behavioral & Global Studies**

9:00am - 3:00pm  
University Center, Ballroom

**World Languages & Cultures**

8:15am - 5:00pm  
World Languages & Cultures Building - North, Room 118

*Thursday, May 18th*

**Business**

9:00am - 6:00pm  
Joel and Dena Gambord Business and Information Technology Building,  
Rooms 104 & 112

**Cinematic Arts & Technology**

6:00pm - 9:00pm  
World Theater

**Collaborative Health & Human Services**

8:00am - 5:00pm  
Ocean Hall, Rooms C120 & D120

**Education and Leadership**

5:00pm - 8:00pm  
Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library,  
Rooms 1128, 1167, 1170, 1173, 1176, & 1180

**Liberal Studies**

12:00pm - 5:00pm  
Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library,  
Rooms 1128, 1167, 1170, 1173, 1176, & 1180

**Master of Social Work**

4:00pm - 7:00pm  
University Center, Rooms 114 & 115

*Friday, May 19th*

**Human Communication**

10:00am - 12:00pm  
University Center, Ballroom

**School of Computing & Design**

9:00am - 12:00pm  
Joel and Dena Gambord Business and Information Technology Building,  
Rooms 104, 105, 110, 111, 112, 113  
Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Room 1188

**Visual & Public Art**

9:00am - 12:00pm  
VPA Buildings - West, Center & East

# DO YOU DESERVE YOUR DREAMS?



Sean Roney  
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Summer provides a host of opportunities to achieve our goals, from pursuing that dream job, taking a vacation, or even getting fit. In summer, as in any other time of the year, the largest determining factor in your own success is you.

It's quite common to end up standing still or quitting in the face of a huge task. The world will barrage you with endless opportunities to quit. Excuses are easy; they spring up like weeds. But through it all, if

something matters to you, you'll find a way to do it. The losers are the ones who clutch the excuses and expect pity. The achievers are those who prevail over all obstacles in their path.

There are of course some obstacles that are monumental, such as debilitating health conditions or emergencies that wipe out money and time. Those are definite reasons to take a break, not to quit. But if you aren't stricken with such a devastating barrier, what's your excuse this summer? You can absolutely achieve that what you most desire.

My own summer goals include getting

fit. I could jump on the couch and cite the excuse that I suffer from foot pain when I try to jog or hike. And if I did that, I'd fail to lose any weight.

Instead, I've tackled the foot problem by taking up non-impact exercise. At the gym, I'm on the elliptical. Outside, I'm on my bike. Once my city's pool opens up, I'll be there every week.

For those of you who say fitness is difficult because you're too out of shape to effectively exercise, I hear you! And I can attest to the non-impact workarounds leading to substantial health improvements. Personally, I was fed up of being fat, and decided

to make a change. It just takes personal determination. Find a way through, over, or around, and move onward to victory.

The big enemy is fear, of course. It's scary to think about undertaking a big task and then failing. But you know what's even more frightening? Never taking that chance. Or putting in a half-assed effort that's doomed to failure from the start. You're better than surrender. You deserve your dreams.

What projects are you pursuing this summer? And what obstacles will you trample to ensure you achieve them?



Valerie Balanon  
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I recall noting with our previous production manager, Kimberly Haley about how seducing design can be. It was astonishing to find someone who also found typefaces and formatting sensually appealing. Of course, this perspective of design isn't automatically accepted. A fellow C.D. major had glanced at my browser bookmarks and found a folder marked "XXX." They teased me about leaving my "porn" out in the open. After expanding the folder to show links about inspiring typography and sites like designskinky.net, they sat there

with an expression I took as "Of course, it's Valerie."

Design is everywhere. It can be controversial. It can be simple. It can have deep meaning. It is whatever you want it to be and I find this so exciting. How deep should this margin go on this poster? Should there even be a margin? Should the text be placed inside a box? A circle? Or around a triangle? Bold, thin, typeface? Both? Or should it be solely visual? Just an image? Will that communicate? Do I design for me or the client? Is the world your client? Does your design even matter?

Yes. The layout of the National Enquirer matters as much as the layout of the New York Times. Even when it was a little pam-

phlet done in 15 minutes on Word with clip art. This evokes the sort of quality the work is representing. And I love every bit of it. The praise and the criticisms. And the constant battle of pleasing yourself, the client, and/or the public. It's a continuous glorious struggle.

After becoming production manager, I've realized how much this fire is fueling me. I've always known that article layout, photography, and headline typeface is incredibly important. But I also feel that we are not even close to the quality a university newspaper should be. We were awarded multiple times the past several years. Now imagine what is possible if we upped our design game.

I call out to all fellow designers who find delight in looking at Pantone color schemes and scrolling through Dribbble. Please volunteer and gain some portfolio work. Whether you are experienced with print, digital design, or both, please attribute to next semester's paper. Let's make it as sexy as it can possibly be!

For volunteering opportunities next semester please contact via email:  
**vbalanon@csumb.edu**

# AROUSING DESIGN

# AS PUSHES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Dylan Avnet  
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While this year offered perhaps the most contentious election in American history, Cal State Monterey Bay responded with an election of its own that was quite the opposite. Free of even a hint of controversy (most candidates ran unopposed,) the Associate Students (AS) elections came and went without a hitch. Now, CSUMB is left with a (mostly) new crop of student government officers who are eager to represent our student body across all areas of campus concerns, and hopefully increase student involvement along the way.

Among the many plans the newly elected officers have for the next year is the continuation of the food pantry. “We’ve really delved in and focused on the root causes of food insecurity on our campus specifically. A lot of it has to do with [a] lack of knowledge of resources,” says AS President Lauren McClain, proud to continue the project that was near and dear to her this past year.

The College of Science Senator Kate Ingram’s emphasis will be on an issue that has certainly been on the minds of many students: advising. “My main goal is to make sure that students within the College

of Science have the best academic environment possible. What that really is going to look like this upcoming year is trying to improve advising... I’m working with the dean

While there are many issues to address on campus, one that can not be ignored by AS is student participation, or rather, lack thereof. “We’ve all been talking

to other CSU campuses. But just getting our name out there, talking to students, letting them know what they can get out of getting involved, I think that’s going to bring more students in in the future.”

Nate Bond, Executive Vice President of AS, discusses the difficulty of representing students when they don’t get involved, “It’s hard when I don’t exactly know what students would like to see or if they don’t even know who I am. I would just love to see more students coming up to me and telling me about...anything they want to see a change in on campus. I’d love for students to come and talk to me about it.”

McClain describes one of her main duties as AS President as “being the general student representative on different campus committees.” McClain encourages students to be more involved and get to know her and the rest of the AS officers, as they are the ones who fight for the needs and wants of the general student population. “We’re here for you,” McClain declares. Bond shares her sentiment; “Please approach me, please ask questions. If you don’t know why AS is here or what they’re here for, I’d love to answer those questions. Our job here is to be here for the students, and I want to be here for the students.”



Otter Realm’s Editor-In-Chief Kelly Galten, left, discusses upcoming plans with AS officers Kate Ingram, Lauren McClain, and Nate Bond.

Photo by Dylan Avnet/Otter Realm

to look at how we can change resources and give the students what they need for that success.”

about how to improve on student participation,” says Ingram. “We’re pretty new as an organization, especially when you compare

# SOCIAL CHANGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Ashley Orcutt, HCOM major, won first place in the Elfenworks Scholarship competition. Photo by Kelly Galten/Otter Realm

Kelly Galten  
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The Cooperative Argumentation courses taught by Lisa Watson had a unique opportunity to apply for the Elfenworks Scholarship, offered by the Elfenworks Foundation. First place in this year’s competition was Ashley Orcutt, followed by Rita Correa in second and Leslie Moldonado in third. The winners were announced on Monday, May 8. There was a short ceremony during the Cooperative Argumentation class, in which the finalists found out the results of the scholarship competition. This is the second year of the scholarship. The money will go directly to the students without having the university act as a middle-man, meaning that it can be used for any purpose, including education

The Elfenworks Foundation is specifically partnered with Cal State Monterey

Bay (CSUMB) to give students an a opportunity to further social entrepreneurship. The foundation itself is based upon the Seven Pillars of Entrepreneurship: Vision, Special Skills, Non-Duplication, Partnership, Credit Sharing, Feedback and Staying Power. The Seven Pillar method assists entrepreneurs in helping make a difference in the world; it is based on a theory of former President Jimmy Carter. The founder of Elfenworks, Lauren Speeth, wrote the the textbook Intelligence and Compassion in Action, used in Watson’s Cooperative Argumentation sections. Speeth says of their mission, “Students, we applaud you for pursuing your education and remind you, “never underestimate your ripple!”

Orcutt says of the process for applying, “I put a lot of effort into writing for the scholarship. I’m a writer, so it would show that I’m a good writer.” Orcutt said she would put the money towards her student loans.

# EXCHANGE OTTERS ARE CALIFORNIA DREAMING



Sophie Schneider and Lars Jorde surfing Asilomar Beach in Pacific Grove, CA.

**Being surrounded by warm weather, beaches, and sprawling landscape is all part of the typical life of a CSUMB student. To an international student, it can be a once in a lifetime opportunity.**

**I sat down to interview two of CSUMB's international students Sophie Schneider, Environmental Science major from Dortmund, Germany, and Lars Jorde, Theater major from Dalsbygd, Norway, about their time in California.**

**After living here for a year, what would you say is your favorite part about living in California?**

**Jorde:** My favorite part is the people. Everyone here is so laid back and people don't seem so concerned with what everyone else is thinking. They just do what they want.

**Schneider:** Surfing and this environment. All the national parks that are available in the states are amazing.

**Anything you didn't enjoy about living in California?**

**Schneider:** The public transportation and the traffic. I have never seen traffic this bad before.

**Jorde:** The cost of things. Everything here is so expensive. Also, the parking, I can't believe "parking" is an actual thing here. Back home we just park without any problem.

**How does life differ living here than back home?**

**Schneider:** Back home everything is more structured and planned out. Everyone sticks to that plan. In Germany, people can get very frustrated when things don't go according to plan. In California, people don't seem to worry or have a plan; they just go with the flow. I like that vibe.

**Jorde:** I found that people here in California have a warmer personality. I think that the weather here has a lot to do with that. Back home we have temperatures as low as -40 degrees and it makes people have this survival instinct. It makes their personalities less inviting and less compassionate. I also noticed that some people in the states can be superficial. For example, people ask me "How's it going?" I know they really don't care. I also found that some people seem more concerned with money, materials, and status than any other place I have ever seen. In Norway, it is a very different way of thinking... To pursue money and fancy things would make you an outcast.



Photo by Marcus Gazaway/Otter Realm

# GRAD INITIATIVE AIMS TO RAISE EFFICIENCY

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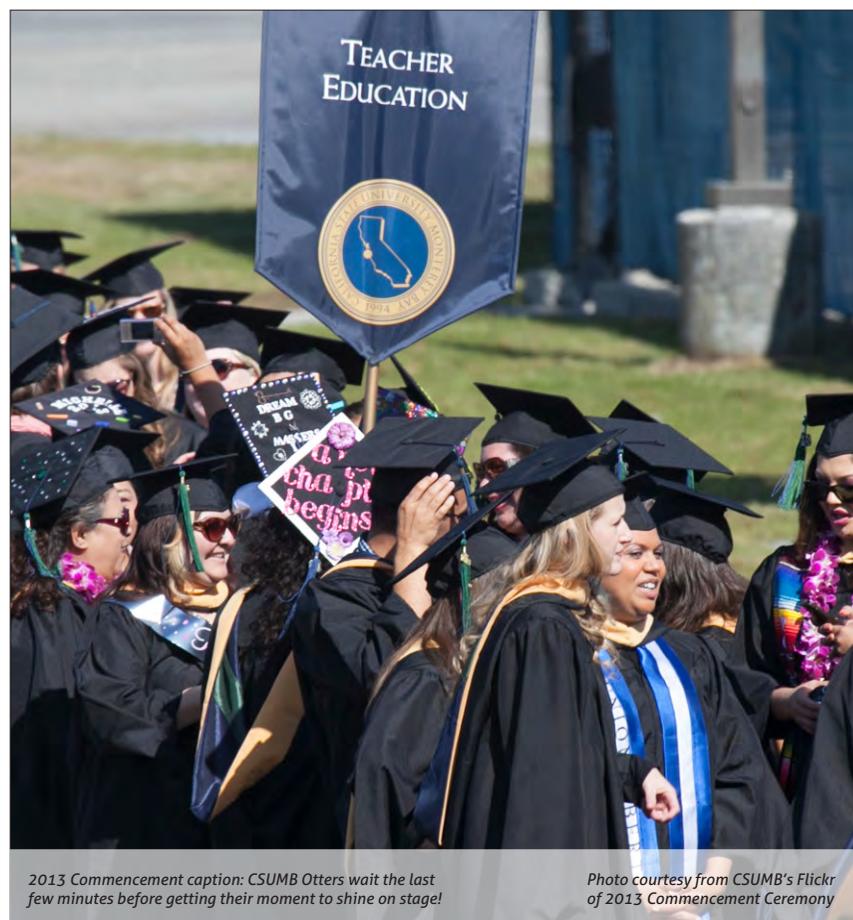
Striving for graduation can be a handful. Students need to meet certain major requirements, make time for work and class assignments, pay for books, etc. Many students tend to drop out for personal and financial reasons, but few leave for academic reasons. According to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Bonnie Irwin, 18-20% of students leave after their first year, and others leave after sophomore and junior year. As for the achievement gap, it is said CSUMB has one of the lowest which is less than 2% compared to other campuses.

The New York Times recently published an article called "6 Reasons You May Not Graduate on Time (and What to Do about It)"; hitting the real topics of why college students are experiencing more struggles through their career-seeking journey. All students want to reach the achieving goal of receiving a diploma in their hands, but it's a hard thing to do when there are so many other responsibilities stopping you from focusing purely on academics. In the New York Times article, Meredith Kolodner interviews

many college students on the issue of trying to graduate on time. It was brought to the surface that the challenges of working over 30 hours a week, taking the minimum of units, veering off the career courses to experience other opportunities, having a social life, and losing interest in the university that a student is currently attending is often what leads students to be held back from graduating on time.

CSUMB is developing a plan to support students to graduate more efficiently, but also by making new and current students feel welcomed on campus. For instance, they raised funds for emergency assistance for students who need a little more financial assistance. As well as hiring advisors and having clear degree pathways. CSUMB faculty and staff are also being trained in issues of workshops through workshops. The purpose to create knowledge and practical skills under President Ochoa's themes for this academic year, "Creating a more inclusive and respectful community."

Some students are not aware of the resources or do not take advantage of the help like reaching out to professors, advisers, or counselors. CSUMB will be launching a student success website this summer with helpful information and links to other offices. "The graduation initiative is not all about speed, however. We also want to make sure that every student learns as much as possible and graduates ready for a job or grad school," says Dr. Irwin.



2013 Commencement caption: CSUMB Otters wait the last few minutes before getting their moment to shine on stage!

Photo courtesy from CSUMB's Flickr of 2013 Commencement Ceremony



# PGCC HOSTS THIRD MINDFUL MADNESS

Students enjoy the sun and bubble-blowing at the PGCC's Mindful Madness.

Photo by Maddi LeKander/Otter Realm

**Maddi LeKander**  
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Heading into the final weeks of school, work that has piled up has to get done, and plans for the summer have to be finalized. Mindfulness is one coping tool that may be able to help students cope with these stresses.

Jessica Flores, a Personal Growth and Counseling Center Counselor, brought an event to the campus last March called Mindful Madness. Due to the success of the event it was hosted for the third time on May 3 of this year. When

asked why she brought this event to the campus, Flores said, "So much of what [college students are] doing is working towards things for [their] future, which is important and the goal. But that puts on a lot of pressure and high expectations. I think mindfulness can be a helpful coping tool to slow students down a little bit and to experience and value their present selves and their present lives and feel happy and content with where they are and who they are and what their doing presently."

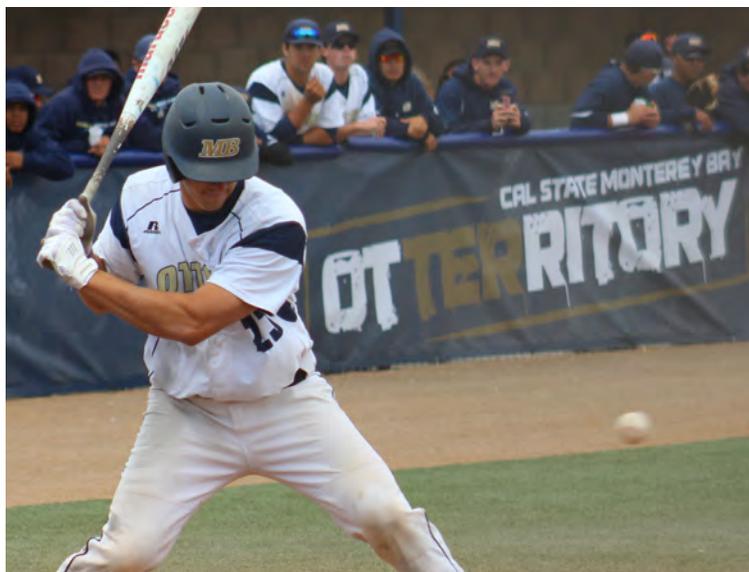
Mindful Madness is an event that allows students to try new ways of mindfulness like coloring, meditation, yoga, reiki, and hypnotherapy. "This event literally changed my

life, it's what got me to sign up for yoga classes and buy a mat. Without mindfulness and yoga, I don't know where I'd be" Samantha Calderon, a third year Human Communication student gushed before heading to do yoga on the grass.

Mindfulness is a practice. Flores, a self-proclaimed novice in mindfulness, stresses the importance of finding what works for you and to continue with it. With continuous and active practice, mindfulness can lead to improved relationships, self-image, and overall happiness.

# OTTER ATHLETICS: A YEAR IN REVIEW

— Women's Softball impeccable season, Men's and Women's Golf surged, and more —



Hayden Duer takes a pitch early in the count. (Photo by Anthony Denevi)

Joel Soria  
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The 2016/17 season has been bittersweet for the sports programs at Cal State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). A season that offered historic highs and lows all across the board for the Otters.

As the year comes to an end, we look over at what the Otters were able to accomplish.

Soccer kicked off the sports year at CSUMB, but not with the biggest bang. Both the men's and women's team were unable to crack over the .500 mark, suffering more defeats than celebrated victories. The men's side will

have a new look next year, as the Otter's newly appointed manager, Shane Carew, aims to implement winning ways.

Over at the Kelp Bed, Otters volleyball had a season highlighted by inconsistency. CSUMB capped off its 20th season with a 10-15 record, and on a five-game losing streak. The youthful Otters will look to bounce back this September.

On the same hardwood floor, men and ladies Otters basketball failed to showcase positive seasons. The men only registered four wins, while the ladies bettered them by three, recording seven throughout the 27-game season.

On the diamond, CSUMB's

softball is still feeding off their historic season. The Lady Otters, finished the regular season with an all-time best record (42-9). The ladies look to find post-season permanency, as they feature in this year's CCAA Softball Championships and aim for NCAA's West Regionals.

Along with softball, both CSUMB's golf teams continue to find themselves in the postseason due to spectacular play. Jason Owen's men finished second out nine teams in last week's CCAA Championship, with sights set on NCAA's West Regionals a tournament that will host both men and ladies Otters.

## MONTEREY WOMEN'S RUGBY 7'S TOURNAMENT

Emiliana Lacandazon  
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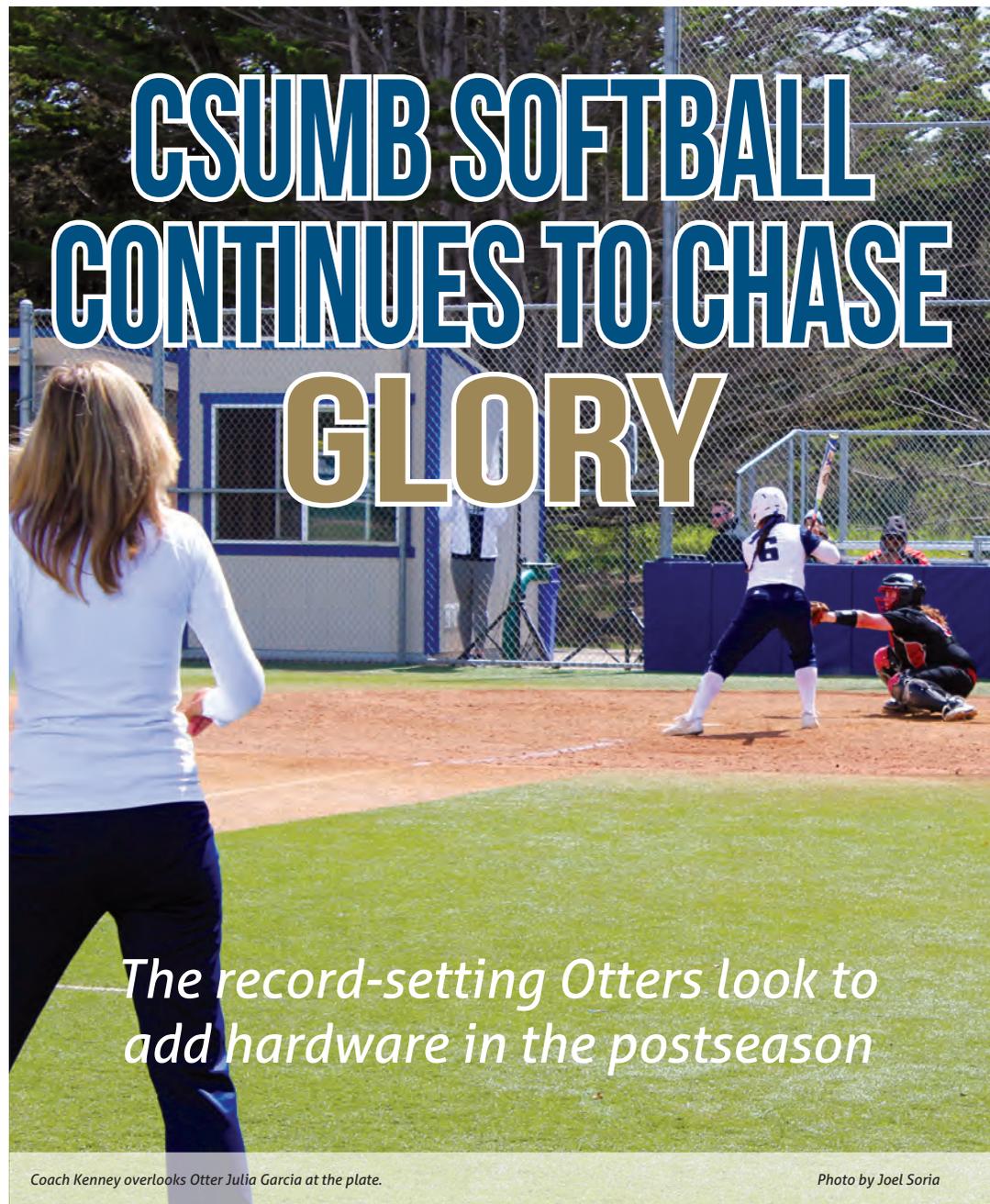


As the school semester begins to head into finals, the CSUMB women's rugby team hosted the first 7's tournament of the year on the extremely windy Saturday morning of May 6. Each team must play in three games to gain a rank to be seeded into the double elimination tournament. Once the seeding has finished, all six teams will be placed in the bracket, with first round byes for the top two seeds. A winners and losers bracket are then created, having to lose twice to be knocked out of the tournament. With the first game underway at 9:30am, the Otters took on the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos. The Otters broke through the Gaucho defense for 10 points, but proved to not be enough, as the Otters would trail 19-10 at the end of the game. Trying to bounce back in game two against the UC San Diego Tritons, the Otters would prevail by a final score of 15-12. Losing their next match against 20-10 against the Santa Clara Broncos, the Otters would enter the tournament as the third seed.

Santa Clara forfeited which led

to the otters gaining into the 2nd place.

The spring semester is ending, but that doesn't stop the CSUMB Women's Rugby Team who hosted the very first women's 7's tournament in California State University Monterey Bay history. Saturday on May 6 started off with a windy start, but the wind didn't stop any of these teams. The first round consisted of three games for each of the participating teams. Each team was guaranteed a minimum of five games during the Monterey 7's Tournament. After the first round of games, the brackets went into double elimination with CSUMB playing against UCSB. CSUMB won and moved up in the winner's bracket. The next game led to a lost against Santa Clara University, but fortunately for the Otters, SCU forfeited the tournament for the own personal reasons. The Otters were given another chance at the winner's bracket and they took the opportunity. The Otters ended up placing in 2nd Overall in the Monterey 7's Tournament.



# CSUMB SOFTBALL CONTINUES TO CHASE GLORY

*The record-setting Otters look to add hardware in the postseason*

Coach Kenney overlooks Otter Julia Garcia at the plate.

Photo by Joel Soria

**Joel Soria**  
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After wrapping up their season with a historic 42-9 record, the women's Cal State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) softball team has their sights set on the postseason. 2017 was a year to remember for the Otters, who recorded their best regular season record in 11 years of play.

The program that began back in 2006 under coach Andrea Kenney no longer looks to improve, but to execute. A decade later, coach Kenney remains overlooking her ladies, and this time around has a realistic shot at winning major trophies.

"The team learned a great deal about pushing themselves and (they) have a great desire to compete," coach Kenney told Otter Realm. "This team embarrasses their rolls and are happy to be a part of what we are doing."

The Otters are currently in the early stages of their postseason magic, as they feature in this year's CCAA tournament. Much pressure is placed on CSUMB's shoulders as they ranked 4th in the latest NFCA poll (nationwide), and top the West Region.

Coach Kenney's 11-year project is finally face to face with glory, a task that has to be earned, not given.



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# COMPAGNO'S MARKET & DELI

*A Local Gem That Has Been in the Hills of Monterey for Fifty Years*

**Brittany Glassman**  
bglassman@csumb.edu

In the hills of Monterey, over looking Lighthouse Avenue and Cannery Row, sits a local Monterey deli called Compagno's. On Prescott Avenue, right by the side entrance of the Presidio Of Monterey, the little hole-in-the-wall deli proudly stands with cars constantly crowding the small parking lot. Everyday during lunch hours the place is filled with a line of locals sometimes extending out the door.

Compagno's Deli is mainly known for the flavor and size of their sandwiches. With close to 40 different types of sandwich options to choose from, there is a

sandwich to please any appetite. The deli also offers specials named after branches of the Military due to the owner's great support and admiration of the armed forces.

While this is a review of the deli itself, it would be a shame not to talk about the man behind this local gem. There is no doubt the food is delicious, but there is something else that attracts people to this deli. Bennett P. Compagno is the owner of this local dive that has been apart of Monterey for fifty years. Walking into the deli, eyes are drawn to military memorabilia, including patches, military head covers and many other little trinkets. Photos of Compagno with Service Members also cover the walls overlooking the deli counter.



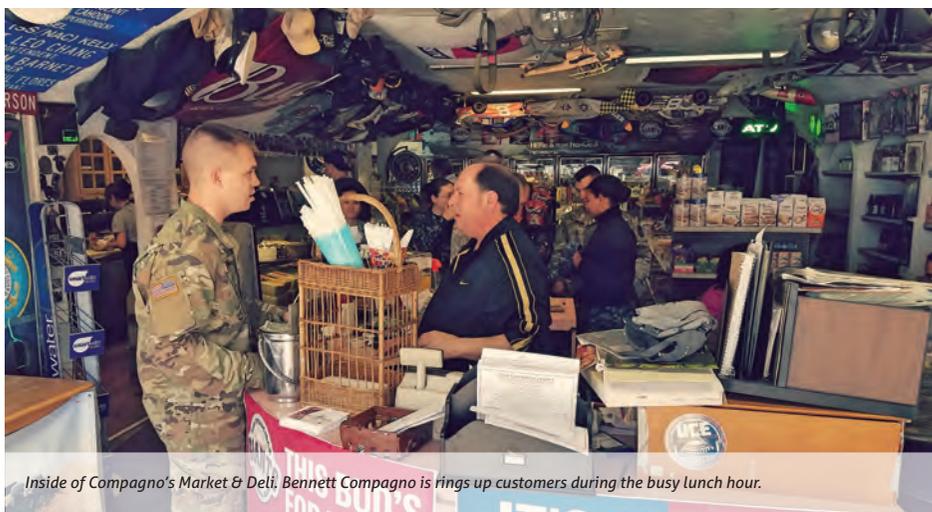
*Navy Seal Special sandwich. The massive sandwich includes chicken, buffalo sauce, blue cheese, and lettuce. This huge helping is hard for most to finish in one sitting!*



*Compagno's is located on Prescott Ave, up the hill from Lighthouse ave.*



*The Deli has a variety of cheeses, meat, even cake from a local bakery in the glass counter.*



*Inside of Compagno's Market & Deli, Bennett Compagno is rings up customers during the busy lunch hour.*

Compagno takes care of his customers, by that I mean he is the epitome of hospitality. If Compagno doesn't know you, he asks a little about you and is sure to remember the next time you come in. Compagno is very personable, making the experience at the deli that much better. When Compagno talked about what he loves most about his job he said, "My favorite part about doing my job is all the amazing people I get to meet". This is just another reason why Compagno's Deli is a popular place.

The sandwiches come in two sizes, half and whole. I decided to be particularly bold

and go for a whole sized sandwich called the "Navy Seal Special". There is different choices of bread, as well as different toppings to choose based on preference. I chose French bread and added banana peppers to my buffalo chicken style sandwich. With buffalo sauce running down my fingers, I struggled to hold the huge half to take a bite. The sandwich was delicious, and enough food for two meals! The price was very affordable for the big & filling amount of food. Definitely receiving the bang for your buck!

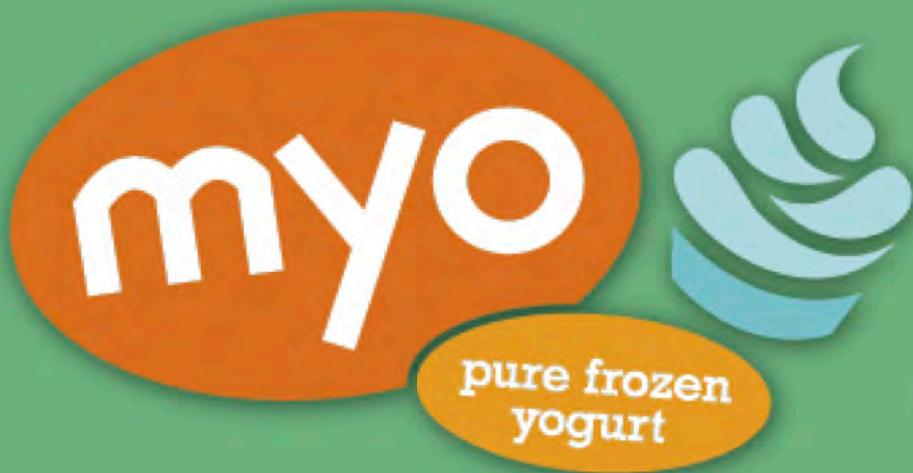
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Infographic by Kelly Galten/Otter Realm

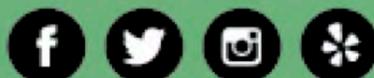


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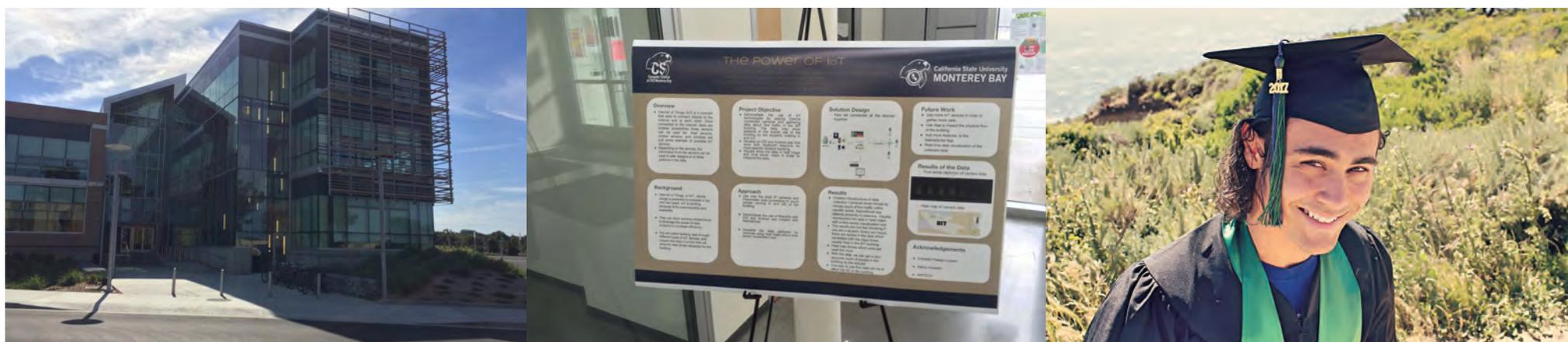
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# ONE LAST HURRAH:

*Two important events before y*



## OtterRealm Staff

*As another semester comes to a close, seniors begin a mad rush towards the finish line. It is important to ensure that Capstone and Commencement plans are set and stone. Make sure to show support to your fellow seniors by attending Commencement and their Capstone presentations!*

## Cinematic Arts

Enid Ryce, the Capstone Class Professor: "All student's capstones are all unique in their own way because student create their own vision for their films leaving them all distinct."

## Business

Professor Calvin Carr, Business Senior Capstone Professor

This semester, one team is presenting a feasibility study for a project proposed by the Carmel Honey Company. This client would like to see the creation of Pollinator World, an interactive, state of the art educational center for visitors from around the world and residents of the Monterey Peninsula. Pollinator World would focus on land-based pollinators such as bees, bats, birds, and butterflies.

## World Language

Yesenia Duran, World Languages and Culture Major with a Concentration in Spanish:

This year's Capstone theme, as far as the Spanish department goes, is how personal narratives can be told through Spanish literature. My purpose is to analyze them and explain why these actors are important to the Chicano/a narrative.

## Design

Jackson Kulp, Communication Design Major with an emphasis in Game Design

has created a Virtual Reality (VR) game design with a team of two art designers living in Poland and three computer science majors for his senior capstone project. The game is called, "Tainted Sea" where players are stimulated into an underwater world inside of a submarine, the objective: investigate a wrecked submarine and defeat the mutant sea creature that sank it.

## HCOM

Lisa Granata, Research Paper (Compassionate Communication: Bridging the Gap Between the Abled and Disabled): The way we act and speak towards individuals with disabilities is often demeaning. When we help, we see them as weak; when we fix, we see them as broken; but when we are compassionate, we see them as whole.

# GRADUATION 2017

*You're officially out of here!*



Images Courtesy of CSUMB Flickr and OtterRealm.

## Commencement

Both ceremonies will be held on May 20th at Freeman Stadium. The morning ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and will be held for the graduates of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and College of Business. The afternoon ceremony, beginning at 3 p.m., will be honoring the graduates of the College of Education, the College of Health Sciences and Human Services and the College of Science. An expected 800 students will participate in each ceremony and former Congressman Sam Farr will serve as the keynote speaker. "Students, check your CSUMB email accounts for information to make sure are prepared for your big day."

## Grad Initiative

According to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Bonnie Irwin, 18-20% of students leave after their first year, and others leave after sophomore and junior year. As for the achievement gap, it is said CSUMB has one of the lowest which is less than 2% compared to other campuses. Some students are not aware of the resources or do not take advantage of the help like reaching out to professors, advisers, or counselors. CSUMB will be launching a student success website this summer with helpful information and links to other



# THE GIRL WITHOUT A HOME

Interview  
with a  
Palestinian Student  
Fighting Stereotypes  
Samantha Calderon  
samcalderon@csumb.edu

Rawand Nijmeddin is a 2nd-year student at Monterey Peninsula College who plans to transfer to CSUMB. She is one of the few Palestinians in Monterey County, and does not follow traditional Muslim expectations. Nijmeddin opens up about identifying with a country that is unrecognized in the United States, and what it means to be a Muslim in Trump's America.

## Q: In what ways are you different than most Muslims?

"I feel I'm different than most Muslims because it's hard for Muslims to partake in basic freedoms, like getting a job and going to school. Our parents are strict, but I push myself to the limit. Just because I'm a Muslim girl doesn't mean I have to act a certain way. The best word to describe me is "daring." I'm very open about almost everything. I don't wear a Hijab. I've thought about wearing one, but you just don't see a lot of young women with Hijabs working. You go to Walmart, you don't see anybody with it. You see them in college, occasionally at the mall. Wearing a Hijab is a strong commitment to make. As soon as you start, the Hijab stays on forever. You can decide to take it off, but it's a permanent commitment. My mom didn't start wearing one after she gave birth to my sister, Raneen. My big sister started wearing a Hijab in middle school. It's different and depends on mentality as well as one's devotion to religion. Some people feel that to be completely devoted to Islam, a woman must wear a Hijab. I'm still devoted to my religion, but I don't feel the need to wear a Hijab to prove that I'm a Muslim. See, there's some people who think that if you don't wear a Hijab, you're not a real Muslim. That you're not allowed to talk about the religion because you're not devoted. There are other ways to show my dedication, being a good person is a step. I participate in the month of Ramadan, I have respect for my religion. I don't go out of my way to say bad things about it, I will defend it. I educate people instead of arguing."

## Q: How do you explain to people that you're Palestinian?

"Whenever people find out I'm Arab, I get asked, "What are you?" They always think I'm Mexican because I live in Salinas. I get asked if I'm White, too. I specify that I'm Palestinian. My mom's side is from Jordan, my dad's is from Palestine. People think I said I'm Pakistani. You get the people who are like, "Don't you mean Israel?" No, I mean Palestine. There's nothing wrong with Israelis, but I'm not one. I get asked, "Have you ever been to Palestine?" No, but I'd like to go someday when it's not in the war-torn state it's in. Not every part of the Palestinian territory is in bad shape, but it's always a hassle because of the military. When my sister said she was going, I thought she wouldn't have any problems. There's still a hassle to go through the airport. You're gonna feel unwelcomed. I think the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is very biased in that Americans support Israel. The Israeli military is funded by the United

*You're gonna feel unwelcomed. I think the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is very biased in that Americans support Israel.*

States. It feels like the US is against Palestinians. I feel that it's not spoken enough about. When people do speak about it, it's like opening a can of worms. It is something forbidden to speak about. It's very taboo. When celebrities post #FreePalestine on social media, they have to delete it immediately. I think it's most taboo when we talk about supporting Palestine. If you mention Palestine, it's like "Woah! Woah!

Calm down!" When you learn about Judaism in school, they speak about it originating in Jerusalem. They highlight the specifics of Israel, which used to be Palestine."

## Q: What countries in the Middle East have you been to, and how do they differ from the United States?

"I've been to Jordan, United Arab Emirates, and Egypt. Going to Turkey soon.

Jordan: People think Middle East is all desert. If you want desert, you go out of your way. It's basically like the US because there is a city-style life. There's fancy cars, name-brand clothing. It's all in the night life. There aren't clubs, there's cafes, restaurants. Some areas are really fancy, it's still growing from the rubble. It's a lot of rocks and dirt.

United Arab Emirates: That's the fanciest! What you see in the media is what it is, the romanticization is real. It's surrounded by desert, but it's high-class, flashy. The rich people go to Dubai.

Egypt: It's known for its desert. You'll hit the desert and pyramids anywhere you go. It's got a lot of architecture because of pyramids. There's historical meaning behind it all. Go to Egypt and explore pyramids, lots to learn about the Middle East there. They also know how to party!"

## Q: How do you feel living in an area with a low population of Muslims and Arabs?

"I feel like the minority here. I feel special. A little bit targeted. I stand out. Since I don't "appear" Arab I don't get the bad looks, but I constantly worry about my mother because she wears a Hijab. I want to make sure she's always safe. This one time I took mom to Noodle Bar in Marina. The guy sitting next to us asked the waiter if he can get another table. I looked over at him, I wanted him to move away. The place was packed, and they didn't move him. We spoke in Arabic, mom had a Hijab. We clearly made him uncomfortable. Why

would you feel uncomfortable with a language? He was white. I don't condone people talking trash about white people. We shouldn't blame all white people, just like we shouldn't blame all Muslim. We need to destroy stigmas. People are only afraid of what they don't understand. We need to be more welcoming."

## Q: What do you think about the stereotype that Muslims are terrorists?

"Ah, the stereotype. It used to hurt me a lot when I was younger. I remember 9/11. I woke up, and asked my parents, "Am I not going to school?" My parents told me, "You're not going to school." I was in kindergarten, and didn't understand what was going on. From then on out, my dad took me to school instead of my mom. They wanted to protect me from knowing what was going on. When I got to middle school, the truth came out. Kids are harsh. Middle schoolers say what they hear. Kids called me a "Ramadan." Classmates waved food in my face, taunting me with, "Don't you want to eat this?" I didn't want to eat it, but thanks for the offer. Come highschool, I got called an ISIS. They tried to single me out, they said I hated Mexicans. How can I hate them when they're all Mexican? When we learned about Islam in History class, I yelled, "I'm Muslim!" I outed myself. The word "Jihad" was in the book. I was like, "Hey! That's my brother's name!" Jihad is not a bad thing, but I was made to feel like it is. "Jihad" means "a struggle within oneself," but the media brainwashes people to think that it's a holy war, dubs Muslims as "radical Jihadists." I got asked, "You're a terrorist? Is Osama Bin Laden your uncle?" This kid called me a terrorist, and it took everything in me to not beat him up. He got suspended. I started telling teachers when I was bullied, but the principal stopped doing anything about it. Not only was I a terrorist, but I was now a snitch. You'd think adults would help you, put an assembly to teach students about Islam.

But no. Literally everybody in the school, people I didn't know, were calling me a terrorist. This new girl wanted to fight me just because she knew people didn't like me.

*Not only was I a terrorist, but I was now a snitch.*

didn't let it get to me. My dad told the principal, "You're not saving my daughter from harassment?" Schools don't want to get involved. When I went to Middle East, my Jordanian relatives asked, "How is school?" I told them, "It's whatever, I get bullied. I get called terrorist." My relatives asked, "What's wrong with that? That's not so bad." They don't get it. Now it's easier for people to bully me because of social media. I've been called, "an Islam," literally the best thing I was called. "You're freaking Islam! You and all your Islams!" Don't ever call a Muslim a "Muzlim." Do not say it with a "z." People wanted to muzzle Muslims after 9/11, hence "Muzlim." I always worry when there's a terrorist attack. Please don't have an Arabic name, please don't. If a person who committed an act of terrorism has an Arabic name, it's the gunshot heard around the world."

**Q: In your experience, how do Muslims in the Middle East view the United States? Would they move here?**

"A lot of Muslims and Arabs want to move to the US. We have a lot they don't have. They want to go Sephora, they want the little things. They just want the experience of being here! They don't have amusement parks, they want to experience Hollywood, San Francisco, L.A. We live 2 hours off of San Francisco. It's not really anything to us, but my cousins dream of going there. My cousins just want to go Sephora. Arabs don't hate the US. People in the Middle East don't talk about ISIS or terrorism. They're not bothered by it. We like to glorify terrorism. We like to scare people. My friend is scared of the Middle East. My advice? Get off of Facebook. If you're scared of terrorism, get off

the internet. The internet is brainwashing you. I actually have Israeli friends, I'm not gonna let my Palestinian roots ruin my relationships. Also, there are a lot of Christian-Arabs, not all Muslims are Arabs, but a lot of Arabs are Muslims. Who you know will affect how you perceive Islam. People claim that I'm Americanized, but I'm a proud Palestinian. I compare us to Native-Americans, seeing as how we got our lands stolen. We all need to stick together. A lot of Palestinians get killed. We were in New York when the whole missile issue was going down and Obama was talking about it. He didn't even mention Palestinians!"

**Q: Given President Trump's Travel Ban on seven Muslim-majority countries earlier this year, do you worry about traveling to the Middle East and the process of re-entering the United States?**

"I don't worry because the countries I go to are not affected. But, I do worry about other people trying to get into the US. I saw the banned countries, and I know it's not just natives of those Middle Eastern countries getting banned, it's the American person getting banned who is on a visit. They can't get back into the US. It does not matter your status, your citizenship does not matter anymore. When flying to Jordan, you're no longer allowed to bring laptops or tablets. You can only bring your phone. They are afraid of communication among Arabs."

**Q: How can people be an ally to Muslims?**

"Honestly, just stick up for them. Get to know a Muslim, have them educate you on things you're not entirely sure of in case if someone tries to talk poorly about the religion. If you see someone in a situation in which they are getting harassed, definitely start talking to the person being harassed. Make them feel comfortable and safe. Get them out of that situation. Let them see that there's still good people out there. Act calmly, but quickly."



Rawand Nijmeddin is one of the few Palestinians in Monterey County. She is a devout Muslim who does not wear a Hijab.

Photos by Samantha Calderon.



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# OTTERS'

## DEALING WITH A LOSS

### *Cancer and the Dark Cloud that Comes With It*

Michelle Ortiz  
[miortiz@csumb.edu](mailto:miortiz@csumb.edu)

Life is like a never ending rollercoaster. Everything seems smooth. Then it decides to hit you in the face, whether it's a lesson, a blessing, or just another life experience. Losing someone is the one dreadful thing we never want to deal with yet it's part of the rollercoaster that life is.

This semester while having to deal with my usual 18 unit course load and stress, my family was informed that my aunt's cancer not only came back, but it came back stronger, in the span of two months the cancer spread to other organs and resulted in a brain tumor the size of a golf ball. After neurosurgery and endless rounds of chemo and radiation, the doctors gave us the worst news they could give anyone. There officially was nothing they could do anymore, all we had to do was wait. Wait and wait and wait... March was the longest month ever. Every day I would fear my phone ring. Over the weekend I would drive back home to spend as much time as I could with my family and my aunt. Those weekends were beyond draining, seeing my cousins cry at their mother's side not understanding why it was their mom that was going to die and not someone else's. Seeing the dark circles under everyone's eyes as a representation of the little sleep we were all getting mixed with hopelessness because at some point we all knew that it didn't matter how much we prayed the miracle was not coming. That Friday morning when we all woke up, she had left. She took with her her laughter, her silly sayings, her charismatic energy, but most importantly she took our happiness.

Cancer didn't just take over her body and

---

*Cancer didn't just take over her body and deteriorate her life; slowly it took over ours too.*

---

deteriorate her life; slowly it took over ours too. This dark cloud has followed me for the past months, making me look at people and think "how are they complaining about their computers not charging when there are people fighting to stay alive?". It made me not want to do homework, study, read or get up from bed and go to class.

If you are going through similar feelings of despair, if you have recently lost someone, you don't know how to process this, or simply need to talk to someone, know that you are not alone. Your professors and peers are here. It will take time to heal, but CSUMB has plenty of resources that are available for students. The Grief and Loss Support Group, individual counseling and Let's Talk drop in sessions are spread around campus so you can talk to someone at different times of the week. For more information contact the Personal Growth & Counseling Center at (831) 582-3969, email at: [counseling\\_center@csumb.edu](mailto:counseling_center@csumb.edu), or visit their website at <https://csumb.edu/pgcc/groups> to get a better idea of the support groups that are offered, or drop by their office at the Campus Health Center, building 80.

\*Read the rest of Michelle's article at [OtterRealm.com](http://OtterRealm.com).

# OPINIONS

## UNHOODING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HOOD

### CSUMB Students Should Not Fear Salinas

Samantha Calderon

samcalderon@csumb.edu

Stop saying you're scared of Salinas. I'm tired of hearing, "I don't want to get shot." when students mention Salinas. As someone born and raised in the most "ghetto" part of Salinas, the East side, I can tell you that there is no reason for you to be afraid.

*I'm tired of hearing, "I don't want to get shot."*

I'm not pretending there are no problems facing my hometown. I believe every year the danger grows significantly. However, the student who can afford a Mac, and Starbucks every other day, will not be assaulted for stepping foot into Salinas.

When I was 12, I was jumped by eight gangsters. A 15-year old was shot to death inside my high school. I witnessed SWAT at the Salinas riots of 2014, only a mile away from my house. I've had friends shot and killed before they made it to college. At least you, the person reading this, made it to college.

I refuse to be afraid of my home. I wasted a year living in fear after I was jumped, and I will not go back into my shell. I do avoid wearing red and blue, the gang-related colors, in Salinas because I don't want to get into trouble. I'm privileged to come to this institution, where I can strut in these forbidden colors.

Gang violence in Salinas targets those who are involved in the gang lifestyle. It's insulting to hear people who didn't grow

*I'm privileged to come to this institution, where I can strut in these forbidden colors.*

up in Salinas say they're scared of getting killed. I've met Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students whose families have told them to avoid Salinas. This further stigmatizes my home.

CSUMB students only go to Salinas for In-N-Out Burger (but there's now the Seaside location,) and Northridge Mall. Maybe if students tried the Mexican food truck outside of Walgreens in the East Side, they would visit more often.

I used to despise gangsters, but what's scarier than gang violence is the system that creates gangs in the first place. Gangs form because teenagers want to feel a sense of belonging, since their parents are likely working in the time-consuming agricultural industry. What's scarier than all of this is hearing the ignorant cries of CSUMB students.

I tutored at-risk teenagers at a middle school in East Salinas. They are some of the most driven and inspirational people I have met, and are already looking into universities. They give me hope that Salinas will flourish into a better place.

# Chief Eats:

## BOOKWORMS In Pacific Grove

Kelly Galten  
kgalten@csumb.edu

*The wonders of a Nutella croissant!*



As the semester comes to a close, your loyal reviewer decided to reveal the favorite cafe of the semester. Nearly a year ago, a person who was to become a dear friend extended an invitation to coffee, and the selected spot was Bookworks. The suite housing Bookworks appears almost TARDIS-like (it's bigger on the inside!). In any case, Bookworks is a split business; the front half is a coffee shop, and one half is a bookstore. Both seemed to be made with the comfort of the customer in mind; the coffee shop is stuffed with wooden chairs and armchairs, and the windows provide magnificent people-watching. The bookstore, though small, has excellent variety.

*It was an unthinkable genius combination. Flaky and heavy coincidingly, without being too sweet.*

The coffee and food is, in a word, fantastic. For the sake of word count, the review is restricted to the most recent order - a mocha and a croissant. Not just any croissant, however; what your reviewer had was a Nutella croissant. It was a unthinkable genius combination. Flaky and heavy coincidingly, without being too sweet. The

mocha is the perfect balance of chocolate and coffee, and can be served in the wonderful wide mugs in the cafe. Unsurprisingly, this cafe was the inspiration for Chief Eats. In recognition, this reviewer is happy to extend a 5/5 rating to the best coffee shop (and bookstore) this column has reviewed.

Bookworks is located at 667 Lighthouse Ave, Pacific Grove.



Photos by Kelly Galten/Otter Realm

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# OTTER EBERT

*Entertainment Reviews*



SCI-FI FILM:

## THE CIRCLE

*The Issue of Full Transparency*

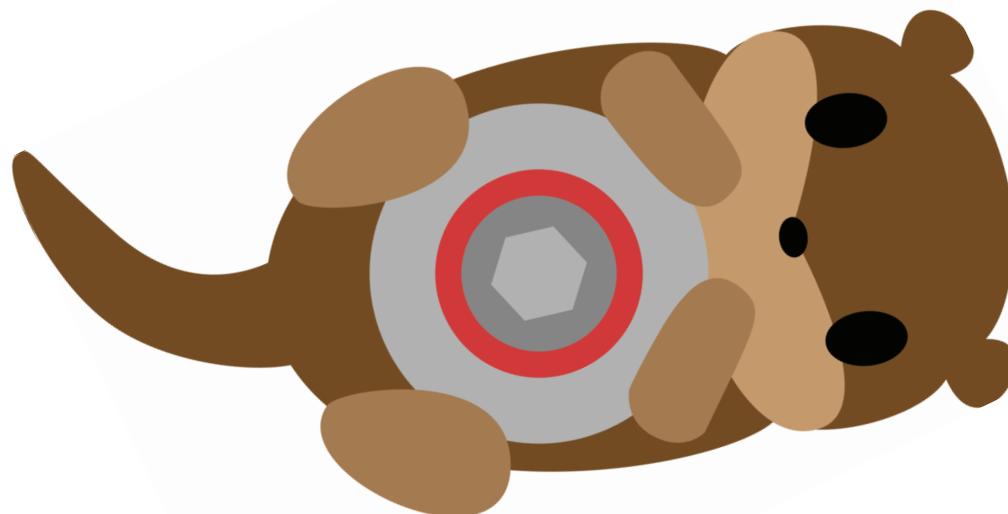
Andrea Morales  
[andmorales@csumb.edu](mailto:andmorales@csumb.edu)

With technology evolving, society tries to improve by sharing every moment of their personal lives. Is knowing everything better or worse? *The Circle* portrays being under constant surveillance can help citizens connect, provide universal health-care, catch fugitives, and prevent child kidnappings. But wait, there is a catch.

Mae Holland (Emma Watson) lands a job at the largest, powerful tech and social media company. Holland is amazed and takes the opportunity to sponsor the company. She is encouraged by one of the founders, Eamon Bailey (Tom Hanks) to go "full transparent." This means every moment of her life was being watched, not just by the company, but by the followers and fans. However, it comes with consequences. Her participation and decisions affected her privacy, friendship, and family values.

*This means every moment of her life was being watched, not just by the company, but by the followers and fans.*

After watching it, I thought the beginning was boring, the plot was rushed, some characters seemed insignificant or needed more screen time. For instance, Ty (John Boyega) plays as a love interest towards the main protagonist, but his role was out of place. In the end, the concept of privacy is well addressed. *The Circle* may foreshadow what society could turn out to be in the distant future.



## A LETTER FROM THE A.S. PRESIDENT

# Congrats Seniors!

Hello Otters!

To those of you who will be graduating at the end of this semester, congratulations! No matter how long it took you to graduate, you all made it and I am so happy for you. I hope you always keep the Otter spirit with you.

To those of you continuing on at CSUMB, I look forward to working with you and serving you in the year to come. But for now, may your finals treat you well and may your summers be long.

Myself and Jared Reyes, your new Vice President of External Affairs, will be in the AS office all summer, working hard to prepare for the following year. I will be working on

things such as promoting affordable learning materials on campus and institutionalizing our AS food pantry so that it is here to stay.

Another event happening this summer is the annual CSSA plenary meeting in Monterey Bay. CSSA is the California State Student Association, which works to create a unified voice of all 23 CSU campuses to take to the Chancellor's office. Every month, AS sends 2 people to these meetings, myself and our voting rep. We have the honor of hosting the CSSA meeting every June and it is a great opportunity for you all to see what goes on at these meetings without having to travel anywhere. Please email me for more details.

I am honored to have been able to serve as your AS President in the past year and I want to thank those of you who used AS as a voice for your concerns. It always warms my heart to be able to directly discuss issues and concerns with students and then take them to the administration and fight for the students.

I look forward to serving you in the next year. Don't forget to stop by the AS office if you're around this summer!

Thanks!

Lauren McClain  
president@ascsumb.org

A large banner for 'SUMMER @ CSUMB' featuring a sun, a beach scene, and a list of activities. The text 'SUMMER @ CSUMB' is in large, orange, distressed font. Below it is a list of five items, each preceded by a sun icon. The background shows a beach with waves and a blue sky.

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[csumb.edu/summer](http://csumb.edu/summer)



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## IMPOTENCE

Nature's Way of Saying "No Hard Feelings"

Graphic by Anthony Denevi

Anthony Denevi

adenevi@csumb.edu

Lets all take a moment of silence and a deep breathe before getting to the story. Because sex, well let's just say it is an interesting topic that intrigues society in all different ways. Is there anything better than sex? Not counting my mom's warm homemade chocolate chip cookies of course. Whether it be an extremely messy night after the bars or a romantic night in, after dinner, for some reason everyone loves a good ole demented embarrassing sex story. It always starts out with flailing genitalia, limbs, tongue, and a diverse variety of bodily fluids twirling together. So it is not surprising that things can go wrong

and your sexual adventure does not pan out to be that candle lit, softly played piano music in the background with amazing love-making for the ages. With this story, it begins a slight bit different from most others, but nonetheless should not disappoint.

It all started in the Bahamas for a high school graduation trip. At the age 18, which happened to be the drinking age in the Bahamas, alcohol was in our favor; hanging out by the pool, challenging each other to drink after drink. I explained that I needed a nap. I began to head

*It always starts out with flailing genitalia, limbs, tongue, and a diverse variety of bodily fluids twirling together.*

to my room and, bouncing off every wall that stood in between, I soon reached my destination. Opening the door, gagging and slurping noises filled the quiet room, to which no attention was given from my intoxicated mind. With a glance to my right, I realized both beds were occupied, since sharp piercing yells flooded my ears; "Anthony, get out of here!" and "What are you doing, Bro?!"

I kept on my path to the only open seat left in the room, the couch, which was across the room. Losing balance all the way, with a 180 spin, I

slapped down on the couch in perfect form as my feet lifted to the ceiling in a burst of energy, then flopping back down settling in. I had finally made it. Focusing in on who was yelling, David and Justin, both half way covered with blankets, with large bulges near their crotch areas in the shape of a body under the blankets. I realized that I had walked in on them both getting head, and ruining chances of anything else. Despite their desire that I make my way out the door, considering the shape I was in, I was not moving. With both of them in a rage from my unexpected appearance, an even more unexpected moment had arrived. Vomit projecting out of my mouth, smacking the floor with force. Ending their session in the most tantalizing way.

# FUN & GAMES

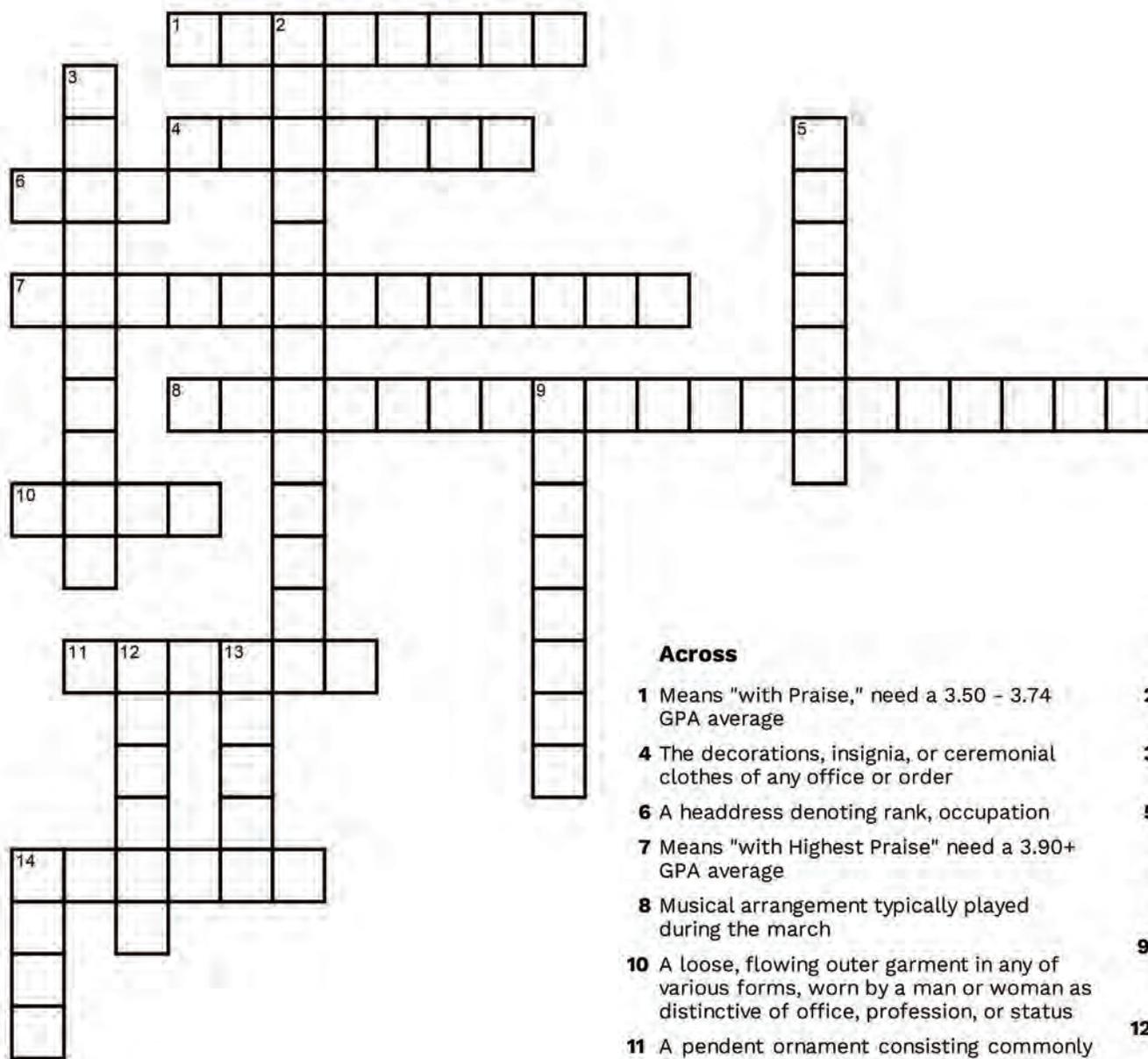
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### Across

- 1** Means "with Praise," need a 3.50 - 3.74 GPA average
- 4** The decorations, insignia, or ceremonial clothes of any office or order
- 6** A headdress denoting rank, occupation
- 7** Means "with Highest Praise" need a 3.90+ GPA average
- 8** Musical arrangement typically played during the march
- 10** A loose, flowing outer garment in any of various forms, worn by a man or woman as distinctive of office, profession, or status
- 11** A pendent ornament consisting commonly of a bunch of threads, small cords, or other strands hanging from a roundish knob or head
- 14** To bestow upon as a gift, favor, honor, etc

### Down

- 2** Means "with Great Honor" need a 3.75 - 3.89 GPA average
- 3** The ceremony of conferring degrees or diplomas, as at a college or school
- 5** A document given by an educational institution conferring a degree on a person or certifying that the person has satisfactorily completed a course of study
- 9** The formal activities conducted on some solemn or important public or state occasion
- 12** A graduate or former student of a specific school, college, or university
- 13** An ecclesiastical vestment consisting of a narrow strip of silk or other material worn over the shoulders
- 14** A string or thin rope made of several strands braided, twisted, or woven together

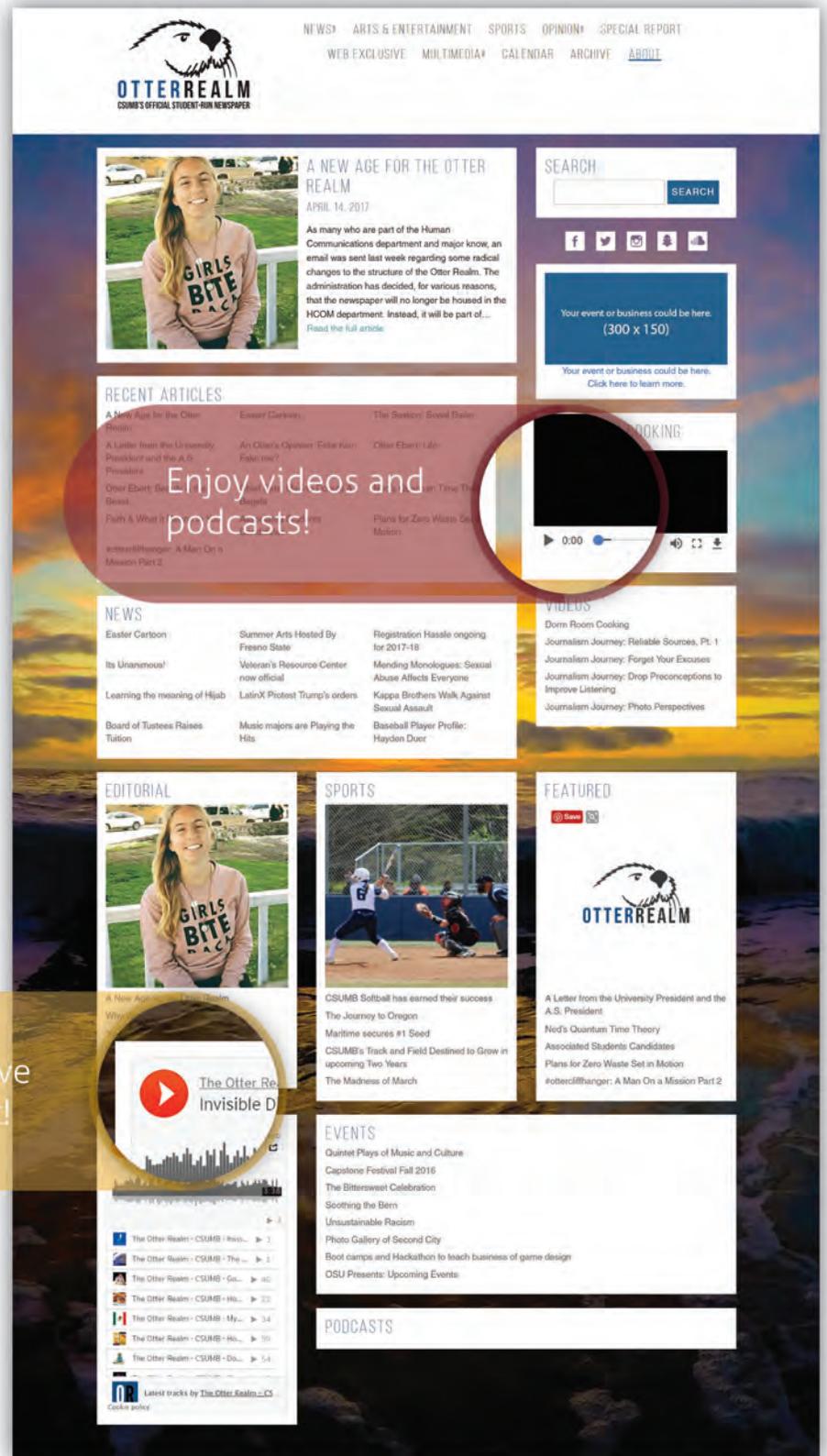
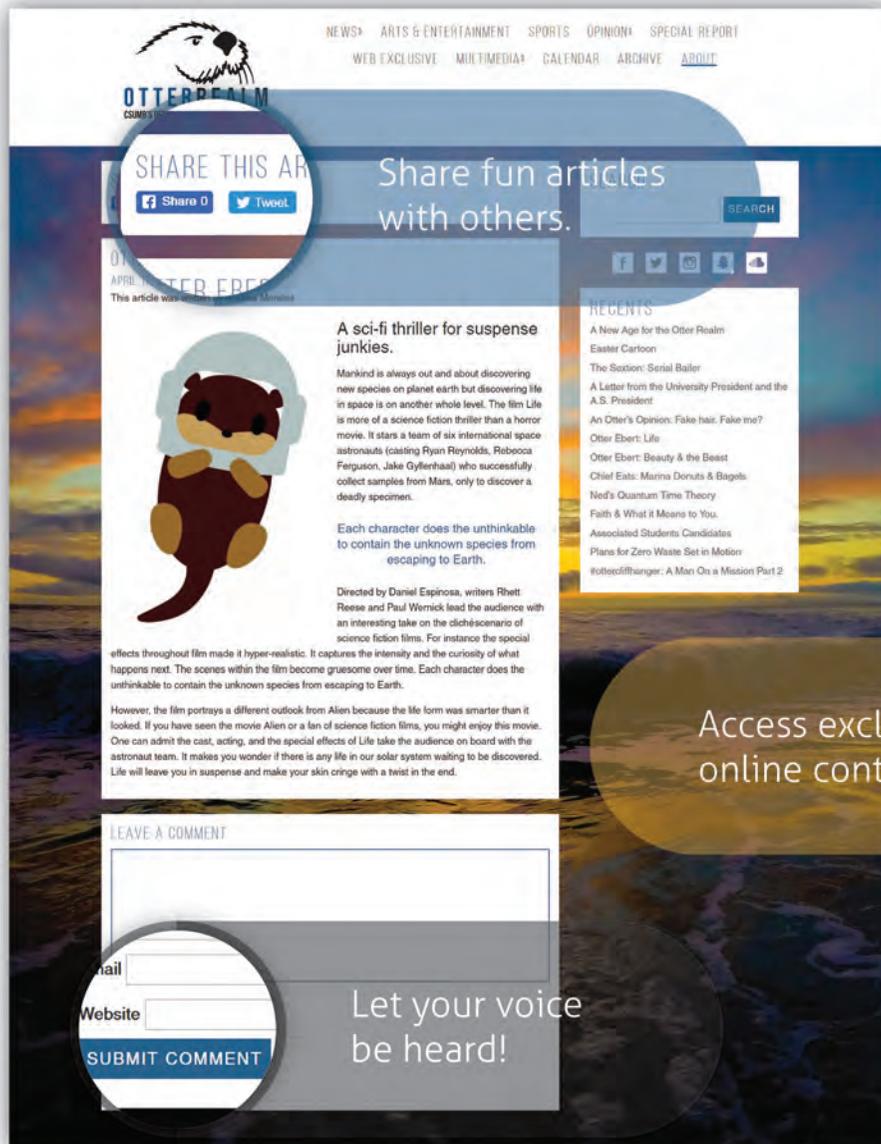
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