

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

Dec. 15, 2021



Uniting Asian communities with dialogue

Story by Cassidy Ulery
Illustration by Malia Savella

Addressing racial stereotypes, combined with multiple scholarly perspectives aimed at unifying the community by building bridges between different cultures was the topic of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and the College of Business's event titled "Keeping it Real: Affirming the Asian Community" on Nov. 29.

The event was emceed by professor of human services and public policy Vanessa Lopez-Littleton.

"Tonight is an opportunity to focus on - not one Asian community, but the many Asian communities," Lopez-Littleton said.

Laurel Lee-Alexander, outgoing and first Asian American president of Association of Junior Leagues International and director of philanthropy at Monterey Peninsula Foundation, introduced keynote speaker Russell Jeung.

Jeung is a professor of Asian American history at San Francisco State. Recently, Time Magazine included Jeung in their 100 most influential people in the world. In March 2020, during the start of the COVID pandemic, Jeung co-founded the "Stop AAPI Hate" website and campaign.

On the website, more than 10,000 reports have been accounted for since its creation. Reports for elderly Asian Americans are common, with graphic stories detailing hate crimes of being spat on, yelled at, hit and attacked with racist slurs.

After sharing with viewers some testimonies from elderly Asians that reported to the website, Jeung asked for emotional responses, which ranged from heartbroken, to disturbed and feelings of shame.

"This is a period of collective racial trauma," Jeung said. "It's collective because when one person experiences it, even if we do not experience it directly, we still feel it vicariously."

The racist and hateful attacks toward AAPI communities results in feelings of isolation. Women experience attacks twice as much compared to men. One out of five Asians has reported experiencing a hate crime on the "Stop AAPI Hate" website.

"We know these attacks are not micro in impact," Jeung said. "We see how horrific these incidents are. People face profanities, racial epithets, often it's gang bullying on elderly women and now one out of five 'Stop AAPI Hate' respondents display racial trauma."

Racial trauma is frequently diagnosed as one or more long-term symptoms that include depression, anxiety, hypervigilance and avoidance of particular places.

"People are being pushed and shoved," Jeung said. "People are having bottles and rocks thrown at them. I wasn't surprised to see elderly killed this year - both in New York and the Bay Area."

Jeung posed a question for the audience asking "why blame the pandemic on Asians?"

In three answers, Jeung correlates the pandemic and hate crimes with political rhetoric targeted towards Chinese Americans during Donald Trump's presidency such as the "China virus," media representation and the yellow peril - a racialized stereotype arguing Asians are a threat to Western society.

Jeung provided viewers with past examples of when Chinese immigrants experienced the yellow peril: the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act after being blamed for smallpox and leprosy, the 1906 Alones Fires and the forcible displacement of Chinese citizens, and the bubonic plague - isolating Chinese immigrants and keeping them hostage with barbed wire and armed guards.

"Asians are faced with two types of stereotypes: we are either the model minority or seen as a perpetual foreigner," Jeung said.

With the model minority, Asians are seen as the "white adjacent" and people to emulate, but the status of being seen as a "real American" is conditional. Being treated as a perpetual foreigner exposes Asians to discriminatory behaviors and racist verbal and physical attacks.

"Asians have always fought back," Jeung said. "Asians have always fought for their civil rights and have sought to belong."

Through Jeung's work, he has started a youth campaign, where students held internships with "Stop AAPI Hate." Jeung highlighted how Asian communities are coming together, seen through the Chinatown rallies, protecting elderly Asians and giving children the means to fight off attackers.

"Asians are flocking together," Jeung said. "We are flocking together for vigils, we are flocking at rallies in Chinatown for allyship and support, we are flocking back to ethnic enclaves to support depressed businesses, and we are flocking to chaperone our elders."

After Jeung's presentation, Lopez-Littleton emceed a panel of different Asian American scholars.

The first panelist Kathy Biala, Marina City Councilwoman, has advocated for representation of Asian art principles in downtown Monterey.

"Diversity and inclusion are not just thoughts and good intentions," Biala said. "We can truly make these realities, but it will take all of us - together."

The second panelist, associate professor of U.S. history at CSUMB Phuong Nguyen, spoke about the authenticity of stereotypes toward AAPI.

"It doesn't matter if the stereotypes are true or not," Nguyen said. "Stereotypes are not designed to teach us anything, they are designed to justify the way people are treated."

The third panelist to speak during the event was assistant professor of entrepreneurship and economics at CSUMB Jennifer Kuan. Kuan spoke on the negative consequences of excluding Asians from society.

"We are all paying a price for discrimination and exclusion," Kuan said. "I would like us to examine how this is crossing boundaries in various settings and hopefully we can go forward with addressing them."

Professor of Political Economy at CSUMB Angie Tran was the final panelist to speak during the event. Tran's work is centered around the labor movements and resistance in Vietnam, as well as the transnational migration patterns of guest workers.

Looking toward the future and how communities of different cultures can begin unification, Tran has two suggestions.

"First, we need to promote cross-ethnic, cross-race solidarity," Tran said. "Second, we need to acknowledge the attacks on Asians and Asian Americans are part of the same capitalist, neo-liberal system that thrives on division among peoples of color and attacks on Asians, Blacks and Latinx."

Black People Meet

Oters gather together for a night of inclusion



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AS Town Hall

Student concerns are addressed in final semester meeting

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8-Bit

Nintendo releases Pokemon Diamond and Pearl Remakes



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Senior highlights

Kevin Martelli Communication Design



"My favorite part about attending CSUMB was the small class sizes. By having smaller class sizes, I was able to not only get to know my classmates on a more personal level, but also get to know my professors. I was able to easily keep in touch with professors, even semesters after taking their class, which as a result led me to networking opportunities that I found beneficial."

"After graduating, I am planning to work remotely for a design firm. By working remotely, I will be able to travel and see areas that I have always wanted to visit. I always strive for work/life balance and remote work really has the potential to provide this for me."

Jackson Bearbower HCOM

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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"My favorite part of attending CSUMB was the weather. It's so hot where I am from! [After graduating,] I plan to work with an insurance company down in Orange County."

"My advice for incoming students is to make as many friends as you can, and try to do new things every week around town! You should also learn how to cook your own food."



Emily Callen • HCOM



"My favorite part about attending CSUMB has been making friends, being able to live on my own and being close to the beach. My plans for after graduation are to apply for full-time human resources positions."

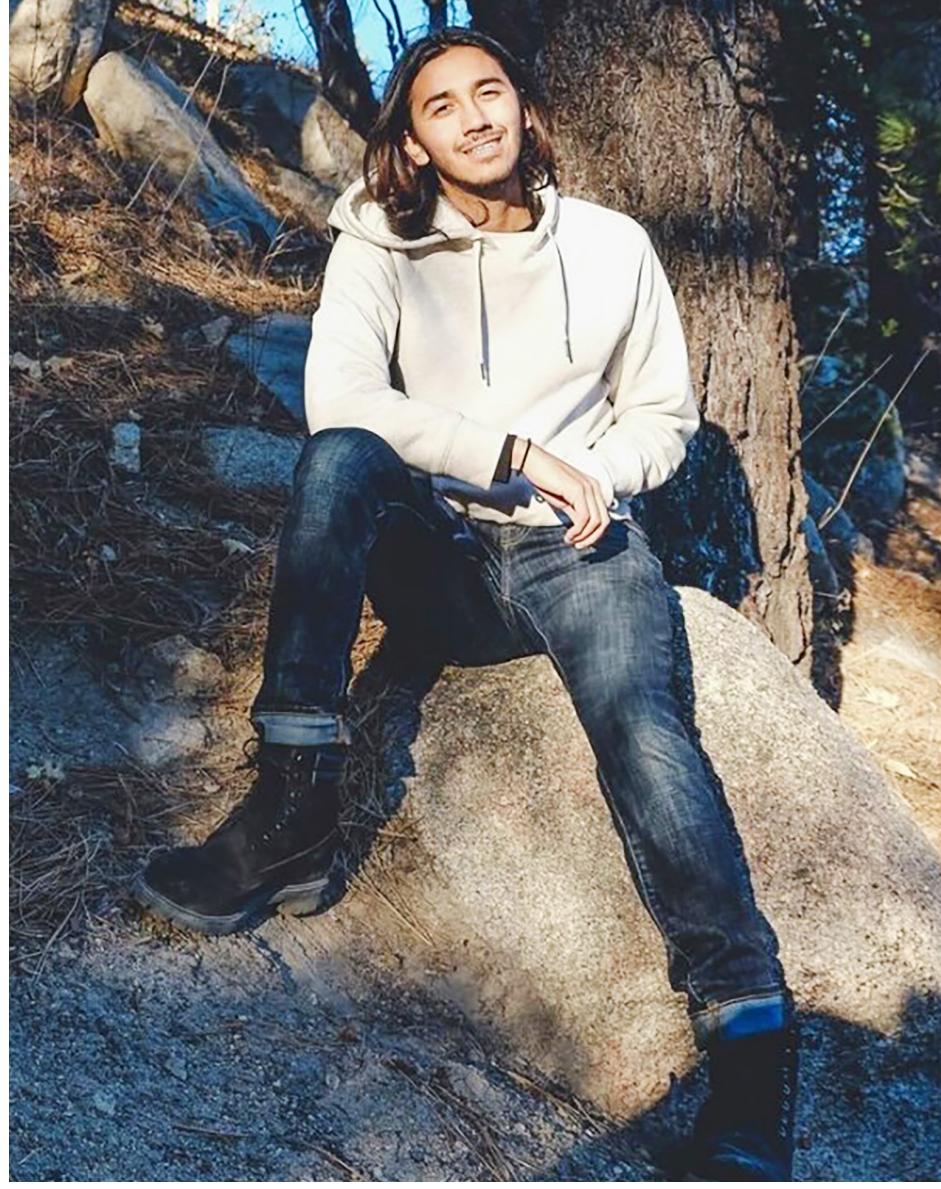
"Advice that I would give incoming students based on my experience is to not procrastinate. Create a routine and schedule when you should get your homework and tasks done."

Campus

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Senior highlights



Angel Diaz Psychology

"Attending CSUMB is just one of the many things that made me realize I could actually pursue anything I put my mind to. I am currently applying to graduate schools, and my hope there is to pursue a Ph.D in psychology research. In the meantime, I'll be pursuing more research opportunities with my current mentor at CSUMB."

"I think the best advice I could possibly give is to consistently take initiative, especially with whatever goals they may have. Your time is valuable— each day is relatively short, and all that time kind of passes by quicker than what you could imagine. I would just say take the initiative to be active in your goals and pursuit of those goals."



Christian Sumares Computer Science

"It's a nice campus and a good location. Affordability is the main reason I chose CSUMB. The professors are pretty good, and I've enjoyed the classes. I did check out the game design club for a while, which was cool. It was something to do on campus. I'm planning on getting an internship or a job, and I'll take a break for a bit because I've been in school forever. I have more experience with web-related skills, and I plan on getting things together like my resume."

"Taking capstone and service-learning at the same time is tough, and I recommend taking them during different semesters. Teamwork in terms of group projects is also important. Try to work together because things will go smoother and please contribute."

Marissa Miller Business

"Having places like the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) where people from different cultures, backgrounds and international experiences has been a place to foster acceptance within the CSUMB community. I also love how friendly everyone on campus is. It's like you never know where you will be able to make a new friend, it might happen talking to someone in a club you joined, a class or with the roommates you live with."

"Since I am graduating in December, I am celebrating Christmas with my family back in Los Angeles. Afterwards, I plan to live with them for a while, while I try to get a job and save up money to rent my own apartment. I hope to be able to travel more in the future seeing as it was something I was unable to do previously because of COVID."



Black People Meet: Building Black community at CSUMB

Story by Anna Stubler
Photos by Arianna Nalbach

A unique community building event took place in the Otter Student Union Ballroom at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) on Dec. 1. For professor Daniel Summerhill, the event entitled “Black People Meet,” was a chance to see Black folks in one space, which Summerhill doesn’t get very often.

Summerhill is a humanities and communication professor at CSUMB.

Vanessa Lopez-Littleton, a professor in the health, human services & public policy department, said that for her the event was “an opportunity to support our Black students.”

Additionally, Summerhill and Lopez-Littleton believe it’s important for students to see representation at events like these.

“There’s so few Black faculty on campus,” Lopez-Littleton said. “I think [Black students] need to see us.”

Summerhill added it’s nice for Black students to know “that there’s other folks that look like them on campus.”

Umi Vaughan, associate professor of Africana studies at California State University, Monterey Bay and Center for Black Student Success (CBSS) faculty director helped organize and MC the event.

“We are hoping to let people know that CBSS is here on campus,” Vaughan said.

In the future, Vaughan and his team hope to host Black authors, concerts with Black musicians and poetry readings by Black poets.

Vaughan said events like the Black People Meet excite him because he can hear people’s laughter, and it can give people a sense of belonging in the community.

According to Vaughan, the event came together through the work of his student assistants Judah Young and Zah-Rah LaTour.

Students Parker Garrett and Lorelei Self-Tyson attended the event because they wanted to make new friends, and they thought it would be nice to meet more African American students. Students attending the event played card games, mingled, ate food and listened to musical performances.

Follow @csumb.cbss on Instagram to stay up to date with the CBSS.



Professor Umi Vaughan speaks to students at the Black People Meet event in the OSU Ballroom on Dec. 1.



Otters gather together for the Black People Meet event at CSUMB's OSU Ballroom on Dec. 1.

Campus

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Associated Students tackles final semester meeting & student concerns

Story by Helene Kristensen
Illustration by Malia Savella

Associated Students (AS) at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) held their last town hall for the semester on Dec. 2. In this hour-long virtual meeting, there were numerous representatives from both students and faculty at CSUMB.

Some topics that were brought up were dining options, how to stay safe on campus, mental health, change in grading options and food insecurity.

On the topic of dining options, students voiced their concerns that most locations close at 8 p.m., but students had class ending after that time, which left them with little to no food options unless they had something in their dorm. Some of the suggestions that were brought to attention were mobile ordering options through the Get app or later opening hours.

At this point in time, they were not able to promise anything because of the current labor shortage that is seen throughout California, but they would look into it as a possible option for a later point.

Another wish students voiced was healthier dining options, especially healthier choices at the Sea Store, located inside the Otter Student Union (OSU), which was something Harald Barkhoff, Dean of the College of Health Science and Human Services was excited about.

"I have tried to say the same previously (at other campuses); however, they have always said students don't choose those options," Barkhoff said. "So, I am happy that this is something CSUMB students state they want."

Furthermore, students were concerned about how to stay safe on campus during this time and Dean of Students Leslie Williams said that personal protective equipment like masks, wipes, testing and the vaccine mandate were all measures that CSUMB took in order to keep the students, staff, faculty, and campus safe.

Additionally, for Spring semester, they are looking at an increase in in-person activity, but with current precautions.

Director of Enterprise Risk Management and Environmental Health and Safety Amy Thomas informed students the mask mandate will continue in the Spring semester, in order to avoid confusion.

Classroom ventilations was something students were questioning, after having experienced some of the classrooms to be stuffy. Thomas assured all the buildings were assessed during the summer and are continuously monitored.

However, if some students have concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the facility department. Faculty and staff were also encouraged to report if they had any concerns.

On the topic of mental health, the Personal Growth & Counseling center (PGCC) can be reached at 831-582-3969. They can also be reached to inquire and schedule a mental health screening. If it is an emergency students can call 831-582-3965 for a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service where they can get immediate help, and someone



would also follow up the next day when the PGCC opens up.

Students should not hesitate to reach out seeing as active and enrolled students have paid for this service through their tuition fee.

Credit/No credit (CR/NC) is an option many students seemed to have missed this semester, and it was confirmed during the meeting that it will not be an option for students to choose from this semester, unless their class is listed as a CR/NC class.

Several students stated that they felt disappointed that they were not made aware at the start of the semester that it would not be an option at the end of the semester. This decision was made as a CSU-wide decision - not just at CSUMB.

The final topic of the meeting was food insecurity. Students who face food insecurity were encouraged to seek out resources such as Basic Needs and Cal Fresh. Basic Needs started handing out meal vouchers for the Dining Commons, but also for the farmers market meal vouchers, so students were ensured to get some fresh vegetables.

They also provide some grocery store gift cards and emergency funds. Students were encouraged to visit csumb.com/basicneeds and fill out a self-referral form.

The food provider on campus, Charterwells, donated fresh food to the campus. But just before Thanksgiving, Otters were encouraged to donate meal swipes to feed a fellow hungry Otter. It was estimated they got a total of 100 meal swipes, which Charterwell matched.

The Lutrinae is hiring for a new webmaster!

If you are interested in joining our team for the Spring semester, please email sgobets@csumb.edu with your resume.

Sending sustainable tips home for the holidays

Story by Anna Stubler
Illustration by Malia Savella

A virtual Sustainable Holiday Panel at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) was held on Dec. 2. Kailee Huebner, CSUMB associated students sustainability senator, led the event.

The event opened with a Kahoot quiz to review recycling rules and guidelines, teaching students about valuable recycling rules. For example, Monterey County accepts any recycling item like plastic that has the numbers one, two or five.

Next, Huedner introduced panelists Dan Fernandez, Victoria Derr, Melissa Vezard and Melissa Segura.

Fernandez is a environmental studies and physics professor at CSUMB and stated “I’ve always had that ethos of sustainability.”

Derr is an environmental studies professor alongside Fernandez.

“Like Dan [Fernandez], I think I always had an ethos for sustainability,” Derr said. “And I like to think of it as living well, that’s something that transcends a lot of cultures and languages that have expression.”

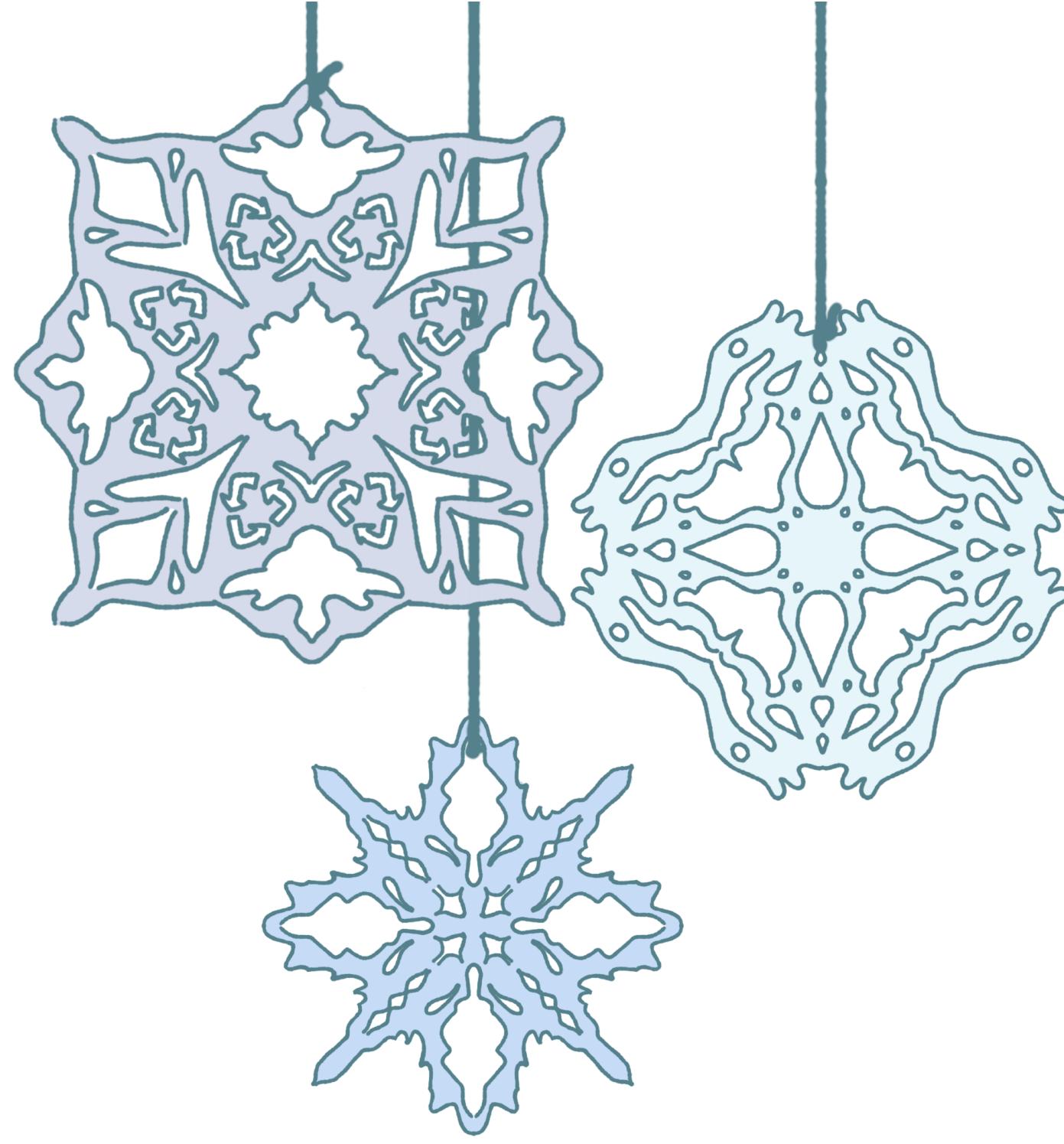
Vezard is a fourth-year student at CSUMB studying marine science and Segura is a first-year student majoring in environmental studies.

Vezard likes educating her family on ways to be sustainable.

“I try to always have those open discussions about why you shouldn’t just be buying a bunch of stuff off of Amazon,” Vezard said. “That’s not the best way to be sustainable.”

All the panelists stressed not getting people gifts they may not want or need because this becomes wasteful. If they do receive something unwanted, they try to regift it.

Students looking to get more active in sustainability on campus can email assustainability@csumb.edu to join the Environmental Affairs Committee, which is looking for new members for Spring semester.



Connecting Afro-Latin music through Son Jarocho

Story by Bryan Chavez

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) invited Javier Tamayo and María De La Rosa, both musical artists and practitioners of San Jarocho music, to speak on the genre that connects Mexican, Black, and American communities through music and expression on Nov. 30.

The event started with a performance by the Music and Performing Arts (MPA) folklórico ensemble, a one-unit class offered on CSUMB campus where students study

the musical literature, instrumental and performance techniques, related music theory, influence on other art forms and history of the folklórico music, which is loosely translated to folklore.

Afterwards, Tamayo and De La Rosa presented their knowledge of the history of the genre and the positive impact it has had on their lives.

San Jarocho music came about in the eighteenth century after the start of the slave trade, when Europeans would bring Africans into a small state on the Gulf of Mexico

known as Veracruz. The style has been heavily influenced by both Mexican and African roots, and was being used overtime to form tight bonds with these two communities and has only been growing since.

By the end of the event, De La Rosa invited all the guests and artists to participate in a group song by either playing an instrument or simply clapping their hands to the rhythm of the song. This was to show what the genre is all about in being connected through something meaningful with people who may be strangers to you.

Columns

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A nostalgic Pokemon adventure

8-Bit



Story and screenshot by Arianna Nalbach
Illustration by Malia Savella

Back in February, Nintendo announced remakes to the “Pokemon Diamond” and “Pokemon Pearl” games, titled “Pokemon Brilliant Diamond” and “Pokemon Shining Pearl.” The remakes released on Nov. 19 to the Nintendo Switch and each retail for \$59.99.

The original Diamond and Pearl games were released back in 2006 to the Nintendo DS and are considered the Generation IV Pokemon games. In 2008, they received a follow-up Generation IV title “Pokemon Platinum.”

That being said, Nintendo stayed true to the original Generation IV games and did not integrate story beats or game elements from “Pokemon Platinum” into “Brilliant Diamond” or “Shining Pearl.”

This means not all hope is lost for fans of “Pokemon Platinum,” as there is still a chance they will remake it at a later date. Nintendo has not confirmed if they will be releasing a remake or not for “Pokemon Platinum.”

Some fans have speculated “Platinum” may be integrated at a later date as downloadable content (DLC).

While for the most part, “Brilliant Diamond” and “Shining Pearl” hold true to their 2006 counterparts, there are some quality-of-life changes Nintendo made for the Switch adaptations. One big example of this is the inclusion of auto-saving. When entering or leaving a route or building, the game will automatically save your progress.

“Brilliant Diamond” and “Shining Pearl” now also display type differences between the Pokemon you’re currently battling with if it’s a Pokemon you’ve encountered before. This makes it easier to tell which Pokemon’s moves will be most effective against an opponent.

Another one of the most notable updates is that you are now able to access the PC anywhere. In older Pokemon titles, it was only possible to change up which Pokemon are currently in your party while at a Pokemon Center. “Brilliant Diamond” and “Shining Pearl” updated this to mimic other newer titles and made it possible to switch up the Pokemon in your party anywhere, any time.

Outside of modernizing some minor gameplay aspects from the original “Diamond” and “Pearl” games, Nintendo also updated the aesthetic of the game in a great way.

The original games had a pixel art design, but Nintendo managed to update it to a 3D style that still feels nostalgic to the original games. “Brilliant Diamond” and “Shining Pearl’s” art styles have a much more squat look to them than the other 3D Pokemon games.

This distinction from “Brilliant Diamond” and “Shining Pearl” from the other recent Pokemon releases really helps set it apart and achieve something uniquely similar to the original art style.

“Pokemon Brilliant Diamond” and “Shining Pearl” pay homage to the original games in a truly great way. They are updated just enough to translate nicely into the modern era but still feel nostalgic and homey.



Kota Factory: An exceptionally relatable story

Monte's Movies

Story by Anna Stubler

With the semester wrapping up, what’s more relevant than a show about studying and exams? “Kota Factory” is a story about growing up, growing pains and growing new bonds.

Two seasons of “Kota factory” are available on Netflix in its original Hindi with English captions. The first season aired in 2019 and the second season was released on Sept. 24. While the show is in Hindi and set in India, anyone who is, or has been a student, can relate to the struggles and victories the students face.

The title refers to Kota, a city in India home to many tutoring schools, or “coaching centers.” So, the “Kota Factory” churns out students, some of them prepared to go on to prestigious colleges they always wanted.

The main character Vaibhav, played by Mayur More, and his family have high expectations for him, but his mediocre grades and test scores make it unlikely he will achieve them. To get into one of the IIT colleges, which are regarded as extremely prestigious STEM colleges in India, students must be the best of the best in a highly competitive atmosphere.

In order to get there, Vaibhav wants to go to a top coaching center. At only 16, he moves away from his family to spend his days skipping regular school in order to prepare for college at a coaching institute.

Shortly after arriving in Kota, the unappetizing food, drama and stress take a toll on Vaibhav and those around him.

The pressure to achieve this goal puts an enormous strain on the characters’ mental and physical health throughout

the series. However, it also allows them to form strong bonds with the friends and mentors that help them throughout the process.

Not only is the plot and dialogue well written, the cinematography is top notch. Shot in black-and-white the show features beautiful aerial shots of the cities and villages across India.

Additionally, the cast of characters is well-rounded with serious characters, as well as ones providing comic relief.

While “Kota Factory” is not explicitly based on a true story, the series was formed from the recollections of IIT graduates and engineers who were part of the film crew, according to this article.

Check out “Kota Factory” to unwind after the semester by watching other students stress out about exams.



Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

Being able to create 14 issues this semester with The Lutrinae as editor-in-chief has been a dream come true! I am extremely grateful that we were able to have a beautiful blend of virtual and in-person events this semester - making the transition back onto campus an enjoyable experience.

COVID brought a ton of new changes for The Lutrinae staff over the past year and a half. Despite the challenges, our team persevered and came out stronger than ever. Getting to work with our team of returnees and new members brought in story ideas that appealed to a variety of students, gorgeous student photography, and elaborate illustrations.

Without the help of The Lutrinae staff and contributors, as well as our weekly readers, these issues would not have been the same. I could not be more proud of the work we have published this semester and the hard work brought forth from the team.

To our readers and CSUMB, thank you for giving us a platform to express our creativity and deliver important

news, columns and profile pieces. To my adviser Sara Gobets, thank you for being an amazing mentor that has always allowed me to express my vision through the paper. To my production manager Arianna Nalbach, I thank you for being my right-hand person and bringing The Lutrinae's vision to life through your expertise designing skills.

This semester as editor-in-chief has flown by. I take great pride in knowing The Lutrinae will be backed by a wonderful team for Spring 2022. While I will miss being on The Lutrinae team terribly, I am confident that for the Fall 2021 graduates, including myself, the future is bright.

I hope you all have a safe, healthy winter break. Stay tuned for the next installment of The Lutrinae's issues coming to you soon.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Lola Ulery



Farewell Photos

Top photo by Cassidy Ulery,
bottom photo by Malia Savella

