

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

May 3 2021

NEW HORIZONS

**CSUMB perseveres through the pandemic,
sees light at the end of the tunnel**



What was the best or worst part of this year? What are you looking forward to next year?

Otter Chatter

by The Lutrinae staff



Kristen Dick

Communication Design
Fourth-year

"For me, the worst part of the school year was transitioning to online learning. I had barely gotten to meet any new people since I transferred here in spring of 2020. I was really looking forward to making friends in my major since I could relate to them more. The friends I did get to make I am extremely grateful for. I have gotten close to two of my classmates and they have been an amazing support system for me during the hard times we have been going through."

On the plus side, I'm excited to be able to finish my degree fall of 2021. I will be getting my bachelor of science degree in communication design with a concentration in visual design. I already have my associate degree from the community college I went to."

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.

Vol. 4, Issue 23

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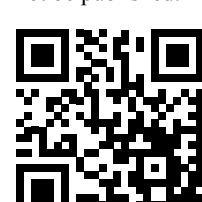
WEBSITE
www.thelutrinae.com

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.



Nicole Sarkozy

Liberal Studies
Third-year

"I had a few amazing things that happened this year so it's hard to pick. The best part of this school year was starting my first semester at CSUMB, meeting new friends in my online classes, and moving out of my hometown to Marina. The worst part of the school year was COVID."



Lesly Morales

HCOM
Fourth-year

"The worst part of my year was losing my dad, but thankfully I was surrounded by a lot of support. The best part of my year is being really close to graduating. I am looking forward to looking into graduate school soon."



@the_lutrinae



Campus

thelutrinae.com

5.3.21

Otter Chatter continued



Alexa Perrez

Psychology
Fourth-year

"The worst part of the year was spending my last semester online and not being able to walk on stage for graduation. It's very unfortunate that I've worked my whole life up to this moment and not being able to celebrate the way I deserve to. For this next year, I'm looking forward to starting my career. I'm hoping to find a job within my field, even if it's an office job at first. I just want to get my foot in the door and start working my way up. It's definitely terrifying thinking about it because my whole life has been fully focused on school, I rarely worked so that all my attention is on homework and studying. So this is going to be brand new for me, but I'm excited to see where my life will go."

Elizabeth Lippa

HCOM
Third-year

"The worst part of my year is not being able to see my dad. He lives in L.A. and is at-risk from having multiple sclerosis. This pandemic has made it really stressful since we worry about him being socially isolated and the risk of him getting COVID."

The best part of my year was transferring to CSUMB and joining the communications department. Despite the challenges from being online, I feel like I have made a lot of good connections with people in my classes and have learned so much from my professors this year.

In the upcoming year, I am looking forward to starting a social media managing internship, as well as crossing my fingers that community theater will open back up once the world is a little safer."



Estella Porras

HCOM
Associate Professor

"The worst part of the year was keeping the physical separation. I missed hugging, kissing, bumping into people at school or in any public space. I missed the spontaneous chit chat with colleagues and having a coffee with friends. The permanent uncertainty about the health risks and the future made the experience of this last year emotionally exhausting to me."

The best part has been to see the resourcefulness of families and people everywhere. I spent part of this troubling year in Colombia and I can tell that it moves me: the creativity and capacity of people to deal with adversity and maintain their sense of humanity and dignity. Despite all terrible situations, there are many examples of solidarity that keep me hopeful."

Lauren Rafter

Music
Fourth-year

"The worst part of this year was not being able to psychically go to school. I miss living on campus and seeing my friends every day. The best part of this year was the fact that because I was living at home, I was able to hang out with my little sister more. We've had a lot of fun together and have become even more close."

For next year, I'm looking forward to graduating in December and moving in with one of my friends in Santa Monica. I hope to find a job working in the business side of the music industry there."



Letter from the editor



Dear Readers,

Creating a weekly newspaper online has been a lovely challenge to overtake. I am extremely grateful that despite being unable to attend on-campus events or report news and take photos traditionally, The Lutrinae staff was able to create 24 wonderful issues.

The pandemic created a new atmosphere for our team to work in, and functioning online changed just about every step of our workflow. We temporarily lost the newsroom, the ability to take action-shot photos, the chance to interview community members in person and most impactfully, the ability to print out and share our issues on-campus. Nonetheless, our team persevered through arguably one of the hardest academic years of the century, and I am proud of our work and creativity.

Readers, The Lutrinae team is so grateful for you and your interest in the news, column, opinion, profile and creative pieces we've published in volume 4. Without your time and readership, the bond we attempt to make with the CSUMB community would be broken. Thank you.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer, stay healthy and happy and stay tuned for next year's installments of The Lutrinae weekly.

Sincerely,

Sydney Brown

Letter from the faculty advisor

Dear Readers,

When we said farewell to each other in March 2020, it was with the hope that maybe we'd be able to meet up in a matter of weeks. Now that we've officially passed the one-year mark and crossed another semester off the calendar, I'd like to recognize the extraordinary work done by The Lutrinae staff during this unprecedented time.

Every week a new issue of The Lutrinae has appeared online to keep the CSUMB community informed. It may seem to many as if it magically manifests out of thin air, but behind the scenes a talented group of women have been working tirelessly to bring you relevant campus news, all while balancing their coursework and other life responsibilities.

A friend recently asked if journalists ever get writers block. I thought, "Of course! We just don't have time to dwell on it." Every week usually comes with its new unique set of problems and a finite time to solve them. With those challenges it can seem like there is no plausible way everything will get done by the publication deadline. Then on production day, it somehow comes together. A former adviser called it "the weekly miracle." This year has thrown even more obstacles at our staff than normal and I've been proud to watch them persevere and overcome.

The current Lutrinae staff has not only proven they can adapt in times of uncertainty, but also thrive. I would like to credit a great deal of this to the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Sydney Brown, who has fostered a great virtual newsroom dynamic based on trust, respect and positivity.

Beyond the paid staff, we also have a group of students who dedicate their time and talent every week. I would especially like to thank Nikki Dodd for her articles and Malia Savella for her wonderful illustrations. Your contributions to the paper and to the CSUMB community are acknowledged and appreciated.

I would also like to thank you, the readers, for your support and participation with our online efforts. We exist for you and because of you.

To all the students at CSUMB, I am so immeasurably proud of all you've accomplished during this trying time.

Congrats to all the 2021 graduates!

Sincerely,

Sara Gobets



Finding Purpose within an Abecedarian

Poem by Zack Urango

Absolutely, under no circumstances should you
Bow to those that curse your name,
Castrating your cause for a
Diluted slice of a pie you baked, made for others to
Enjoy. gravel loves shifting blame on loose
Footing, even if you walk slow. be mindful,
Give yourself time to rise, before you fall.
Have faith that the tide will call your name, with an
Indescribable dread, you are the peanut butter to universal
Jelly. so jam on to tunes too loud and brass while
Kids watch, because they'll learn from your swears and
Label those foot gyrations as a blessing. we are legends in the
Making, even if we forget what the world
Needs in its darkest hour. watch those sunsets that caress
Open eyelids fluttering like butterflies finding
Peace in the most desolate of moments. now,
Quiet yourself, listen to the trees sing,
Reprising their roles among all living things
Supported by the goddess sun. still, days
Tend to fly by when you lose track of time
Under the pressures of a
Vindictive system that loves to dismantle meaning, like
Wishes scrubbed from brains gone through an
X-Ray machine. even if work makes your forget, always remember
Yourself and all the moments that made you into this

Zany human being; with so much to give beyond the time you have left to live.

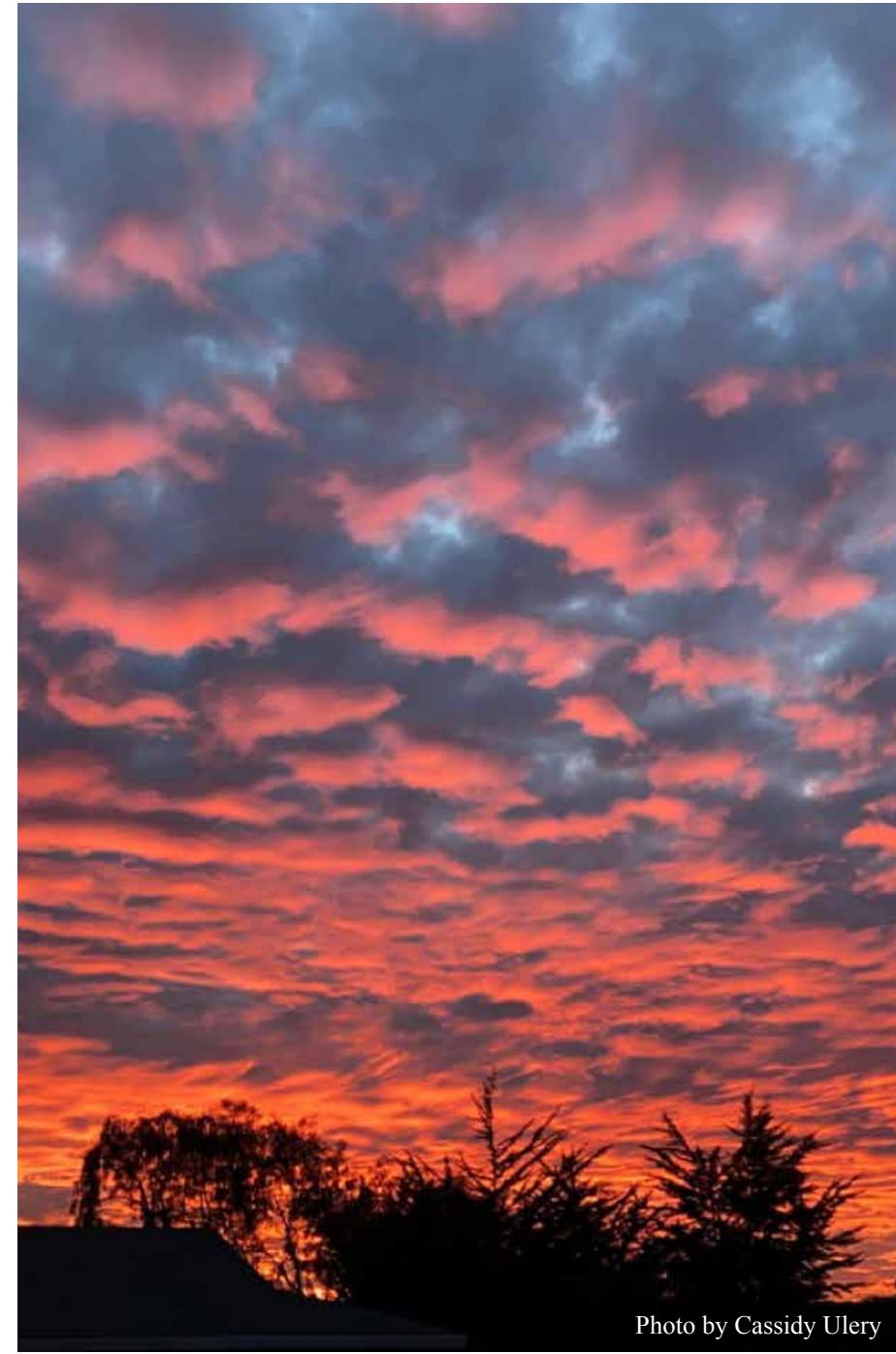


Photo by Cassidy Ulery

New School-of Thought

Poem by Zack Urango

Something beautiful
can be said, for those
who still hold
dreams in hand.

Letting go is unplanned
still, It happens, imagine,
how many authors, astronauts,
and actors, we'd have
if reality didn't smash hopes like glass
coke bottles against scorched sands.

We're bound like twine
to universal spines,
creating narratives, forgoing
nature's true intention.

We are blessed with choice
but are beaten down
by time and the stern
voices behind schools
misdeeds, making us believe,
dreams are more than sharpie
on colored card stock.

We are destined
to be something, even if
dreams are beaten like beer
battered cod, because we
cannot be pure on the inside
if we are not "white" taught.
Regardless of how we look
on the outside.

Dreams do not need fixing!

Dreams begin with vision
which is dulled, hammered soft
into malleable gold. So yes,
the circle can fit into the square hole
if you press hard enough on the edges.

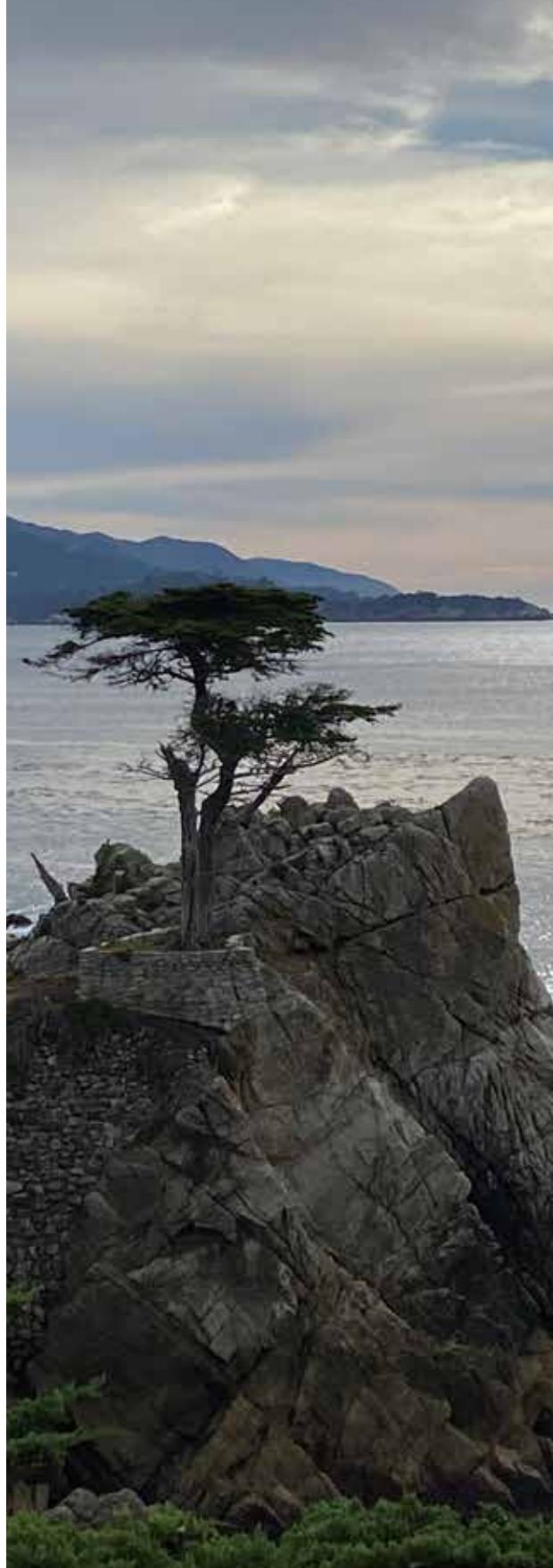


Photo by Cassidy Ulery

A year in review from The Lutrinae staff



Acting as editor-in-chief was a life-changing experience for me! I was able to step into the shoes of a leader, meet amazing people with immense skills and for the first time, work in a position that connected to my academic background.

Being editor-in-chief shaped a lot of my year, where I met with the amazing Lutrinae staff and had the opportunity to write about campus events and the CSUMB community

This past year has been a whirlwind. Time feels like it's moving incredibly slow, but at the same time, everything happened so fast. I still remember how excited I felt when I learned I was going to be the new production manager for The Lutrinae, and now we're publishing our final issue of the year.

Being production manager and working for The Lutrinae gave me motivation when I had none. The Covid-19 pandemic has been incredibly draining mentally, but I was always happy to go to our Monday night meetings and see the rest of the staff.

The majority of my time in college has been spent online. Before the pandemic hit, I loved spending time walking around campus or going to club meetings and getting to hang out with my friends. I've missed going to different events for The Lutrinae that I never would have gone to on my own.

Even though there were many challenges this year, there were many positive things that came from it as well. I was able to adapt as a leader for Design Studio and find new ways for us to have fun meetings virtually. We got so many new members this year and it made me so happy.

To the Design Studio advisor and my scripting for multimedia professor, Wes Modes for making the year way more enjoyable. You offered me help and have remained incredibly understanding and supportive when I have been struggling a lot with school. You have also helped Design Studio by informing me about different opportunities for the club and I am incredibly grateful, so thank you!

To The Lutrinae advisor, Sara Gobets, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow as a designer and journalist. You always trusted Sydney and I with the paper and supported our decisions. The Lutrinae has been an incredible experience the past two years and you're an amazing advisor!

Finally, I would like to thank The Lutrinae's editor-in-chief, Sydney Brown for everything you've done this year. You have become one of my best friends and I have absolutely loved working with you this year. I am so excited to see what you do after you graduate!



Congratulations to everyone for persevering through the year, despite how difficult it was. I wish you all the best, have a safe summer.

-Arianna Nalbach

This year has been a rollercoaster. The main thing that sticks out to me is isolation. I missed seeing my friends, my family, and my favorite professors. I missed the small things like meeting new people and having someone offer to help you with the door instead of keeping far away. I missed having someone in class offer you home baked cookies or having samples at the grocery store.

At some point wearing a mask became normal. Not knowing if people were smiling or glaring at you became normal. Nothing being normal became normal.

However, there were bright spots in the midst of all the chaotic and confusing crises. I appreciate things more. I tried new ways to connect with friends and family. I found new ways to cope with stress.

Online school was a mixed bag. I could roll out of bed five minutes before class if I needed to, but I missed the walk from my dorm to the classroom. I missed the seagulls I would hear along the way, the friends I would see, and the detours I would take. I missed the classroom interactions as well.

One teacher I appreciated during this time was actually one I did not have any classes with. Kathleen Watson was my instructor for the Human Computer Interaction class in Spring 2020. While I only got to interact with her for a few months before everything shut down she inspired me to pursue a career in User Experience. Then when I needed a letter of recommendation this semester she not only wrote me one, but took the time to set up a meeting to talk to me about what I had been doing and give me really helpful advice about my career. She wasn't even teaching at CSUMB this semester due to health issues, but still took the time to help me out.

I think reflecting on the year it has been really rough, but I am lucky to have a great group of friends, family, and other supporters to make it just a little bit better.

-Anna Stubler

weekly. I am so grateful to have been involved in our student newspaper because it truly helped me survive the isolation brought on by the pandemic. During weekly meetings I didn't have to feel alone.

Adapting to online learning this year was very difficult for me. My favorite part about going to class is being able to talk with fellow students and getting to experience academics in a community environment, but COVID took that all away. My extroverted personality stiffened, to say the least.

Being a transfer and first-generation student has also made this year hard. As excited as I am to graduate this month, I'm equally as disappointed I was only able to experience campus life for a few months and won't have the chance to walk the stage in front of my family. But the fact that I made it this far as a first gen student and still succeeded during the pandemic makes me so proud!

Despite the year's challenges, there were many good aspects to it too. Virtual game nights with friends kept me going, and being able to spend more time with my immediate family during quarantine was a blessing. Most importantly, I am healthy and I am here, which is more than enough good to experience during a pandemic.

To my senior capstone professor, Kent Leatham, thank you so much for making this semester fun and lively. Every time I join your class's Zoom call, I feel welcomed and cheerful, and I've never been cheered on by a professor of mine more than I have by you.

To The Lutrinae's staff advisor, Sara Gobets, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to grow. You have trusted me to make the right decisions, respected me as a professional and given me the best mentorship of my academic career. Without your help, I would not be ready for life outside of college!

Cheers to pushing through a hard year, and cheers to the better ones to come.

-Sydney Brown



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-Arianna Nalbach

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-Anna Stubler

Columns

thelutrinae.com

5.3.21

A year in review from The Lutrinae staff



Reflecting on the past year feels like a time warp. There have been many ups and downs in personal, academic and societal settings. I stop and think about how the summer months began to drag and now I wish time would slow and take a break. I reminisce on the feelings of isolation in the beginning of the pandemic. Fear and uncertainty lingered around every corner. I witnessed a brand new dynamic of humanity in the way people did - or didn't - respond to COVID safety protocols, the realities and technical difficulties Zoom university started and being alone became the new normal.

As things seemed to become more chaotic, I began to appreciate my family and home-base more than ever and realized how essential socialization is for the spirit. While I would FaceTime with friends or meet up in a socially distanced space, it couldn't compete with the old times of gathering in large groups, close together and not having to worry about getting loved ones sick.

Months passed, cases increased, and I started to doubt if a full social comeback from COVID could be possible. It seemed as though people weren't listening to officials and scientists; people disregarded the healthcare system and well-being of others. Feelings of isolation morphed into feelings of frustration.

While online Zoom university isn't ideal, I do appreciate my professors trying their best to make classes personal, informative and exciting to attend. I am extremely grateful for the grammar and writing techniques I have learned this semester, as well as being able to expand my knowledge of global communication with the opportunity to interview an international journalist and filmmaker. Without the support of friends, family and my newspaper colleagues, I don't think this year - with its challenges and highlights - would have been as memorable and blessed.

Thinking ahead to the Fall semester, I am eager to resume in-person classes, be able to be on campus once more and regain a college experience for my last semester. I'm nervous yet ecstatic to plan for graduation and graduate school, dreaming of a future career and enjoying the thought of reporting on live events instead of virtual. The progress we have made regarding COVID makes me optimistic about the future. Wishing all Otters a safe summer and beyond.

-Cassidy Ulery

This year has been a challenging one. There have been many ups and downs. I personally have had some health issues, and members of my family have as well. I have faced several reminders of mortality and the fragility of life. It's important to take the time to really experience the things one wants to experience, as well as to appreciate the time we have with our loved ones.

I learned a lot about myself, the people I have chosen to bring into my life, my community, and what we are capable of surviving. I continued learning about the lengths that systems of oppression will go to justify inequity, and that the people who uphold these systems will stop at nothing to maintain the status quo. I have also learned about the resiliency of those who are marginalized and vulnerable, and it was reiterated to me how important it is to stand up and speak out in defense of others, by whatever means necessary.

Attending college virtually has been a struggle for me. I love being with my peers and teachers, and I love forming connections. That part has been difficult, but I still found a way to make friends. I appreciate the friends I have made through the screen. I especially want to shout out to my friends Phoebe Lord and Nayeli Sandoval Gallo, who I met at the beginning of the school year and who have helped me stay connected to the school as well as to them. It's been great building new friendships with them, and I'm excited to continue these friendships in person during the coming year.

I would really love to shoutout to all my professors this year. As a person who needed help often, my professors were always accommodating and available to meet with me when I needed extra attention. Having teachers who respect their students and are truly invested in their growth as students and future professionals has been beneficial to me and has affirmed my choice in selecting CSUMB as my transfer university. I would also like to shoutout to my mentor Beth Little, who has endless patience for my forgetfulness, and also has endless advice to give me.

My success this year has truly been because of the people in my life, and I am incredibly grateful. I am looking forward to the next steps as the world begins to reopen and we populate the campus again. I am also excited to engage in more activism and work with my peers to push for a better, equitable, and safe future for everyone. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and I'm confident that we can get there together.

-Breanna Peterson



the
Lutrinae
is hiring!

We are looking for:
Editor-in-Chief
Production Manager
Assistant Editor
Webmaster
Staff Writers
Staff Photographer

If you are interested in applying, you can find these positions on Otter Jobs!

Photo by Cassidy Ulery

Photo contest winner!

Nicole Freeman | theme: new beginnings



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

tnemecnemmoc lessat

noitarbelec

nwog

ylimaf

amolpid

ytrap

eerged

pac

inmula

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

Answers:

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

degree, alumni
gown, diploma,
party, cap, tassel,
celebration, family,
commencement,