



NAACP Black History Month meeting

AN OBITUARY TO ASMA JAHANGIR



A former CSUMB student of Dr. Gerald Shenk's introduces the professor before he receives the Civil Rights Advocate and Ally Award.



SUMMER IN SPAIN

2018 study abroad opportunity in León, Spain

AN OPEN LETTER TO @REAL DONALD TRUMP

Creative works piece by Tessa Munson

E01100 SENATE

Academic Senate picks GVAR option

Photos and story by Sara Hollingsworth

Last Thursday, the Monterey Bay chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hosted their 7th annual Black History Month meeting at the Alumni and Visitor's Center.

The special meeting hosted President Eduardo M. Ochoa as a keynote speaker and awards were handed out to both students from California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and also community members of the Monterey Bay region.

President Ochoa gave a short speech at the meeting about the future of multiculturalism on campus and pledged to continue to partner with the NAACP in the future to foster a campus that is open and diverse. He also answered a few quick questions at the end of the speech. While most of the questions were specific to the individuals asking, one of the questions asked by a community member was about the fate of service learning on campus. President Ochoa confirmed that while service learning as a graduation requirement

may not continue, service learning as a whole will always be a big part of CSUMB and will continue to exist.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to handing out awards to both community members and CSUMB students and faculty. Five people received awards during the event. Mr. Atkin Miller and Mrs. Ruthie Watts were two of the community members to receive the African American and Civil Rights Champion Award. Mr. Marquise Crear and Ms. Breahna Watkins received the Juanita Jackson Student Civil Rights Leader Award. And faculty member, Dr. Gerald Shenk received the Civil Rights Advocate and Ally Award.

Of the two students who received awards that evening, Crear was a former president of the NAACP at CSUMB and during his term hosted and co-hosted a total of 12 events, one of which was a production of the play, A Race Through Time. Crear has since graduated from CSUMB and now works for CSUMB GEAR UP as a College and Career Advisor. Watkins served the NAACP here at CSUMB for three years, first as the education chair and then in her third year as President for the fall 2017 semester.

Ethnic Studies forum

CSUMB Strives for more inclusivity in the curriculum

by Sara Hollingsworth

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, a forum was hosted on Ethnic Studies here at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). The members of the panel who spoke at the forum are members of the Ethnic Studies planning group. About 100 people attended the forum which included members from the community, as well from both local high schools and local community colleges.

"I was energized by the event," said Professor Maria Villaseñor, one of the organizers and faculty leaders of the Ethnic Studies working group. "The speakers highlighted the value of Ethnic Studies for students and society, and the student attendees expressed interest in and enthusiasm for the idea of greater access to Ethnic Studies curriculum at CSUMB."

Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary field that studies chiefly race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender as expressed by society, the state and individuals. Christine Sleeter, an activist and a retired founding faculty member, spoke on Ethnic Studies.

"Tucson had a K-12 Ethnic Studies and particularly Mexican-American studies program for several years. The state legislature made up of people like [Donald Trump] decided to ban Ethnic Studies because they thought it was teaching sedition—overthrow of the U.S. government—it wasn't. But when that was happening, the teachers in the Mexican-American studies program contacted the teacher's union, the National Education Association (NEA), for help and the NEA didn't know what the research says about the impact of Ethnic Studies, so they weren't sure how to help so they contacted me to see if I would review the research on the impact of Ethnic Studies," said Sleeter.

Sleeter's research consistently found that when students take Ethnic Studies classes, their attitudes towards race consistently improved.

CSUMB does not have an Ethnic Studies major or minor. But, the main goal of this forum wasn't the creation of a major or minor, it was about creating a GE requirement that requires students to take an Ethnic Studies course. It wouldn't be an additional course that students are required to take, but a class that would be woven into our curriculum through double counting as both another GE course or as part of a student's major.

Organizers agreed that they are interested in creating a minor using courses already offered at CSUMB. The creation of a major, however, is considered a more difficult task. Concerns were brought up about staffing and the school's ability to be able to offer a well-rounded Ethnic Studies major.

"The Ethnic Studies planning group, consisting of staff, faculty and students, is working on a proposal for a new Ethnic Studies minor," said Villaseñor. "...and, we are excited!"



CSUMB student Breahna Watkins receives the Juanita Jackson Student Civil Rights Leader Award (above). A former CSUMB student Marquise Crear, receives the Juanita Jackson Student Civil Rights Leader Award (top right). President Eduardo Ochoa speaks at the NAACP meeting (bottom right).

OPINION

An Obituary to Asma Jahangir

by Navid Amarlou

Pakistani activist and human rights lawyer Asma Jahangir passed away. Jahangir died at 66, due to cardiac arrest. She led the way in human rights issues pertaining to women, children and religious minorities. She often used her sharp wit and direct manner of speaking to achieve her goals. This voice was often appreciated by those who believed Pakistan's civil society could progress through an improved human rights record. There are also many who believed that her actions and advocacy was destroying the country's traditional, political and social order.

In 1983, Jahangir, a member of the Lahore Punjab Women Lawyers Association, had been called to the supreme high court due to her protesting a proposed law of evidence, which would greatly decrease the value of any testimony of a woman (this is said to have valued the testimony of a woman as half that of a mans). Many protesters were tear gassed and beaten by police, among the several protesters jailed, Jahangir was one.

Though such a thing may have deterred most, she continued to tackle human rights issues by taking cases. She would refer the poor, or those who could not fend for themselves. She helped with her sister Hina Jilani, who headed a center for legal aid known as the AGHS Legal Aid Cell. Jahangir went on to later co-found the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan in 1987, acting as a chairperson until 2011.

She later gained global recognition for her acts defending the underprivileged, as did her active voice against Pakistan's Blasphemy laws. This unfortunately led to her becoming the recipient of a great deal of death threats. She even went on to attempt holding a mixed gender marathon in Lahore, in order to bring attention to the violence against women. This resulted in attacks by conservative Islamist groups, which had been assisted by the police. It was later confessed they had been ordered to beat the participants and tear off their clothes.

She was a truly remarkable individual representing Pakistan, and her actions had promoted the well being of the masses. She had become the first woman to establish a law firm for women, which had created the Women's Action Forum. This forum campaigned against discriminatory aspects of Pakistan's legislation. Such as the Hudood Ordinances, which were passed under the regime of General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq. Women who had been raped had to prove their innocence or else themselves be convicted of adultery.

It is important to recognize the many accomplishments of Asma Jahangir, and though she has passed, Pakistan will likely feel the effects of this remarkably strong woman for ages to come.



Photo attributed from Wikipedia.

Potential Alzheimer's treatment through mice testing

by Navid Amarlou

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most common age degenerative neurological diseases. It is characterized by the presence of amyloid deposition, neurofibrillary tangles, progressive loss of synapses and severe cognitive dysfunction. The composition of amyloid peptides are known to be the early events that could potentially lead to Alzheimer's Disease pathologies, and the impairment of synaptic function.

To understand why this treatment is able to combat Alzheimer's disease the way

that it does it is important to understand why BACE1 inhibition is as effective as it is, along with the downsides of BACE1 inhibition. The production of A β (amyloid beta) requires β -secretase, also called β -site amyloid precursor protein (APP)-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1), which cleaves APP to release a soluble N-terminal fragment and a membrane-anchored C-terminal fragment.

This will further cleave the C-terminal fragment by γ -secretase removing Amyloid beta. Such Genetic mutations like the K670M671 to N670L671 mutation or the A673 to T673 mutation can either increase or decrease A β

generation, resulting in early-onset AD or protection against developing AD. Mice that were deficient in BACE1 had shown few traces of amylose beta. This means that it could reduce amylose plaques which could impair synaptic functions. It goes to show that BACE1 is an important target to take into account when treating Alzheimer's disease.

We could potentially use this information to not only treat Alzheimer's disease, but curing the disease within itself at the early stages of its development. This stands to be a great stride in Alzheimer's treatment, and will hopefully be fully developed in our lifetime.

Letter from AS President



Hey Otters!

Now that the semester is in full swing and midterms are right around the corner, I hope that you are finding the balance that you deserve in your life. It's been a wild ride over in the AS office and we have been so busy working to make sure your voice is heard and represented in all campus and state discussions.

Unfortunately, for a second year in a row, we may be facing a potential tuition increase. Governor Brown released

his proposed budget, and the California State University (CSU) allocation falls 35% short of what we actually need to operate. In response to this deficit, the CSU system has a couple options:

1. Increase tuition
2. Cut vital courses and programs
3. Find alternative funding

My vote is for number three, and you can rest assured that your AS officers will be doing everything in our power to hold our elected officials accountable and to get a fully funded CSU.

One of the things we will be doing to advocate for full funding is travelling to Sacramento on March 12 with a group of students to sit down with four of our elected representatives and make the case for why they should fight the Governor's original budget proposal and support the CSU system. After this, we will also

be sending a delegate to Washington DC to advocate for your needs on the federal level. Stay tuned for phone banking, letter writing, and other opportunities to fight against a tuition increase.

In order to better hear and respond to your concerns, I will also be doing a new event with President Ochoa this semester, Pizza with the Presidents. There will be free pizza and open dialogue with President Ochoa and myself on March 5 from 12-1pm in the East Lounge of the Student Center. Stop by and share any of your thoughts, ideas, and/or concerns!

Good luck with midterms and remember, spring break is close! You can do it!

Best,
Lauren McClain
AS President
president@ascsub.edu
Student Center, Room 125

theLutrinae

lutrinae: (loo' trih-nā') n.
a subfamily classification,
scientific name for the otter.

The Lutrinae is a weekly campus newspaper covering CSUMB and its neighboring areas. Here at *The Lutrinae*, our goal is not only to educate and inform the public, but to entertain, to spark creativity, to encourage diversity of opinion, and to build a sense of community on campus and with the neighboring cities.

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The Lutrinae is a student run publication produced for the students of CSUMB. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Lutrinae*, CSUMB administration, faculty, or staff.

The Lutrinae serves two purposes: It is a training ground for students who wish to develop journalism skills and build their resume, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. *The Lutrinae* Editorial team will determine what to print and reserve the right to edit for libel, space, or clarity.

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

NEWS

Rain, rain, come and stay!

by Tessa Munson

California is no stranger to droughts; we are probably more used to living with drought recommendations and restrictions than without them. The 2018 rainy season has not deviated from the torrid trend. As of Feb. 13, National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) estimates that 75 percent of the state's population is affected by the drought.

Based on their website, Monterey Peninsula and the Tri-County area falls within the realm of "no drought" to "abnormally dry." Much of Northern California lies in those categories. According to NIDIS, This is in contrast to the majority of Southern California, which shows tendencies towards the "severe drought" category.

Other than residents' daily water needs, the drought is of concern to the Tri-County area for one main reason: the ever-present agricultural sector in the Monterey area, which relies on freshwater to produce crops. It is no secret that Salinas is referred to as the "Salad Bowl of the World," because it is "one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world," according to the Salinas County website. The Salinas economy also relies on freshwater, since the agricultural sector is the major cash crop of the area.

Where does the South Bay get its water from, anyway? According to Water Education Foundation, the answer is: groundwater, local streams and rivers. Before the five year rainless streak ended last year, California residents suffered major water restrictions in order to compensate for the shortage.

Such restrictions were lifted after heavy rainfall last season, but California wasn't out of the drought for very long. Now, in an attempt to "make water conservation a way of life," there is a proposal to bring back water restrictions in the state and make them permanent, since the effects of climate change bring longer, more intense droughts, according to the California Water Resources Control Board. Further restrictions won't help California out of the drought, but every little bit helps.

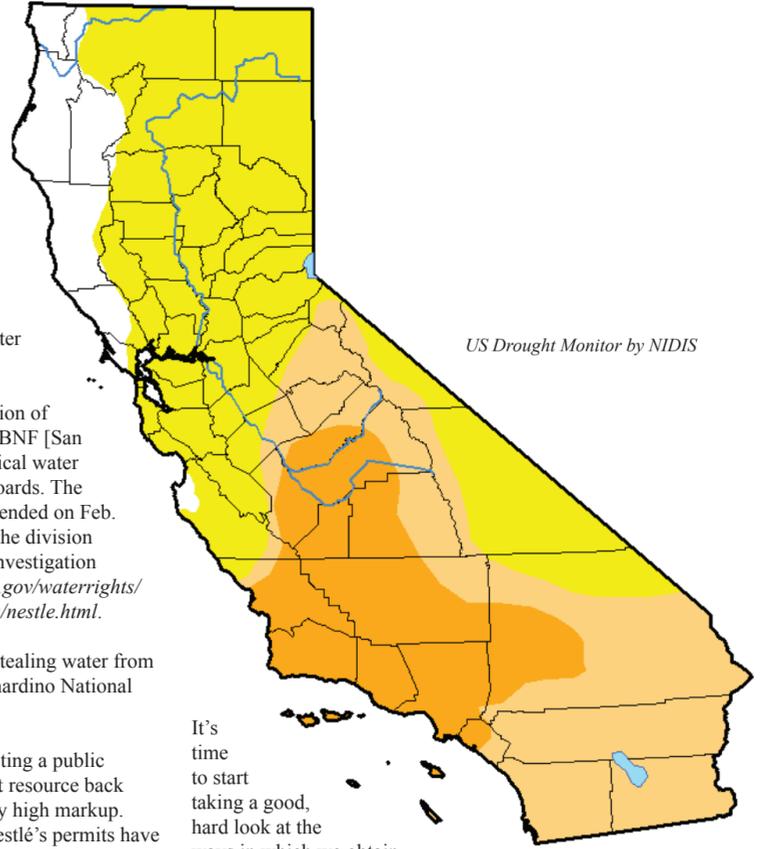
In spite of the drought and the many years that California has been dehydrated, one entity has continued to exploit the precious resource—Nestlé. CBS Los Angeles News reports that the

company pays just \$524 per year to the U.S. Forest Service for the permit, while they extract over 30 million gallons of water from the San Bernardino mountains and sell it back to the residents (and beyond) with a strong markup. However, the company claims that their practices are sustainably sound, and if they weren't, they would cease activities immediately.

Several water rights complaints, along with an online petition against Nestlé, prompted the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Division of Water Rights (Division) to launch an "extensive water rights complaints investigation, which included a detailed evaluation of the geology of the spring water sources in the SBNF [San Bernardino National Forest] and Nestlé's historical water rights claims," according to California Water Boards. The Report of Investigation public comment period ended on Feb. 9, and the comments are to be responded to by the division within a timely manner. To read the Report of Investigation and the Public Comments, visit waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/enforcement/complaints/nestle.html.

Why should you care that Nestlé is essentially stealing water from the springs of Strawberry Creek in the San Bernardino National Forest?

First, a multi-billion dollar corporation is extracting a public resource from public lands, and then selling that resource back to the residents (and others) at an astronomically high markup. Second, it has been more than 70 years since Nestlé's permits have been evaluated. Certainly much has changed in the geological landscape in the last 70 years, why must complaints and petitions prompt a reevaluation, rather than permit time limits imposed and enforced? Third, if Nestlé has been exploiting this resource and getting away with it for so long, are there other companies exploiting other resources that the public is not aware of? Lastly, with water resources becoming more scarce with more intense, longer lasting droughts imposed by climate change, the probability of water prices increasing is also high. Just because we can afford it today, doesn't mean we will afford it tomorrow.



It's time to start taking a good, hard look at the ways in which we obtain and use water. Do you still buy bottled water? Consider purchasing a reusable glass or metal bottle and boycott businesses that profit off of public resources. Do you leave the faucet running while washing your dishes? Fill a dishpan with hot, soapy water instead. Do you leave the faucet on while washing your hands and/or brushing your teeth? Turn the source off while it is not in use. Here are 25 ways to reduce your water usage, please visit eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm.

Summer in Spain

2018 study abroad opportunity in León, Spain



by Sarah Boulterice

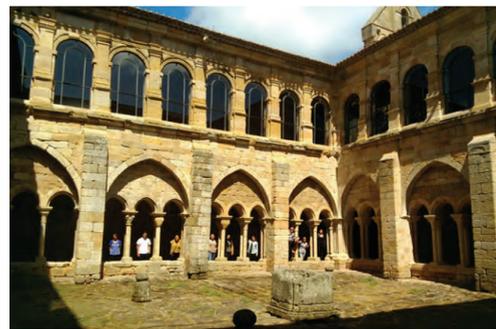
Imagine studying abroad and earning course credit for it. SBS 485S: Global Citizenship: Applied Research and International Service Learning in Rural Communities (6 units) is a course where students will be able to both study abroad and complete their Upper Division Service Learning in Spain from June 1-30. The new course is taught by Juan José Gutiérrez,

Director of the Summer Program and Dr. Gerald Shenk. Students will be able to learn and explore numerous areas of knowledge, which are critical to understanding rural communities in the global age.

During the first two weeks, students will be living in a rural lodging house, providing services to the local communities and collect data. For the last two weeks, there will be in-home stays, where

students will be living with families in the communities and receiving more ethnographic data from the family perspective.

To take advantage of this opportunity, students must be an Upper Division student and must be at the intermediate level in Spanish, as they will be speaking Spanish only throughout the program. Prospective attendees will also have to interview with Dr.



Gutiérrez. The program cost is \$3,390, which includes tuition for the courses, transportation within Spain, housing, a local field trip along with another field trip to Bilbao, access to internet, Study Abroad Fee, insurance, library services and lecture hall. Airfare is not included to León, Spain.

The application deadline is March 30.

For more information, please email professor Juan José Gutiérrez at: juan_gutierrez@csumb.edu.



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CAMPUS

New Outdoor Recreation Coordinator

by Madison Aguirre

Kaci Turpin is the new Outdoor Recreation Coordinator for California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). She was hired for the brand-new position in early November of 2017. Turpin earned her bachelor's degree at the University of California, Davis and her Master's degree at the University of Iowa in Sports and Recreation Management.

Outdoor Recreation directly aligns with everything she studied in college and with some of her interests and hobbies. She loves working with students and helping them develop throughout their college careers.

"Outdoor Recreation is something I found really impactful and a huge part of my college experience. It's how I got involved in my university and how I found my community, so I like to give that back to students," said Turpin.

She believes the student body size of CSUMB is an asset, because of the tight-knit community and she gets to see participants and leaders on a regular basis. Turpin enjoys taking new and first-time students out into the wilderness to get an opportunity to camp or go backpacking.



Kaci Turpin is all smiles. Attributed by Kaci Turpin

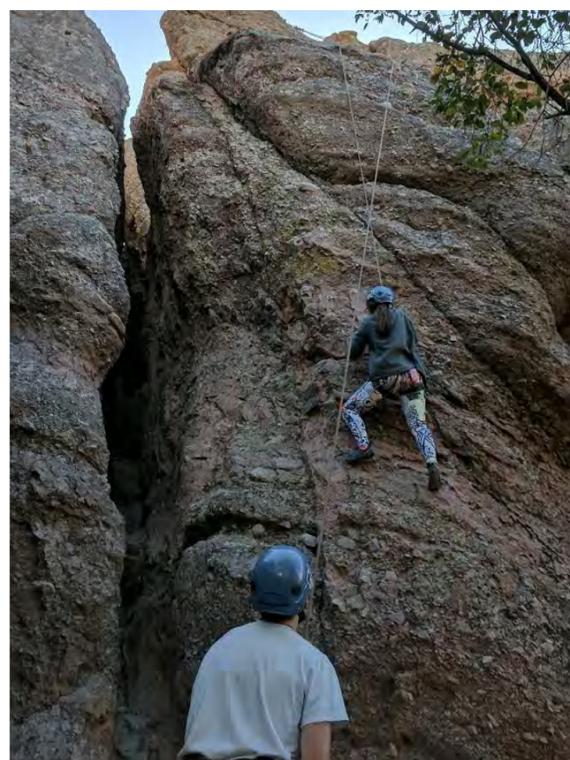
One of Kaci's main focuses for Outdoor Recreation currently is working to find ways to improve marketing efforts. The program is constantly trying to evolve, and figuring out what students want, as well as where they want to go.

"It's important for students to know we're here to offer a wide variety of trips, and if there's something that's not speaking to them personally to just give us some feedback. We love to hear suggestions and really want to cater to what the students want and need," said Turpin.

In addition to striving for improved marketing efforts, Kaci trains the student staff who are members of the Outdoor Leadership Program, so they can lead the trips offered. Students interested in being part of the Outdoor Leadership Program can apply for positions in the fall. Students learn about the wilderness, first aid training and how to manage a group or site.

Outdoor Recreation provides trips and outings, such as: backpacking, camping, hiking, kayaking, rock-climbing, and bike rides. "Outdoor Recreation just wants to provide the best Otter experience," said Turpin.

Go to csumb.edu/outdoor to find the schedules for the various outings as well as the prices for events. Students can also pick up a pamphlet of information at the Recreation Desk located in the East Lounge of the Student Center.



Do you have the courage? Students experience the adrenaline rush of rock climbing. Attributed by Outdoor Recreation

CSUMB's Trivia Tuesdays

Trivia, free food and a family of boneless chickens

by Jessenya Guerra

"And the final team—the winner of the free appetizer question—is Jessenya and Shaylea! With an answer of \$200 million!" yelled Trivia Tom as my roommate and I secured our free appetizer from Monte's. The question was, "How much did 'Black Panther' make on its opening night?" Being the tech-savvy millennials that we are, we locked in the first win of the night.

After we were seated at Monte's, we were asked if we would like to be contestants in "Trivia Tuesday" hosted by Tom Burns. Tom brought us writing utensils, and a box to put our phones in.

"Phones equal cheating," said Tom, as he instructed all of us to put away our magical cheating machines. Prior to that, I hadn't even thought that it's possible to Google the questions fast enough to cheat.

Tom asked all of the people in Monte's 20 Trivia questions to win the grand prize. The questions ranged from events that are on the school dashboard, to knowledge of the world. When it came to completing Taylor Swift lyrics and remembering if George Washington was a Democrat or Republican, my co-contestant and I were killing it.

For questions on sports and specific years that songs were released, my partner and I found ourselves scratching our heads. We ended up only getting 10 out of 20 Trivia questions right. That translates to we tried our best.

It was a fun experience. We got to sit at a nice table and drink our milkshakes while picking our brains for the correct answers to the most random questions. "We've been doing Trivia Tuesdays for a very long time, before Monte's was even here—about five years ago," said Lianne Minemoto, the UC Ballroom event coordinator. "We get about 10 or 11 teams of students that come out and play every week," said Minemoto.

The night I attended "Trivia Tuesday," the grand prize was a free entry to the Dining Commons for each student on the winning team. The gang that won that night named themselves the "Family of Boneless Chickens." They seemed to be regulars to Trivia Tuesday, as they were prepared to answer as many questions as correctly as possible.

The Family of Boneless Chickens mean business. The boneless chicken eaters got 18 out of 20 questions right. When I spoke with one of the members of the winning team, they said "The real grand prize is eating food and hanging out with my friends."

Everyone knows that the best food is free food. For those interested in toppling the boneless chicken dynasty once and for all, Trivia Tuesday is on Tuesdays at 6:15pm at Monte's.

Dancing and getting fit with CSUMB's Otters

by Jessenya Guerra

"You can come in here and dance, no one worries about if you're good or not. Michelle makes everyone feel so welcome!" said Matthew Yang a regular at Monday night Zumba. Yang has leaped into Zumba classes at the Black Box Cabaret (BBC) every Monday for the past two semesters.

Monday night Zumba is led by Michelle Salvador, a Zumba instructor at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) for the last six years. "I just love the all the students. When they come in smiling and ready to dance is when I am happy," said Salvador.

Michelle encourages all Otters to waltz into Zumba and get your blood pumping. The environment is inclusive and welcoming,

which makes sweating away extra calories more enjoyable. I attended Zumba, and I have to say that the class is so much fun to get lost in.

When you first enter the BBC, students are lined up eager for 6 p.m. to strike, which is when doors open. Prospective dancers are required to show their Otter ID card as well as signing a release waiver stating that if you get hurt, you won't sue Michelle. This is a small price to pay for such amazing fun.

Students start to get loose and begin to dance even before Michelle is ready. The fun and energetic energy is palpable in the air as people spread out to have enough room to dance.

Even some of the staff members from the BBC have their exercise clothes on because it is impossible to resist the motions of Zumba.

It can take a second to get into the beat if you're not used to a Cumbia or Salsa rhythm.

While a good selection of the songs are in Spanish (I'm looking at you, Latinx Otters), they are so easy to dance to and everyone loves stepping to the beats. There is a lot of fun jumping, stepping, twisting and dropping it low that will make you sweat and get your heart rate up. Michelle even calls up students to the stage to help demonstrate moves and dance along with her.

There is no judgement at the BBC when it is Zumba time. It is all about dancing, having fun, and working out in a fun and positive way. If there is a move that you can't do, no one is going to judge you or tell you it isn't right. You can just do what feels good to you and continue to dance.



Michelle Salvador leads the Zumba class in a final stretch and cool down song as they wrap-up class. Photo by Jessenya Guerra

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CREATIVE WORKS

An open letter to @realDonaldTrump

by Tessa Munson

Dear @realDonaldTrump,

The bleaching of corals did not begin by pouring Clorox into the ocean. Greenhouse gases aren't emitted into the atmosphere by opening nursery windows. Glaciers aren't melting because someone left their heater on.

Climate change is not a hoax designed to make scientists rich. If it were, kids in the ghetto wouldn't have asthma.

Climate change won't just go away. If we continue business as usual, we will destroy ourselves.

Climate change doesn't care about money. If it did, we could pay it to go away.

Forests burning.
 Cities flooding.
 Hurricanes thrashing.
 Tornadoes swirling.
 Earthquakes shaking.
 Monsoons menacing.
 Ice caps melting.
 Sea levels rising.
 Corals whitening.
 Deserts growing.
 Recycling.
 Reusing.
 Composting.
 Repurposing.
 Thrifting.
 Eating vegan.

Climate change this rapid is man-made. With 97% of scientists agreeing, where is the argument?

Climate change is currently the biggest threat to humankind. But what about ISIS?

Climate change hurts everyone it touches. But the President of the United States is doing just fine.

The bleaching of corals begun with ocean acidification caused by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Large levels of greenhouse gases are emitted into the atmosphere through human innovations. Glaciers are melting because the earth's temperature is rising.

I'm concerned, aren't you?

Yours truly,
@T_Fress

If I Should Forget

by Emmanuel Yuan

If I should forget my purpose for living, of what makes me human, please remind me.

Remind me of azure skies, of the marshmallow clouds drifting by.

Remind me of wild meadows, vibrant with both color and life.

Remind me of pure waters, mirrors for those who have lost sight.

Remind me of a cicada's call, its sonorous attempt to leave something behind.

Remind me of her beautiful smile, the proof of her passion, and how it lights up her eyes.

And remind me of Death, keeper of all that have lived, who shall one day claim me as her own.

Remind me so that I may remember, for to live without knowing why is to not live at all.

Thank you.

What She Left Behind

A short story

by Madi Rapella

I have always been somewhat aware of the constant presence of death in my life, but the day it struck my beloved friend, I was no longer partially aware of it. I was intoxicated by it. It rattled through my bones, paralyzing my body until I had no other choice but to surrender myself to the ground for support. Physical pain seized my heart when I found my childhood best friend, Gigi the cat, curled into a lifeless ball. She was not just a cat. She was my companion through the worst and best times of life. I had forgotten what the world was like before Gigi came into it.

When Gigi first passed away, it was intolerable, as I was in denial. Then it became awkward. It was as if I was walking around trying to function in the world with only half a heart. Sometimes I had to force a grin and put on a face, but in reality I felt like death itself. I know full well that we are all mortals. And I know that death will carry us all away someday, but I never knew it would make me feel like that person had never existed at all. It was as if the memories of the deceased had all been one giant, lovely dream and I had simply imagined it all. I believe that is what makes death excruciatingly painful. The complete and utter finality of it.

Gigi simply vanished, her soul and all, leaving me with this empty body that once held so much love. Her death was so sudden it did not even feel real until the pain set in. That was as real as ever. One moment Gigi was a healthy, happy kitty and then in a blink of an eye her shoulder started to harvest this monstrous lump. It grew like a weed, consuming her left shoulder until she was forced to limp. It fractured the bones in her shoulder, but she never complained despite all the pain she must have been going through. Gigi just went along with her day and did the best she could for herself in the moment. She continued to love us even though each day was a struggle and the simple act of breathing consumed all of her energy. As we neared closer to her death, she grew drastically weaker and aloof. We knew Gigi's time would soon come. However, nothing and I mean absolutely nothing in the whole wide world could have ever prepared me for what was about to come. All I could do was lay down next to her weak body and try to make her as comfortable as possible. It pained me to see her in this constant state of agony, but we had tried everything we could to demolish the tumor. We took her to Colorado for radiation therapy, confident that it could save our sweet Gigi. When she arrived back home her tumor began to shrink, but then days later it started to grow again. This time it grew at an alarming rate. I remember the moment I realized that there was nothing else we could do for her but to just love Gigi till the end. And that is exactly what we did.

I will never forget the last time I kissed Gigi on her cute forehead. She looked at me with her big, golden eyes as I descended down the stairs to go off to work. If I had known that was her last day, I would never have gone to work. I try not to hold that regret with me, but sometimes the frustration and anger are too overwhelming. Then when I was at work, painting a pottery display piece, my mom walks into the shop. My heart immediately dropped from my chest because I already knew what happened. She takes off her sunglasses and reveals her eyes brimmed with tears. No words were necessary in that moment. It suddenly felt like the world was collapsing down on me. When I stepped outside to go back home, the sunny, blue sky seemed like it was mocking me. The rest of the world was simply carrying on with itself as I was internally crumbling. I remember thinking in my head, so this is what the world feels like without my best friend in it.

Gigi, with her silky black fur, came into our lives ill and an abnormally small. Yet, it did not affect her ability to trust and love us. Since day one, she has brightened up the world around her and has brought never-ending joy to my family. And for that, we are eternally grateful. Gigi lived a wonderful, pleasant life. She had this remarkable ability to tolerate my utter nonsense whenever I would dress her in a pink tutu and stroll her around the park in a dog stroller. It was obvious she did not particularly enjoy these experiences as much as I did. Gigi went on many adventures, most of them against her will; nonetheless they were very fond memories. Yet, she still loved me unconditionally with all of her little kitty heart. My mom said she has known many cats in her life, but she has never known such a docile, loving cat as Gigi. She was everything a child could ask for in a companion: sweet, loving, and understanding. Whenever I was solemn, or stressed Gigi would curl up into my lap and comfort me. I would only have to hug her and all my anxieties and worries would dissolve. There is not a day that goes by that I do not achingly miss Gigi. I will always cherish the wonderful memories I have had with her and I will always keep her soul and spirit with me forever. She was one of the greatest things that has ever happened to me. Her legacy will continue within the lives that she has touched, for her love could never die.

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BROADCASTING FROM THE CAMPUS OF CSUMB

Academic Senate picks G WAR option

discusses final GE decision

By Ashley Orcutt and Sam Robinson

The California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Academic Senate voted to move forward with an option that would allow graduate writing assessment requirement (G WAR) courses to be in or out of the general education (GE) curriculum. But, there are still many votes to come in the senate before CSUMB has a new GE plan in place, which has to happen before the end of March.

"This is a cause for celebration," said Professor Deb Burke, University College senator, after the vote, referencing that the group that has been divided over past few months, had come together for overwhelming support of one G WAR option. This relaxed the tension in the room for a moment as others joined in the laughter and clapped.

By selecting the G WAR option Senators can now consider six, rather than 12 GE curriculum models that were put forth by the GE committee.

Other issues discussed in the Feb. 26 meeting included restructuring the steering committee that was formed in the fall to handle issues related to EO 1100, the CSU Executive order that has forced all of the GE changes on campus. When the committee formed, it just so happened to have faculty only for the so-called higher unit majors, which has led some to question the committee's work.

The proposed change was to add a representative from University College and the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS). The reason given was because these are the colleges that house service learning and the language programs, which are areas of contention in the GE restructuring.

A representative from the College of Health Sciences and Human Services, as well as an ex-officio student rep were added through amendments, and the Senate approved the additions.

The opportunity for students to weigh-in was discussed again. Senate President Michael Scott said that the Google form that was supposed to go out to students awhile back, had not yet gone out, but he hopes it will this week. The form is to get feedback from students about the GE options. There are two forums this week for students; one was Feb. 28 and the other is March 2.

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing whether seven additional models that were submitted by faculty at large will be included in the final vote, and how the votes will take place. Scott announced the final vote on the GE models will now be held March 26, not March 12. The March 12 meeting is now when there will be a vote on which models to include in the final vote.

The Senate seems to have several options on the voting method. No decisions were made on that issue.



Academic Senate executives listen to comments during the Feb. 26 senate meeting (top). GE Committee chair Miguel Lopez speaks to the Senate about recent GE Committee recommendations (bottom left). Senators and guests review voting options for the upcoming Senate votes (bottom right). Photos by Ashley Orcutt.

There was once again disagreement about which models should be put forward for consideration.

Professor Rob Weisskirch said all the models (the six from GE and the seven from faculty at large) should be put up for consideration. "Allow models in the middle to move forward, not just those that are polarizing," he said.

Professor Kent Adams noted that the orientation of GE committee heavily tilts towards CAHSS, which, as was pointed out earlier in the meeting, houses the language programs, and is therefore very much invested in maintaining them. He wants all additional models to be considered in order to add multiple perspectives since no GE committee recommendation included a no language option, an option that was supported in a straw poll held earlier this semester.

Not everyone agreed with this. A very emotional statement was made by Professor Frauke Loewensen a lecturer in the School of World Languages and Cultures (WLC).

"Which models have been vetted and recommended?" she asked. "The [WLC] faculty, my courses, my department have been under attack since the start."

She discussed the human impact of cutting the language requirement. She stated lecturers will lose jobs and they will have an increased workload by teaching another course to receive entitlement which is based on unit numbers, not courses. The other aspect of the GE changes are that all GE courses will now be three units and not four units, as many of them are now.

The next Senate meeting is Monday, March 12 at 12:10 p.m. in the Library room 1180. It is open to the public. This is when Senators will decide how to vote March 26, and which GE models will be on that final ballot.

Hip-Hop Workshop March 2

The Otter Dance Team will host a Hip-Hop workshop on Friday, March 2. The event is open to all California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students and community members.

"We will start off with a cardio warm-up, some stretches, and a little strength conditioning," said Maddy Maurer, captain of the dance team. "Then we will get into the dance and teaching the choreography."

The choreography was done by a first-year dance team member, Erika Collins.

"It is typical for a dance team to host workshops, and we are trying to grow into that mold," said Maurer about the purpose of the event. She also said this is a good fundraiser for the team.

"It is also a good way for people who are interested in joining the team to meet all of us, to interact with us before auditions," said Maurer, who is in her second year with the team.

The Otter Dance Team performs at several sporting events on campus each year. This year

there are 11 team members, but they are looking to grow.

Auditions for the 2018-2019 academic year will be April 7.

The workshop is 2-5 p.m. in the CSUMB Dance Studio, Mountain Hall, Building 84, Suite F. Pre-event tickets are \$5, and they are \$7 at the door.

For more information about the Otter Dance Team or for accommodations, email mmaurer@csumb.edu.

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