

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

March 8, 2021

President Ochoa talks Fall 2021



Story by Breanna Peterson
Photo by Sydney Brown

President Ochoa's office hours held on March 2 left many questions unanswered, but provided some insight into the planning stages for the 2021-2022 school year. He began the office hours by emphasizing the importance of health and safety of the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) community. Ochoa also said because of virtual modality, campus infections currently remain low.

The president said he hopes faculty and staff choose to be vaccinated as soon as they are eligible to produce a swift return to campus in fall. He also said there is currently no information on student vaccines or if CSUMB will be distributing vaccines to students. Though there is some promise, there is some bad news as well. This is because of COVID-19 variants, and the fact that this virus is quick to mutate, meaning CSUMB cannot ensure a perfect return to campus in Fall 2021 amidst an ever-changing pandemic.

One of the questions raised during his office hours was the potential for in-person instruction.

"There is still considerable uncertainty about what exactly it will look like, although we have made a system-wide commitment to offer a significant amount of in-person instruction," Ochoa said.

The plans are currently being organized and include several alternative scenarios. Another question posed was if students will have options between remote and face-to-face learning. President Ochoa noted there will be a mix of both in-person and remote classes offered to the students.

What is still uncertain is if students will have access to the individual choice, or if they will have to accept the modality of the particular class they are wanting to take. However, Ochoa said one thing that is being discussed is if an in-person class will provide a virtual equivalent for students who are unable to attend class physically. A large part of this depends on the likelihood of folks being vaccinated.

Participants were understandably concerned about the plan in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak on campus. The president said this is largely dependent on the advising of the Monterey County Health Department and what tier the county has reached by Fall 2021. Provost Katherine Kantardjieff said the planning process is

dependent on being in the red tier in the fall. She also added that the plans for residence halls includes the ability to quarantine should an individual be exposed to COVID-19.

Attendees of the office hours learned the density of the university population will be decided on by county regulations. The tools used in the event of an infection include isolation and contact tracing in order to keep people safe.

Ochoa said the university will not require students to receive vaccines, so long as the FDA requires people to be given an option to opt out. That being said, there are two options the administration is considering for those who want to live in the residence halls and/or attend in-person classes. Students may have to either be vaccinated or required to participate in frequent COVID-19 testing. For students who refuse both, Ochoa said they may be restricted from returning to campus in-person, but will receive equivalent virtual instruction. It should be noted these are not finalized plans.

During the question and answer portion of the office hours, many students asked about future housing plans. President Ochoa anticipated the capacity of the Fall 2021 semester on campus to be less than 100%. The housing capacity planning scenario will remain where it is now, which is one individual to a unit.

Attendees also learned the schedule of Fall 2021 classes has not yet been finalized in terms of which classes will be in-person.

"Those deadlines end up forcing us to commit to a particular date," said Ochoa, referring to the date at which the housing application will be open and closed.

Kantardjieff said the university hopes to settle these issues by March 18.

Ochoa and Kantardjieff said students will need to re-apply for housing for the 2021-2022 school year. There is no date set yet for when that application will open. An additional question asked was if students will be sent home in the event of an outbreak.

"We are not going to repopulate the campus unless the conditions in the county have improved to the point where we can anticipate there won't be any major outbreaks," Ochoa said.

He also believes the school will be able to manage the occasional infection and positive test result. Because housing will be limited, there was an ongoing discussion about who will be given priority for housing.

"Seniors are definitely one of the groups that are potential candidates to be given priority for housing," Ochoa said.

Also included as a potential group are freshmen, because they have yet to live out the college experience. Including freshmen also promotes persistence, retention, and graduation. But, this all depends on the level of interest as well as the demand for on-campus housing. Housing rates remain unknown. Ochoa said the rates are currently being considered, but it is likely the rates will be higher as most units will be single-occupancy.

There was some debate as to which classes will be offered in-person. It was announced the class schedule should be public by April 5 in order to give students ample time to make plans. Registration will begin on April 26.

Two qualifiers are being considered for which classes will be selected for in-person instruction. The first is the timely progression towards the degree. The second is courses that will allow students to remain competitive for graduate school. This includes many science lab classes, especially because some graduate education programs require a certain number of field or lab hours in order to be considered for the program.

The CARES Act II was another topic presented during the office hours. The initiative will allocate funds to more than 5,500 eligible students who will receive much-needed financial relief. Students will be notified March 8, with funds being disbursed on March 11. If this timeline is not met, funds will be allocated on March 15.

In closing remarks, the president again emphasized the importance of centering the health and safety of the CSUMB community. Due to the uncertain nature of how the rest of the year will go, many students left with their questions unanswered. Though plans have not been finalized, the administration believed it is important to provide transparency throughout the planning process.

To keep up to date with the latest developments, Ochoa urged students to keep an eye on the COVID-19 webpage of the CSUMB website.

OCTea

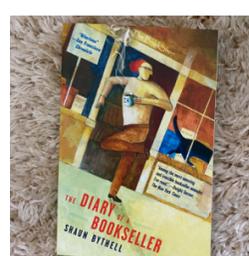
The OC3 introduces a new, student-led podcast.



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An exploration of rage and a cultural awakening

Story by Breanna Peterson

At the end of what Dr. Brittney Cooper called an “unprecedented Black History month,” the Otter Cross Cultural Center hosted the fifth annual All Black Gala, an event highlighting and amplifying excellence in the Black community. This year’s theme was “Eloquent Rage” and the guest of honor was none other than Cooper.

Cooper is a professor, activist, cultural commentator and author whose book “Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpowers,” inspired the theme for this year’s Gala. Cooper’s work relies heavily on crunk and hip-hop feminism. She believes these collectives are necessary to integrate with any discussion of feminism because these types of feminism inform intersectionality. Cooper began her speech with an exploration of how rage fits into the Black liberation movement, specifically noting how to move past respectability politics.

Cooper discussed the fundamental injustice committed against Black women. “Eloquent Rage,” was written in response to the denial of the justification of Black women’s rage.

“I sensed that reclaiming my right and our right to be mad as hell was a prerequisite for any project of freedom,” Cooper said.

Cooper spoke with a fire and passion, as well as a familiarity which made the theory of liberation accessible to all. She also brought up issues of oppression that many Black women face. Growing up as a Black girl in America, Cooper struggled to make peace with her justifiable anger. An exchange with a former student inspired Cooper to harness her rage and use it as a tool in her work towards liberation.

Cooper realized she had begun to teach in a way that passively accepted the horrific crimes against Black people committed in this country as something that did not affect her. She realized that the fire and rage fueled her thirst for liberation and in turn, fueled the same longing for her students. Her mission turned to creating a space for students to show up as their authentic selves.

Cooper realized her “rage could power [her] work” and she could let that rage empower her work, transforming her “rage into something [she] was proud of.” Rage has been the primary motivator for why she teaches students to dismantle white supremacy, patriarchal oppression and “general f*ckery.”

Cooper then discussed an interesting social justice subject, which is the expectation that those engaging in the work of liberation are expected to be passive observers and to leave emotion out of the equation. The horrors of white supremacy impact real people and those fighting against it should not be expected to pretend otherwise.

Objectivity is not realistic and as Cooper stated, “all of us have an agenda whether for good or for ill.”

Her first book “Beyond Respectability” addresses the expectations that a white supremacist society has on academic Black women and pays homage to the critical Black feminists that helped Cooper form her ideology and scholarship.

“All too often I found myself in graduate school classrooms where folks thought that the only people who had a theoretical orientation to the world were white men,” Cooper said.

These ideas persist, and in response, Cooper continued to affirm that the scholarly work of Black women is necessary and important. She mentioned Mary Church

Terrell and Fanny Barrier Williams as historical figures whose work is underrepresented in the discussion of liberation.

“We have been robbed of the right to engage with the people who helped to build the intellectual traditions who helped shape our freedom praxis,” Cooper said.

Respectability has had an adverse effect on Black people since the end of enslavement. Cooper explained this notion of thinking is harmful because people should not be expected to behave a certain way in order to have their humanity recognized. This led Cooper to question why there is a wave of conservatism that causes a rift in the Black community. She said she believes this wave allowed Black people to survive white supremacy, but also caused issues in liberation movements today.

Cooper believes although respectability should not be the marker at which people’s humanity is recognized, there should be a baseline for decorum and professionalism in academia and shared spaces. There is a lot of room for gray areas and Cooper emphasized this.

“Politics [are] not as binary as we want them to be,” Cooper said.

The question and answer portion of the event was full of poignant and hard-hitting questions, as well as emotional responses. Cooper’s talk allowed for introspection and for participants to share how they feel affirmed and validated in their experiences.

In her familiar manner of speaking, she reiterated the march towards liberation is a life-long journey and it’s necessary to care for oneself and rest. This event offered lots of empowering insight on the Black community. For more information, be sure to seek out Cooper’s various publications, including “Eloquent Rage.”

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Lutrinae

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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Don't interject, just listen

SKILLS speakers discuss
portraying empathy

Story by Nikki Dodd

The first SKILLS workshop of March, led by Dan Burfeind and Makinley Wright, dove into an insightful discussion centering around empathy. Empathy - by definition - is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person. Attendees were shown a brief clip of an animation titled “Brené Brown on Empathy,” detailing a scenario in which two individuals need to be empathetic to someone who is struggling emotionally. The video reminded attendees that opening up and connecting to someone emotionally empowers people to search within their own insecurities and feelings.

The video showed one individual reaching out to the visibly sad and struggling person while the second does not attempt to connect to them on a deeper level, but rather just offers food as a substitute to attempting to listen and understand how they are feeling. Without meaning to, they are “silver lining,” that person’s feelings and situations, meaning they are creating a glimmer of hope out of the situation rather than listening with full attention.

After their video introduction, speakers Burfeind and Wright offered some ground rules for empathy. There are four qualities of empathy: perspective taking, staying out of judgement, recognizing emotion in other people and communication.

Perspective taking makes one ask themselves “what have you done and how do you listen,” when thinking about how we connect with others. This helps individuals put themselves in someone else’s shoes despite not going through a similar situation. Achieving this requires listening and reflecting.

It is essential to let the other person speak freely and try not to interject with a similar story, attempting to relate until they are done speaking. The occasional head nod is also a great indicator. In turn, being able to allow oneself to become open and vulnerable is the most important and beneficial way to connect with someone, allowing them to feel supported. However, one would have to ask themselves if they are emotionally available to do so.

Staying out of judgement poses the question of why a person feels the need to judge. People may wonder why individuals love to be critical. The answer is simple: people do it to make themselves feel better. Sometimes, it is not intentional nor malicious, but a person can find themselves comparing situations, saying things like “at least I’m not like...” This is harmful to oneself and others.

The final two aspects of what empathy encompasses recognize emotions while also emphasizing the need to communicate effectively. Again, the topic of being vulnerable was discussed by Burfeind and Wright.

To match someone’s feelings, one would need to dive deep emotionally, conveying to the said person that they do understand and they are not alone. At the same time, people should avoid blatantly saying “I understand how you feel.” By refraining from that statement, it avoids a possible negative response from someone questioning how. Instead, it is best to validate the person’s feelings. If one cannot specifically relate, it is okay. Sometimes, all a person needs is to be heard and know that they have someone to listen to them.

Poll created by the Lutrinae staff
Photo by Sydney Brown, graphics by Arianna Nalbach

Views on the Covid-19 Vaccine

As the pandemic continues, more COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed every day in hopes to flatten the curve. The Lutrinae conducted an anonymous poll on the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) community's thoughts towards the COVID-19 vaccine. We asked respondents to declare their comfortability level in receiving the vaccine and if they will become vaccinated when they are allowed to do so. Roughly 0.1% of the CSUMB community participated in the form, with 22 respondents.

responder demographic

- 4.5% 1st-years
- 27.3% 2nd-years
- 13.6% 3rd-years
- 27.3% 4th-years
- 4.5% 5th-years
- 22.8% staff

19

responders said they were very comfortable with the vaccine and would be getting it.

0 responders said they were very uncomfortable with the vaccine and would not be getting it. 1 responder said they were slightly uncomfortable with the vaccine and 2 said they were fairly comfortable with it.

95.5%

of responders hope most students who return to campus will be vaccinated. 4.5% were unsure.

"Yes, if they see fit. Their body, their choice"

"I'd hope so, but I'm also curious about how we'd return to in-person classes."

Do you have any questions or concerns surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine?

"I am mainly wondering how well the distribution of vaccines is going."

"Definitely some concerns around potential long-term impacts."

"How soon can I get it, where, and how?"

"It's interesting how fast this was made, and how strong the side effects are but I think it's important to do research prior to feel more comfortable taking it."

"After the second dose, can I still spread the virus if I wear a mask and remain cautious while out?"

"When will students get vaccinated? If we are returning in the fall, will vaccines be required?"

"Immune system weakness to even the flu shot."

"I'm concerned about other people not getting the vaccine."

“The OCTea” makes its debut



Story by Sydney Brown
Illustration courtesy of Valerie Ordoñez

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students can keep their ears open, because the Otter Cross Cultural Center’s (OC3) new podcast is here. The first episode of “The OCTea” debuted on Feb. 16, where host Valerie Ordoñez introduced some of OC3’s faculty and student coordinators. Speakers discussed their plans for 2021 and how the OC3 has impacted their lives.

Ordoñez has been involved with OC3 for a year and acts as the organization’s courageous conversations student

coordinator. Her intentions in creating “The OCTea” were to create a space for students and faculty members to discuss their personal perspectives and understand others opinions without judgement.

“I think the (podcasts) central theme is listening to the other side of the table,” Ordoñez said.

Ordoñez began planning “The OCTea” over Summer 2020 after gaining inspiration from one of her favorite podcasts, “AsainGirlBoss.” The latter podcast is hosted by three Asian American women who discuss experiences regarding their sense of belonging in college, dating

and womxn’s reproductive health. After the stories from “AsianGirlBoss” led Ordoñez to think about starting her own podcast, she brought up the idea to her bosses at OC3, who happily supported her vision.

“I brought the idea up to my coworkers and my bosses, and they were all for it,” she said. “I am super thankful they have my back and support me through this process - and so, ‘The OCTea’ was created.”

Each episode of “The OCTea” will feature new guest speakers, including CSUMB staff members, OC3 interns and leaders of another CSUMB community podcast, “The Reel Asian Podcast.” Ordoñez said future episodes will explore topics such as online learning, identifying as an Asian and Pacific Islander and mental health.

Ordoñez has enjoyed elevating her editing skills from working on “The OCTea,” as this is her first time producing a podcast. She said her favorite part of recording the podcast is hearing guest speakers opinions “from different sides of the table.”

“I feel like as students, we need to also hear from the professors’s side or the professional staff’s perspective during this online school year,” Ordoñez said.

Participating in “The OCTea” has helped Ordoñez connect to others while attending university virtually, and she said recording feels like a “social refresh” since students can’t meet up on campus to talk.

Ordoñez said the OC3 team is very supportive and allows students to create their own educational programs, all while encouraging thoughtful conversations on typically unspoken topics.

“The OCTea” streams on Spotify, Breaker, Google Podcasts, Pocket Cast and Radio Public, and is also attached in the weekly OC3 newsletter. The first episode can be found at csumb.edu/osu/octea-podcast.

The OC3 is currently seeking CSUMB students to hire. If interested in becoming an OC3 student coordinator, visit csumb.edu/oc3hiring for more information.

Homecookin: making chicken fried steak & country gravy

Story and photos by Cassidy Ulery

Ingredients:

3 pieces of cube steak
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups of flour
½ cup of bacon grease for frying
½ tablespoon of garlic powder
½ tablespoon of onion powder
½ tablespoon of lemon pepper
Salt and pepper to taste
1 packet of country gravy mix

This comfort classic is ideal for a Sunday night dinner, a cold and rainy spring day or when craving a diner staple. Pairing exquisitely with country gravy, the crisp and crunch of every coated bite will send tastebuds salivating for more. A side of fresh vegetables or a starch completes the entree for a well-rounded, hearty meal. Be advised, this is not something to consume all the time, but is more of a delectable reward.

Start by seasoning the individual cube steaks with garlic powder, lemon pepper, salt, pepper and onion powder. A quick pinch and dash is all it takes. Save the tablespoons of spices for the flour mixture, stir, combine and set aside. Seasoning the flour mixture prevents any of the spices from falling off or becoming unseasoned, which the dipping and frying process initiates.

After seasoning the steaks, dedicate one hand for the flour and egg concoctions. Layer the flour over each individual steak before dipping into the beaten eggs, followed by another round of flour coating. It’s the same process for frying chicken, hence the name!

Once the steaks are well coated, heat the ½ cup of bacon grease in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Once the

sizzling occurs, place each steak into the pan but be careful not to crowd them. Fry on each side until golden brown, approximately eight minutes per side. Place the cooked steaks on a plate lined with paper towels to help absorb excess grease.

While the steaks are cooking, heat the gravy up in a separate saucepan and begin to prepare any other sides accommodating the dish.

Upon finishing, get ready to devour! This easy meal can be made with Crisco, however, the bacon grease notches up the flavor profiles for a mouthwatering, ultimate bite of pure satisfaction.

mouthwatering, ultimate bite of pure satisfaction.



Learning doesn't stop after you graduate

By Victoria Green
Photo by Arianna Nalbach

As an alumnus or alumna, you may think that when you finish capstone, throw on your cap and gown, and your diploma has your name written on it, that's it. That's the end of 8 a.m.'s, the end of late night study sessions or early bird coffee brews, and the end of your CSUMB learning experience. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not the end of the road. Once you transition from a student to an alumnus or alumna, you don't get kicked out of the CSUMB community, you are automatically welcomed into the Alumni Association - for free!

For some of you, you might already have an understanding of what this entails, but for those of you that don't, I am here to tell you about the endless array of learning opportunities that still precede you. As a member of the Alumni Association, you are provided with benefits left and right, to include a monthly e-newsletter, a copy of the CSUMB magazine, library access, discounted insurance, hotel and travel savings, and other gear.

Some of the greatest benefits included in the Alumni Association membership are

the weekly webinars and online events. They offer tools and resources to provide insight and thought-provoking ideas. They range from career, life stage, and lifelong learning topics. For example, this March you may find there are many interesting webinars to attend that cover topics like nourishing your potential growth, strategies to apply towards your career, leadership lessons, and building a sellable business. All webinars are programmed by best-selling authors and career experts.

Each month is filled with a variety of topics that are beneficial to all alumni, but are not limited to only alumni. Individuals, parents, faculty, friends, and even students are able to view them. These webinars are easily-accessible to you and can be viewed from the comfort of your own home! You can take advantage of these wonderful events at <https://alumlc.org/csumb>.

Learning is a valuable gift that should not be taken away after you leave CSUMB, so deep dive into these webinars and find useful information to apply to your pathway to success.



Do you plan on getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it's available to you? Why or why not?

Otter Chatter by Sydney Brown



Richard Espinoza

CHHS
Fourth-year

"I do plan on getting the vaccine eventually, I haven't had the opportunity to just because I'm younger and others need it first. I'm kind of a little skeptical about it, but with everyone getting them it would make sense for me to get mine."



Phillip Nakashian

HCOM
Fourth-year

"Yeah, I'm excited to get the vaccine. I hope everyone does so we can socialize again and safely go to places like the aquarium."



Nicole Freeman

Communication Design
Fourth-year

"Yes! It's one more action I can take to help bring an end to the pandemic."

Visit a quirky, Scottish bookstore

Vivlio Talks - book review

Story and photo by Cassidy Ulery

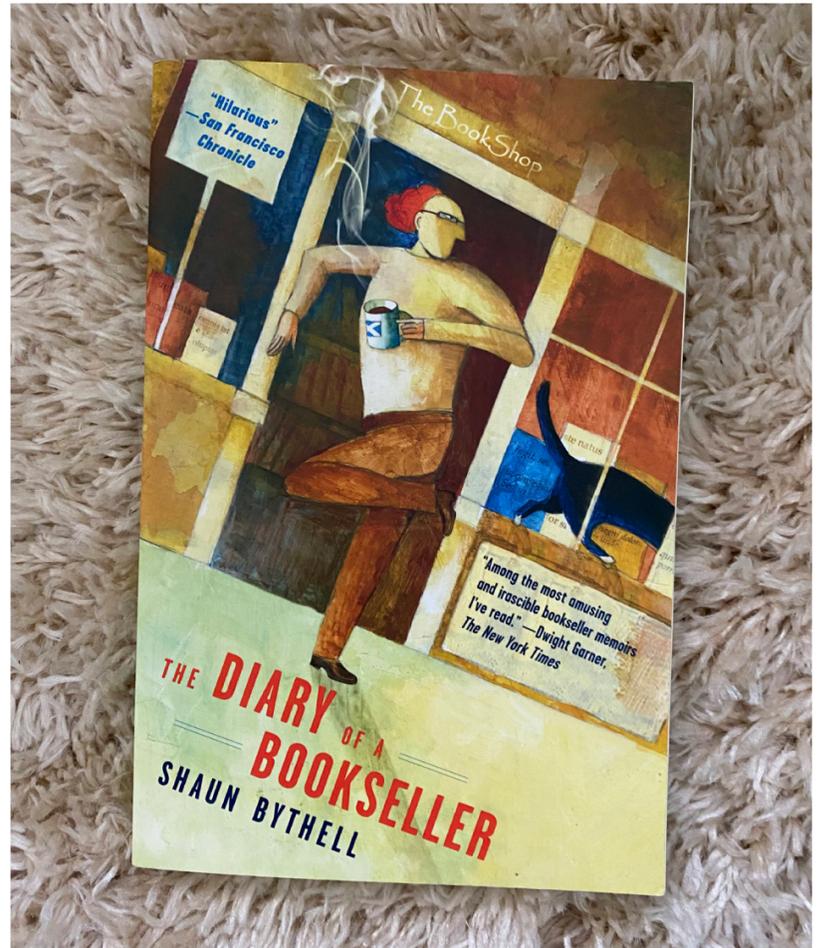
Shaun Bythell gives firsthand accounts of interactions between in-person and online customers that vacate his Wigtown, Scotland bookshop. After having entered the book business by purchasing the store from an old, retiring local, Bythell shares the dynamic, odd and unusual requests of customers and tales of the eccentric staff through this sarcastically humorous and loving memoir.

Reading the inner workings of running a bookshop in a Scotland town - which is known for book festivals - Bythell shares the profits and losses of being a business owner in an age where technology and companies like Amazon are giving mom-and-pop shops a run for their money. Traveling all over Scotland to inquire on the personal collections people hope to sell and rid themselves of, Bythell is fascinated by the mysterious and delightfully vintage books that come his way.

After years of bidding and buying, Bythell has a relatively keen interest in older books, particularly first editions.

Commenting on the quirky acts of his tuxedo cat, Captain, Bythell notes the relationship between his customers and beloved coworker Nicky whose thick Scottish accent and sense of fashion often keeps Bythell on his toes.

The experiences of the business and town Bythell encounters make this book charming and sweet while showing the devastation of big corporations on indie owners. His reflections are amusing with a biting sense of waggishness. Invoking vivid imagery of Bythell's daily routine, the struggles of being polite and making a dollar, Bythell leaves those dreaming of the industry. Overall, this is a playful read that builds a smile on the reader's face and highlights a memorable mission worthy of taking on.



March Horoscopes



Story by Anna Stubler
Illustration by Arianna Nalbach

Aries (March 20-April 19):

Aries, you may feel extra emotional this month. Take some time to embrace your feelings and strengthen your relationships.

While you are feeling down, March is also a lucky month for you. Take advantage of the opportunity that comes your way! You may find unexpected joy from this new endeavor.

Taurus (April 19-May 20):

Taurus, calm down. You are doing great! Take a moment to reflect on your achievements instead of that thing that is causing you stress. Live in the moment and celebrate successes.

People in your life may rely on you a lot this month. Step up to the challenge, but remember to keep a balance between your personal and professional life, as well as self-care. An unexpected surprise might come your way this month, go with the flow and see where it takes you.

Gemini (May 20- June 20):

Stop conforming to society's standards for you. It's holding you back from your true potential. March is your month to embrace your uniqueness!

Explore your creative side. Try new creative ventures and you may find a new hobby or even a new hustle.

Cancer (June 20- July 22):

Take March to rest and recharge. Try doing things to give back to your community, which will bring you joy and recharge you from January.

Stop putting off that project you have been avoiding. Break it down into small manageable steps and you can make March productive.

Leo (July 22 – August 22):

Leo, you have been working hard to keep everyone happy, but don't forget about your own happiness. Do something spontaneous that brings you joy. Buy yourself a gift, take a day to relax.

You may find people especially frustrating during this month. Try to hold your temper. If you don't you might find yourself in an argument you didn't expect or want.

Virgo (August 22 – September 22):

Get outside! Embrace your inner hippy and sing aloud in nature. Try new self-care routines and meditations.

Reach out to old friends you have lost touch with and take a break from the digital world as much as possible. March is your month to reboot.

Libra (September 22 – October 22):

Take this month to work on self-development. Assess your professional goals and take steps to reach them. Try something new. Embrace your feelings.

Take a step back to look at things rationally. Try to use your head and not just make decisions emotionally. This will step you up for a productive spring.

Scorpio (October 22 – November 21):

March is your month for romance! Whether that is a new relationship or an existing one, take time to do thoughtful things for your partner. Spoil them this month and let them know how you feel. Don't worry about being too cheesy or emotional.

While you spoil your partner, take time for yourself as well. Do something that makes you happy.

Sagittarius (November 21 – December 21):

You may be experiencing a creative block right now. Try new and spontaneous things in order to get your creativity flowing again! Mix up your daily routine to avoid stagnating where you are at. Be proactive in achieving your goals. Don't wait for them to come to you.

Determine the love languages of the people close to you and do things to show them you appreciate them.

Capricorn (December 21 – January 19):

March will throw a lot of responsibility at you. Keep a level head and you can conquer all that comes your way.

Both your professional and personal lives are going to be busy this month. Be prepared by taking care of yourself and setting achievable goals.

Aquarius (January 19 – February 19):

Like Scorpio, March is a month to focus on relationships. Whether that is with someone new or someone you already know. Love may be closer than you expect. Don't be afraid to shoot your shot and let your feelings be known.

You might experience disappointment this month. Use that to learn and improve yourself.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20):

Be open to new relationships. Talk to new people and create a positive space in your life for new friends.

March is your month to be carefree and happy. Focus on positivity and you will achieve professional and personal successes.

Advancing sustainability during campus closure ¡Verde!



By Gabriella Ulloa
Photo by Lacey Raak

CSUMB's doors have remained closed to students, staff and faculty since the beginning of the pandemic, but this hasn't stopped ambitious ideas from flourishing. Throughout this time, the President's Sustainability Committee has remained dedicated to promoting sustainability throughout CSUMB and thinking of new ways to advance sustainability during campus closure. The mission of the committee is to promote sustainability throughout CSUMB, in planning, development, operation and innovation of campus facilities.

Recently, the Economic Working Group of the President's Sustainability Committee made two recommendations for cost saving measures to implement at CSUMB during campus closure. After reviewing 10 different options, the Economic Working Group identified centralizing the waste bins and reducing "Vampire Loads," as the top recommendations based on campus goals and the feasibility to implement.

These innovative measures were presented to the Cabinet and approved on Dec. 3, 2020. They are effectively being implemented while the campus population is low and are supporting a greener return to campus.

Centralized waste bins have the potential to initiate a behavior change in the campus community. The purpose of the Three-Stream Centralized Waste Bins is to separate landfill garbage, recycling and compost and to promote sustainability in our everyday routines. In order to advance ambitious campus goals outlined in the 2020 Inclusive Sustainability Plan, these bins allow individuals to choose where to place their waste in the landfill, recycling or compost.

These bins allow CSUMB to work towards zero waste and make achieving a 90% diversion rate from the landfill a tangible reality. Not only does this facilitate education leading to behavioral change, but this also complies with the advancement of statewide methane reduction efforts established through SB1383. Through this implementation, more waste is diverted from landfills and further reduces methane emissions resulting from the decomposition of organic waste (food waste) in landfills.

The bins further facilitate a safer return to campus in compliance with COVID-19 since they are touchless with no top to lift in order to discard waste. They also improve safety and precautions for janitorial staff by reducing the "touchpoints" they would normally have with individual waste bins. Currently, this recommendation is still in the bureaucratic process, but the plan is to conduct a building by building analysis and remove single-use, desk-side bins and replace them with centralized bins. The estimated payback period is one to two years, but cost benefits will be better understood once building-by-building evaluation is conducted.

The second recommendation made in an effort to reduce energy costs and usage is through the shutting off and unplugging of "Vampire Loads." Vampire Loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be powered off. The purpose of this recommendation is to save energy while also reducing utility costs.

After exploring data from a similar effort made at CSU San Marcos, the Economic Working Group estimated that CSUMB could achieve between \$20,000 - \$108,000 in savings annually! In order to do this, the President's Sustainability Committee, Department Heads and Assistant Vice Presidents identified spaces for staff to go around on campus and shut off or unplug non-essential

equipment that were drawing energy when plugged in, but not in use. When doing this, 435 computers, 357 lamps, over 200 monitors, refrigerators/mini-fridges and microwaves were unplugged.

A variety of other devices were also unplugged, including shredders, space heaters, digital projectors, printers, toasters and much more. Since campus is currently unpopulated, short term savings are higher. This effort began in November 2020 and since then CSUMB has realized savings averaging out to around \$4,773.60 per month. This shocking amount emphasizes how much energy is wasted to power devices not in use and how efforts to reduce energy consumption can initiate significant savings.

Although these savings are not permanent due to campus being unpopulated, potential long-term cost savings can be realized through unplugging unnecessary equipment each night, weekend and holiday break when the campus is re-populated. The Economic Working Group plans to continue this process into the time when campus is re-populated and track data captured by the reporters, or "unpluggers," before and after unplugging vampire equipment in order to better analyze cost savings and impact. Above all, this effort has allowed campus to take another step towards enhancing CSUMB's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also initiating a behavior shift around increasing awareness and energy usage.

The efforts of the committee have proven successful through their review of campus practices that may prohibit or hinder progress on achieving sustainability goals. These recommendations continue to promote a greener return to campus through building awareness, understanding and a culture of sustainability on campus.



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ticklips

essuom

renethgiarts

Answers:

face mask, eyeliner,
lipstick, blush,
curling iron, mousse,
hair spray, nail polish,
straightener, hair dye