

the **lutrinae**

May 16, 2019

CSUMB's Student-Run Newspaper

Vision

2018-2019
Commencement Issue



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The Lutrinae • Volume 2, Issue 27

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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Special thanks to Hayley Azevedo from the provost's office and Kristen Vega the coordinator of Greek life & community engagement.

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: 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 reserves 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 *The Lutrinae* reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason, and anonymous letters will not be published.

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Letter from the editor

My Dearest Otters,

It is with a full heart I write to you one last time in *The Lutrinae* as editor-in-chief. This job has been a favorite of mine and I have come to love this newspaper in my two years working on staff. It has been a long, difficult journey as editor-in-chief. There have been challenges, frustrating moments and even tears, but I would do it all over again for this job and the good the newspaper has done at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

I have learned so much from this position and I know Jenna Ethridge loves the paper as much as I do. I take pride in the fact I was the first editor-in-chief in the history of *The Otter Realm* and *The Lutrinae* to see a full weekly newspaper and hope to see weekly printing continued. The news team here were able to print 27 weekly newspapers over two semesters for the second volume of *The Lutrinae*. This is a great accomplishment and the school should be proud of the work their students are doing.

As I graduate and move back to San Luis Obispo, I will cherish the things I learned while working

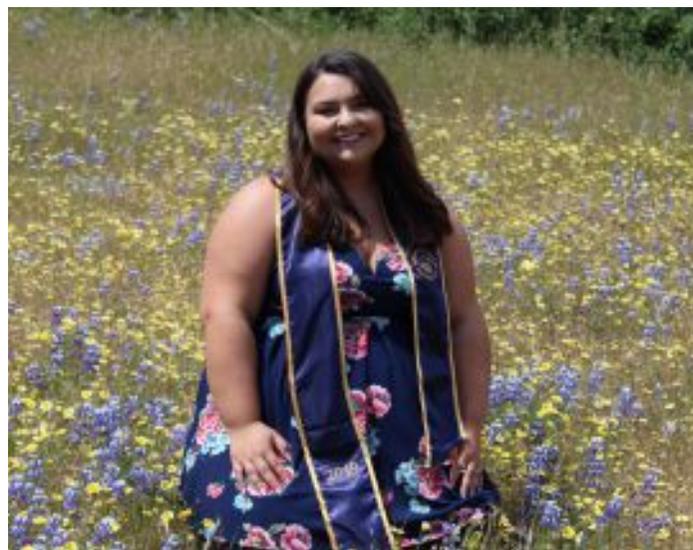


Photo by Shaylea Stark

for *The Lutrinae* as they have given me the professional experience I hope will help me land a job in journalism. I hope to continue writing and know whatever I end up doing will be because of the lessons I learned at CSUMB.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019. We did it!

With love always,
Jessenya Guerra

Farewell Lutrinae seniors

Story and photo by Jenna Ethridge

As the Spring 2019 semester comes to an end, *The Lutrinae* is saying farewell to several graduating staff members who helped shape its legacy for incoming staff to continue.

Jessenya Guerra's journey with *The Lutrinae* began in 2017 as a staff writer before being promoted to its editor-in-chief last year. Guerra is graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in human communications and plans on moving back to San Luis Obispo to pursue a career in journalism before continuing her education in graduate school.

Production Manager Griffin Dehne also has an extensive history with *The Lutrinae*, starting out as the production assistant in 2017 before being promoted. Dehne is graduating with a bachelor's degree in communication design and plans to move to Colorado in pursuit of a career that specializes in graphic design.

Ad and Distribution Manager Shaylea Stark is graduating magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in environmental science technology and policy. Stark is planning to take a year to gain experience in her field before entering into graduate school.

Thank you to each of *The Lutrinae's* graduating seniors and good luck with your future endeavors!



AS President's Letter

Hey Otters,

It's about that time of year again. For some of you, this may be your last few weeks here. For others, you may have just started your journey at California State University, Monterey Bay. I have been honored to be your Associated Students (AS) president for this academic year. The mission of our organization is to serve, empower and represent students in all areas of student concern; I believe we have made progress at our university to better the student experience.

Whether it was grabbing some food from our food pantry, utilizing the toiletry pantry in the Student Center restrooms, enjoying Midnight Madness, tuning in to Otter Media, jamming out at concerts, buying some cheap tickets, attending cardio kick or zumba, or relaxing in some on-campus hammocks, AS has been there for you in ways you may not have realized. We had students even travel to Sacramento and Washington D.C. to advocate for the student

experience, and reforming financial aid to ensure that a higher education is affordable.

Be sure and look out for how AS is involved on campus, such as new mirrors in the Otter Sports Center (coming soon) or the Fall Farmer's Market (starting this Fall 2019). I hope you reminisce on your time here and find a few fond memories to carry with you.

As I leave my position, my executive vice president and best friend, Ana Gonzalez, will be taking office. She has had an intense year of experience, which has driven her passion to improve AS and how we support our students; there is no one I would rather have succeed me. We are here to serve you, never hesitate to reach out to us with any issues, ideas or questions you may have. Thank you for the extraordinary opportunity to serve you.

Stay rad,
Jared Reyes



Photo courtesy of Jared Reyes.

President's Letter

To the Class of 2019:

Congratulations on your upcoming commencement!

Commencement is a great day in the life of our graduates and in the life of our university. It is a day where the entire community celebrates you for your accomplishments and celebrates you as ambassadors of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

As students, you have faced many challenges and you have persevered. Now, you will have the diploma to prove it. Remember those who have helped you along the way. Your family members, friends, faculty and staff all share in this accomplishment. Thank them and remember how they've helped you achieve your dreams. Cherish this important life lesson; great things happen when we all pull together.

You have seized your extraordinary opportunity here at CSUMB. Carry our mantra of "extraordinary opportunity" with you into the future. You've proven your ability to see an opportunity and to take advantage of it. Never stop looking for your next opportunity.

Lastly, I challenge you all to never stop learning. Learning is a lifelong process. It does not stop here. You now have the tools to learn; I encourage you to apply them every day in your pursuit of knowledge.

I trust that your experiences here have prepared you well for the next steps in your life. You represent the hopes of countless generations that have come before you, of your family, of your community and of the world.

I wish you success and fulfillment as you strive to reach your professional and personal

goals. I trust that you will look back and appreciate the foundation of learning that you have acquired here at CSUMB, and will support your alma mater as we prepare succeeding generations of graduates to lead our state and nation.

Congratulations and best wishes, members of the Class of 2019!

Eduardo M. Ochoa
President



Photo courtesy of the president's office.

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Spring 2019

Capstone Festival Schedule

5.16.2019 | thelutrinae.com



Thursday 5.16

Business

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 2 - 5:30 p.m.

Joel and Dena Gambord Business and Information Technology Building, Room 104

Cinematic Arts & Technology

6 - 9 p.m.

World Theater

Collaborative Health & Human Services

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ocean Hall, Rooms B120, C120 & D120

Education and Leadership

5 - 7 p.m.

University Center - Ballroom, Living Room, 114, 115 & 116

Hospitality

1 - 2 p.m.

Joel and Dena Gambord Business and Information Technology Building, Room 104

Human Development & Family Studies

8 a.m. - noon

Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Rooms 1128, 1167, 1170, 1173, 1176 & 1180

Liberal Studies

Noon - 5 p.m.

Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Rooms 1128, 1167, 1170, 1173, 1176 & 1180

5.16

Mathematics & Statistics

Noon — 2:30 p.m.

Chapman Science Academic Center, Rooms S219
& S222**Music and Performing Arts**

11 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Music Hall, Room 100

School of Natural Sciences

9 a.m. — 3 p.m.

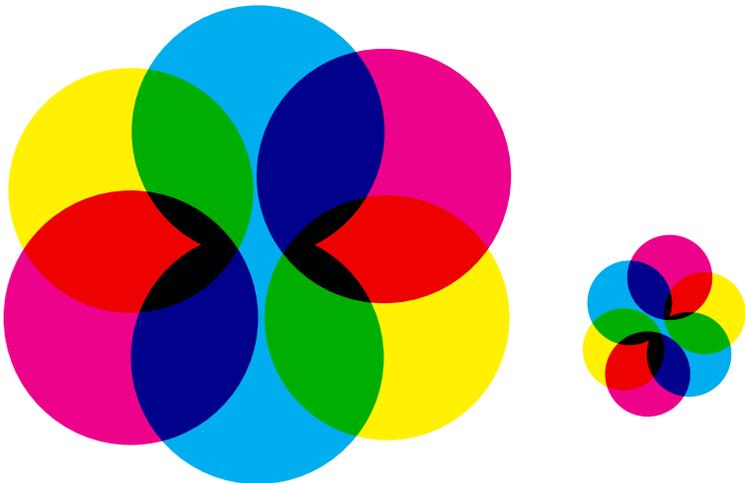
Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Room
1188**Social, Behavioral & Global
Studies**

8 a.m. — 1 p.m.

University Center, Ballroom

**World Languages
& Cultures**

8:15 a.m. — 4 p.m.

World Languages & Cultures Building — North,
Room 118

Friday 5.17

**Humanities &
Communication**

10 a.m. — noon

University Center, Ballroom

Marine Science

8:30 a.m. — noon

Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Room
1180**Psychology**

10 a.m. — noon

Heron Hall, Room 118

School of Computing & Design

8 a.m. — noon

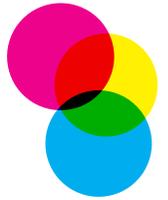
Joel and Dena Gambord Business and
Information Technology Building, Rooms 104, 105,
107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 117, 118 & 119Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Room
1188**Visual & Public Art**

10 a.m. — noon

VPA Buildings — West, Center & East

**World Languages
& Cultures**

8:15 a.m. — 4 p.m.

World Languages & Cultures Building — North,
Room 118

Beth Johnson President's Award

Story and photo by Kristen Finley

Beth Johnson was nominated to take home the President's Award by Jeffrey Froshman, a distinguished lecturer at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)'s College of Business, and Gary Schneider, the lead CSUMB accounting professor. Recognizing Johnson's natural talent for leadership and accounting, Froshman held high regard for the time and effort she gave to help other accounting students realize their potential.

Schneider admired how Johnson was an empathetic leader and seemed to always put the needs of others in front of her own. Both nominators made sure to mention the amount of time and effort Johnson put into helping other accounting students land internships and establish professional connections, while maintaining high academic standards.

Johnson transferred to CSUMB after earning her associate's degree from College of Sequoias in Visalia. When she wasn't crunching numbers and mentoring, she was serving as an outdoor leader for the school's outdoor recreation department. Coming from a town at the foot of Sequoia National Park called Three Rivers, Johnson grew with a deep-rooted sense of nature. As an outdoor leader, she was eager to teach what she knew to those who were curious and likeminded, but to also gain new skills.

Keeping true to her roots, she also has experience working for both the National Park Service (NPS) as a recreation technician for the Inyo National Forest and the United States National Forest



Service (USNFS) as a fee collector. With the NPS, she had tasks ranging from maintaining natural areas by picking up trash to informing the public about trail conditions and creating signs. For the USNFS she also was able to dabble in the financial end of things by preparing deposits, verifying accuracy and reconciling funds.

This is where Johnson became aware of her natural, sharp sense of leadership. Not too long after settling in, Johnson also served as co-president of CSUMB's accounting society, as well as the treasurer for the Board of Directors for the Otter Student Union for the 2018-2019 academic year.

With her many leadership hats, she served as an advocate, as well as wrote procedures and policies for the OSU. Additionally, she was also providing financial assistance to the Board of Directors. Being a transfer student, Johnson was aware of the little time she had at CSUMB compared to other students and was determined to be as involved as much as she possibly could before moving on. As the co-president of the accounting society, she was single-handedly responsible for choosing local guest speakers to lend insight and advice on how to best pursue their desired career. It also presents the opportunity for accounting students to make professional connections at nearby firms.

Hungry to serve her community, Johnson took the time to plan the school's accounting networking event, which both allowed accounting students to network with local certified public accountant (CPA) firms, as well as providing information on the firms' full-time employment and internship opportunities.

Johnson wasted no time telling local firms about the event and the presence of accounting students eager for a chance to land a job setting up event budgets.

In her spare time, she also served as a financial and accounting tutor at CSUMB's Cooperative Learning Center. Johnson was also an accounting tutor for CSUMB's School of Business. In both areas, she helped guide and teach students about popular accounting concepts and methods, as well as assist instructors in two-day boot camps. Schneider made it a

This past summer, Johnson interned at Ryan and McDonald CPA in Salinas, and has also interned as a tax preparer for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. After receiving her bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration of accounting, Johnson will be an assurance intern at Ernst and Young in the Roseville office, in addition to earning her CPA license.

When fall arrives, she will be attending University of California, Davis to pursue a masters in professional accounting. Her

Being a transfer student, Johnson was aware of the little time she had at CSUMB compared to other students and was determined to be as involved as she possibly could before moving on.

point to acknowledge the regular positive feedback he'd receive from both places Johnson tutored at gave back to him. Consistently, he would have students have nothing but nice things to say about her as a tutor.

As a result of her commitment to accounting and the community surrounding it, Johnson received a \$1,000 CSUMB scholarship from the California CPA Society, and was the co-winner of the outstanding accounting scholar.

ultimate career goal is to be a lecturer at a local community college or university, only to further emphasize her natural affinity for leadership and mentorship.

Johnson has served the CSUMB community both loyally and effectively, showing all accounting students that careers in accounting don't have to be international - they can be domestic, as well. Johnson will fearlessly take the accounting and business world by storm, building up those around her as she goes.

Rosa Garza

Provost's Award

Story and photo by Kristen Finley

Rosa Garza, a mathematics major from Bakersfield was nominated for the Provost's Award, 2019 by the Department of Mathematics & Statistics chair, Dr. Lipika Deka. Serving as Garza's instructor, supervisor and Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) mentor, Deka spoke highly of Garza's remarkable skills as both a mathematician and a model for California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students. From reviving the women's math and stats club to mentoring high school students on what they could do as math majors in college, Garza's social and academic achievements continue to blossom.

After getting acquainted, Garza immersed herself in data science and became a familiar face at our university's UROC department. Not soon after getting involved, she came across a research opportunity at University of Southern California. Under supervision, Garza was part of a research program developing and implementing multiple neural networks to analyze ultrasound images and discover nerve cells, and the relationship (or lack thereof) between genetic mutations.

Shortly afterward, she was accepted into research program at Louisiana State University. This program involved research on machine learning and the effects various control signals had on audio. Additionally, she conducted research at University of California, Berkeley where Garza applied spectral analysis to a genomics dataset.

Another of Garza's passions in her community. In the beginning of her career at CSUMB, she took on both the secretary and the vice president of the math club on campus. Once she caught wind of the women's in mathematics club being shut down due to inactivity, she began to show an interest in getting women more involved and passionate about mathematics. She started by reviving the group and advocating heavily for

it on campus through speeches, announcements and posters.

With a team of female mathematics and statistics professors, she successfully brought it back. Soon after, she assumed the role as president up until her graduation. She's confident even without her, the club will continue to thrive.

Garza was regularly making appearances at high schools and serving on panels for freshmen detailing the endless possibilities math major have at their fingertips. Garza is also passionate about inspiring minorities to explore the world of STEM - especially after witnessing first hand how little representation minorities (and women) had in these career areas.

Some examples of her activism are as such: Garza gave an oral group presentation at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, provided poster presentations at CSUMB's Mathematic Department Colloquium Fall 2018, Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science 2018, and at the 2019 Joint Mathematics Meeting. Through these presentations, her passion about seeing minorities and women succeed as STEM majors and professionals grew. To this day, she's very vocal about seeing more women doing data research and advanced mathematics like her.

In an effort to expand her research experience, Garza will be spending 10 to 12 weeks in Seattle, Washington interning for Amazon this summer where she'll be leading more research and data analysis revolving around



sports health. Garza came across this internship through what's called a GEM fellowship, which focuses on finding internships and employment opportunities for minorities that are STEM majors.

In September of this year, she'll be soaking in the Los Angeles sun executing yet another research program as well as participating in a PhD program for computer science with University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). From there, she's hopeful to do data science for sports (specifically football), as that's her second most profound passion next to mathematics. Garza said during the PhD program at UCLA, she can and will petition for her master's degree as well.

Daisy Leon Melendrez

Alumni Vision Award

Story and photo by Yollette Merritt

The 2019 California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Alumni Vision awardee is Daisy Melendrez - collaborative health and human services (CHHS) major and minor in service learning, and graduating with a GPA of 3.94. The Alumni Vision Award is given to the graduating undergraduate or graduate student who best exemplifies the vision of CSUMB of preparing leaders for a collaborative, multicultural society.

The award is given to a student who manifests the beliefs and tenets of the vision statement through personal example, voice and initiative. It is awarded to a powerful spokesperson whose words touch and move others in promoting the vision statement. This person provides leadership in a project or activity that extended the vision into the lives of others, especially in the areas of bridging social/economic divides, empowering education, celebrating diversity, and promoting understanding and respect for other cultures and global awareness.

Although humble in regards to her accomplishments Melendrez was chosen as she fulfills these requirements and even more. "At first, I was in total shock when I learned I was chosen for the award. I couldn't believe it," said Melendrez. "I'm grateful to all my mentors at CSUMB and for the encouragement given to me to apply for the award."

As a first-generation college student whose parents are immigrants, Melendrez is familiar with the challenges and hurdles of navigating the educational roadmap of higher education and becoming a successful student. "Coming

from an immigrant family, I have seen the obstacles and challenges that my own parents face for not having a higher education," said Melendrez.

As a student in younger years, Melendrez at first did not consider continuing onto college. Once that option became feasible, as an only child, Melendrez wanted to stay local realizing how important it was to receive support from her parents. "The main reason I picked CSUMB is because of the focus on serving diverse groups of individuals. What I find most unique about the education and the vision statement of CSUMB is the university's commitment toward teaching students about their surrounding communities through service learning courses," said Melendrez.

"The CSUMB vision statement describes exactly the skill sets and knowledge I have obtained by attending this university. As the CSUMB vision statement declares that 'the university will invest in preparation for the future through integrated and experimental use of technologies as resources to people, catalysts for learning, and providers of increased access and enriched quality learning,' I truly believe that through the years at CSUMB, I have had the preparation I need to succeed in the future."

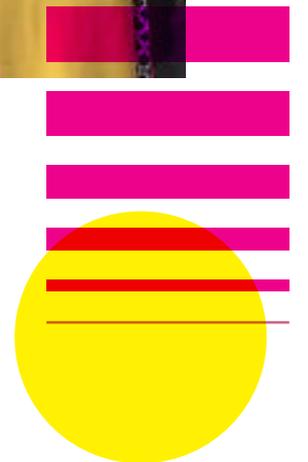
Melendrez has had opportunities to put the CSUMB vision into practice. With the valued support of mentors throughout her college career including Pamela Motoike, Deborah Burke, Jim Raines, Seth Pollack and Kim Judson, and others, coupled with her work in the Service Learning Institute as a student leader, Melendrez has developed into not only a successful CSUMB student, but also a leader in the

community.

"For the past three years, I have had the opportunity to grow more in my leadership and social justice skills sets," said Melendrez. "This all started when I was offered by the CSUMB Service Learning Institute to be a service learning student leader for the Central Coast Citizenship Project.

Through this leadership job, not only do I train and mentor CSUMB students that wish to complete their service hours at this agency, but I have also had the opportunity to serve the Salinas community," continued Melendrez.

Her success has made her an inspiration not only to her parents and other family members who are older, but also to pre-college age nieces and nephews still in school. She has not forgotten her roots, family and community, but has become a proactive champion of their rights and works to address their needs. Her recommendation to current and future CSUMB students is "to come with an open mind and don't be afraid to ask for help. It is really important, don't give up. Family and friends, as well as mentors, are the main support, continue on the path even though it's difficult."



Jessie Doyle

President's Graduate Award



By Samuel Tanner
Photo courtesy of Jessie Doyle

As graduation approaches for the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Class of 2019, several key students have been nominated for official graduate awards. Jessie Doyle is one such student, receiving the President's Graduate Award for Exemplary Regional Stewardship.

Doyle began her graduate program in the Fall of 2017 and is excited to finish on time this spring. Her major is applied marine and & watershed science and with her graduation on its way, Doyle's plan to earn a master's degree in this field is about to be realized. After graduation, she is ready to pursue a career as an environmental scientist.

Doyle wanted to apply her skills towards working on a real-life problem as far back as her arrival at CSUMB. Some of the environmental issues Doyle is focused on are wildfires on watersheds and how they affect the ocean, or freshwater ecology and stream wildlife. Another project Doyle mentioned is large-scale distribution modeling. She said

she prefers lab work, though she wants to make it clear fieldwork is always an amazing opportunity.

Based on her work at this school, Doyle is more than prepared. In her first semester, Doyle served as a teaching assistant for a geographic information systems class, taking it on herself to make sure her class did well. According to her nomination, Doyle has taught 80 students in this subject during her time at CSUMB. Another example of her commitment is her hands-on training of four undergraduate

students. Doyle even went so far as to lead a research project that looked at the 2016 Soberanes Wildfire and its environmental impact.

The letter nominating Doyle for her award this year made mention of her additional activities outside of research. She is a regular volunteer locally, taking part in campus activities and larger community work. One example is her work for LandWatch, a group that promotes the responsible use of land in Monterey. Another is the California Wildlife Day event called "Bug Fun," enjoyed by countless local children.

Doyle's most impressive accomplishment may be something she did in her first semester as a graduate student alongside Dr. Dan Fernandez and the Sustainable Cities Program. Together, Doyle and Fernandez designed a Geographic Information System for use in Seaside. The project was so successful CalFire followed suit in using the program, and Doyle has since established a working relationship with them.

With all this hard work considered it's clear Doyle is out not just to further her own education, but to help others navigate through theirs.

Doyle herself attests, accomplishing all of this wasn't easy. In her first year she had to face the challenge of finding a balance between her school time and various jobs, something many students at CSUMB can relate to. Things were difficult for her as she tried to find the right advisor to help her achieve her dream of becoming a graduate student, until she met Dr. John Olson.

Doyle recognizes Olson as a great advisor and a key figure in her time at CSUMB. She is extremely grateful for their time spent together and his help in arranging some of the activities in which Doyle has been involved.

With her advisor having helped her get this far and a good resume of work already under her belt, Doyle is confident about her life after graduation. Whether it's volunteer work, involvement in environmental programs or helping other students, Jessie Doyle has more than earned her reward for Exemplary Regional Stewardship.

As she graduates with the Class of 2019, CSUMB looks forward to where her path takes her next.

Kelly Medina-Lopez

Mentor of the Year Award

By Jenna Ethridge
Photo by Raymon Lopez



Despite finishing only her second year as an assistant professor of composition studies at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Kelly Medina-Lopez was awarded with the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center's (UROC) Mentor of the Year Award.

After receiving both of her bachelor's degrees from New Mexico State University, Lopez left her birthplace of New Mexico to teach at CSUMB. Lopez double majored in English and Spanish, and has a master's degree in Spanish language and linguistics, as well as a doctorate in rhetoric and professional communication - which she currently teaches at CSUMB.

UROC Director Dr. John Banks said, "We had an amazing pool of nominees this year, making the selection process for the committee very difficult, but we're delighted that they chose to honor Dr. Kelly Medina-Lopez for her extraordinary work with students."

"Faculty mentoring is critical to the success of all of our students at CSUMB and the UROC Mentor Award is our way of highlighting the amazing efforts put forth by faculty mentoring students engaged in undergraduate research," continued Banks.

As a first-generation Chicana college student, Lopez understood firsthand the necessity of mentorships. "The only thing that kept me in school - I wouldn't have done a master's, I wouldn't have done a doctorate, I wouldn't be here at all - was mentoring. At home, I didn't have people or family I could rely on who knew how to navigate academia or going to school. The mentoring I received was really important to me. I wanted to give back and be apart of that," said Lopez.

For Lopez, methods of mentoring depend on the student and their unique goals. While Lopez sought out students to mentor through UROC and her GVAR classes, her first mentee reached out to her during her first semester teaching at CSUMB by recommendation from another professor. Through UROC, Lopez and her mentees have been granted various opportunities to travel to places including New Mexico, Michigan and Hawaii.

One of Lopez's larger-scale mentoring projects involved making a quilt as a method to understand the writing process, originating from her cooperative argumentation class last spring which Lopez instead taught as "cooperative quilting." Some of her students and mentees involved with the project include Leslie Maldonado, Giana Hamilton and Alyssa Riley.

Riley is a third-year HCOM major whom has been mentored by Lopez since the summer of 2018 and plans to continue their mentorship throughout her graduation from CSUMB in Spring 2020. In terms of graduation, Riley explained, "Honestly, the only reason I plan on going to grad school after I graduate from CSUMB is because of Kelly. She is really helping me develop my future."

"Kelly is the best kind of mentor. She isn't mean or intimidating, so you're able to freely talk to her about anything. Not only has she helped with my research, but she has become a friend and colleague that I will continue to talk with once I leave CSUMB. She has done so much for HCOM and CSUMB as a whole; no one else deserves it more than her," said Riley.

Though humbled, Lopez accepted the award on behalf of the many people that helped her reach this point in her career, as well as those who have taken on her role as a mentee, "[Being awarded Mentor of the Year] is a recognition for all of the mentors that got me here ... and a tribute to the students that I mentor and the amazing work that they're doing. It's not me doing the work, it's them. [The award] is not something for me, it's something for them."

Clubs of the Year

The year of firsts

NAACP Advocacy Organization of the Year

Story and photo by Jessenya Guerra

Previously, there was an award for the Best Inter Club Council (ICC) organization of the year. Due to the wide range of organizations within ICC with different goals, the award has been split into three new awards - one of them being Advocacy Organization of the Year, which was awarded for the first time to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for the 2018-2019 academic year.

When introducing this award Coordinator of Student Organizations, Leadership Development, and Assessment, Dan Burfeind said, "Empowerment is key for organization under this category. This award is given to an organization that has made great strides in advocacy for the betterment of the campus and the surrounding area, not only with action, but with education."

The NAACP's mission is "to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons." However, the



CSUMB campus chapter has been focused more recently on opening conversations and starting dialogues between all people to get a better understanding of what is needed on campus.

One of the main goals of CSUMB's NAACP is to acquire more tenured faculty of color as there is only one current African American or Black tenured professor on campus. The NAACP hopes to continue bettering the CSUMB campus with open minded discussions and by protesting when necessary.

CSUMB's chapter of the NAACP encourages people of all colors and ethnicities to join, students are not required to be a minority to join the group as some may believe.

Asian Pacific Islander Association Affinity Organization of the Year



By Jessenya Guerra
Photo courtesy of Aileen San

The Asian Pacific Islander Association is being recognized for the 2018-2019 as California State University, Monterey Bay's first ever Affinity Organization of the Year. This award was created when the Best Inter Club Council (ICC) of the Year Award became too vague to highlight all of accomplishments of the ICC clubs.

The coordinator of student organizations, leadership development and assessment, Dan Burfeind,

presented the award by saying, "Organizations in this category focus on the cultural richness of their community. This award is given to the ICC organization that has gone above and beyond to create a community on campus for individuals to find their home away from home."

Asian Pacific Islander Association President Aileen San said the mission of their organization is "to essentially create a space for students who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander, mostly because our population on this campus is very small. We want to provide a sense of home for students, so they can find people with similar backgrounds."

San says the club welcomes students to join their organization no matter their race or ethnicity, "In the past, we've had general members and board members who aren't Asian or Pacific Islander." The club embraces all students from all backgrounds.

AMSA Special Interest Organization of the Year

By Jessenya Guerra
Photo by Miranda Mora

Inter Club Council (ICC) is recognizing the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) for the 2018-2019 academic year as the Special Interest Organization of the Year. AMSA has the honor of being the first ever California State University, Monterey Bay club to earn this award as the award was created earlier this year. The Best Inter Club Council (ICC) Organization of the Year was divided into three separate awards to highlight the individual talents of more ICC organizations.

When introducing this award Coordinator of Student Organizations, Leadership Development, and Assessment, Dan Burfeind said, "Organizations within this category focus on an area of interest with the intent of meeting, communicating, and organizing individuals around the interest. This award goes to the ICC Organization that has bettered the

community and enriched the education of their members."

Miranda Mora, the president of AMSA says their mission is, "to provide a networking organization for student who are premed on campus so they can meet and interact with doctors as well as get involved in the community." Mora explained how AMSA has been very involved in the community with programs such as OtterSpa and OtterSuitcase. Both programs primarily focus on catering to the medical and hygienic needs of the local homeless population.

AMSA encourages all students with an interest in the medical world to give AMSA a try saying it's not just for students who wish to be doctors.

The American Medical Student Association would like to give a special congratulations to their graduating seniors: Miranda Mora, Cherina Billington, Shane Brennan, Vivian



Nguyen, Cheyenne Rees, Melissa Fidler, Zarian Williamson, Kenneth Urbanski, Peter Cavallaro, Dakota Jackson, Dominic DiSilva, Gwyneth Harris, Kiara Medina, Monica Esquivel-Zarate, Stephanie Gutierrez, Kaitlin Vallin, Kelsey Asuncion and Christen Grima.

Volleyball club Most Competitive Club of the Year



Story and photo by Jessenya Guerra

This year's winner of the Sports Club Council's Most Competitive Club of the Year is the volleyball club. The volleyball club was reactivated in Spring of 2017 and has come back strong in this last year.

Senior Coordinator of Recreation Timothy Collins who presented this award to the volleyball club said, "Since then, they've represented all Sports Club Council at University of Pacific, SF State, San Jose State, Holy Names, Saint Mary's, Stanford, Las Vegas and just getting off tarmac from Nationals in Denver, Colorado."

President of the volleyball club, Raegan Avrit, says their main goal is "to play at a competitive level. That's why we started the group." Vice President Gwyneth Harris said, "We all wanted a place to play at a higher level, but to maintain a somewhat normal college life."

When asked why the team believed they won most competitive Harris said, "I think we not only had a very competitive edge, but we were also offered the resources to be able to compete." Avrit mentioned the Northern California Collegiate Volleyball League has been a big support to give the team resources to compete.

This year, the volleyball club won the individual and the team women's Pilot Beach Volleyball League, beating out many top universities in California. The California State University, Monterey Bay's volleyball club was the only CSU present.

The volleyball club would like to give a special congratulations to their graduating seniors. From the women's team: Raegan Avrit, Gwyneth Harris, Savannah Johnson, Zoe Thornton and Saveena Smith. From the men's team: Justin Rocha and Michael Vicent.

Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc. wins Fraternity of the Year

By Jessenya Guerra
Photo courtesy of Rickie Wattanakasaem

This year's Multicultural Greek Council's Fraternity of the year was awarded to Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc. The Multicultural Greek Council strives to live out five core pillars: Academics, Leadership, Service, Social Justice, Support. Omega Delta Phi was selected for fulfilling all these pillars and going above and beyond.

Kristen Vega, the Greek life and community engagement coordinator who presented the award to the fraternity, said, "This year, I saw an increase in involvement with the campus and local communities. I saw incredible creativity and extraordinary commitment to the betterment of self and society." She credited Omega Delta Phi for having this impact with Greek life on campus.

Omega Delta Phi's President Rickie Wattanakasaem says their mission is, "Based off of trying to reach the needs of the community, but our base pillars are unity, honesty, integrity, and leadership- through our service we try to embody those sacraments." Wattanakasaem also mentioned the group's recent focus on spreading awareness of Lupus after the recent passing of a fraternity brother from the disease.

When awarded Fraternity of the Year Vega said, "The 2018-2019 Fraternity of the Year's winner has worked hard to increase awareness for causes dear to their hearts and insure each member is academically successful." Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc. is the best example of this at California State University, Monterey Bay.

Omega Delta Phi would like to wish a special congratulations to their graduating seniors: AJ Diaz, Alex Rodriguez, Dallas Dituri, Hector Guzman, Hunter Pietrzak, Isaac Martinez, Jared Reyes, and Jose Garcia.



Theta Alpha Sigma wins Sorority of the Year

By Jessenya Guerra
Photo courtesy of Alyssia Goodwin

This year's Multicultural Greek Council winner for Sorority of the year was awarded to Theta Alpha Sigma. The Multicultural Greek Council strives to live out five core pillars: academics, leadership, service, social justice and support. Omega Delta Phi was selected for fulfilling all these pillars and going above and beyond.

Kristen Vega, the Greek life and community engagement coordinator who presented the award to the sorority said, "The 2018-2019 Sorority of the Year demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to educating the California State University, Monterey Bay community on issues related domestic violence and sexual assault."



Alyssia Goodwin President of Theta Alpha Sigma says their main focus is on women's issues, "That's mainly what we focus on. We have domestic violence awareness events in October and sexual assault awareness events in April."

Goodwin says Theta Alpha Sigma has grown a lot in the past few years which has led to the sorority's amounting success this year. She

also says the outreach they have done in the 2018-2019 has been different the previous years which has been better received by the campus.

Goodwin and the Sorority of Theta Alpha Sigma have recently been bringing awareness to an overturned rape case in Italy with their Denim Day event. The sorority dawn denim clothing in support of a rape victim who was disregarded by the court saying her jeans were too tight to be taken off and she would have had to help her assailant remove them.

Theta Alpha Sigma would like to give a special congratulations to their graduating seniors: Alyssia Goodwin, Jennifer Nguyen, Desiraye Kesterson, Jessica Alamo, Madeleine Reede, Bethany Hall, Bianca Salinas and Ariel Amezcua.

Bruce Taylor

Friday

By Yollette Merritt

Bruce Taylor is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Taylor Farms California, Inc. and Taylor Fresh Foods. With over 2,000 local employees and worldwide operations including 14 facilities in North America and operations in Australia and New Zealand, Taylor Farms is the largest supplier of fresh-cut salad products in the United States. Under Taylor's leadership, Taylor Farms has become a billion-dollar success story by selling organic kale, lettuce, tomatoes and other "healthy, wholesome" choices: packaged produce which ends up at Safeway, Walmart, Costco, McDonald's, Chipotle, Subway and Starbucks.



Photo courtesy of the provost's office.

Taylor is a University of California, Berkeley graduate with a MBA from Harvard University, a recognized leader and innovator in the commercial agricultural sector, and has 20 years of experience in the industry. He followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather as a third-generation produce grower-marketer in the Salinas Valley or "salad bowl of America" to work in the fresh produce business.

As a strong supporter of Monterey County and the city of Salinas where Taylor was born and raised, Taylor and his company have donated time and resources over the years to the well-being of the region and to CSUMB - including numerous contributions directly to the success of its students including educational scholarships.

Taylor Farms' headquarters was opened in Salinas in 2015 and designed to be a catalyst center for innovation, as well as for the socio-economic development of the area. With his personal connection to the Salinas Valley - the core area of its agricultural growth, as well as its innovation - Taylor wanted the new headquarters to be more than just a building and create a space where community can gather. "We hope to create the living room of Salinas. We want to drive progress, as this city becomes an even more special place to live," said Taylor.

Bonnie Irwin

Saturday

By Yollette Merritt

Bonnie D. Irwin has served for five years as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Irwin came to CSUMB from Eastern Illinois University where she was a professor of English and served as dean of the honors college and dean of arts and humanities.

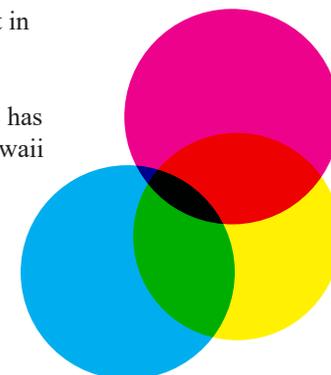
Both her undergraduate and graduate studies in comparative literature were completed at the University of California at Berkeley where she also started her teaching career as a graduate assistant. Irwin then worked as an adjunct at Iowa State University before accepting a tenure-track faculty position at Eastern Illinois University where she also created faculty and administrative mentoring programs.

Under her leadership at CSUMB, the campus has added to its faculty and increased its student graduation rates. She is a former president of the National Collegiate Honors Council and currently serves on the board of the Carmel Public Library Foundation. Irwin is also a steering partner of the Bright Futures partnership, the cradle-to-career initiative for educational attainment in Monterey County.

Irwin's tenure at CSUMB has been shortened as she has accepted a job as chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo and will start that position on July 1.



Photo courtesy of the provost's office.



Graduating Senior Stories

Profiles by Kristen Finley

Ilene Gomez



Photo by Kristen Finley

Ilene Gomez came to California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) from Rampart Village in downtown Los Angeles. Gomez was drawn to the campus due to its proximity to the ocean, as well as the university's emphasis on innovation, diversity and smaller class sizes. Here, she felt she could grow to not only be a better student, but a person.

She wasn't wrong. Here, she met associate professor of composition studies Kelly Medina-López, PhD, who would serve as her Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) and life mentor. Kelly encouraged Gomez to present at the Cultural Rhetorics Conference of 2018 in Michigan, where the two led a presentation about mentorship and filling gaps in programmatic and institutional offerings in Central American studies by researching indigenous textiles as social and cultural action, indigenous myth, and rhetorics of embodiment.

Besides bringing important cultural issues to light, she is a peer mentor for a college student support program called Trio Student Support Services where she mentors first generation, low income or students with disabilities. When she's not lending her time and effort to help others, she's doing research for UROC to develop her own project focusing on indigenous Maya Guatemalan weavings called "Huipiles" as testimonio, free speech and social justice.

After walking off the stage with her bachelor's degree in humanities and communications with a concentration of journalism and media studies, she'll be pursuing her masters degree at Penn State in the fall of this year.

Kendra Garrison



Photo by Kristen Finley

Kendra Garrison commutes to California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) from her hometown of Santa Cruz, CA. Garrison transferred to CSUMB after earning her associates of arts degree in English from San Diego Mesa College. Prior to that, she was a journalism student at the University of Nevada, Reno. After a few years of going from one campus to the next, Garrison chose to complete her educational journey as a humanities and communications major emphasizing in journalism and media studies.

Garrison always knew she had a knack for communication, but wasn't sure whether or not she wanted to focus on the English literature or journalism aspect of it. After switching between these two majors at her previous colleges, she decided on journalism after her first semester at CSUMB.

Her long-term career goal is to become a public relations specialist, as she's confident in her skills with both written and oral communication, as well as getting to know her audiences. After receiving her degree, she plans to take a gap year from school before earning her masters in either mass communication, public relations, or strategic communications. During the summer after graduation, however, Kendra has plans to take on some internships to emphasize her education and professional skill set.

Francis Everwoods



Photo by Rachel Fawn

Francis Everwoods came to California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) from Sacramento after transferring from American River Community College. There, she earned not one, but two associates degrees: one in general science and the other in social sciences. Before she'd even stepped foot into her first CSUMB classroom, she changed her major from humanities and communications with a concentration of creative writing and social action to collaborative health and human services, concentrating in public health. She was confident this major would get her closer to her goal of working with and educating children.

Since moving to Monterey County to attend CSUMB three years ago, she's been volunteering with the Monterey County Rape Crisis Center (MCRCC). Not soon after, she became a Child Abuse Prevention intern, where she learned how to teach elementary school children about personal safety. Additionally, she volunteered a lot of her time to the Reading Center on campus, where she worked one-on-one with children from across the works tutoring them with reading and literacy skills.

Ever the ambitious one, she published a book titled "Hear Me Roar" with the MCRCC to serve as her capstone this year in effort to reach students in classrooms she's not able to present in. Everwoods' book teaches young bodies how to recognize unsafe behavior in adults and how to tell a trusted adult when or if they feel unsafe. It also includes a coloring book with activities and discussion questions for both the child and their family to work through together. After a few years of working in her line of work, she has plans to pursue a master's degree.

For a free downloadable copy, visit www.mtryrapecrisis.org/roar.

Anna Mendoza



Photo by Kristen Finley

Anna Mendoza began her life and still resides in Salinas today. Growing up, Mendoza loved teaching. When the opportunity presented itself, Mendoza was always happy to be in a classroom helping younger students heighten their skills in reading and writing. Excited to further her ability to teach as an adult, she began attending classes at both Hartnell College in Salinas and Seaside's Monterey Peninsula College to study psychology before transferring to California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

During her time at CSUMB, Mendoza stayed close to local classrooms. In her hometown of Salinas, Mendoza participated in a research program called Read to Me where she aided other CSUMB students and researchers to observe, record and analyze the reading level of Monterey County students.

This program came to fruition after learning only around 20 percent of Monterey's kindergarten students are actually ready to be in kindergarten. Additionally, she worked at a teacher's assistant for a preschool class in Greenfield. This, Mendoza says, is what really solidified her decision to work with children.

Eager to get started, Mendoza started making professional connections through her work as a barista. After she walks from the stage with her bachelor's in psychology, she's all set to work in Greenfield as a second grade teacher. This summer, she'll be busy studying for her California Basic Educational Skills Test and California Subject Examinations for Teachers.

Though, Mendoza doesn't plan on slowing down her education despite landing her dream job before graduation. While she's actively teaching, she plans on returning to either CSUMB or attending University of California, Santa Cruz to earn her master's for education.

Tracey Ramirez



Photo by Tracey Ramirez

From the neighboring town of Salinas, Tracey Ramirez transferred here from Hartnell College a few years back. Originally, her goals were set on global studies, as the major aligned heavily with her interests in high school. However, it was suggested by a friend of hers at Alisal High School in her hometown to be a substitute math tutor for their afterschool program.

There, Ramirez said, she found her calling through the connection she felt with the students as she tutored them. What started out as something to do to pass excess time became a serious passion for Ramirez and after awhile of studying global studies, decided to switch to mathematics so she could teach math.

During her mathematical journey, Ramirez found that she had a natural knack for statistics. Inspired, she took advantage of the NIH BD2K research program our campus offers through University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) last summer, where she worked alongside other data specialists to interpret and manage data.

This May, she'll be walking away from California State University, Monterey Bay with a bachelor's of science in mathematics with a concentration in statistics. After the summer, she'll be returning to UCSC to earn her masters in statistics. Ramirez's ultimate goal is to be a statistics professor at an institution that will also allow her to do research, as that's another passion of hers.

Trevor Dieterle



Photo by Kristen Finley

Trevor Dieterle started his academic journey in San Luis Obispo at California Polytechnic State University, where he was set to study aerospace engineering, though in the final stretches of his education, he left to teach yoga. Dieterle said, "I stopped studying outer space so I could explore inner space."

After teaching yoga for some time, he found himself hungry for more, so he enrolled in his local community college, Cuesta College, where he earned an associates in science for nutrition. Shortly after, he found himself at California State University, Monterey Bay, where he's set to walk among other Spring 2019 graduates with a bachelor's of science in kinesiology with an emphasis in exercise science. Next year, he'll be in North Carolina participating in a masters program focusing on sports psychology. The ultimate educational goal, Dieterle said, is getting a doctorate relating to his passion.

All the while, Dieterle stayed true to yoga and has been instructing classes at a recovery center for patients suffering from eating disorders for the past nine years, in hopes to change the perspective that patients have over their bodies. In teaching yoga for so long, Dieterle is positive he wants to continue working those who are struggling with eating disorder, though now he's wanting to lend his skills and experience to help athletes that are struggling.

Graduating Senior Stories

Commencement information

By Hailey Hill

Commencement ceremonies will take place over May 17 and 18. There will be three separate ceremonies, depending on the graduate's college. All ceremonies will be held at Freeman stadium. Both graduate and undergraduate students will participate in their college's ceremonies.

Friday, May 17 - 3 p.m.

College of Education and College of Science

Saturday, May 18 - 9:30 a.m.

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Saturday, May 18 - 3:30 p.m.

College of Business and College of Health Services and Human Services

Tickets

Graduating students may request up to six complimentary tickets for their friends and family to attend their graduation ceremony; information on how to do so will be sent via email to students who applied for graduation. Students also have the ability to share tickets they do not need with other students who may need them using the Commencement Facebook page. If you receive tickets from another student, be sure they are for your specific graduation ceremony, as tickets are not transferable between the specific graduation ceremonies.

Alternative viewing

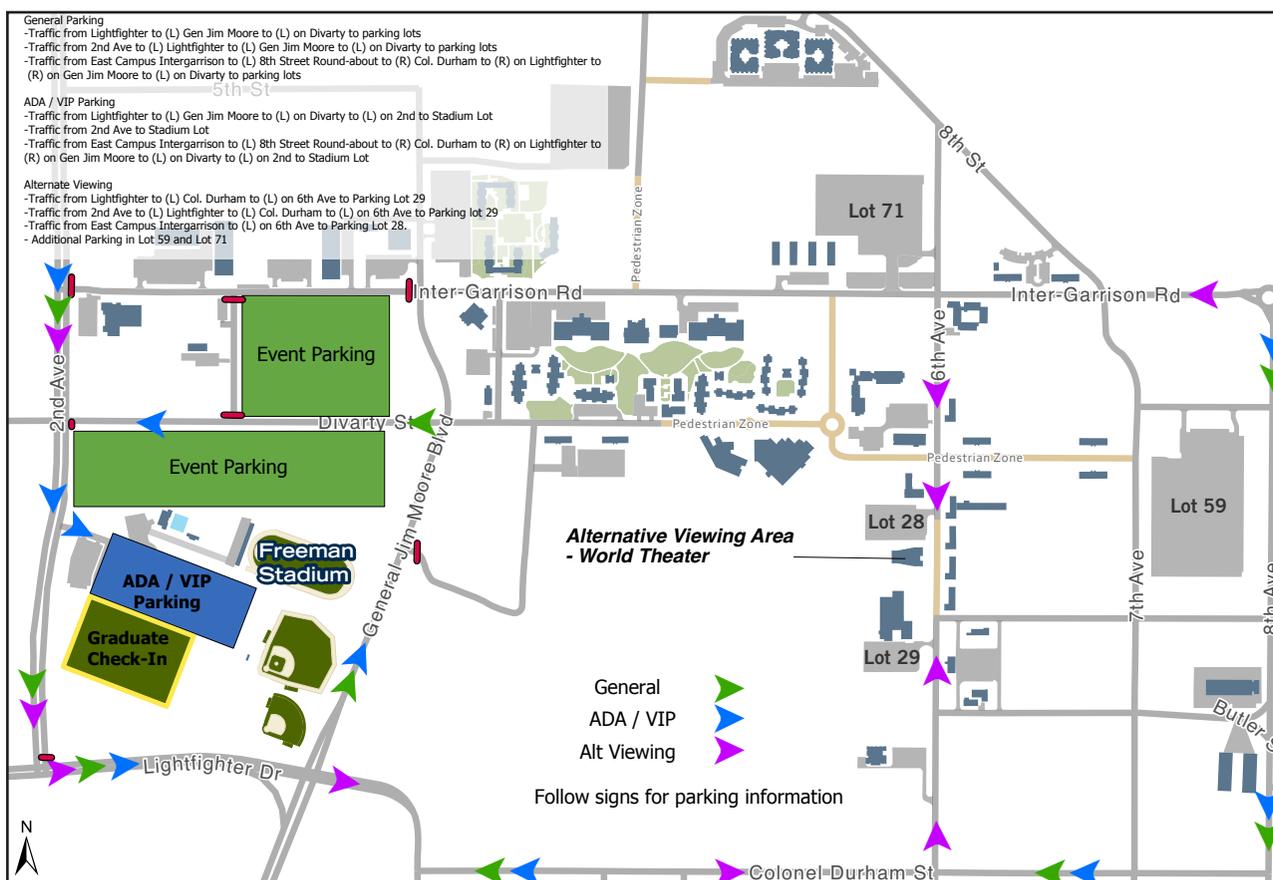
The commencement ceremonies can also be viewed at the World Theater. This is an indoor venue and no tickets are required to view the ceremonies at this location.

CSUMB cable channel 72 will also be broadcasting the ceremonies, and they can be live streamed at youtube.com/csumb. Recordings of the commencement ceremonies will be available for purchase at donate.csumb.edu/commencement-dvd.

Parking & Traffic

Each graduating student has two parking permits for friends and family attending their commencement ceremony. These parking permits have already been distributed at Gradfest and between April 9 through 26. Please note that these parking permits are valid only for the commencement ceremonies and other CSUMB parking permits (such as the academic year parking permits) will not be valid for parking at the ceremony. Because parking is limited, carpooling is highly recommended.

When arriving on campus for the ceremony, take General Jim Moore Boulevard and follow the signs to the designated Commencement parking area. Staff will be available to answer parking and traffic questions.



Contacts for FAQs/more information

Ceremony Guidelines, General Information, ADA/Disability Requests, Special Accommodations

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Gradfest/Alumni Association

alumni@csumb.edu

Graduation Applications

graduation@csumb.edu

Affinity Grads

affinity.grads@otterstudentunion.com

Other Questions/Concerns

commencement@csumb.edu