

## BREAKING NEWS:

# We went to take San Francisco but the City took us



Photo courtesy of Haley Graham.

Story by Arianna Nalbach  
Photos by Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez

Recently, a few members of the Lutrinae team traveled up to San Francisco for the Associated College Press (ACP) and California College Media Association (CCMA) journalism conference.

While the trip had a nice (but rainy) start, things turned for the worse on the last day of the conference, just 30 minutes before the CCMA award ceremony. Upon returning to our rented van to drop off my backpack, we realized the car had been broken into and a large number of our belongings had been stolen.

The ACP conference took place in the Hyatt Regency from March 9 -11 and the hotel was sold out. The attending Lutrinae team members stayed at a Hilton a few blocks away. With hotel check out at 11 a.m. and an award ceremony at 5 p.m., we had no option but to keep our bags in the car.

Knowing that San Francisco has a high crime rate — especially with car break-ins — we knew better than to park roadside. We chose to park the car in a lot with security for \$40.

Unfortunately, this was of no assistance to us.

After a delicious lunch, we returned to the car to drop off my backpack. We opened the trunk of the van, and immediately something was off. Our faculty advisor, Dave Kellogg, pointed to a side window, which had been smashed and our hearts sank, realizing what had happened.

My duffel bag was gone, which I had lovingly overpacked for the trip with nice clothing options, brand new Lululemon leggings, one of my favorite hoodies and all of my nice makeup.

Kellogg’s laptop and iPad were taken along with his duffel bag of clothes, which held a Lutrinae faculty advisor T-shirt Haley Graham and I had hand-made for him.

Graham, the Lutrinae’s production manager, and webmaster, opened the door only to discover her backpack was stolen, which she had tucked under a seat to keep out of sight.

What was inside the backpack? Her iPad Pro with all of the Procreate files for her communication design capstone project which had not been backed up.

Between talking with police and security, Kellogg was trying to figure out a new plan to get us back home and I had to break the news to the two who weren’t with us that the van had been broken into, unsure at the time if their stuff was stolen (it wasn’t).

Graham and I also knew the Lutrinae had won something and were afraid of our awards getting lost if we didn’t make it to the ceremony, like they had been last year.

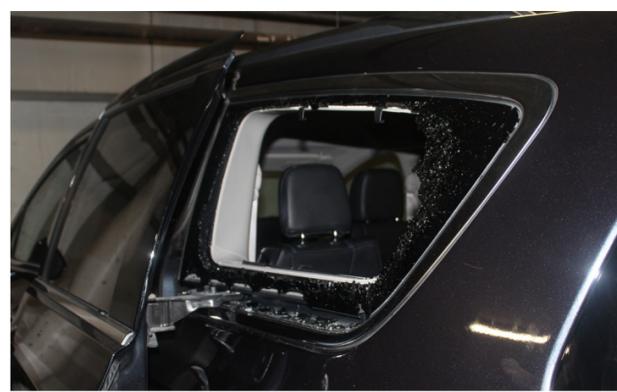
Depressed and determined not to let our awards be lost, Graham and I went to the award ceremony almost an hour late. While we attended the ceremony, Kellogg figured out arrangements for a new rental van and staff writers Max Guerrero, Andrea Valadez and Oscar Jimenez Iniguez stayed at the car.

Unsure of how quickly we would get a new van and if we would need to leave early, we frantically explained the situation to a staff member running awards out to people and gave him our address so the prizes could be mailed to us in case we had to leave early.

As a small victory, we were able to stay for the remainder of the ceremony and collect our awards. After the ceremony, we returned to the van, got a tow truck and a couple of Ubers to take us to the San Francisco airport to get a new rental van, and finally returned home to Monterey shortly before midnight.

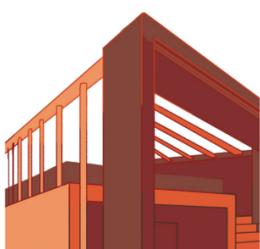


Photo courtesy of Dave Kellogg.



### AS Elections

*AS elections start today! Get to know the candidates.*



### Social Justice Colloquium

*Keynote speaker Jennifer Kim-Anh Tran discusses her teachings, research and community work.*



### Smash Club

*Super Smash Otters celebrates St. Patrick’s Day with a tournament.*



# The Lutrinae takes on the CCMAs and wins awards

Story by Estrella McDaniel

Photos by Arianna Nalbach and Haley Graham

Although many emotions were felt at the California College Media Association Awards (CCMA) banquet in San Francisco on March 9-11, the Lutrinae staff still made the best of it while winning multiple awards.

At the CCMAs, many schools come from all over to be acknowledged for their achievements and before the awards ceremony, students have the opportunity to attend different workshops.

These workshops consist of different topics regarding the media and other things that may help provide information to students and their future careers.

The conference can also be used as a way to network and talk to professionals who might be able to assist aspiring journalists and build their resumé along with knowledge.

The last day of the banquet consists of awards being passed out to those who were nominated, including two Lutrinae staff members, fourth-year editor-in-chief Arianna Nalbach and fourth-year production manager and webmaster Haley Graham.

While the staff knew the names of who on the Lutrinae staff had won awards, they had no prior knowledge of how many awards Nalbach and Graham had won or what categories they had placed in.

Nalbach received second place for best photo series for her Ottum Fest photos and Graham received third place for best infographic for her infographic "Rules for smashing pumpkins," best inside spread design, best overall newspaper design and best arts and entertainment story for "Monte's Music spotlights plantvibes."



## 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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### The Staff

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Arianna Nalbach  
analbach@csumb.edu

#### PRODUCTION MANAGER

& WEBMASTER

Haley Graham

#### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Estrella McDaniel

#### STAFF WRITERS

Ferris Crosby  
Maxwelle Tartaglia  
Max Guerrero  
Andrea Valadez-Angulo  
Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez

#### VISUAL EDITOR

Malia Savella

#### ADVISER

David Kellogg  
dkellogg@csumb.edu

#### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Monica Conner  
mconner@csumb.edu

### Contact

OFFICE PHONE  
831.582.4066

GENERAL INQUIRIES  
thelutrinae@csumb.edu

ADVERTISING SERVICES  
advertising@thelutrinae.com

MAILING ADDRESS  
Wave Hall  
100 Campus Center,  
Seaside, CA 93955

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.



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# Monterey mayor returns to CSUMB

Story and photos by Max Guerrero



Monterey Mayor Tyller Williamson returned to campus Tuesday, March 14, as a proud alumnus to speak at the third Diversity Celebration. Williamson is the first openly gay and first Black mayor of the city of Monterey. He talked about how his identity impacted his life, from his education, to eventually running for office.

Williamson was raised in a military family and learned the importance of service from his mother. During his election, he ran a people-driven campaign. He prioritized ensuring everyone's voice is heard, a value he learned from David Reichard, a professor of History and Legal Studies at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

Since he was elected in November, Williamson has taken action to provide clean water and affordable housing because of these needs that his community addressed.

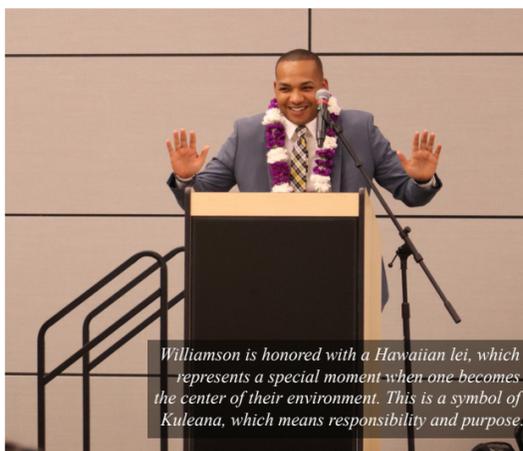
"I want to hear from every voice in the community because that is what makes democracy more than just a word on paper."

His speech emphasized the significance of civil engagement and being mayor taught him that "using your voice really does matter. We might not always get what we want, but it's about engaging and dialogue. You have to be able to listen as much as you want to give to make sure we're establishing the best policies for the community."

Williamson's experiences through his own identity made him conscientious of the struggles that others face. As a campaign intern for President Obama's campaign in 2012, he observed his ability to pull others together regardless of their different perspectives.

His identity relates to his goals as mayor because "it's who I am, it's how I see the world. I'm a gay Black man and my life experiences have shaped that for the good and the bad. Oftentimes when I'm in certain spaces, I feel imposter syndrome. I have to silence that and know the loving, and caring voices in the community are what I need to lean on."

Reminiscing on his time here, Williamson said, "I love CSUMB. I love being on campus and seeing all the students and faculty members. It reminds me of when I was taking classes here and all the acceptance I felt."



Williamson is honored with a Hawaiian lei, which represents a special moment when one becomes the center of their environment. This is a symbol of Kuleana, which means responsibility and purpose.



# It's time to take social justice into our own hands

Story by Andrea Valadez  
Photos courtesy of Phuung Nguyen

Jennifer Kim-Anh Tran discussed her teachings, research and community work during her keynote speech March 16 at the 26th annual Social Justice Colloquium. The keynote was the last of five events of California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB).

Tran is an assistant professor of Ethnic Studies at California State University, East Bay (CSUEB), and her areas of expertise range from interracial relations, ethnic and gender studies, and community engagement.

"I'm excited to be a part of something really amazing and to be surrounded by people I really admire, so thank you for that," Tran said to the audience.

Before beginning her presentation, Tran encouraged guests to take a quick stretch and refreshment break after listening to the alumni panel who spoke before her about their experiences at CSUMB and how that led them to pursue work in the social justice field.

She went on to explain that her talk would be centered around the themes from her upcoming textbook "Love, Knowledge, Revolution," which she is working on with colleagues from CSUEB. Some of the themes which she touched on were decolonial love and liberation through education.

Tran was raised in an immigrant household in Oakland and explained how her parents' journey to get to the United States and their experiences shaped the way she views social justice.

"If our goal is toward justice, then we have to think about how to bring our communities to the table to tell their stories... my experience growing up now makes me extremely aggressive to make sure that multiple communities feel heard," said Tran.

"Our communities have been historically designed to have our resilience tested - to really show what we're made of... and that's shared among so many of us. Ethnic studies is able to hold space and help us see people for who they are," she shared.

Tran went on to say that "the work we have to do is to help sharpen each other's lenses... until we're able to do that, there will be no justice."

She opened up about her childhood spent in nail salons, local corner stores, and overcrowded housing, and how these experiences shaped her world view. She carried and valued those memories with her when she attended undergrad at UC San Diego.

During her first two years of studying environmental policy, Tran was on academic probation.

"I couldn't pass a class, the workload was too much and I felt ashamed asking for help," she shared.

She discussed feeling out of place and experiencing a sort of imposter syndrome, until the following year when she took an Urban Studies and Planning course that changed the trajectory of her career.



"It was my first time having language as a tool to explain the world around us. That's when I started learning how our cities came to be. That was my absolute favorite class and it's the class I teach now at CSUEB.

"I started to learn about historical segregation through policy and legislation that separated our communities and made it impossible for [immigrant] folks to integrate," she explained. Tran shared about being proud that "throughout that whole experience, people were still resisting, organizing and asking questions. These are all tactics of survival within our communities."

Tran emphasized the importance this one course had on plans for her future. "I was going to be a planner and just go and build cities... but it wasn't until I was done with [undergrad] when I realized the importance of our voice," she said. This is when she decided to get a Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of Southern California.

"I realized it was really important for me to apply this knowledge somewhere... all of our work has to be intersectional. That means we can't advance justice for a particular group without thinking about how it intersects with other identities," she explained.

Tran stated that the failure to do this ultimately leads to more violence within our communities.

She also urged the audience to think about the way in which our systems of society come together to oppress certain communities, all the while making it impossible for us to figure out who is to blame.

"In ethnic studies, we tend to think of 'the system' as singular, but it's the systems. Education, public works, transportation, economic workforce development, land use, etc. working together to make it really difficult to navigate," she explained. "And if it's difficult for those of us with a formal education, how much harder is it for immigrants? Or for folks who are formerly incarcerated?"

Tran explained that one way to bridge the gap that divides us is to speak candidly with each other about our own experiences and hardships.

"Getting very specific about how similar those experiences are allows us to build coalitions that are absolutely necessary to build our power," she advised.

Tran went on to express the importance of truly believing in and being passionate about whatever it is you choose to fight for; if the work is not restoring you, but is instead burning you out, it might be time to pursue something else.

She emphasized that "we have to be moved by the love of this work" in order to truly create a new sense of social justice and apply it to our communities and nation as a whole.

# Summer classes revamped

Story by Max Guerrero

The course list for Summer classes was uploaded to Oasis on March 13 and more types are coming. Both online and in-person courses will be available. Registration opens April 3 and students can take classes as an eight-week session or two separate four-week sessions.

In previous years, the Summer semester was considered an "extended education" term, meaning there was limited support from financial aid, if any. However, more types of financial assistance will be available for Summer 2023 because the program is being updated.

Financial aid and scholarships for Summer terms may be available for continuing students and those interested are encouraged to reach out for financial assistance. According to the Center for Advising, additional funding is also being provided through the CSU Chancellor's Office.

So far, for-credit internship opportunities have been announced for business majors. Students in other majors who are interested in other internship opportunities outside the campus are encouraged to speak with their academic department or advisor to determine benefits or options.

Comprehensive educational programs such as science illustration, Moss Landing Marine Labs and bilingual authorization courses will also be available.

**While students are not required to live on campus to take Summer classes, to qualify for on-campus housing during the summer, the resident must:**

Be enrolled at CSUMB for a summer academic session or

Be enrolled at CSUMB for Fall 2023 semester or

Be an international student who is unable to return home due to international travel restrictions or lack of Visa (must document and obtain approval)

Resources such as the Cooperative Learning Center, the library and the Center for Advising will be available to students on campus during the summer term. More information about dates and registration is available at <https://csumb.edu/summer/dates/>

# Meet the AS candidates

## AS elections are right around the corner, get to know the candidates

Submitted by Adrian Villalpando



### Ana Munoz

Vice President of University Affairs Candidate

Munoz is a third-year majoring in Collaborative Human Health Services with a concentration in Social Work. For this academic year, she serves as the Sustainability Senator for the Associated Students (AS) Senate.

As the current AS student representative on the President's Sustainability Committee and the Materials Working Group, she is actively involved in discussions and plans to reduce single-use plastics on campus (in meeting the President's request through various new initiatives slated for the fall semester).

She wants to move into an AS executive role as the vice president of University Affairs to work closely in her duties that include the oversight of the Senate and the Committee of Colleges and to help support their individual and collective projects for AS.



### Angel Ray

Diversity and Inclusion Senator Candidate

Currently, a second-year, majoring in human development and family science, with a minor in social work. For this academic year she is the vice president of Asian Pacific Islander Association (APIA), and a student intern at Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3).

Angel Ray has helped promote meetings and events such as the APIA week, a collaboration with Basic Needs and AS. As an OC3 intern, she is available to respond to student ideas and concerns; plan campus-wide activity-based programs such as Open Mic, self-expression, self-care.

Her goal is to network with other students and create exciting, more lively in-person cultural events. As a D&I Senator one of her main goals is to expand her collaborations with other student groups, create a more inclusive campus environment and most importantly showcase the beauties of other cultures.



### Caleb Robbins

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Candidate

Currently, a third-year majoring in Japanese Studies, he plans to go abroad to Japan to further his studies this spring semester. He transferred from Long Beach City College last fall semester to California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

Caleb Robbins has been involved at CSUMB as an orientation leader as part of the First Year Experience Department, the Japan Club, Swinging Otters and Super Smash Otters. His other co-curricular activities include event management and work experiences related to conflict management and customer service.

He is interested in the AS Senator position to be more involved with the campus community and gain a good frame of reference behind the student government and how his goals can match the response taken by AS to address the needs and concerns of students. He wants to expand how students can be heard to address what's important to them.

**Editor's Note: Associated Students (AS) elections are March 20 - 22, students can vote for the new AS senate through MyRaft.**

Story and photos by Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez

For this St. Patrick's Day, Super Smash Otters Club hosted their yearly "Smash Patrick's Day tournament," bringing students from across campus to enjoy Nintendo's "Super Smash Bros." in a competitive light.

Throughout the event, traditional Celtic music was playing as Otter gamers competed against one another to win and get their hands on the ultimate prize, a family-size box of the one and only whole-grain classic cereal, Lucky Charms.

Green and gold-colored snacks from across the dessert aisle were also available for the attendees to grub on before getting into their fierce matchups or available to them after losing in heartbreaking fashion.

The tournament was structured as two brackets: a winners' bracket and a losers' bracket. When contestants would continue to win they would move up on the winners' brackets. When they lost, they would be moved down to the losers' bracket.

When in the losers' brackets, they only had one chance to win by fighting their way through the bracket. The winner of the losers' bracket would then face the winner of the winners' bracket.

Super Smash Otters Club Treasurer Jaden Lewis-Wall won the winners' bracket, but before getting his hands on the family-size box of Lucky Charms, he had to face the winner of the losers' bracket, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) alumnus Aldrin Carlos.

They went head-to-head in a nerve-wracking competitive matchup with Lewis-Wall playing Fox from the "Star Fox" series and Carlos as Link from "The Legend of Zelda" series. Their matchup went the full distance with both of them winning two matches each.

Carlos won the fifth match, but as he was wrapping up, eagerly awaiting to claim his prize, Lewis-Wall called for a reset because he was not afforded one due to winning all of his previous matchups.

Ultimately, it proved to be a failure of a last-ditch effort as Carlos overwhelmingly won the final matchup of the night and was finally able to claim his deserved prize.

"It is a pretty good and exhilarating feeling to win, especially since I lost and came back. I have to thank my

## Quite the Smashing Patrick's Day



naturally competitive spirit as I had more of a reason to try to win and come back," said Carlos. "I always want to prove myself in this and any tournament I am in."

President of Super Smash Otters Club Micah Rodriguez was thankful for those who attended the event as he felt it was another successful tournament that created a closer bond for CSUMB's "Super Smash Bros." community.

"Our event went really well and I honestly have my officers to thank for that as they always do an amazing job coming up with ideas for all of our events. I was proud of the solid turnout as a lot of returning members that I haven't seen in a while stopped by to participate and just say hi," said Rodriguez. "The community here is nothing short of spectacular and I am proud to call this space my home."

# Campus

thelutrinae.com

03.20.23

## Lyft is here, and it's not a scam!

Story by Helene Marie Kristensen  
Screenshot courtesy of Hinako Kobashi

No, it's not a scam. If you're stuck at 2 a.m. on a Sunday in a Monterey bar, you can get a Lyft back to campus and get a \$17 discount as part of a pilot project paid for by student fees.

Last month California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students received an email from Lyft, the ride sharing service, about transportation benefits coming to campus.

CSUMB has decided to provide subsidized transportation to its students as an addition to when the Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) buses are not running. If students register they will receive Lyft passes that give you \$17 off per ride, for three rides a month. This service is renewed each month. But be aware, it has its limitations.

**According to the email sent out to students the Lyft passes can only be used during the following times:**

Sundays from 7-11:59 p.m.  
Monday from midnight-7 a.m.  
Monday - Friday 9-11:59 p.m.  
Tuesday - Saturday midnight-6 a.m.  
Saturday - Sunday 7 p.m.-7:00 a.m.

On CSUMB's own transportation website, the information is far easier to understand. Students are charged the difference for trips that exceed \$17 and it is available Monday - Friday 7 p.m.-7 a.m. and Saturday-Sunday 9 p.m.-7 a.m.

**The prices of both Lyft and Uber rides depend on a few different factors. According to Lyft's website, their ride prices are made up of three parts:**

Lyft fare  
Local tolls or fees  
Tips to your driver

**However when Lyft gives you an estimate they take these into consideration:**

Ride route  
Ride type  
Ride availability  
Demand

This is why you can expect a ride from CSUMB to the Aquarium on a Sunday to be about \$20, but if you were to take the same ride at 6 p.m on a Friday it increases to \$34.

Fourth-year international student Hinako Kobashi welcomes the addition of Lyft. "I didn't think it was a scam," Kobashi said.

"For students, especially international students who don't have a car, it is good. If you go out and drink this is good, or if you have an emergency at night. It is a new option," she said.

"I was confused and I didn't hear about it and thought it was a scam," said fourth-year Anthony Chun

"Like CSUMB sends out phishing emails," Chun said. "They never talked about it and I never heard about it anywhere else."

Despite this, both students are hesitant about the amount that CSUMB is covering.

"Why only three rides per month? And why only \$17? It should be at least \$20 or 50% off rides because of the high prices in the area," Kobashi stated.

Chun shared a similar sentiment to Kobashi.

"It's not enough to cover the Lyft in the area and the instructions are confusing. It is something with the campus area, but I don't know exactly," Chun said. "Yeah it will benefit me as a student if I don't have a ride home, they subsidize the ride."

The unclear instructions is something Kobashi agreed on.

"It is very complicated information. It is not clear when I can use it. We only got an email from Lyft, the information should come from campus."

With the number of phishing emails CSUMB sends out to its students it is easy to see why they get confused.

"We get sent so many emails from the university that there are phishing attempts, it's easy to believe this can be one too," Kobashi says.

"At first I didn't plan on using it, but my boyfriend needed to travel between East Campus and main campus at 5 a.m. I never used the credit option because I didn't know how it was working, or how to use it in the app. I have never tested something like this before," Kobashi said.

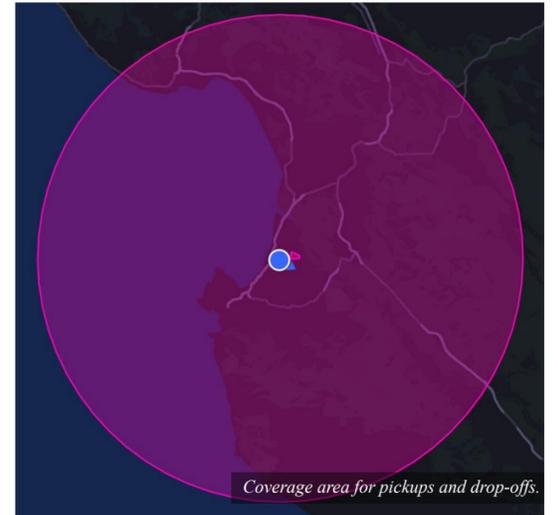
Chun also found issues with the limitations to the new Lyft services.

"I wish there weren't limitations of time when you can use it," Chun said. "Emergencies can happen at any time, and don't take into consideration the schedule of when the Lyft credit can be used."

Like Kobashi, Chun is clear he too wants to see more information come from CSUMB.

"Post this on campus and out the information," said Chun. "It is easy to think it's a scam. I can talk to people now and verify it's not a scam, but if I hadn't heard you interview Hinako I wouldn't have known."

Fourth-year Mad Bolander also reflected on the suddenness of the email.



"I felt the email was out of the blue, but not that it was a scam," Bolander said. "I certainly would recommend the administration going forward to offer more direct communication with students from some sort of administrative email."

Bolander also agreed it is a great opportunity as the halfway point in the semester is approaching.

"I feel like it is an opportune time for students who are struggling with midterms and the like to have access to easy transportation. Not having to wait an hour for the bus or walk a mile and a half back to your dorm with arms full of groceries is a luxury."

Like other students, Bolander is also confused about the new program.

"I wish there was a lack of limitations, I feel as though it is a fair amount of rides to be given though it is my understanding we only had access to them last month? I'm honestly not sure," they said.

If students want more information they can read more about this program here:  
<https://csumb.edu/transportation/rideshare-taxis/>

The information posted is far more clear about who is eligible to sign up, where and when the program is available. In order to sign up, students need to click the link in the email. However, if students have lost the email they can also use this link to sign up:  
<https://www.lyft.com/lp/OTERRIDESCSUMB>

According to the website "To participate, you must be enrolled in hybrid, or in-person classes and pay the student AS fee. Once you are eligible, you will receive an email from the Lyft Business with instructions on how to sign up."

**Some safety tips shared on the transportation website include:**

Verify your ride by ensuring the license plate number, driver information, and car make and model match what you see in the app.  
Share your location and route with a friend or loved one from within the Lyft app so they can follow your ride in real time.  
Follow the Lyft vehicle on GPS via the app.  
Ask the driver to say who they are picking up.

## Students get exposed to implementing multiculturalism in the classroom

Story and screenshots by Estrella McDaniel

With a focus on helping students foster multiculturalism in the classroom, California State University, Monterey Bay MAESTRO's Project hosted an informative event via Zoom on March 9.

According to College of Education officials, there can be a love for multicultural children's literature because it lends itself a place to talk about social inequities.

"When it combines with process drama, it lends itself to encouraging young children to think critically and develops cross-cultural awareness within the classroom," said meeting host, Suzanne Garcia-Mateus.

Garcia-Mateus, a College of Education associate professor, introduced herself with some background and gave a brief topic foundation.

"My main presentation goal is to share how multicultural and multilingual children's literature offers an amazing opportunity for teachers to talk about social inequities," said Garcia-Mateus.

Not only does Garcia-Mateus talk about children's books, but she wrote one called "Vitamin C for Cultura."

She asked open-ended questions such as "out of everyone here, if you speak more than one language, use the heart emoji. If you speak Spanish, can you use another emoji?"

About 27 out of 44 students were bilingual and about half spoke Spanish. Most students were interested in being bilingual teachers in the future.

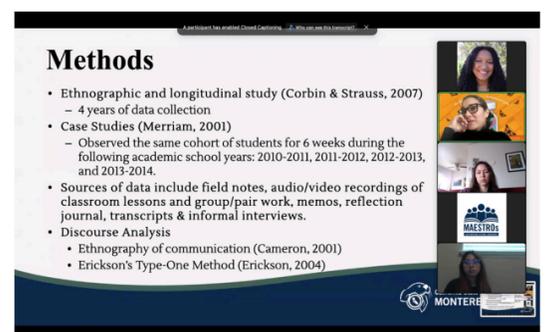
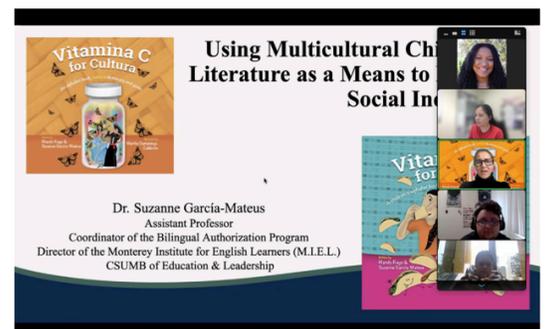
This presentation helped attendees understand what goes into being a bilingual teacher and how to find the best curriculum for students to thrive and succeed in the classroom.

It also helped most students relate to the host of this event and encouraged them to navigate every pathway to get where they needed to be, no matter the hurdles.

When acknowledging the source of how to get through to students, which can be through picture books, you can then go into dissecting these books.

Some books can perpetuate negativity, which is when you have to take a deep dive into the book to make sure it's appropriate and also showcases the point you want to get across.

"Which member of society has the most representation in children's books? What is the storyline about and who's the main character?" Garcia-Mateus said. "You want to make sure to look at the illustrations because there is a lot of multicultural children's literature that isn't of high quality."



# Using art as resistance

Story by Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez  
Photos and digital illustration courtesy of Elizabeth Blancas

As California State University, Monterey Bay kicked off its 26th Annual Social Justice Colloquium, the Otter Cross Cultural Center hosted “Art As Resistance” on March 12 with first-generation queer Xicana artist Elizabeth Blancas who spoke about her story and showcased her art to students and staff.

Blancas, a graduate of University of California, Los Angeles, holds a bachelor’s degree in Chicana Studies and Art History. Blancas is a self-described community-taught-interdisciplinary artist from the Bay Area whose art reflects themes of womanhood, identity, culture, sexuality and, most importantly, resistance.

She started her presentation by delving into her background before she became the artist she is today. Growing up, she didn’t identify with the title of Xicana and learned about it and its history through online spaces, specifically on Tumblr and Instagram pages.

She described herself as always being a bookworm who became infatuated with Chicana literature in which she found comfort and solace in because of the messaging of the words. Then, she took it upon herself to find all books with the words Chicana in them at her local discount bookstores.

Before she attended community college, right around graduating high school, she participated in a local street art show where she met muralist Jessica Sabogal. Blancas showered Sabogal with her sketchbook, which impressed her so much that she invited her to help work on a mural she was doing.

After Blancas worked with her on the mural, Sabogal offered her an internship later that year during her residency at Galería de la Raza, a non-profit art gallery featuring art from Chicana and Latinx artists, where she became enamored with the world and culture of Chicana art and started to produce her own work. When Blancas internship ended with Sabogal in 2015, she was offered an arts administration position for which she worked until 2018.

Blancas showed attendees badges she designed and created for the Radical Monarchs, a social justice group comprised of young girls and gender-expansive youth of color. Members of the Radical Monarchs earn badges based on the social justice curriculum.

One of the four badges made and highlighted by Blancas is titled “Radical Healing,” which members earn by working with local herbalists to create their own medicine. Blancas was incredibly proud of the art she created for them, as it allowed her to learn more about herself.

“I was in a very expansive time in my life and this project was influential because I was going through the turmoil of excavating who I was and it was beautiful to lend my work to a group of young girls who have a community.”



She then shared the first mural she ever did in an art festival, “Unceded Voices: Anti Colonial Street Art Convergence,” in Montreal, Quebec. The mural features indigenous activists Caro Gonzales and Lauren Howland with a quote from Gonzales that reads, “Women & Two Spirits Are The Backbone Of Every Tribe.” Blancas wanted to honor both activists’ involvement in the Dakota Access Pipeline protests and share the importance women, and two-spirit folks hold in indigenous communities.

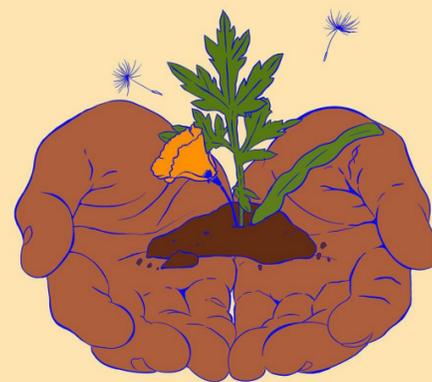
During the 2020 California wildfires, Blancas was horrified by the orange sky and ash falling outside her window. In response, she decided to create a digital illustration with the phrase “Repatriate The Land” in the center, accompanied by hands holding dirt containing plants local to the Bay Area.

She showed this digital illustration and was inspired to create the art by the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, an urban indigenous women-led land trust seeking to return indigenous land to indigenous people. Blancas believes that the wildfires California experienced and climate catastrophes occurring worldwide are partly due to the world detouring from indigenous ways in favor of capitalistic and colonial ways.

Blancas then showed veladoras she created titled “Proteger Activistas,” which translates to “Protect Activists.” Veladoras are candles for religious and spiritual practices, often tied to remembering lost family members and people. She created the “Proteger Activistas” veladora to creatively and spiritually express her grief to honor the lives lost for the advancement of social justice and to protect activists on the frontlines of protests.

Blancas then showed a piece that took her four years to create and is described as coming full circle. In 2021, she and her team painted the first public mural at Chabot College, her former college. Blancas worked with the school’s Stay Woke Collective, a group of student activists on the campus that advocate for social justice and change.

## REMATRIATE THE LAND



The mural features Salimah “Mrs. Mak” Shabazz and Taufa Setefano, two social justice leaders at Chabot College and in the Hayward community. The mural also features a quote from Japanese American Bay Area activist Yuri Kochiyama that reads, “Tomorrow’s world is yours to build.” As an alumni, Blancas was honored to paint a mural of two influential community leaders that reflects the university’s minority population.

“I wanted to bring joy into the campus in such a dark time, so I made sure to create bright and joyful imagery,” said Blancas. “When I first started out, I always thought social justice work had to be dark and serious, but I now see that there’s a lot of power in joy, especially when the world strips a lot of that from us.”

The final art piece Blancas showed was a mural she painted at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) titled “Nuestros Muertos No Se Venden,” which translates to “Our Dead Are Not For Sale.” The mural is part of the “Acción Latina: The ‘80s Matter in the Mission” exhibition at SFMOMA.

The mural features Juan Pablo Gutierrez, an LGBTQ Latino advocate and artist, and Francisco X. Alarcon, a Chicano poet and educator. It represents two significant events of the ‘80s: the lives lost in the United States intervention in Nicaragua and the AIDS epidemic.

Blancas was beyond grateful to get the opportunity to paint the mural as it honored the Mission’s Día de Los Muertos ritual procession, once run by Gutierrez. Even though she was not born in the ‘80s, she still thanks those she refers to as her elders, who continue to share their stories and to the community that archives her people’s history.

She ended her presentation with a quote from voting and women’s rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.” Serving as a stark reminder that she will continue to use her art as a form of resistance and defiance while promoting and uplifting her community and culture all at the same time.



## This Otter is changing what it means to 'talk trash'

Story by Andrea Valadez  
Photo courtesy of Alex Sanzo

Alex Sanzo, a recent transfer student to California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is making waves with her podcast "Trash Talk," hosted through Otter Media. The show airs Mondays at 11 a.m. and features a variety of personal anecdotes about her time spent in Southern California, opinions on social trends, and everything else in between.

"I wanted an outlet where I could talk as candidly as I wanted to, and I also wanted to create a space where other people could get stuff off their chest as well," said Sanzo.

According to Sanzo, the process to get a podcast started with Otter Media is fairly simple. She submitted a Google form on the organization's Instagram page with a rough outline of the kind of show she wanted to host. It took about two weeks to be approved.

"Once I got in there, they showed me the ropes. It was quick and easy," she explained.

Sanzo says "Trash Talk" is rooted in honesty. "I want this show to start a dialogue for students. Whether it's messy, funny, or just stuff that's going around campus. I want to get into the dirt of what's going on at CSUMB, but in a respectful way." She continued, "I'm trying to find that middle ground between having fun and not targeting anyone."

While she is happy to be a part of the CSUMB community, Sanzo explained that she originally did not want to attend college, but was convinced by her father to give it a try. According to Sanzo, her father encouraged her to attend a university anywhere in the country, as long as she got out of her hometown.

"I come from a very small town in New York where everyone is very close minded. The people that stay there don't get out and end up spending their whole lives in this toxic cycle. I wanted to break that."

After touring countless schools up and down the Californian coast, Sanzo decided that Santa Barbara was the place to begin the next phase of her life.

She graduated from Santa Barbara City College at 21 and "ended up taking a year and a half off and now at 23, I realized it was now or never. I feel like I've matured enough to come back to school," where she is now pursuing a degree in humanities and communication, with a concentration in journalism and media studies.

Since this is Sanzo's first semester at CSUMB and hosting the show, there are still a lot of changes she wants to make in regards to the structure of the podcast. "I would love to have a co-host, but since I'm a transfer student, I haven't met tons of people yet... most of the time it's me telling stories about what's going on in my life."

As for the future of the podcast, Sanzo said she has no plans to stop anytime soon. She would "love to keep the show going as long as I can. I'm still in the process of figuring out what my niche is and I'm trying to find content while also being a full-time student. So that can be a little difficult, but I'm going to try to keep the show going next year."

Sanzo also has big plans for her life outside of "Trash Talk."



"I would love to pursue this seriously. I want to get into the entertainment industry when I get out of school, but I haven't had much time to narrow down what I want to do," she said. "I've actually been applying to a bunch of reality shows to try to get a bigger platform."

One of the shows she has applied to is called "Barmageddon" and streams on Hulu. Sanzo went on to explain that the show features "stars of failed viral videos getting together and playing fun bar games with celebrities. I had a viral video in 2020, where I jumped off a balcony through a table. I ended up being on the MTV show Ridiculousness for that."

She is currently waiting to hear back from the show.

"Trash Talk" is available for CSUMB students to watch on Streeme through the CSUMB dashboard, and Sanzo also goes live on her TikTok (@alxanzo) Mondays at 11 a.m. to stream the podcast.

## 2023 Programming Team looks for new recruits

Story by Maxwelle Tartaglia  
Photos courtesy of Shahidul Islam

On March 13, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students gathered in the Business and Information Technology Building on campus as recruits for the upcoming CSUMB 2023 Programming Team.

Around 15 students attended the meeting, which began with an important overview of what they can expect from the cohort and was followed by a coding workshop where students collaborated and shared ideas to answer a handful of coding questions.

The Programming Team is a community of learners open to anyone interested in enhancing their problem-solving, communication and teamwork skills through preparation and participation in competitive programming platforms.

The aim of the program is to boost Computer Science students' programming skills and additionally create a competitive CSUMB team to participate in coding competitions against other universities.

The cohort is led by CSUMB professor and coach Shahidul Islam, co-coach and alumnus Donald Dong and programming team lead Dominic Sagen.

The cohort is also an opportunity to be part of a close-knit community of students who share a common interest and passion. Members of the team will work closely together, sharing ideas, collaborating on projects and supporting each other both in and out of competitions.



In Fall 2022, the Programming Team competed in the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) Pacific Northwest Regional Contest held at CSU-Chico on Feb. 25, 2022 and ranked top 20 (7th and 20th) in the Division 2 contest among more than 60 teams from different universities in the Pacific Northwest (PacNW) region.

They will conduct weekly workshops to help programmers hone and improve their skills for technical interviews as well as prepare them for competitions such as the ICPC PacNW.

To ensure that the team is always at the top of its game, members will receive regular training and coaching from experienced programmers and students, who will provide guidance and support as they prepare for competitions.

Team selection for who will be representing the 2023 CSUMB Programming Team and competing in the ICPC PacNW will be held in August and September.

Recruitment meetings for CSUMB's new 2023 Programming Team will continue to be held weekly on Mondays and Fridays in the Business and Information Technology Building on campus.

The Lutrinae wants to hear your voices

Want to showcase your work in the student newspaper? Email [analbach@csumb.edu](mailto:analbach@csumb.edu) to have your work considered for our next issue.

We love to see your: illustrations • short stories • poems

# Drag queens host bingo night

Story by Ferris Crosby  
Photos courtesy of Katie Scariot

It was a packed house as Associated Students (AS) and Honey Davenport held Drag Bingo in the Otter Student Union Ballroom on Thursday, March 16.

Honey Davenport, New York queen and RuPaul's Drag Race season 11 contender, opened the night with an Ariana Grande lip sync. She started hosting bingo at different colleges over the pandemic over Zoom, and this was California State University, Monterey Bay's first in person.

She exposed Rupaul tea and trivia throughout the night as tiebreakers. "First round we have two winners! Remember when they did that on drag race? Not on my season."

Winners received insulated mugs, magic bullet blenders and air fryers throughout the games.

Work Witch winner Kai Mera performed "My Girlfriend is a Witch" by October Country in a velvet green dress with big red eyes on its sleeves.

Lightning Storm Meking lip synched "So You Wanna Marry Daisy" by Spence Hood. Their performance had the entire room cheering as they stood up on chairs, danced across the aisles and revealed tear away pants.

After the student performances Honey Davenport entered again with an outfit change to a bright yellow and black jumpsuit performing more songs.



Honey Davenport spoke out against the bills being passed in Tennessee banning drag performance. "I believe in drag so much. As a genderqueer individual this art form has saved my life growing up. The amount of love you all have shared with me gives me a lot of strength to keep going."

"A lot of people don't want us to keep going, but we've got our right to vote to ensure nights like this continue in a country this beautiful."

After her heartfelt speech, Honey Davenport spoke on the newly passed AS proposal to raise its student fee.

"Raising the fee will help events like this happen in the future." She reminds students to vote starting March 20 - 22 via MyRaft on the increase.

The night ended with a meet and greet where students got their picture taken with Davenport.



## What is something you could give a TedTalk on right now?

*Otter Chatter* By Andrea Valadez



### Gema Hernandez

Collaborative Health & Human Services  
Fourth-Year

"Housing rights, I guess. Just because I feel like a lot of the time especially in this area, housing rights are very, very, very not well presented. Half the time, people don't know what their resources are. Whether it's security deposits or how to fix leaky faucets or small things like that, sometimes people don't know [how to handle it] and then they end up getting screwed over... depending on what the issues are, it can get catastrophic."



### Lucas Bugarin

Education  
Graduate Student

"I could give a TedTalk on the [Queer] Mexican-American experience, it's very specific and unique. I could talk about 'pochismo.' That's when a lot of Mexican-Americans don't learn Spanish growing up. So maybe 'What are the ramifications of us not learning Spanish?'"



### Aaron Wickware

Marine Science  
Second-Year

"One thing I could give a TedTalk about is representing nationally under-represented students on campus."

# Credential program candidates, listen up!

Story by Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez  
 Flier courtesy of the MAESTROs Project

Awards up to \$27,000 are available for candidates in the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) credential program. On March 17, the Making Accessible and Effective Systems for Teacher Readiness Outcomes (MAESTROs) Project hosted a credential year information panel session with speakers Dennis Kombe, Sophia Vicuna and Jessica Garcia, giving information on how those awards can be earned.

Kombe, representing the Tri-County Residency Program, a partnership between CSUMB and the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) and school districts in the Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties explained that the residency program is focused on training future educators for elementary education with bilingual authorization, special education and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The program awards recipients \$20,000-25,000 for tuition, books and other fees.

The requirements for applying are to be awarded a bachelor's degree, enrolled in a CSUMB credential program and committed to teaching at one of the following school districts for four years after completing the residency program.

- Alisal Union School District
- North Monterey County Unified School District
- Soledad Unified School District
- King City USD
- Greenfield USD
- Hollister School District
- San Antonio Union Elementary School District
- Salinas City Elementary School District
- San Benito High School District
- Live Oak School District

Kombe also represented the Salinas Union High School District (SUHSD) Residency, a partnership with CSUMB and SUHSD created to train future educators for special education and STEM in middle and high schools. The program only accepts 10 candidates a year, who are awarded \$25,000 for tuition, books and fees.

Vicuña represented Project POPPY: Preparing Observational Practitioners through Partnerships Yearlong. This program allows future educators to earn \$27,000 in scholarship funds and a residency at a partnered school district.

The program only accepts 20 scholarships for the 2023/2024 academic year. According to Vicuña, the requirements for the program include a 3.0 GPA, admission into the Masters Plus Secondary or Elementary

Education Credential Program and commitment to teaching for three years at one of the following school districts:

- Gonzales Unified School District
- Salinas City Elementary School District
- Soledad Unified School District
- King City Union School District
- Salinas Union High School District
- Alisal Union School District
- Greenfield Union School District
- South Monterey County Joint High School District

Garcia, a CSUMB's Financial Aid Department coordinator, wanted to inform credential students applying in the summer and fall of 2023 to know that their Oasis FAFSA and To Do List objectives should be completed to avoid potential mishaps during the application process.

Garcia also wanted to let undergraduate Cal Grant A and B recipients planning to enroll in a teaching credential program know they could be eligible to renew their Cal Grant for another year. The added year only applies to the teaching credential and not graduate-level courses.

According to Garcia, students must submit The Request for Cal Grant Teaching Credential Program Benefits (G-55) form to the California Student Aid Commission. However, she advises that the form can take several weeks to process and is not guaranteed. She also promoted that there are a lot of scholarships available for students on CSUMB's financial aid website.

**CREDENTIAL YEAR FINANCIAL AID**  
*Informational Panel*

Speakers will share information regarding financial opportunities for Credential program candidates

**MARCH 17, 2023**  
**3:00 – 4:00PM**  
**ZOOM**

**SPEAKERS:**

- Dennis Kombe
- Tri-County Teacher Residency Program
- Sophia Vicuna
- Associate Director of Project POPPY
- Alma Martinez
- Lead Financial Aid Counselor

For questions or accommodations contact [maestros@csumb.edu](mailto:maestros@csumb.edu)

**If you are interested in the Tri-County Residency Program or Salinas Union High School District (SUHSD) Residency, contact [dkombe@csumb.edu](mailto:dkombe@csumb.edu) or visit <https://sites.google.com/csumb.edu/tctrp/tctrp-home> and <https://www.salinasuhd.org/Page/1496> for more information.**

**If interested in Project POPPY: Preparing Observational Practitioners through Partnerships Yearlong, contact [svicuna@csumb.edu](mailto:svicuna@csumb.edu) or visit <https://csumb.edu/teach/resources/project-poppy/> for more information.**

**To access The Request for Cal Grant Teaching Credential Program Benefits (G-55) form, visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/request-cal-grant-teaching-credential-program-benefits>**

**For more information on CSUMB scholarships available, visit <https://csumb.edu/financialaid/other-csumbcsu-scholarships/> for more details.**

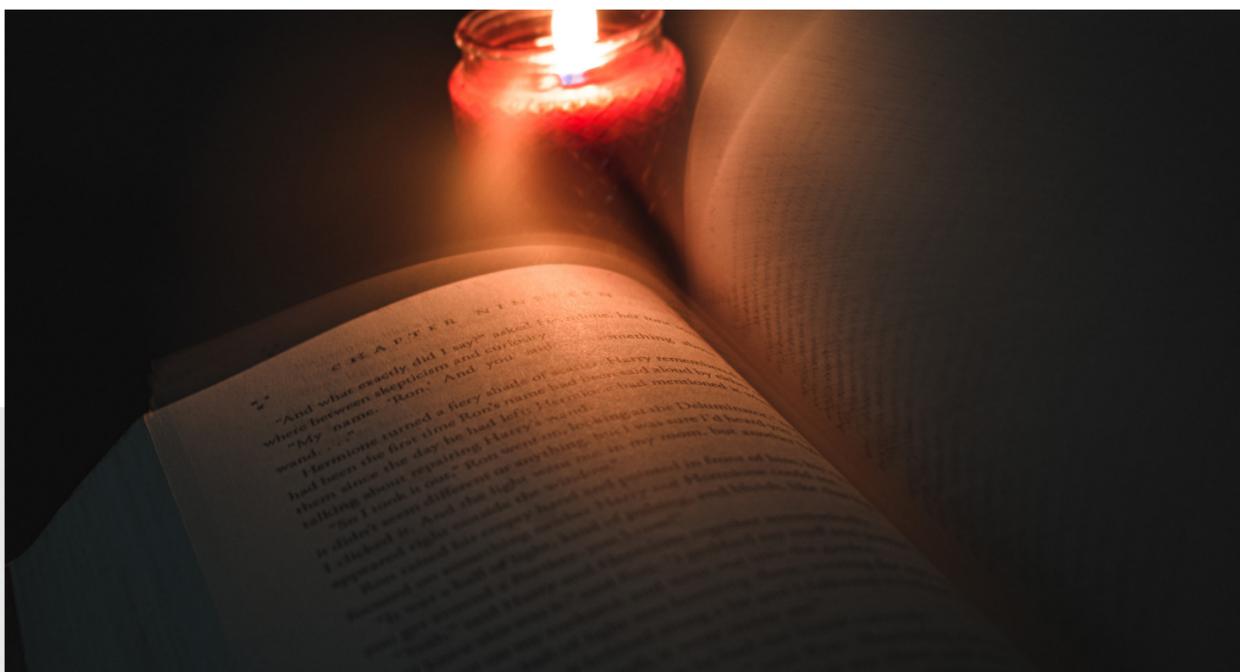
# Till Thursday.

Poem submitted by Micah Rodriguez  
 Photos by Arianna Nalbach

Weightlessly I vision you  
 With red faces of passion  
 Pretty is you

Islands of cozy liquor  
 Drowns my worries, sinks my fears  
 I think of you

Let me stay, please let me stay  
 But soon, so soon...  
 You'll fade away...



# I'll Love Myself

Poem submitted by Micah Rodriguez

The tears burn holes in my clothes.

Stains me with whatever.

I cry for long,  
 Too long to cry.

Treads my winds,  
 How free am I?

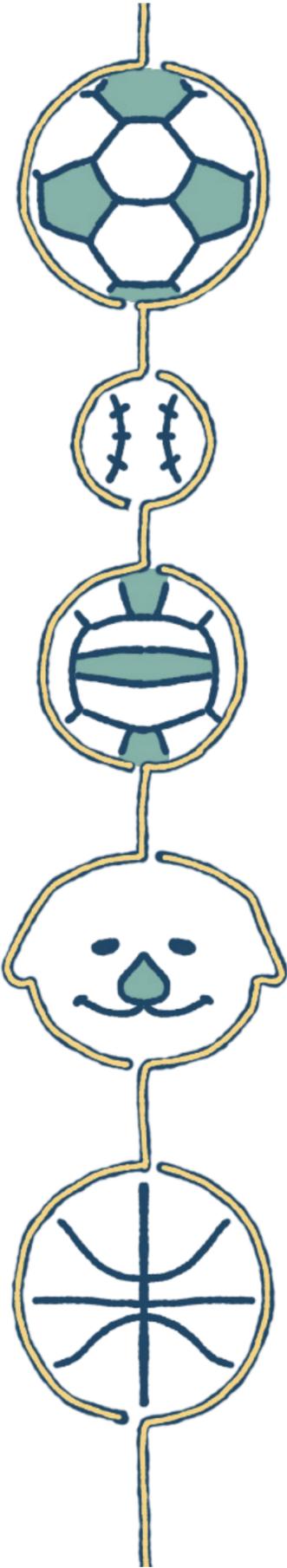
The blinding lights dark my soul.

Living life on the side.

I don't know why,  
 So why should I?

Crosses my mind,  
 I wanna die.

# Game Results



## Baseball

March 12 @ Cal Poly Pomona

W 18 - 3

March 12 @ Cal Poly Pomona

L 1 - 2  
(8 inn.)

March 18 vs Sonoma State

W 8 - 6

March 18 vs Sonoma State

L 2 - 10

## Softball

March 17 vs Sonoma State

W 1 - 0

March 17 vs Sonoma State

L 4 - 6

March 17 vs Sonoma State

W 12 - 3

March 18 vs Sonoma State

L 0 - 3

March 18 vs Sonoma State

W 10 - 9

## Women's Water Polo

March 18 vs Biola University

L 7 - 8

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

ggina

tyrpa

arsdc

oonllabs

keca

kescaupc

lsednca

tyap tsha

stnespre

taapin

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |     |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|-----|
| 5 |   |   |   | 2 |   |  |     |
|   |   | 2 |   |   | 3 |  | 5   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |  | 7   |
| 3 |   | 6 | 5 | 7 |   |  | 9   |
| 9 |   | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |  |     |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |     |
|   | 6 | 1 | 2 |   |   |  |     |
| 7 | 5 |   |   | 3 | 6 |  | 2 1 |
|   |   |   | 9 |   |   |  |     |

Answers:

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

Aging, Cards, Cake,  
Candles, Presents,  
Party, Balloons,  
Cupcakes, Party  
Hats, Pinata