

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

Jan. 31, 2022

CSUMB increases safeguard as the rise of COVID strikes again



Story by Estrella McDaniel
Illustration by Malia Savella

Due to COVID-19 case numbers rising once more, California State University of Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has increased precautions in order to ensure the safety of all faculty and students.

As seen over the past two years, this virus has fluctuated, and as the spread rises again, so do the mandated rules to help prevent it from causing any more damage.

“The evidence shows that vaccination plus boosters more effectively limits symptoms of Omicron infection to mild levels or none, and more effectively prevents serious illness and hospitalization than vaccines alone,” said CSUMB President Eduardo Ochoa.

Taking this information into account, the school has ensured every student gets their booster along with wearing N95 or KN95 masks in all indoor spaces.

“I think it will be important for faculty to be flexible with students and encourage them to stay away from campus if they are not feeling well,” said HCOM professor Patrick Belanger.

“I appreciate the campus-wide vaccination requirement, that there are N95 masks available on campus, and also the existence of on-site rapid-testing,” Belanger said. “If it becomes possible, it would be ideal if this rapid testing becomes available to the families of students, staff, and faculty.”

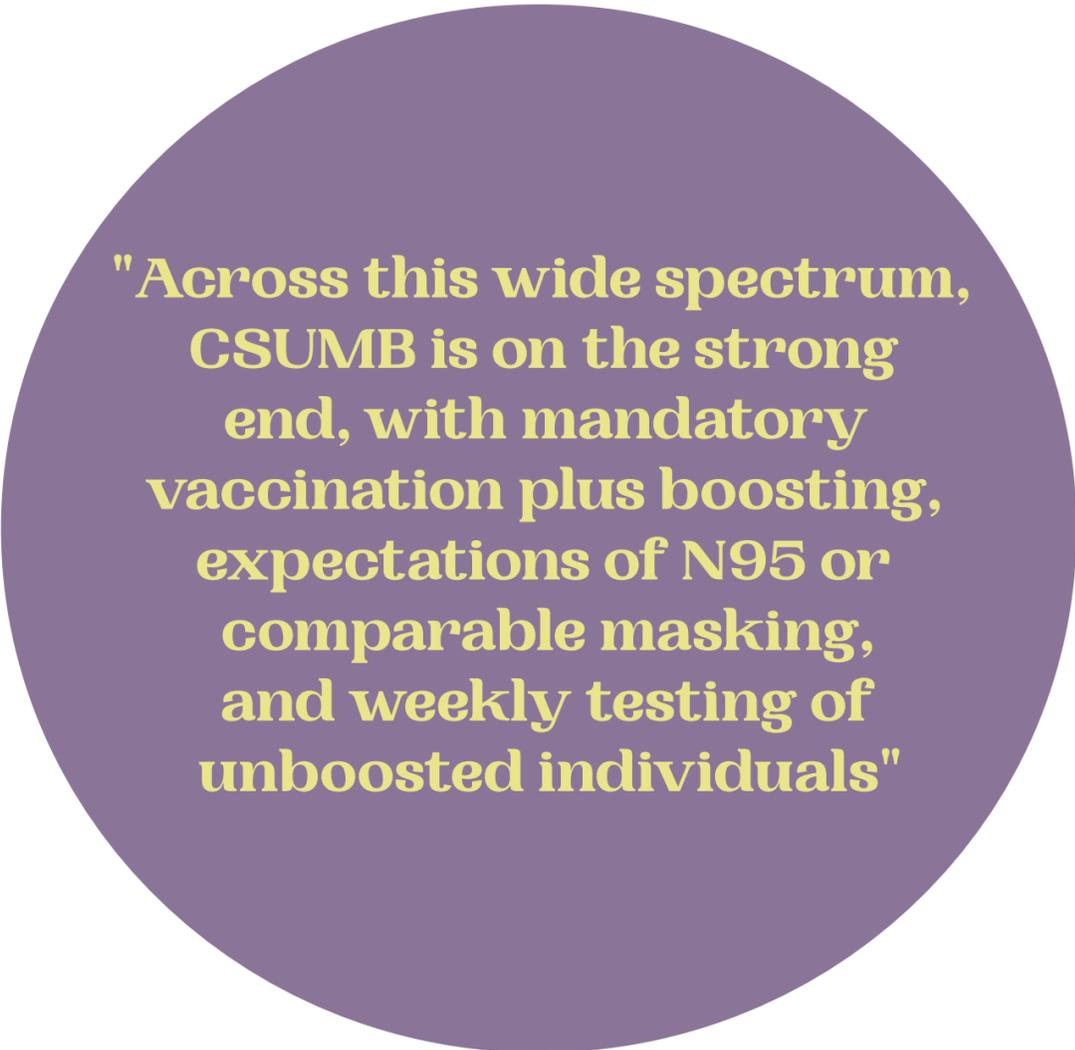
Even though the campus has gone back to total capacity, there are still certain things they haven’t let return, causing some students to question why they’re not letting these activities come back completely.

“I think they’re doing a reasonable enough job; I am somewhat confused as a student that there are certain restrictions on things like recreational life,” said Cecilia Colchico, a third-year student at CSUMB.

“We’re not allowed to do things like play open gym basketball during certain times of the day, so their hours are limited right now, yet we’re in full 100% capacity classes, so something like that doesn’t necessarily make sense to me,” Colchico said.

“There is wide variation across the country, from full face-to-face instruction with no vaccination or masking requirements to fully virtual instruction. Across this wide spectrum, CSUMB is on the strong end, with mandatory vaccination plus boosting, expectations of N95 or comparable masking, and weekly testing of unboosted individuals,” Ochoa said.

As the spread of COVID grows, so do the defense mechanisms CSUMB is making a priority to guarantee the rise of Omicron doesn’t strike the majority of individuals on campus.



Return Of The Natives

RON plans to plant 2,030 trees by 2030



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Water Polo

Women’s water polo defeats SCU Broncos in an intense match



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8-Bit

“Death’s Door” is an amazing indie game



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2,030 Trees by 2030: Return of the Natives get planting

Story and Photo by Malia Savellas

Return of the Natives (RON), an environmental non-profit located on California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) campus, held a tree planting event on Jan. 29 From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., students and community members planted oak trees in the stretch of land behind the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library.

A separate tree planting at the Marina Dunes Preserve took place at the same date and time. Both locations, along with Fort Ord National Monument, are where RON have been working towards their goal of planting 2,030 native trees by the year 2030.

On adopting the project, RON greenhouse and restoration manager Christina McKnew said "the sustainability folks at CSUMB had this spark of an idea, and they came to us and asked if we wanted to be involved." The organization is hoping to have at least 200 trees planted by the end of this school year.

McKnew kicked off the event by demonstrating the full planting process. Dead trees from a previous planting event were dug out and replaced with 15-gallon oak trees, which are native to Monterey. Volunteers worked in small groups as an acoustic band, which included environmental science professor Fred Watson, played music. Snacks and gardening supplies, such as shovels and gloves, were provided.

"We've got very good entertainment, excellent instruction, and good guidance," said fourth-year Jared Leary. "Everyone has a common goal to do the best we can."



(Clockwise from bottom left) Fourth-year Danijela Jozinovic, third-year Cienna Camarena, third-year Aja Whittaker and third-year Rose Sellinger helped plant trees behind the library on Jan. 29.

The tree planting is just one of RON's many local efforts to restore Monterey County's natural environment. Other restoration projects include river and creek cleaning, youth field trips, and school programs on ecological habitats. In the past, RON has spearheaded several habitat restoration projects on campus, especially where endangered plant species tend to grow.

"We want our campus to show what's around the area, bring native [plant species] back, and bring more greenery ... this is what we want to be surrounded by," said fourth-year RON student assistant Elizabeth Rivera.

The tree plantings will continue to be held on Saturdays over the course of the Spring semester. The next planting will take place at Fort Ord National Monument on Feb. 5. Volunteers and program members are hoping to see greater student involvement at future restoration events.

"I think [this event is] great, but seeing the outcome of today, I definitely feel like more people on campus need to come out and be part of this, because not many people know about it," said fourth-year Danijela Jozinovic. "Everybody should be involved in it. Not just people who are science majors, but all the students in the whole community."

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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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.



Otter Express returns

Story by Ferris Crosby

With Monte's and the Otter Express (OE) closing on the campus in 2020, most students returning to campus have been missing the familiarity of their favorite hang-out spots. While the word is still out on Monte's, The OE, a student-favorite restaurant on the main campus, is reopening on Feb. 7 with exciting renovations to its menu and dining room.

"I would say I'm pretty excited," said Ranulfo Martinez, a fourth-year CART major with many fond memories at the restaurant. "I hadn't been on campus in two years after being sent home for virtual learning, and one of the first things I tried to do when I moved back here was going to the OE. I was a little sad when I saw it was under construction."

The change introduces Create, a fresh food station with salad, wraps, and soups. Next to it will be Wild Pie, a customizable, made-to-order flatbread pizza bar. There will also be an entire market with snacks and treats available for those rushing in between classes.

A new conference room dining area has been established to host lunch meetings, study sessions or even offer a little privacy when reserved in advance.

These redesigns are just the first stage, with Fall 2022 bringing more seating selection and bar service.

Ride The Wave

Story and photo by Bryan Chavez

California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) newest transportation system, The Wave, takes students from East Campus to Main Campus and back.

Monday through Friday, commuters can catch The Wave shuttles from a few different Main Campus parking lots, in front of the library, and some East Campus locations.

To track the shuttles and find stops and routes, download the Reveal Manager app on Android or iOS. The Wave operates between the hours of 7:30 a.m. till 10:30 p.m. and frequently comes every 5 - 30 minutes.

All riders and drivers are required to follow COVID-19 safety protocols, such as wearing a mask on board and keeping distance from fellow riders. It is also not recommended to consume food or drinks while riding The Wave.

Students must have their CSUMB ID ready to show the drivers in order to ride The Wave. For more information, visit csumb.edu/thewave and for questions and comments, contact Transportation@csumb.edu.



Catch The Wave on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Otters decorate sustainable plant pots

Story and photos by Bryan Chavez

On Jan. 17, the resident advisers of Area 2 held a sustainable succulents event where students were able to decorate and take home their own succulents. Students who brought their own pots to plant succulents were entered in a raffle to win a succulent growth kit.



Otters test survival skills in Outdoor Expo

Story and photos by Maxwelle Tartaglia

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students gathered at the Divarty Quad to attend the Outdoor Expo and participate in outdoor-related activities.

At the Outdoor Expo, students participated in activities aimed at showcasing equipment students can access through the Outdoor Recreation Rental Center.

Some of the highlighted activities included a paracord survival bracelet workshop, a competitive tent-pitching race, and an outdoor equipment touch-and-feel game.

“Students can focus on their mental and spiritual wellbeing with Health and Wellness while also learning more about what outdoor recreational opportunities are available to them.” explained Kaci Turpin, a first-year experience specialist and former coordinator of outdoor recreation at CSUMB.

The most popular booth was the Health and Wellness booth, where students could plant and decorate their very own succulent.



“Succulents are really resilient and we’re just trying to remind people of their own resiliency. Sometimes just having some kind of physical reminder can be helpful.” said Jessica Lopez, a therapist hosting the workshop from the Personal Growth and Counseling Center at CSUMB. “You are resilient just like this succulent you are carrying. I feel like students sometimes forget that.”



Top - Students and outdoor supervisors compete in the tent pitching showcase.

Left - Students participate in the succulent workshop hosted by Health and Wellness.

The Outdoor Expo was hosted by Outdoor Recreation in collaboration with the Living Learning Programs and Health and Wellness program.

Otters should keep an eye out for the upcoming events from Outdoor Recreation this March and April.

Various interactive educational activity booths were set up around the quad with take-home prizes. Students could win prizes such as shirts, sustainable beeswax food wraps, stickers, clips, and more.

Otters compete in ping pong tournament

Story and photos by Bryan Chavez

Twelve California State University, Monterey Bay CSUMB) students filtered into the game room of the Otter Student Union (OSU) on Jan. 26 to participate in a ping pong tournament.

The tournament was held by CSUMB Recreation and the OSU. The winner of the tournament, Parth Shah received a CSUMB swag bag including masks, a sports bag, t-shirt and socks.

CSUMB Recreation and the OSU are also planning a billiards tournament on Tuesday, Feb.1 at 8 p.m. Students can register to compete in the tournament on MyRaft. Students can also start to register for intramural sports for the semester with CSUMB Recreation on MyRaft.

To find more CSUMB events on- and off-campus go to MyRaft myraft.csumb.edu



Left Picture: Dominic Kausin stops his opponent from scoring a point against him during the intramural ping pong tournament on Jan. 26



Right Picture: Eduardo Lopez passes the ping pong ball back to his opponent in the intramural ping pong tournament on Jan. 26

Women's water polo's triumphant return to the Otter Tank

Story by Victoria White

Women's water polo returned to the Otter Tank on Jan. 29 to face off against the Santa Clara Broncos for the first home game of the season.

The Otters started the game strong with Catalina Gillis (#2), winning the opening sprint against Santa Clara's Lauren Voss (#18). The energy stayed strong throughout the rest of the first quarter with goals from Laura Heberle (#6), Olivia Centis (#8), and Zoe Reid (#12) for California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and goals from Chloe Morisson (#15) and Lauren Baglietto (#2) for Santa Clara University (SCU). The Otters took the lead at the end of the first quarter with a 3-2 score.

CSUMB kept the momentum going throughout the second quarter thanks to Cecile Judy (#2), who scored two back-to-back goals early on with assists from Allyson Ainsworth (#18) and Shelby Fortune (#15). SCU responded with a goal from Lauren Baglietto (#2), assisted by Voss. The Otters continued to pull ahead with goals from Centis, Gillis, and Fortune, cementing their lead going into the second half of the game.

The third-quarter started out with shot attempts and turnovers from both teams. The brief stalemate was broken by Centis scoring for the Otters about halfway through the quarter. SCU responded shortly afterward with a goal from Maddie Clough (#12) assisted by Elle Fredrickson (#14).

The tug of war for dominance continued for the rest of the quarter with great shot attempts and blocks from both teams. CSUMB goalie Megan Taylor (#1) and SCU goalie Georgia Lewis (#1B) showed their skill in the cages keeping both teams with one goal apiece for the remainder of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter started off with a goal from SCU's Fredrickson, scoring in a man-up opportunity. The Otters quickly rose to the challenge with a goal of their own from Emma Silveria (#17). The Broncos and the Otters traded goals back and forth with SCU scoring twice (#17 Kelly Frumkin, #14 Elle Fredrickson) and CSUMB pulling out one final goal from #15 Shelby Fortune before the end of the game. The Otters solidified their win with a final score of 11-7.

This game marked a monumental milestone for the Otters, being their first home game since the COVID-19 pandemic started back in 2019.

"It feels totally normal! And it's about time, it's been so long," said head coach Emily Schmit. "It's been 689 days! So to have The Otter Tanks stands packed, team benches on fire, and people in the pool playing, it's what we're supposed to be doing. So it feels great to be back."

Coach Schmits sentiments were mirrored by her team, their energy and joy to be back in the pool very prominent throughout the game.

"It's a new feeling," said senior Oliva Centis. "It's really good, and with everyone new on the team they bring so much energy. It feels really great to be back at our own pool."

The Otters's next game is on the road against San Jose State on Feb. 12. at noon. For more information on game schedules visit the Otter Athletics Website.

Game Results

Men's Basketball

Jan. 27 @ Cal State Los Angeles
L 85 - 77

Jan 29. @ Cal State San Marcos
W 71 - 69

Women's Basketball

Jan. 29 @ Cal State San Marcos
L 82 - 54

Upcoming Games

Go buy your tickets ahead of time on the Hometown Fan App

Baseball

Feb. 1 @ Holy Names University

Feb. 4 vs Biola University

Feb. 6 vs Biola University
(Double-header)

Men's Basketball

Feb. 3 vs Cal Poly Humboldt

Feb. 5 vs Sonoma State

Women's Basketball

Feb. 3 vs Cal Poly Humboldt

Feb. 5 vs Sonoma State

Softball

Cordonia Kickoff Classic - Irvine, CA

Feb 4. vs Holy Names University

Feb 4. vs Azusa Pacific

Feb 5. vs Montana State-Billings

Feb 5. vs Hawaii Pacific University

Feb 6. vs Western Washington University

Welcome Back Otters



Photos by Paloma Ronquillo

First Year Experience, Transportation and Associated Students joined together on Jan. 25 to host the Welcome Back Otters event. They offered free coffee and snacks to students who came to the event.



What are you looking forward to this semester?

Otter Chatter by Ferris Crosby



Leila Henderson
Business Administration
Third-year

"Completing my service learning hours at a site that will give me more insight on how a business handles real time issues, using that knowledge and implementing it to my work ethic."



Ranulfo Martinez
Cinema Arts & Technology
Fourth-year

"The end of this semester and the capstone festival where they screen all the graduating student's films."



Emilia England
MSA
Fourth-year

"Spending time with my friends now that we're on campus again."

Death's Door is an indie masterpiece

8-Bit

Story and screenshot by Arianna Nalbach
Illustration by Malia Savella

The captivating "Death's Door" initially launched on July 20, 2021, to PC, Xbox One, and Xbox Series X/S. However, it was later released to the Nintendo Switch, Playstation 4 & 5 on Nov. 23, allowing more players to experience this captivating game. It retails for \$19.99.

The praise "Death's Door" has received is definitely well-deserved. Developed by Acid Nerve, the indie title earned widespread critical acclaim and was one of the highest-rated video games to come out in 2021. It was even nominated for Best Independent Game in The Game Awards.

In "Death's Door," you play as a crow, reaping souls of the dead. The job gets a bit tricky though after the soul you were supposed to collect is stolen and "you must track down a desperate thief to a realm untouched by death - where creatures grow far past their expiry and overflow with greed and power," as stated in the game's bio on nintendo.com.

The job as a soul reaper is framed as a pretty mundane task for the crows; however, it is an incredible experience for the player.

"Death's Door" challenges players with unique puzzles and boss fights, keeping the game from being a walk in the park. Even though it may take a few tries to beat a boss fight, the game stays entertaining and doesn't feel frustrating. Before a boss comes up, there is always a save point shortly before it, keeping players from having to run back to the boss and instead allowing them to focus on learning the boss's attack patterns.

Every area of "Death's Door" introduces new mechanics and feels vastly different from one another, keeping the player engaged and avoiding any sense of repetitiveness or grinding that many similar RPG games have.

"Death's Door" has a unique combat and health system, keeping the game from feeling too easy. The game controls smoothly, allowing players to time attacks and dodges perfectly. You can take four hits before dying and only replenish your health bar at flower pots found throughout the map.



To make the flower pots functional, you must plant a flower seed in them; consuming the flower once it blooms will fully restore your health. The number of seeds available to plant is dependent on how thoroughly someone explores the area.

As for the combat system, players are limited to only four ranged attacks. Players need to hit a successful melee attack to refill the ranged attacks. For each successful melee attack, one ranged attack bar will refill. These systems keep you aware of your surroundings but don't make the game so complex that it feels impossible to beat.

Besides fun and unique gameplay mechanics, "Death's Door" also has a great art style. The graphics help convey the whimsical nature of the game, with unique

character designs for both friends you meet along the way and the various enemies and bosses.

The soundtrack compliments each area of the game nicely. It has a dynamic range, from softer piano music accompanying the player while exploring to epic boss music to empower the player against their foes. The music suits each area of the game ideally and truly adds to the experience as a whole while also sounding amazing on its own.

Overall, "Death's Door" is a fantastic experience and worth picking up. From a one-of-a-kind art style to beautiful music and unique gameplay features, "Death's Door" has it all. This game is a fantastic example of what can be done with such a small team.



Tattoo artist Jay practices craft from bedroom

Artist Highlight

Story and Photos by Bryan Chavez
Follow Jay on Instagram @Jays_toos

Janette Amezcua (Jay) is a fourth-year student at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) who does tattoos out of her bedroom, where she has been perfecting her craft.

Her interests in tattooing began while she was in high school. She always enjoyed freehand drawing on her friends with sharpies and pens, but later bought a tattoo kit when she was 19.

Every tattoo artist has their own style. Amezcua found she liked the traditional and neo-traditional tattoo styles for their format, boldness and limited colors.

“I’m not a fan of too many colors,” she explained. “I’ve always liked just black and white and neo traditional stuff. I could definitely make it my own with my art style.”

For many student artists out there, it can be difficult to balance their creativity with school work. They can both be mentally draining and time consuming. Amezcua has found a good balance between her art and school work.

“I see my tattoo work not so much as a job, [but] more as a hobby. When it comes to balancing my life, you always want to leave room for the things you like doing and take care of yourself. Tattooing and art in general is one of the ways I do that. Even when I’m stressing out with classes or studying for an exam, I’m always just doodling to get my mind off of it and tattoos definitely help with that.”

Amezcua is majoring in collaborative human health services with a concentration in social work and a minor in psychology. While social work and tattooing are seen as radically different to



Want to showcase your artwork in The Lutrinae?

Contact Bryan Chavez

brychavez@csumb.edu



many people, Amezcua has found a unique correlation between the two in a bigger picture that others may not.

“I think one of the most inspiring things that I always try to remind myself of is that social workers have their jobs, which is to help their community. I’ve learned there’s different ways people express how they feel. I can understand people from where they’re coming from and that art is the way people express themselves.”

In Latinx culture, tattoos of any kind have historically been seen in a negative way, especially in the eyes of older generations.

“It was a challenge coming from a Hispanic mom. It wasn’t the greatest when I told her I was interested in tattoos, just because there’s a lot of stigma behind the tattoos and a lot of negative representation with them. My parents were definitely raised traditionally so they always think there’s a negative affiliation. But I’ve been trying to get them [out of] that mindset because they see my work and appreciate my art so that’s what’s been helping them get a little more comfortable with the idea that tattooing is something I want to do in the long run.”

Regardless of the various challenges she has faced, Amezcua continues to strive and prosper, keeping a positive mindset as she grows.

Amezcua left off with one final piece of advice. “As cheesy as it sounds, just follow your talents.”

She observed a lot of people who stray away from their talents for something that could make more money or is a serious major in college. “And I mean shit, look at me. I’m over here pursuing tattoos as well as a bachelors in social work.”

Letter from the Editor

Hello, Otters,

My name is Arie Nalbach, and I am thrilled to formally announce myself as the editor-in-chief of The Lutrinae for Spring 2022. I first joined The Lutrinae in Fall 2019 as the assistant editor. I worked as the production manager for all of volume 4 and the first half of volume 5.

I first started in journalism during my junior year of high school and instantly fell in love. When I first looked at colleges, it was important for me to go to a school with a student newspaper.

The Lutrinae has provided me with a unique experience to improve my skills as a writer, photographer, and designer. I have loved writing about various events and developing my column, 8-Bit.

We are set to continue publishing fully online for the Spring and are excited to expand our digital presence. The Lutrinae will continue to post weekly content to our website, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages in addition to posting more frequently on our TikTok and YouTube.

I am incredibly proud of The Lutrinae’s role on California State University, Monterey Bay’s campus, and all of our staff. I am also so happy to be expanding our team this semester. I believe we are set to have a great Spring semester with this staff.

Thank you to our readers for the continued support. I wish everyone a healthy and successful semester, and I hope you all enjoy the remainder of volume 5 of The Lutrinae!

Sincerely,
Arianna Nalbach
Editor-in-Chief of The Lutrinae



Upcoming Events

Lunar New Year celebration

Feb. 1 - 8 Celebrate the year of the tiger with OC3 and APIA by honoring our traditions by engaging with our week-long tabling event in front of the Otter Student Union front desk and through their online social media campaign

CSU Student Research Competition info session

Feb. 1 Have research to present? Apply to compete at the 36th CSU Research Competition. Learn more about this presentation opportunity. Graduate & Undergraduate researchers welcome! Research faculty mentors are encouraged to attend as well, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Billiards tournament

Feb. 1 Intramural Sports & the Otter Student Union (OSU) invite you to the spring Billiards Tournament on February 1st, 8 to 10 p.m. in the OSU Game Room.

Otter Showcase Spring 2022

Feb. 2 CSUMB's all-club tabling fair is the best time for students to join new clubs and find out about upcoming events, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cooking with CSUMB

Feb. 3 Starting at 3 p.m., join Basic Needs to watch CSUMB staff cook their favorite foods on Zoom. Attendees will be entered into a raffle for a \$25 gift card for groceries and a kitchen item.

AS Elections: Candidate Info Night

Feb. 3 Hear more about Associated Students and how to run for a position in your student government! Register on MyRaft for the virtual session from 5 to 6 p.m.

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

rewflo

lenlop

eesb

wobrain

cincip

eynoh

saeret

niesnub

ingnealc

usn

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

Answers:

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

flower, pollen, bees;
rainbow, picnic;
honey, Easter;
bunnies, cleaning;
sun