

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

April 26, 2021

Deciding the future of campus policing

KQED and Cal Matters host webinar discussing police reform



Story by Sydney Brown
Illustration by Malia Savella

After the murder of George Floyd last summer, the desire to redesign policing procedures in the U.S. increased exponentially. Several American's joined Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020 to influence law enforcement to protect Black people and other people of color instead of threatening their well-being, such as in the case of George Floyd. Universities across California are well aware of the challenges students of color face with police on and off campus, and they joined forces with KQED Public Broadcasting and the Cal Matters Student Journalism Network to host a webinar on the matter.

Several administrators and students logged in for the webinar titled "The Future of Campus Policing" on April 21. Guest speakers included University of California professors, a chief of police, Black students and others, encompassing a wide variety of perspectives on what policing should look like.

The first speaker introduced was San Francisco State University student Ja'Corey Bowens, currently running for vice president of external affairs of his college's Associated Students and a firm believer in the abolition of his university's police department.

"Time after time we've seen that university police departments (UPD) or police departments in general have tried to reform, but you can't reform a system that's inherently anti-Black and based in white supremacy," Bowens said. "We need to be reinvesting in our community, student programs, mental health resources, homelessness, decriminalization and so much more."

Bowens recalled an instance where he felt antagonized

by his UPD while working as a resident advisor. While he was preparing his building for move-in day, two police officers approached him while working, telling Bowens he looked suspicious and began forcefully questioning him. Bowens disapproves of instances like these and wants to abolish UPD in order to rid other students of being approached in the same manner.

Professor Kimberly King also attended the event to share what campus life has been like at Laney College since ending its contract with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department in December 2020. Laney College currently has an unarmed security model in place to keep students safe, and King believes this model has been successful compared to having a UPD.

King said "students, faculty and staff can work together to build community and keep us safe," by providing a "positive learning environment for students who are often students of color from low-income backgrounds and who have had traumatic experiences with law enforcement in their communities," by using the unarmed security model.

While most guest speakers agreed there should be a reform in campus policing, figuring out the best model for doing so was undecided upon. Balancing one side of the spectrum from the other, University of California, Davis Chief of Police Joseph Farrow joined the conversation.

In answer to mediator Felica Mello's question, "What will it take to end [troubling] interactions between campus police and students of color? Can it be done without removing a police presence from campus, and if so, how?," Farrow acknowledged the wrongdoings of campus police.

Farrow said he notices the disconnect between students of color and police officers, where officers are able to

negatively impact those students by "questioning them in a harmful way." He said one way police are trying to stop this is by collecting data on every stop they make, recording why someone was stopped and what the outcome of the stop was.

"The policing on campus shouldn't be done in a way where we are stopping and questioning our students. We're not there to police students, we are there on their behalf," Farrow said. "Whatever we reform, policing should not serve as a silo." He also said "checking our students to see who belongs and doesn't" is not a proper function of UPD.

At times throughout the discussion, it was difficult for all guest speakers to find common ground. Farrow argued that a reformed UPD presence is necessary in order to keep students safe, but Bowens argued that students of color will not feel safe at all if police officers remain on campus.

"All these recommendations (on police reform), they don't necessarily solve the issues at hand ... we cannot reform an entity that was based to make sure slaves would not run away and was then adopted to become the policing we know today," Bowens said. "Reform has failed ... we are relying on these outdated, no good philosophies to work in a system that's inherently broken."

The webinar created space to discuss policing and the safety needs of college students. Closing off the discussion, King described why having a police-less atmosphere is important for students.

"Policing uses force and the threat of violence, we don't need that on campus," King said. "We do need safety, but there's other ways to implement safety."

Students utilize UROC

Discover how two women in STEM juggle classes, research and extracurriculars.

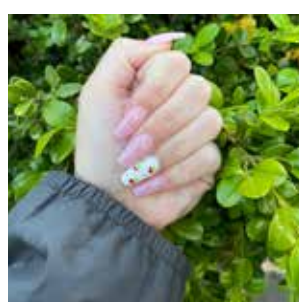
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"A Taste of Universal"

Take a look into the future of theme parks amidst COVID-19.

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CSUMB requires COVID-19 vaccine for those on-campus

Story by Emma Garcia
Illustration by Malia Savella

Seaside – California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) plans to return to in-person classes this upcoming fall, but students, staff and faculty will need to be 100% vaccinated, according to an email sent by CSUMB President Ochoa's office to students on April 22.

In the email, Ochoa expressed the safety of the campus and the surrounding areas is the school's top priority which is why "a safe return to campus will be based on facts and evidence."

This echoes CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro's announcement on April 22 that stated both the CSU and the University of California systems will require faculty, staff and students who are utilizing campus facilities be immunized to COVID-19 to keep both those on campus and the surrounding area safe.

The vaccine requirement stands in effect as long as two or more types of vaccines remain fully approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration. Like all of the other required vaccines in the university's policy, Ochoa's email said "the COVID-19 vaccination requirement would allow for students or employees to seek an exemption based on medical or religious grounds."

For some, obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine might not be possible, and CSUMB does have a back-up plan ready which includes, "a mix of alternative course offerings" for those without a vaccine. This backup plan is still being refined, according to Ochoa's email. The email also stated it is certain the "CSU vaccination requirement, mask-wearing and other safety measures ... will be part of our plan for a safe return to campus."

Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine has been a controversial topic in the United States. CSUMB students had mixed feelings about Ochoa's announcement about vaccine requirements.

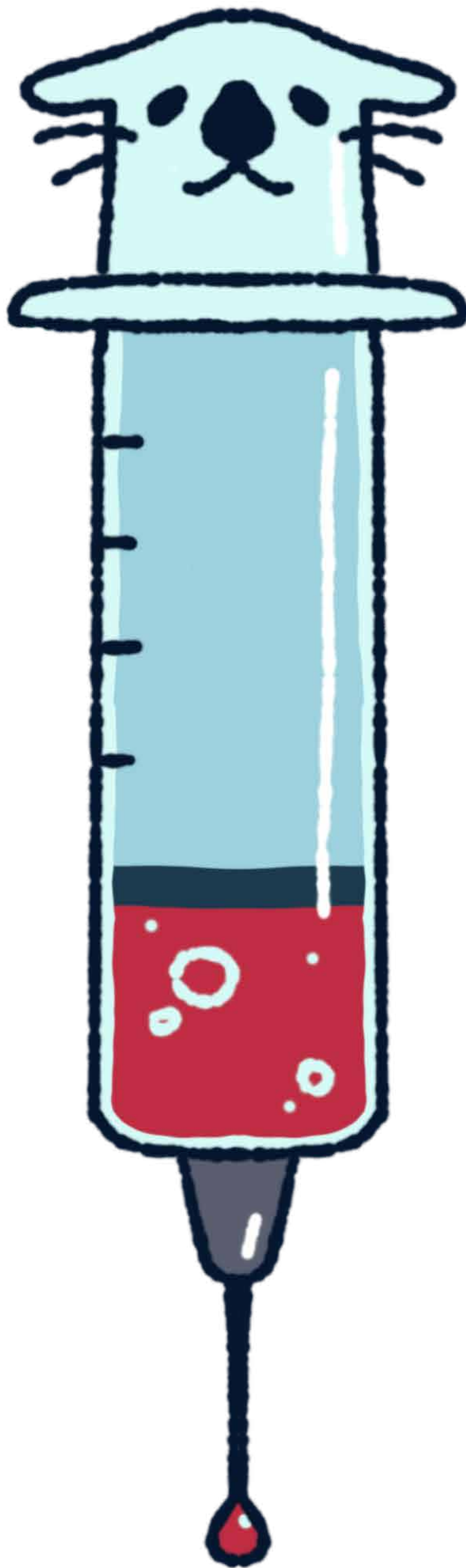
Fourth-year collaborative health and human services major Amanda Contreras expressed the importance of ensuring campus safety from the COVID-19 virus, but said this mandate might be "exclusive to the population who is not yet ready to take the vaccine."

Moneka Tawdrouse, a third-year molecular biology major said the university should mandate the vaccine for those who live in the dorms, but that students who commute

should be recommended to get the vaccine, not mandated to do so.

Third-year business major Gustavo Aquino feels neutral about the vaccine mandate. "I personally don't like the idea of mandating it, but the approach that they want to take is reasonable."

A finalized decision on in-person instruction and layout will be announced at the same time as Fall 2021 class schedules are available on May 10.



the
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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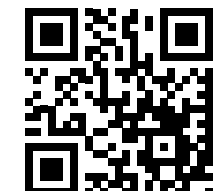
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Changing the future: Youth Summit for Peace

Story by Cassidy Ulery

Photo courtesy of Massimo Sartirana via Unsplash

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) virtually partnered with international guests on April 22 to stream the Youth Summit for Peace, Diplomacy and Human Rights. The summit featured faculty from the law and international relations department at Anahuac Mayab University in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, as well as Colombian writer and activist Juan Carlos Torres Cuellar. Ekaterina Zagladina - president of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates - opened the ceremony.

Throughout the webinar series, international guests were invited to speak on topics surrounding sports, culture, diplomacy and building peace through a gendered and human rights perspective. Students were allowed to engage in a public dialogue, and CSUMB provided the opportunity for Otters to join through the education abroad program.

Varvara Gracheva, a Russian tennis player, spoke with the panel on participating in international sports, the benefits of traveling and the essential need for global communication. Gracheva brought up playing against opponents hailing from different countries, but noted the importance of keeping integrity and respect for each other and the sport.

When she works with a team that has different players from Russia, they have the mindset of bettering themselves and working together to achieve the goal of winning. While the game is competitive in nature, Gracheva prioritizes human decency over adding statistics to her record.

“All of our discipline is based around what we want to achieve,” Gracheva said. “Our goal is to help someone, even on the court. This sport teaches young adults how to respect each other, the public, the referee and not to harm anybody.”

No matter what team one is rooting for, fans share a commonality between emotions and communication. Communication can come in several forms of gestures from a smile, a handshake or engaging in spoken



Two soccer players shake hands, signifying building relationships through sports, which was one of the highlights of Youth Summit for Peace.

dialogue. Gracheva finds solidarity in sports - leaving political and social worries behind for a brief moment - and she believes fans often find themselves experiencing the same sense of relief and joy it delivers her.

Panelist Nelly Ivette Morales Ojeda brought up previous sports diplomacy issues encountered back in the '80s when the U.S. boycotted the Summer Olympics in Moscow, Russia. In response to Russia's invasion of Afghanistan, over 65 countries pulled out of the Olympics, but another 80 sent athletes to perform. While the response was warranted by some, Ojeda finds mixing sports and politics to be a diplomacy disaster, leaving those who've spent countless hours training finding themselves cheated.

“This was really hard for many athletes who have been preparing for a long time, and for many this was their

only opportunity to participate in the Olympic Games,” Ojeda said. “They said goodbye to it. I don't think we should improperly mix politics and sports.”

Viewing how sports can impact different cultures and provide cultural inclusion is also important. Sports can cover generational differences, and can allow for the inclusion of different genders - something the panel hopes to see more of in the future. Inclusion moving past sports into the arts is something that is becoming more accepted, but still needs additional work in certain areas of the world.

“We need to see culture as a flowing river,” Ojeda said, “not as standing water.”

Alumni showcases post-undergraduate research

Story by Cassidy Ulery

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) virtually hosted three graduate students who presented their research to Otters on April 21 in “Research y Cafecito.” Each graduate student conducted research in different fields, and they all attend different universities. Despite currently attending different colleges, they are all alumni from CSUMB.

Daniel Olivares began the presentation. Currently earning his master's at California State University, Los Angeles in marine biology, Olivares plans on entering into the doctoral program at University of Southern California to continue pursuing nautical science. Having participated in different labs during his time at CSUMB, Olivares found a summer research opportunity at University of Colorado, Boulder called the SMART program, where he feels his education flourished.

“My lab was an ecotoxicity lab that studied questions on how parasites infect other animals and natural ecosystems,” Olivares said.

Olivares used his techniques of examining host-parasite interactions by extracting parasites from newts. Another summer research project presented itself to him from Penn State, where Olivares was able to implement physiology and molecular biology into his work - something he felt was missing from his previous findings.

Progressing from newts, Olivares studied toxins in animal nervous systems and exposed them to deadly neurotoxins, in order to accurately observe basic animal nervous systems and their resistance to neurotoxins.

“With this research, I was able to observe how a poisonous or venomous animal would be resistant to their own neurotoxins,” Olivares said. “They will kill us, but they won't kill them.”

As Olivares transitions from graduate school to his doctoral program, he looks forward to developing further research surrounding coral and sea anemones.

Speaking after Olivares was communication studies student Ari Perez Montes. Montes - who identifies as queer, trans and Latinx - graduated from CSUMB with a communications and ethnic studies degree, with a minor in psychology and now attends the University of Maryland, pursuing a communication science track.

“There are two truths about me,” Montes said. “I knew I wanted to be a professor, but I didn't know how or where to start.”

As a first-generation college student, Montes turned to UROC and found the proper resources for obtaining research and graduate school information. Having first been exposed to service learning, Montes discovered the initial passion of wanting to teach and discovered an interest in developing research correlated to oppressed groups and the LGBTQ community.

Focusing on how oppressed people can become oppressors in their own group, Montes constructed their research by looking at how microaggressions, race, gender and sexuality come into play for the LGBTQ community and minorities.

“I wanted to know how microaggressions manifested within the LGBTQ community,” Montes said. “[To look] at how a queer or trans person manifests

microaggressions towards other queer or trans people.”

Montes completed an autoethnography for their capstone project at CSUMB, where their love for qualitative methods started. Now at University of Maryland, Montes has continued their qualitative research and is basing their seminar paper off of algorithms, looking deeper into how algorithms are inherently racist and contribute to biases.

The last graduate student to speak was Alexandria Taylor Cervantes. Cervantes is a local from Salinas and earned her undergraduate degree from CSUMB in mathematics. She now attends University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to obtain an advanced degree in mathematics.

“After I found my love for calculus, I always had the question: ‘why did it take me so long to love math?’” Cervantes said. “I started working at the Hartnell math academy, and then my question turned into ‘why does it take people so long to love math, and how does societal systems impact how they experience math?’”

Even though she's spent most of her graduate career back home in Salinas due to the pandemic halting in-person classes, Cervantes has been awarded two grants to further her research in underrepresented and marginalized students in engineering. Looking to transform how society views math and to alleviate educational anxieties in her community, Cervantes looks forward to making positive impacts towards math and education in her hometown and surrounding areas.

Students juggle research, education and extracurriculars

UROC creates a supportive and diverse community of student researchers

Story by Anna Stubler

Graphic courtesy of Sara Torda from Pixabay

Mariana Duarte and Keyoni McNair are women conducting research in a male-dominated field, club leaders inspiring change and undergraduate students exploring what it means to be a computer scientist.

Duarte and McNair are both pursuing their undergraduate degrees at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Both also serve as founding officers in CSUMB's Women in Computer Science club, and both are among the small number of women studying computer science. It was hard for Duarte to be one of few female students in her classes, and with the challenges she faced, she almost changed her major.

"It was really hard for me to visualize myself staying with computer science throughout," she said, due to the lack of female computer science professors in the program. "There [wasn't] really anybody that looks like me."

On top of their already challenging coursework, Duarte and McNair also chose to take on research projects. Duarte and McNair were both chosen to participate in the McNair Scholars program, and Duarte was chosen to participate in a summer research program at the computing center of The University of Texas at Austin.

"Being curious about research seems to be the first step of becoming a researcher. Once that ball is rolling, the support is there!" McNair said.

Duarte also believes being "determined and optimistic" is important to succeed in research.

"Research ... it's not easy to conduct," Duarte said.

Both Duarte and McNair described experiencing imposter syndrome at times. "Sometimes, looking around, it never feels like I'm not doing enough, or I'm not doing things right," McNair said.

Despite the challenges, McNair and Duarte love what they do. "The most challenging part is when the research gets a bit more exciting than the normal classwork," McNair said.

"Sometimes in the thick of it - reading papers, analysing data - it's hard to believe it's second to classwork," she said. "It's so good to have a great mentor that helps you



keep your wits and reminds you of your belonging, and accomplishments in your work!"

McNair also talked about research being rewarding. She likes being part of looking at ideas from a new perspective and possibly finding out things that people were not aware of. "The best part of being a research student is learning things beyond the classroom structure," she said. "I'm learning something new every week about research that I would never have come across in my current coursework."

What interested Duarte about research was getting the chance to research new things. "I could discover new things," she said. "It was pretty exciting to say 'oh wow, you know I discovered this or I answered this research question.'"

Undergraduate students interested in research might consider participating in an Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program or participating in one of CSUMB's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center programs.

"Go for it ... grab the opportunity," said Duarte. "You have to be selfish early on in your career because this is the time for you to be selfish, and (you) don't be shy. It really shows when you are taking initiative it really shows how proactive you are."

"I'd recommend research to anyone who is looking to learn more about their subject in a hands on way," said McNair.

CSUMB graduate talks diversity, adversity & success

Story by Anna Stubler

Undergraduate research week at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) kicked off with a talk entitled "Too Diverse for Academia," by Dr. Melissa Callaghan, an alumna of CSUMB's psychology program.

When Melissa Callaghan arrived at CSUMB in 2008 it might have been easy for her to feel out of place and overwhelmed. Callaghan was a first-generation college graduate. Her parents immigrated from Fiji and neither graduated from college. The college experience was something no one else in her family could relate to.

However, Callaghan described a feeling of being at home at CSUMB. This feeling of being at home was due in part to the exceedingly diverse campus community. According to enrollment data for Spring 2021, 54% of undergraduates were first-generation students like Callaghan. Additionally, 69% of students identified as a race other than white.

Callaghan immersed herself in the CSUMB community and professors started to notice her success and work ethic. They encouraged her to apply for the McNair Scholarship through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) so she could expand her interest in psychology beyond the classroom.

Callaghan wanted to explore research, but when she looked into filling out the program sign-up sheet, Fijian was not on the list of identifiable minorities. However, faculty within the department encouraged her to go for it anyways and made a case that Fijian was such an underrepresented ethnicity that it did not even make the list.

To her surprise, Callaghan was awarded a scholarship. What followed was a bumpy road with ups and downs that led to where she is now. She is working as a childhood education researcher, designer and consultant beginning a job at an ed-tech company and loves what she does.

Along the way Callaghan talked about experiencing severe imposter syndrome, feeling she was "too diverse" and having self-doubt.

However, there were also high points in her journey. Callaghan met her husband during her time at UROC and describes her time at CSUMB fondly.

Her parents were also extremely supportive of her, despite not having the same educational experience. Her parents helped her adjust to graduate school by attending orientation, and were the only parents there. Her mother also attends many of her talks, including "Too Diverse for Academia."

"I had to wipe the tears before I put the camera on," said her mother after her daughter finished addressing the CSUMB community.

Callaghan had some advice for students in similar situations as she was. She described feeling like an imposter in graduate school, surrounded by white students in whose parents had experience in higher education and research, unlike hers.

What helped Callaghan was to think about how "we are all diverse from one another - diversity is inclusive rather than what separates the few who seem 'different.'"

While her colleagues may not have had the same struggles as her, she learned they had their own, like one classmate who described the difficulty of living in a single-parent household.

Callaghan had a breakthrough where she said she became "brave enough to open up about [her]self" and "open (up) to being vulnerable." It helped her to "not see vulnerable conversations as moments of weakness," but as a way "to admit that [she] didn't know how to do something."

With the support of her family and the CSUMB community Callaghan discovered her love of research and this love has only continued to grow since then.

How not to cross the line

UROC presents Dr. Penalver and ethical research practices

Story by Breanna Peterson

The California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center hosted an in-depth presentation which gave insights into the ethics of research and practice. Hosted by Dr. Renee Penalver, this event examined the reasons why it is necessary to maintain a strong ethical commitment when conducting research, especially when dealing with vulnerable human test subjects or animal subjects.

Penalver is a California State University, Bakersfield alumna. She works in the department of psychology and is a new assistant professor at CSUMB. Her authority on ethical researching stems all the way from her undergrad research. She has worked with several populations, including older adults, people living with dementia and rats.

During the presentation, Penalver asked for participation from the audience, which provided an array of perspectives on what the terms “ethics” and “research” mean. In this way, Penalver was engaging with the audience and the presentation became more of a group discussion as opposed to a lecture.

As someone who has worked with people who have dementia, Penalver is familiar with the ethical dilemma. “Thinking about doing research with those impacted by dementia, it’s (usually) challenging, or there’s an ethical dilemma there, in thinking about whether the people impacted by dementia can give what we call informed consent,” Penalver said.

Research is necessary to discover facts about managing dementia, but it is necessary to consider the ethical implications the research may have on subjects. She

discussed utilitarianism, and mentioned that the classic ethical dilemma always boils down to one question: “What is right for the majority? This seems right because it helps us to consider the implications for everyone involved.”

Penalver presented historical context for why having a code of ethics is necessary for research. She discussed several instances where science exploited vulnerable people. This includes the Nazi experiments conducted on prisoners against their consent, with no anesthesia. As a result of the Nazi experiments, the Nuremberg Code of Ethics was created to ensure that people engaging with scientific and medical research are preserving the integrity and humanity of their subjects. This code has a list of 10 principles, including voluntary consent, a scientific basis and justification for conducting the experiment and that experiments resulting in pain or death should be avoided at all costs.

Also discussed was the Tuskegee Experiment, where subjects were deceived, exploited and were not given a debriefing after the study was concluded, resulting in death and suffering of Black men. Penalver discussed the deeply held belief part of the medical community had in the past that Black people have a higher pain threshold. This has proved to be a deadly issue that results in suffering and catastrophic mortality rates for Black people, especially where it pertains to Black maternal and infant mortality rates.

Every field of study has its own way of conducting research. “Research looks different from field to field, and each field adopts their own ethical guidelines or standards in terms of being able to work with whoever they’re working with,” Penalver said.

There is not always a clear answer - ethical decisions are not always clear cut and there is a lot of grey area within creating ethical research procedures. That being said, it is a practice in which the researcher needs to determine possible ethical violations and discomfort that might be experienced by the subjects. “We have to think about these things when we’re doing research,” Penalver said.

There are several other guidelines dedicated to preserving the wellbeing of research subjects. The American Psychological Association Code is a list of principles intended to maintain people’s rights and dignities. The Institutional Review Board (IRB), as well as the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC), are agencies that must approve research that involves humans and non-human animals. Research involving animals and humans must follow legal and ethical standards and be approved by these agencies.

For IRB approval, the research in question must follow the criteria for protecting the rights of the people involved. This includes participant consent that is free from coercion. With IACUC, the requirements are that the potential research benefits must outweigh the risks to animals. Penalver also mentioned that if the study is asking people invasive questions that may trigger any underlying issues, researchers should provide resources to allow the participants to seek help should they need to.

Overall, this discussion was an accessible introduction to the parameters of ethical research and practice. Penalver offered a comprehensive presentation and many attendees were present to hear her analyses. For more information about UROC events, readers can visit csumb.edu/uroc.

Disneyland is set to open on April 30. How do you feel about the park reopening?

Otter Chatter by Ariana Nalbach



Richard Espinoza
CHHS
Fourth-year

“Personally, I feel uneasy going into a crowded area so soon, but I guess if all the right precautions are in place, it’s okay.”



Zack Urango
HCOM
Fourth-year

“Broke”



Gina Guzman
Kinesiology
Fourth-year

“I’ll be going in June - I cannot wait!”

How manicures have evolved over time

Vintage

Story and photo by Sydney Brown

Anyone who enjoys getting their nails done knows just how satisfying it is to hear the clickity-clackity sound of their acrylics tapping against one another. Going to the salon for a fresh set can be extremely relaxing and feel like an awesome way to treat oneself. With a virtually infinite amount of colors and designs, going for a manicure offers new ways to express oneself, no matter how many times they've gotten their nails done in the past.

Painting nails has been a cultural pastime for thousands of years. According to Deven Hopp in an article from Byrdie, the Babylonians started painting their nails with kohl - a pigment made of charcoal - as a mark of warrior ranking in 3200 B.C.

Grasping the same idea, in 3000 B.C. Chinese elite's would paint their nails as a sign of their rank and dynasty, usually wearing a deep red color. Lower-caste people were not allowed to paint their nails with the same pigment.

"During certain dynasties, the lower classes could wear pale colors, but wearing the color of royals was punishable by death," read Hopp's article.

After a few thousand years, getting a manicure became more popular, but it still was not available to everyone.

According to Maureen Callahan in an article from the New York Post, New York City birthed the first-ever American nail salon back in the late 1800s. In 1878, entrepreneur Mary Cobbs opened up a manicure parlor on West 23rd Street. Within a few years, Cobb's parlor was as busy as ever, and wealthy, good ol' American girls were lining up to get their nails painted.

For a good while, getting a manicure was quite expensive and considered to be an "elite pastime," according to Callahan's article. But, as America became more ethnically and racially diverse in the 20th century, Asian entrepreneurs designed nail salons to open business to all.

"With the influx of Korean immigrants to New York City in the 1970s, manicures became far more accessible and affordable," read Callahan's article. Then, as more people were able to get their nails done, an influx of nail art ideas immersed, establishing manicures as a way to pamper oneself and to treat their nails as a form of beauty and expression.

According to an Allure Youtube Video, "100 Years of Nails," acrylic nails were invented by Fred Slack in 1955. This opened up tons of opportunities for manicurists to create boundary-breaking nail art designs.

In the '80s, it became popular to paint each nail a different color and to use neon polish. According to the Allure video, rapper Lil' Kim went bold with her nails, where she would encase dollar bills in her acrylics.

Today, nail art lives on. The #nailart has over 86 million posts on Instagram, showcasing thousands of unique nail sets. Some enjoy blossoming 3D flowers on their nails, while others enjoy geometric or marble shapes. Some nail artists can even paint faces on people's nails. The precision it takes to paint such beautiful designs on such a small canvas portrays wonderful talent.

Undoubtedly, going in for a manicure will remain as a beloved pastime for many. As nail art trends shift over the years, the excitement and passion manicurists and their clients have in the salon is sure to persist - hopefully for another few thousand years.



Introducing Otter Mail, the new pen pal program, brought to you by The Lutrinae and AS!

Otter Mail is a fun, easy and vintage way to make friends - get paired with your pal today!

Join now by clicking the link in The Lutrinae's Instagram bio @thelutrinae.

“A Taste of Universal” gives a glimpse of the future of amusement parks

Story and photos by Arianna Nalbach

Universal Studios Hollywood and Disneyland have both closed their doors to guests for the past year. However, as the world is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, both parks have done a soft reopening, offering “a taste of” amusement park experiences.

“A Taste of Universal” opened to guests on March 12 for a limited time before the park officially reopened on April 16 to California residents. The experience offered a glimpse into the future of amusement parks while the world returns to the new normal after the pandemic.

Universal Studios enforced safety guidelines and made sure all guests practiced social distancing. Before anyone could enter the CityWalk or go into the park, they had to do a temperature check in the Jurassic Parking structure.

The Universal Studios’s website states “anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater will not be able to enter Universal CityWalk or Universal Studios Hollywood.” Guests and staff are required to wear masks at all times, unless they are in designated eating areas.

The website also states “we are implementing procedures and practices that are in line with CDC guidelines for the safety and health of our Team Members and guests and are adhering to government guidelines. These include managing capacity within our theme park.”

Because Universal Studios is operating at a reduced capacity, the park feels very open. At no point did anywhere in the park feel unsafe or like it was too crowded.

On the April 10 “A Taste of Universal,” most of the rides were operational, with the exception of the Studio Tour. Ride operators were ensuring different parties were well separated from one another and regularly sanitized the carts.

Every line for the rides and food vendors had clear floor markings to ensure guests were practicing proper social distancing and maintaining six feet distance from one another at all times.

While “A Taste of Universal” was likely a different experience from the park’s official opening, it did provide a good example of what is to come from Universal Studios Hollywood while the world continues to recover from the pandemic.

The staff at Universal Studios Hollywood is clearly working hard to ensure all the guests had a safe and fun experience while finally revisiting the park.



Universal Studios has adapted their operations to these unprecedented times amazingly and did not have to sacrifice anything that makes the experience fun in the process.

It is exciting to see amusement parks finally able to reopen their doors to guests safely after a year of being

in lockdown. The future of how amusement parks will operate is uncertain, and we likely won’t see parks at full capacity for a long time, but “A Taste of Universal” provides a glimpse into what the new normal is going to look like.

Upcoming Events

Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline

April 26 The Otter Student Union will discuss the growing tendency for public schools to track students from education systems into criminal justice systems and how to prevent this at 3:30 p.m.

Virtual Slut Walk

April 28 Deborah Pembroke, the director of Coalition to End Human Trafficking and students will join this event to fight to stop human trafficking at 4 p.m.

Cultural Game Lunch - Loteria

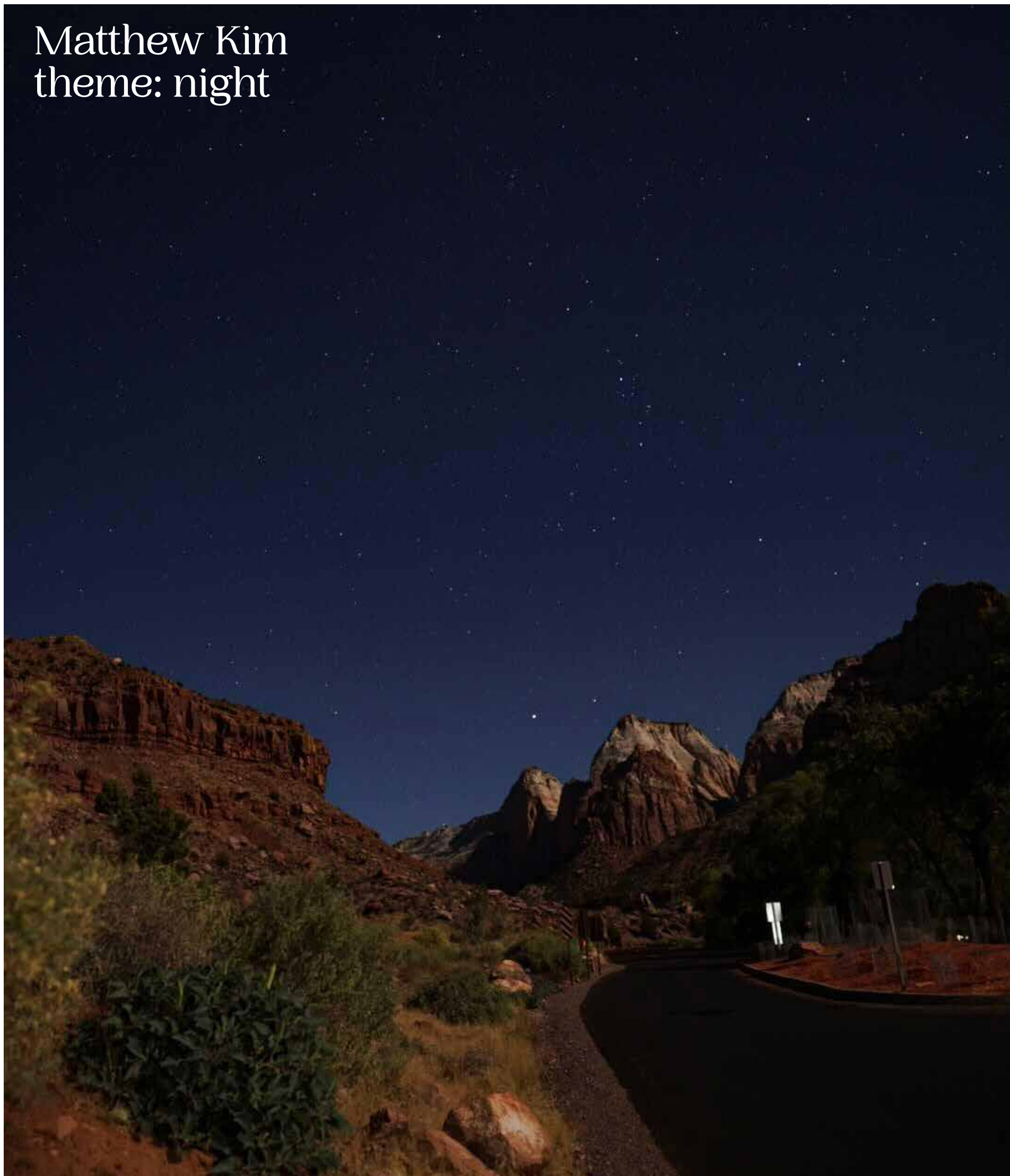
May 3 Want to play a new game? Join the Otter Cross Cultural Center to play Loteria at noon.

Diversity Celebration Series

May 4 In accordance with Mental Health Awareness Month, the College of Health Sciences and Human Services will host novelist and essayist Esmé Weijun Wang to speak about her journey with mental health and living with Lyme Disease at 5:30 p.m.

Photo contest winner!

Matthew Kim
theme: night



Can you unscramble these art-related words to reveal their true meaning?

tianp

krresam

oolrsetarw

rawgnid altbet

leoodrc epslinc

nitap shbru

vasnac

oxbhtgil

htksec

layc

7								
				8		6	5	
	5	6						9
				7	3		2	
5	8			4	2			
	3			6		9		
9					5	4	3	
			2			8		1
2								

Answers:

2	6	1	4	3	8	7	9	5
3	4	5	2	9	7	8	6	1
9	7	8	6	1	5	4	3	2
4	3	2	5	6	1	9	8	7
5	8	7	9	4	2	3	1	6
6	1	9	8	7	3	5	2	4
8	5	6	3	2	4	1	7	9
1	2	4	7	8	9	6	5	3
7	9	3	1	5	6	2	4	8

paint, watercolors,
colored pencils,
canvas, sketch,
markers, drawing,
tablet, paint brush,
lightbox, clay