



## Every vote counts

*AS elections results, record turnout, run-offs and close votes*



Lauren McClain (right), AS president, hugs the newly elected Basic Needs Senator Maddy Maurer (left) (left photo). Jared Reyes is all smiles upon learning he was elected to be the next AS President (right photo).

Photos and story by Sam Robinson

By a margin of just one vote, Antonio Hernandez is the newly elected Associated Students (AS) College of Science Senator. Election results were announced April 16 at an event in the Student Center.

Maddy Maurer was elected to fill the new Basic Needs Senator position. Maurer was elected after two run-offs. She had a six vote lead.

"I am very excited to be in this position," said Maurer. "I am looking forward to the work to come next year."

Hernandez and Maurer both said they are looking forward to working with the other candidates who ran in their positions and to get them involved in AS.

The newcomer Rebecca Harbison nudged out the incumbent College of Health Sciences and Human Services Senator Francis Everman. Everman maintained a stoic exterior when the announcement was made. Harbison was not at the event.

"It was an honor to run; it was great campaign," said Everman. "I will find another way to serve the community."

The turnout for the AS elections was the highest it has been in California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) history. Lauren McClain, current AS president, said more than 800 students

voted out of the 6,600 who were eligible to do so. That is a 12 percent turnout.

The new AS President is Jared Reyes, who ran unopposed and garnered 81 percent of the votes. Other uncontested winners are Ava Faith Castro, Sustainability Senator and Annabel Negrote, College of Education Senator.

"I look forward to continuing to advocate for the students of CSUMB and growing the AS to become an even better organization," said Reyes.

Due to issues that arose during the election cycle, no winner was announced in the unopposed race for VP of University Affairs. Rickie Wattanakasem was the candidate in that spot.

Candidates who were not elected, and other interested students, can apply for the vacant AS positions.

"I would like to emphasize our open positions and that hiring will begin and the application will be posted no later than tonight," said McClain at Monday's Results Release party. "We are looking for an Undeclared Senator, Diversity and Inclusion Senator, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Senator, Vice President of External Affairs, and Executive Vice President."

Carol Chen, a Basic Needs Senator candidate was already asking McClain about the process and showed a lot of interest.

McClain stated she was very happy with the turnout for the election and that this is a "good group for next year." She did acknowledge that vote apathy is still an issue, but is pleased with the interest non-elected candidates have in other positions.

"It was a really great fight and you had wonderful campaigns," McClain said at the beginning of the event.

Ronnie Higgs, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Services, was also very pleased with this election cycle. He refused to say winner or losers, and simply referred to "top vote getters."

"You are all winners," he said. "You want to be a leader. Don't let this stop you. We look for leaders. We need you."

He added this was a valuable lesson in civics for all of those involved.

You can find the application and information on open positions at [csumb.edu/as](http://csumb.edu/as) or scan the QR code.



### BRAIN CELLS

2  
*Do they continue to grow at an elderly age?*

### SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

3  
*What to do*

### SPRING SHOWCASE

4  
*Wrapping up Undergraduate Research Week*

### COMPOSTING IN EAST CAMPUS

5  
*A new initiative try to better our environment*

### THE SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES SEMINAR SERIES

5  
*Presenting Dr. Gary Griggs on climate change*



## Marching through the streets of Salinas

Photos and story by Samantha Calderon

More than 700 Latino farm workers, undocumented individuals and allies took to the streets of East Salinas for the annual César Chávez March on Sunday, April 8. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the death of civil rights activist César Chávez. The march, organized by United Farm Workers (UFW), honors Chávez legacy and the labor of agricultural workers. The movement has expanded into an intersectional one that is inclusive of the voices of undocumented individuals and Latinos against President Donald Trump.

The agricultural industry rakes in \$4.25 billion a year to Monterey County's economic output, according to the Monterey County Farm Bureau. One in four households in Monterey County rely on agricultural work as a main source of income. Monterey County farm workers feed the nation by doing back-breaking labor, and are oftentimes treated as disposable. Some undocumented farm workers fear reporting abuse because of the looming threat of deportation. According to UFW's website, available in English and Spanish, the organization fights for farm workers by calling for higher wages and improved working conditions, as well as educating them on social justice issues.

Arturo Rodriguez, President of UFW, said, "Everything we organize is non-violent, much like how everyone conducted themselves today. We really appreciate it. The important part of all of this is that the fight will continue. Following César's example and everything he's done, we've made several accomplishments."

Continued on page 3



Latino farm workers protest for better working conditions and rights for undocumented individuals at the César Chávez March in East Salinas on April 8.

# Untitled poetry by Katie Puentes

For as long as I can remember  
I knew I was different than the average human race member  
Being told since day one  
To stay ahead and be better than everyone  
Always being pushed to take the shape of a ghost  
Screaming out to be heard and seen as my own  
Dedicated my everything to school and what I thought were my dreams  
Falling in the line of obedience n' believing everything was fine as it seems  
Always following a strict schedule  
Forced to stay a busy worker bee  
When one day things all became so clear to me  
I had been hiding in my shell  
Afraid of letting anyone see or know the real me  
That even I didn't recognize my own identity  
Who is Katie?  
Well I'm damn excited to find out and see  
I won't let this society define the shape of my entirety  
I must remain happy and humble  
If not I know I'll begin to stumble  
I have no control over the series of unfortunate events life brings  
Only control on the effect they play on my being  
It's okay to be lost, it's necessary  
In order for me to really be able to understand and see

In the eyes of denial  
It's no good to be wild  
Because it makes one a child  
But when one releases that vibrating growl  
Shaking the souls  
Of all those they approach  
Leaving a print  
More permanent than a needle to the skin  
Normal is boring  
Leaving one in a life overflowing with snoring  
So fuck the eyes of denial  
Be wild  
It'll allow one to unlock mile after mile  
Leading them upon a path  
So amazing they hope it forever lasts  
Stay true to everything that makes up the beautiful you  
Because nothing's better than the undeniable truth

Sometimes it's sad to see  
The affects my dreams play on me  
Suppose to be smart and strong  
When all I've come to learn and feel  
Is weak and dumb  
This isn't how things were supposed to be  
College degree, career, marriage and kids all by the age of 23  
And no one sat there and was real with me  
They all sat there and supported my head in the clouds  
To me that comes off pretty foul  
Raised to believe there's this false image of living happily ever after  
When really sadness has been the main source of making my soul feel  
on fire  
Happiness didn't come until I was 18 and free to embrace who I  
wanted to be  
My personal life thrived as my educational strive died  
And here I lie still trying to learn and figure the meaning to this life  
Am I destined to be a one in a million  
Or simply another corpse who forever envies the living of over a  
billion



## Brain Cells

*Do they continue to grow at elderly age?*



by Navid Amarlou

Given the increasing life expectancy, the elderly population is growing. This makes understanding how the brain reacts to aging all the more important. A particular interest of scientists is in neurogenesis in the hippocampus, or the production of new neurons in

the hippocampus of the brain. This is a part of the brain that is vital in turning short term memory into long term memory, along with other tasks such as navigation.

For years now, we have had an understanding that neurogenesis halts with age and subsequently the matter has been debated upon heavily. In rodents and primates similar to humans, the ability to produce new neurons slows with age and so it was a widely believed idea accepted by the scientific community that the human brain must surely do the same. Given that a part of the brain called the Dentate Gyrate, which plays an important role in the formation of new memories, shrinks in size.

This idea has recently been revisited by researchers in Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric University, which conducted an experiment in hopes that they may finally reach a conclusion.

Previous studies explored hippocampal volume in aging humans, but the results were greatly affected given the technological limits at the time as to accurately scanning the brain.

In order to circumvent these issues, the researchers inspected the whole, autopsied hippocampi of 28 men and women, ages ranging from 14–79, who had died suddenly. None of these individuals had long-term health problems or cognitive deficits, or had a significantly stressful life event in their last 3 months of life. They also made sure that the subjects had not been depressed or taking antidepressants given a prior study they did that showed that antidepressants had negative effects on neurogenesis.

The study was the conducted the first to asses the number of newly formed neurons and blood vessels in the human hippocampus following the subjects death. The conclusions of this study were that older men and women can generate the same number of brain cells as younger people.

"We found that older people have similar ability to make thousands of hippocampal new neurons from progenitor cells as younger people do," according to Dr. Maura Boldrini, a associate professor of Neurobiology at Columbia University. "We also found equivalent volumes of the hippocampus (a brain structure used for emotion and cognition) across ages."

Where they did find that neurogenesis does not halt, there are issues that become more prominent with age. A primary issue expressed in the study was decreased vascularization in the brain and decreased progenitor cells. To make this more clear, the cells in the hippocampus do continue to be produced though they are less connected and have a reduced supply of nutrients and oxygen.

Dr. Boldrini wants to continue research on neurogenesis and how it is affected by thing such as transcription factors, hormones, and other biochemical pathways. This research can potentially open many doors in helping us understand the brain and how it changes as we age.

## Letter from AS President



Hey Otters, it's time to spring into action because deadlines are coming up!

At the time that this was being written, we had our Associated Elections voting from Apr. 9 -11, and then a few days ago on Apr. 16, we had our elections release party. While there is no way for us to predict the future, you can check out our Instagram at @AS\_CSUMB and Facebook at Associated Students of CSUMB for more information about who won which positions. Besides that we just have a few reminders.

Our last food pantry in the Student Center will be on Mon. Apr. 30. The first disbursement is from 11a.m.–1p.m. The second is from 5p.m.–7p.m. No questions asked, just show up with your student ID. We do welcome personal reusable bags. The pantry will run until supplies run out.

The annual Slut Walk is happening on Thurs. Apr. 26 in the Main Quad from 11a.m.–2p.m. The Slut Walk is a transnational movement aiming to end rape culture, victim blaming and slut-shaming of sexual assault victims. There will be sign making before the walk and an open mic afterwards! For information or disability accommodations, please contact the AS office at (831)-582-4725 or email [diversity@ascsumb.org](mailto:diversity@ascsumb.org).

Our last blood drive for this semester is happening on Wed. Apr. 25, and Thurs. Apr. 26 in the Student Center from 10a.m–4p.m. If you want to schedule your appointment, or if you want more information, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter our promo code "CSUMB." If you want to streamline the donation experience and save some time, visit [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment. Please bring a form of ID that your name, birthday and photo. One pint of of donated blood can save up to three lives, and donors will receive a free shirt while supplies last. For disability accommodations, please contact Gary Rodriguez at [grodriguez@csumb.edu](mailto:grodriguez@csumb.edu) five days prior to the event.

Good luck everyone! I hope the best for everyone's midterms!

Best,  
Lauren McClain  
AS President  
[president@ascsumb.org](mailto:president@ascsumb.org)  
Student Center, Room 125

# the Lutrinae

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.

## THE STAFF

*The Lutrinae*  
Volume 1, Issue 11

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Ashley Orcutt

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Ruby Boyle

**AD & DISTRIBUTION MANAGER**  
Tyler Winters

**WEBMASTER**  
Carlos Estrada

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Samantha Calderon

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**  
Griffin Dehne

**EDITORS**  
**CREATIVE WORKS**  
Emmanuel Yuan

**SPORTS**  
Madison Aguirre

**OPINION | COLUMNS**  
Taya Buehler-Reagan

**NEWS**  
Sara Hollingsworth

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Jessena Guerra

**BEATS**  
Zoey Kriegmont

**ADVISOR**  
Dr. Sam Robinson  
[sarobinson@csumb.edu](mailto:sarobinson@csumb.edu)

**OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**  
Jason Garrett  
[jagarrett@csumb.edu](mailto:jagarrett@csumb.edu)

**STAFF**  
**Reporter & Photographer**  
Sarah Boulterice

**Reporter**  
Tessa Munson

**Photographer**  
Noelle Pipp

**Reporter**  
Ray Kaiser

## CONTACT US

**Office Phone**  
831.582.4066

**Website**  
[www.thelutrinae.com](http://www.thelutrinae.com)

**General Inquiries**  
[thelutrinae@csumb.edu](mailto:thelutrinae@csumb.edu)

**Advertising Services**  
[advertising@thelutrinae.com](mailto:advertising@thelutrinae.com)

**Mailing address**  
Wave Hall  
100 Campus Center,  
Seaside, CA 93955



## Editorial Policy

*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: Its 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. Letter 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 letter will not be published.

# NEWS

## Surviving an active shooter incident

by Madi Rapella

As shootings become ever more frequent, the University Police Department (UPD) at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) are buckling down to further spread safety awareness. Students must be prepared if there is an on-campus shooter. Student Affairs invited UPD members, Chief Earl Lawson and Detective Heather Murphy to give a presentation at the Student Center on procedures for evacuations, sheltering-in-place and lockdowns. The presentation also served as a Q&A session between students and UPD.

Although CSUMB's step-by-step video on how to prepare for an active shooter earned 150,000 views, Chief Lawson and Detective Murphy believe they must continue to inform the student population with their informative presentation that hones in on the three major options for students: run, hide and fight. However, Detective Murphy emphasized that fighting an active shooter should be the last resort. If your surroundings are safe, do not stop running until you have completely left the situation and if possible try to keep buildings, cars or others objects between you and the threat.

If running is not an option, resort to creating a stronghold in the room you are in. Students should move away from doors and windows; they should also make a barricade out of tables,

bookshelves and chairs. If the first two options are not possible, the UPD advises to fight the shooter—preferably in a group—and to disorient the shooter by being as loud of possible.

One fellow faculty member inquired about whether or not we should take serious actions or simply wait it out if students happen to receive another "suspicious person on campus" alert. Lawson replied, "the most important thing to do is to be vigilant and aware of your surroundings. There is not much else you can do until we have further details."

This question brought about another concern from a faculty member who asked, "When should we expect to receive more information regarding the 'suspicious person' alert?"

"Well, there are so many factors in deciding how much information we should share because we do not know if the suspect is also receiving these OTTERalerts. If that is the case, then it would be much harder to track them down and resolve the issue," said Lawson.

Some students and faculty may also be confused about the difference between a lock-down and a shelter-in-place. When the school is on lock-down, it means that there is an immediate threat. Students should stay where they are, lock their doors and be prepared to stay put for awhile. A shelter-in-place means that there



CSUMB faculty and students come together to listen to Chief Earl Lawson and Detective Heather Murphy's advice on surviving an active shooter event. Photo by Madi Rapella.

is no immediate threat; students should still remain inside and close the windows. Students can continue to engage in indoor activities.

In addition, Detective Murphy emphasized to never hesitate to report to questionable, suspicious, or inappropriate behavior to the UPD. She suggests to do everything you can to be aware on-campus such as signing up for OTTERalert—even sign your family up—and to always "know your survival actions: run, hide and fight".

## Marching through the streets of Salinas

Continued from page 1

One of UFW's recent victories is pushing California to adopt a law that gives farm workers a paid half-hour break after 9.5 hours of work, according to Rodriguez. "This is a critical period of time. This is a time where we have an administration that is very anti-immigrant in this country. They are against all the immigrants who have fought so hard. We are the men and women who daily do the work that is most needed in this world. We harvest fruits and vegetables. We ensure that everyone in this nation has something to eat on their tables," said Rodriguez. Rodriguez believes the Trump Administration is working against the UFW, rather than working with them.

President Trump's rescinding of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) this past September shook Monterey County, as there are 900 students at Hartnell College in Salinas alone who are DACA recipients (Dreamers) according to The Californian. Trump's reason for ending the DACA program is because he views Dreamers as lawbreaking, illegal immigrants who hurt Americans by stealing their jobs. DACA's nullification created a surge of student activists who are either allies or Dreamers themselves.

Estefania Miranda, a Dreamer at Hartnell College, said, "I know this is one day less where I can achieve my dreams legally in this country. It feels like a nightmare I can't wake up from. I know I'm not the only one. I know the new laws passed by the current Administration are provoking fear, and are waking up our insecurities yet again." Miranda said each time she watches the news, she hears another story about ICE separating families. "I know Dreamers who are afraid of being separated from their parents. I know kids who fear going to school and returning back home to the sight of their parents being deported. They are scared that their parents will not come back home from work," said Miranda, fighting back tears. Miranda said it is absurd that her future depends on a document, and she feels that her days in this country are numbered.

Citlaly Lopez, a student at Hartnell college, said, "I am at this march in support of the campesinos (field workers), all Native people and I am an ally to the Dreamers." Lopez said it is important to stand against the injustices that people of color are subjected to, and for citizens to stand up to ICE if they see them rounding-up undocumented individuals.

Local organizations, such as California Rural Assistance, Democrats Fight for Immigrants, Stop Racism and Monterey County Food Bank tabled at the rally in support of farm workers and undocumented individuals. Local Latino artists showcased their art, hand-made pins and buttons and handmade jewelry. Farm



workers carried the red UFW flag with a black, Aztec eagle as they chanted Chávez's slogan, "¡Si se puede!" or "Yes we can!" Mexican restaurants tossed free water bottles at the protesters as they marched past their businesses.

The UFW's website offers a "Know Your Rights" page for both undocumented individuals and farm workers to use as a resource. There are also links to help people register to vote, and a "Take Action" page for allies to inform themselves on the issues impacting these communities.



Protester carries sign that reads, "No human is illegal" in Spanish (top). Indigenous dancers, some barefoot, perform traditional dances on the streets of East Salinas for the César Chávez March (bottom).



**90.3 kazu**  
for Monterey • Salinas • Santa Cruz

**BROADCASTING FROM THE CAMPUS  
OF CSU MONTEREY BAY**

**LISTEN AND LEARN, FOR FREE!**

*National, World News + Programs that make you smarter*

**STREAMING  
AT KAZU.ORG**

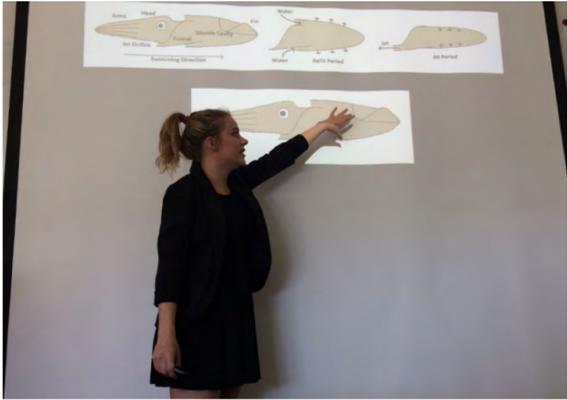
**DOWNLOAD OUR APP!**





# CAMPUS

## Spring Showcase wraps up Undergraduate Research Week



Student researcher Hadley Giebeler presents her research on the vortex rings created by squids at different stages of life. Photo by Maia Rodriguez.

by Maia Rodriguez

On Friday April 13, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) hosted the Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity Spring Showcase in the library as part of the weeklong observance of undergraduate student research. The event provided an opportunity for the students of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) to present their findings to the community. The showcase included oral presentations and a poster exhibit.

Students presented research on a wide range of topics including the performance of velocity-based training equipment, the concept of moral injury among soldiers, and the purpose of vortex rings created by squids.

Friday's showcase was CSUMB's finale to Undergraduate Research Week, a national celebration of student researchers and an opportunity for them to share their work with the public. Throughout the week, CSUMB hosted open labs, activities, workshops, and presentations where people could visit research sites around the campus and hear from student researchers.

"Our campus is participating in this national event whereby we try to raise the profile of the research that our undergraduates are conducting on campus. I think by all accounts it's been fantastic," said John Banks, UROC director.

Along with providing a platform to share their new knowledge and work, the Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Spring Showcase allowed students to practice presenting their research findings.

"It gives the students a sense of self-efficacy and confidence. Now that they can present here, they can present at national and international conferences. Many UROC students do that, and we have funding to send them out, so they can present their work on a larger stage. For many of them, this is just the beginning," Banks continued.

Some research students, like Nick Prew, used the showcase as a practice run for the coming California State University Research Competition, where he will be giving an oral presentation in front of a jury of professional experts.

"With the CSU Research Competition, it's a really great way to apply all the knowledge that I've gained and basically experience the full spectrum of being a researcher," said Prew.

## Weekend baseball

by Ryo Uchiyama

The California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Baseball team took the four-game series by 3-1 against California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) at Otter Sports Complex from April 7-9. They improved to 26-8 overall this spring season and 20-8 in the conference with a 12-9 win at game four on April 9 over their competitor.

The each game's result is below...

Game one: W CSUMB 9, CSUDH 6  
Game two: W CSUMB 8, CSUDH 7  
Game three: L CSUMB 1, CSUDH 2  
Game four: W CSUMB 12, CSUDH 9

The main reason why the Otters are in good condition this spring is because the batting line-up works very well. In terms of the team batting average, CSUMB's baseball team places first out of all teams in the conference, recording a .305 batting average. Looking at the top ten individual batting average statistics in the league, three Otters TJ Dove, Jacob Tonascia and Kyle Czaplak ranked in. Especially TJ Dove, batting first in the Otters line-up, has recorded 55 hits, which is the highest number in the conference as of April 9. The lead-off man for the Otters has created a lot of chances over this spring season, which makes the Otters batting line up activate in a good way.

Even though the Otters are in eighth place regarding overall pitching records in terms of the individual pitching statistics, Colton Fletcher, who is the left handed pitcher for CSUMB's baseball team, has gained six wins which places first in the league record. Also, the Otters hold a strong closer, Connor Fabing. He ranks second in the saves statistics in the conference including five consecutive saves in the last five games, as of April 9.

As noted above, the Otters have a strong batting lineup and they also have a faithful closer. Accordingly, even if there is a game where each teams score too many runs, the game is tightly shut down by him.

UROC allows undergraduates to engage in financially funded research projects at CSUMB while under the support and guidance of faculty mentors. UROC director Dr. John Banks states that the program helps students gain experience in research, which can be essential in developing skills for both the job market and graduate school. The UROC team prides itself on providing a unique opportunity rarely offered to undergraduate students.

"I don't think that there are all that many programs that do what UROC does. When I was an undergraduate, there was nothing like this. I don't think that there were many places where they supported undergraduates. At most universities, all of the research support goes to graduate students," said UROC mentor and Associate Professor George Beckham. "The fact is there is support, there's infrastructure, and there's mentorship. They do a really good job to help students along the process, whether their end goal is to become a researcher or if their end goal is to use this experience to get to a better career down the line."

While research programs tend to focus primarily on science, technology, engineering, and math, UROC provides research opportunities for a variety of disciplines, including the humanities and creative endeavors. "We consider ourselves an all-discipline center, so we really welcome all students," said UROC's Writing and Professional Communication Associate Natasha Oehlman.

The program creates a system of support for student researchers, including faculty mentors, with whom the students work hand-in-hand.

"Our center supports students in terms of printing posters and funding them for conferences and workshops. Then they have their faculty mentor who they work with and who are really tied to the research that they're doing and can help guide them in the field of their discipline," said Oehlman.

Students and mentors alike testified to the positive impact UROC has had on student researchers.

"I had one student that ended up at a facility where he's helping physicians do data analysis. I had another student that got a job at a physical therapy clinic, and they specifically mentioned in his interview that one of the reasons they were so impressed by his application package was that he had done research and he had done presentations and he knew what that process was like. People are noticing that on a resume," said Associate Professor George Beckham.

"I've gotten a lot of opportunities," said senior UROC student Alex Jensen. After researching the emotional and moral struggles soldiers experience after war, Jensen was encouraged by UROC mentors to apply for an internship at Harvard Divinity School. An aspiring minister, Jensen was skeptical of the outcome, but he applied anyway. His application was accepted, and UROC funded his two-month internship. "It's been my dream since high school to go to Harvard Divinity School."

Later, Jensen was accepted into Harvard Divinity School as a graduate student, receiving the Dean's Fellowship, which includes full-tuition coverage and a yearly stipend.

"I'm getting paid to go to Harvard, which I never thought I'd be able to say, and UROC made that entirely possible," said Jensen.

Friday's showcase was an informative day for the CSUMB community and an important experience for the student

The next series will be at Cal Poly Pomona from April 13 to April 15. We will not be able to take our eyes off of the CSUMB baseball team.

Find out more information about...

CSU Monterey Bay  
Baseball team at  
[otterathletics.com](http://otterathletics.com)



CCAA baseball  
conference at  
[goccaa.org](http://goccaa.org)



Otters batting line up is connected well. Photo by Ryo Uchiyama.

researchers, but it also provided some insight for students interested in working with UROC.

"The first step would be to come in and talk with one of us here," said Dr. John Banks. "Or get online to our UROC website. There's a place to schedule a consultation appointment and they can come in and talk with one of us about the possibility of engaging in undergraduate research through UROC."

The UROC office is located on the second floor of the library in suite 2150. Consultations can be scheduled at [csumb.edu/uroc](http://csumb.edu/uroc).



## Denim Day April 25

by Ashley Orcutt

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, on Wednesday, April 25, Denim Day will take place at California State University, Monterey Bay, in partnership with the Monterey County Rape Crisis Center. Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to wear denim to show awareness of this event.

This day was created in response to a 1999 Italian Supreme Court decision, where the court overturned a rape accusation because the victim was wearing denim jeans. She was an 18 year old girl and he was a 45 year old driving instructor who raped her when she was supposed to learn how to drive a car.

The court ruled that because she was wearing really tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, therefore consenting to what was about to happen. By wearing jeans, we are working to eliminate excuses that occurs when it comes to accepting sexual assault.

There will be an activity fair taking place April 25 from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Student Center, East Lounge.

## Cap decorating contest

by Ashley Orcutt

If you want to be featured on the cover of The Lutrinae's special Commencement issue, now's your chance! We are holding a cap decorating contest, and first place winner will be on our cover for our Commencement special issue. To participate in the contest, please submit your pictures of your decorated caps by May 1 to [thelutrinae@csumb.edu](mailto:thelutrinae@csumb.edu).

## What if you missed GradFest?

by Ashley Orcutt

GradFest takes place in the UC Ballroom annually a month before commencement takes place. This is a one stop place for seniors to get their caps and gowns, buy alumni gear and announcements, take pictures, and pick up tickets for family members and friends to attend the commencement ceremony. But what if you're a busy college student who's a senior and couldn't attend GradFest, or simply forgot?

According to California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) website under the Commencement section, tickets must be picked up at the Campus Service Center between April 17- 27. So if you haven't done so, I would hurry and make sure you get your tickets!

According to Herff Jone's website, if you order a cap and gown through the website, it will be shipped to your house. You have until April 23, 2018 at 8:59 p.m. to do so.

If you choose to buy a cap and gown at the CSUMB Bookstore, you can do so after May 11, according to CSUMB's website under the "Order Caps, Gowns, and Announcements" section.

They go on to say, "A limited number of caps, gowns, honor cords, etc. will be available at the stadium the day of Commencement - BUT don't wait!"

If you're looking to buy announcements, they can be ordered through the Herff Jones website and shipped to your house.

Any alumni gear, such as a sweater, mug, shirt, license plate frame, and more can be purchased at the CSUMB Bookstore.

# ENVIRONMENT

## Student's capstone introducing composting to East Campus

by Jessena Guerra

"I started becoming interested in composting when I found out that 30-40 percent of food waste ends up in our landfills," said Carolyn Hinman a transfer student who is living in California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) East Campus. "One in six people in America are food insecure, and we are throwing away perfectly viable food. This food then sits in landfills and produces more greenhouse gases than carbon emissions!," said Hinman.

Hinman said when she moved to East Campus, "I was shocked at the lack of composting that CSUMB was doing. I figured that they would have already had something in place for food waste, but they didn't." As part of her capstone, Hinman worked with the Sustainability office on campus to provide a method of disposing food waste in East Campus.

Hinman believes that it is very important to educate students about food waste and how composting can produce benefits for our community. "Monterey Regional Waste Management has an anaerobic digester that they use to compost materials. This is better than a traditional worms and dirt compost because it can break down harder food materials." Hinman said. These harder food materials include: meat, bones, compostable utensils and plates. Whereas in a backyard composting bin, one would not be able to compost those items.

"...digester can then use that compost to make energy and electricity. Monterey Regional Waste Management, I believe, is self-sufficient and even sells back power to the grid. It's fascinating how they are using an originally destructive source [food waste] can turn into renewable energy. Composting and food waste diversion is very important but the anaerobic digester still has some flaws. Although it is a step in the right direction there is still more that we can be doing," said Hinman.



East Campus Students pose with their new Sure-Close composting bins (right). Photo by Carolyn Hinman.

*"A main problem from food waste is that we are taught that buying in bulk is better, but we aren't realizing how much of it we end up throwing away."*

"A main problem from food waste is that we are taught that buying in bulk is better, but we aren't realizing how much of it we end up throwing away. Not to mention that the food dating system is flawed. Companies put arbitrary dates for their peak sell by and then people throw products away after that date. I might be the grossest person ever, but I keep things until they are bad, not based on the date," said Hinman.

Hinman decided to focus her Capstone on compost because she states, "It started with the food waste cart that Monterey Regional Waste Management donated to be in front of the Saratoga

community center. Each week it would be able half-full. Then the Ventana chapter of The Sierra Club donated 300 sure close individual composting bins for East Campus apartments. The bins are great! They help to keep the smell in and bugs out!"

"This is great because as soon as Monterey Regional Waste Management sees that we have a demand for the food waste carts, more will start to be delivered all over East Campus," Hinman stated. She also said that she could not have done this project by herself, and that the wheels were already in motion when it came to composting. She just helped to push the campus in a more food waste aware direction.

"Out of all of this I just want to make sure that people become more aware of how much viable food they are throwing away. Food that could be going to a family in need," said Hinman. She thanks the Sierra Club for their donation and for the help of the sustainability department on campus.

## School of Natural Sciences seminar series presents Dr. Gary Griggs on climate change

by Vanessa Garcia

Local scientist Gary Griggs delivered a century's worth of climate change research, including his own, in under an hour on April 9. From University of California Santa Cruz, Griggs is a distinguished professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences. Dr. Griggs opened the presentation by highlighting the recent event in which the cities of San Francisco and Oakland filed suit against multiple oil companies for damages caused by climate change.

The cities claim that the oil companies are responsible for climate change, and therefore should be responsible for the reparations of the damage. Three leading experts on climate change were called in to advise the court, one of whom was Dr. Griggs. Underneath Griggs' charts and studies, he had a simple message for the court—and for the rest of us: "The shoreline is moving. It is moving toward us. And it is moving because of climate change. Those are the facts whether you're a Democrat or Republican. Those are the facts whether you believe them or not," said Griggs.

While this may seem like a bold statement, Griggs backed it up with vast amounts of empirical data and models that were presented in an easy to understand format. Climate history is recorded in sediment, ice, tree rings and deep sea corals. The most significant data are CO2 levels measured from Antarctic ice cores.

This data allowed scientists to deduce that throughout history, Earth experiences heating

and cooling in 100,000 year cycles. The peak of each heating cycle roughly corresponded with 300 parts per million CO2 in the atmosphere until very recently. Decades of monitoring at Mauna Loa Observatory tracked this unprecedented spike in CO2 to 900 ppm in the last century.

Approximately 44 percent of this CO2 is accumulating in the atmosphere, aiding in the well-known Greenhouse Effect. Warming

temperatures mean melting ice, which gets to the knitty gritty of Grigg's presentation. Sea levels are rising, and while this is nothing new, coastal cities can't adapt the in the way a natural coastal environment could. New York City certainly can't relocate itself.

Dr. Griggs pointed to the importance of short term events. Now isn't the time to debate whether climate change is real. Rather, it is time to respond to the events affecting lives right now. Coastal properties are at risk, and so is the security of citizens who live in the surrounding coastal areas. With more than half of the world's population living in coastal regions, citizens and authorities alike must decide on a course of action: "Mitigation, adaptation, or denial."

Recent El Niño years in California, and Hurricane Irma to the East have perfectly demonstrated the futility of building whole societies near the ocean—just to have them torn down time and again. Each event worse than the last. Even the California Coastal Commission has caught on, now strictly restricting and regulating coastal development.

Scientists are increasingly taking on the role of outreach. Dr. Griggs is not only versed in decades of climate change research; he has taken it upon himself to communicate the relevance and urgency of this information with the wider public. SNS seminars are held on Mondays from 4-5 in the Chapman Science Center, room E104. Each seminar is an opportunity for Otters to network and learn about the contemporary research taking place.





# SUMMER @CSUMB



Save your  
sand dollars!

- ★ Online or on campus
- ★ Smaller classes
- ★ Graduate earlier



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