

# CSUMB Athletics remains strong amid CSU cuts

Keira Silver and Sean Tubo  
Staff Writers

In January, Sonoma State shocked the nation by announcing it was dropping all its athletic programs in response to a growing budget deficit. In the next few months, schools such as San Francisco State and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo announced they were making significant cuts to their athletic departments, including dropping some sports, because of budgetary concerns.

Meanwhile, at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB), the school has not lost any of its sports teams or made financial cuts to the program. As a Division II sports program, CSUMB has allocated more funding toward equipment and recruitment.

During his 12 years as athletic director, Kirby Garry has seen the consistent growth of the entire campus. Even with budget cuts happening with other aspects of campus, Garry feels the athletics department has been strongly supported.

"The university has made over the last couple of years some really significant budget considerations and decisions," Garry said. "We've felt some of those, but we've also been funded in a way that we have a balanced budget, we have a sustainable approach to operating inter-collegiate athletics at the Division II level, and we feel really good about it."

"[Athletics] fit really nicely into the vision for this campus," he said. "We feel really good."

Garry notes how University President Vanya Quiñones' leadership and commitment to the Otter Athletics program have furthered CSUMB's sense of community. "We've been supported 100% by her since she got here. Previous administration as well, but a renewed sense of support since Vanya arrived," Garry said. "[Athletics] fit really nicely into the vision for this campus. We feel really good."

Otter Athletics recently received a logo rebrand, with new designs for athletics merchandise. This rebrand was completed to align with the university's recent rebrand to showcase the campus connection between the university and its sports teams. "We want the rebrand as an example of the kind of upward momentum and trajectory that we want to continue," Garry said.

"This was really just a next step so that our branding aligned with the university's brand, because everything that we do is really a part of the university. We're not separate. That allows us to have such a great working relationship with those that I report to and senior leadership."

Along with the continued momentum for the athletics program comes the fear of the future from coaches and players. CSUMB Assistant Baseball Coach Dennis Peters is an alum of one of the affected schools, Sonoma State. As a former collegiate baseball player, Peters understands the impact sports has on a campus community.

"I think it's sad," Peters said. "I'm an alumni. I played there, won championships in my sport there. It's just extremely unfortunate."

Peters suspects that other CSUs will follow suit by cutting their sports programs. "It's probably going to continue and that there might be some other state schools in the system that are going to have to deal with similar decisions and it does make me sad," he said. "When you see that something like that can happen at our level, it doesn't make you feel good."

Student athletes are feeling this concern as well. Jimmy Garcia, an accounting major and a senior on the CSUMB baseball team, believes losing sports teams in their conference adds unease for the rest of the California Collegiate Athletic Association.

"We have to add more teams as a result, or we have to low-



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAL STATE MONTEREY BAY

er some teams in some sports in order to create that competitive balance that we once had before," Garcia said.

CSUMB President Quiñones believes campus advocacy against a proposed 8% budget cut by the state will help ensure students have continued access to funding and resources, specifically for the school's athletic programs. She has encouraged students to reach out to elected state

officials to share their stories about why this cut would be harmful to students and their campus.

"We are incredibly proud of our athletics program," Quiñones said in an email to The Lutrinae. "Kirby Garry and his coaching team have built a strong program for our student-athletes who have proven to be high achievers both in their sports and in their academics."

## The Strangers Project

Did you see the art installation in the Otter Student Union last week? Check out the story below about Brandon Doman's art exhibit.



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## Summer internships

Looking for a summer internship or future job? Check out the resources we've compiled and land your next opportunity.

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## Takes Two to Review

Have you seen the latest Marvel film? Read what Hayley and Francine thought about "Thunderbolts\*."

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# Students share their secrets with The Strangers Project

**Hayley Matto**  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, students passing through the Otter Student Union (OSU) were greeted by Brandon Doman, founder of The Strangers Project, as he delicately strung up dozens of anonymous stories and secrets across a twine gradient. Each page was held up with wooden clothespins, all on the same type of paper and crafted with the same type of pen—yet each unique in voice and intention.

"This all actually started back in 2009," Doman said. "I've always been curious to learn about people and their stories. When I first started, I was fresh out of undergrad and watching people pass by outside of a little coffee shop. So I opened my notebook, grabbed a marker and wrote a sign inviting people to come sit down and tell me about their life. There was no big plan—I just thought it would be a fun way to meet some strangers. But then people started writing, and the whole idea really seemed to resonate...and here we are, 95,000 stories later."

Doman has a permanent space at the World Trade Center Oculus building in New York City.

"It's like a story museum where thousands of stories are on display every day," Doman shares. "However, I like to bring this project to schools, museums, festivals and public spaces. It's the same idea everywhere—just different in shape and size. This project has traveled to over 100 cities."

The stories caught the attention of many students and staff, garnering long pauses to step up and read through many of the displayed confessions. Some students were emboldened and inspired to pick up a clipboard and pen—provided by Doman—and share their own stories, anonymously.

"All 95,000 stories have been written on these same clipboards, all in person," Doman said.

He emphasized that the project remains intentionally simple: a clipboard, a black ink pen and a blank piece of paper. Whatever comes to those willing to share must come in the moment and never with a name. The entire process is designed to give voices power without a face— anonymity, bringing community, allowing those sharing to be vulnerable.



The Strangers Project is a "story museum" featuring anonymous stories from over 95,000 people.

PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

able or even pose questions to future readers.

Eli, a third-year psychology major who declined to share their full name in the project's spirit of anonymity, shared their experience participating in the project.

"It's comforting reading through all the stories—to know my unique experiences may not be so unique. It's also kind of sad," they said. "I was surprised to find out that there is just one person running all of this!"

The Strangers Project, is operated solely by Doman and is completely free to participate in. He does, however, accept donations to help keep the project on the move.

For more information, you can follow along the journey of the project on Instagram @strangersproj.

Doman left behind two panels for display in the OSU. Visitors can find them on both the second and third floors of the building.

And if you were a student who was brave enough to share your story, keep an eye out on the page; your story may just end up on their Instagram feed, or on display with the rest of the ever-growing archive.

## The future of engineering at CSUMB



PHOTO BY MAXFIELD ENGLISH

**Maxfield English**  
Contributing Writer

Among its expanding academic offerings, Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has launched a Mechatronics Engineering program—an interdisciplinary degree that combines electrical, computer and mechanical engineering to create smart, automated systems.

Now serving 56 students this spring semester, the program is making a strong local impact, according to the program chair and professor Luis Cabrales Arriaga.

"There are only three mechatronics programs in the Cal State system, and we are the only engineering program in [the] Salinas Valley," said Cabrales. "Local industry needed talent available."

Cabrales, a tenured engineering professor, previously worked at California State University, Bakersfield, where he was a founding member of their Mechatronics program.

"Programs like these take a long time to get off the ground," Cabrales said, noting that Bakersfield's program took multiple years to go from concept to implementation. CSUMB's journey was no different—its program was conceived nearly a decade prior.

"Last fall, we started. Before, our buildings were office spaces, but they were remodeled and we now have the space for these labs," said Cabrales. Pacific Hall, the current site of the Mechatronics program, houses their two lecture rooms but is unable to accommodate the possibility of growth.

Soon to host three full-time faculty, the program aims to grow regardless of their space. As of this academic year, Mechatronics did not offer second- or fourth-year courses, but with the coming fall will have its first seniors.

Only possible because of the vested interest of Taylor Farms and a \$3 million grant, "[the program] is very fortunate. We have been supported at every turn," said Cabrales.

Cabrales expects the program to be housed in the upcoming Edward "Ted" Taylor Science and Engineering building, where he predicts new labs and unique concentrations of the engineering program.

Namely, agricultural engineering, which had already received progress towards its implementation.

"With location in mind, staff were picked with backgrounds in agricultural systems," said Cabrales. He expects that an agriculture elective will soon come to the program.

Preparing students for the local workforce was in mind from the beginning. Mechatronics is one of several programs at CSUMB that requires an internship to be taken before graduating. "Being so close to Silicon Valley means we have so many startups to work with," said Cabrales. As well, students are expected in their capstone projects to work with these same startups.

Cabrales says, "These companies come to us with real problems. I give our students constraints, and they're asked to solve them. It's very hands-on."

## 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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# Where to find your next summer internship



CSUMB frequently hosts job fairs for students to explore their career choices.

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA HUTZ

**Keira Silver**  
Staff Writer

Finding a summer internship for your career can be efficient and easy. Here's a list of resources to help you secure your next summer internship:

#### The Currents

Every week, Cal State Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) Science Internship Program (SIP) Office sends out an email newsletter. It's designed to help students in STEM-related fields find internships with local, state and national organizations. The SIP team lists various job, intern and research opportunities that students can apply for. Sign up for the newsletter at [science\\_internships@csumb.edu](mailto:science_internships@csumb.edu).

#### Indeed

Indeed is a summer internship hotspot for students of all years. Companies at the local, state and national levels will often post their summer internship op-

portunities on Indeed.com. You can apply directly through the website.

#### Otter Jobs

CSUMB students have direct access to Otter Jobs. Known for on-campus student assistant jobs, Otter Jobs also offers summer internship postings. Students can utilize the filters to select which type of internships they want. The added links will take students directly to company websites. You can find more information here: <https://csumb.edu/career/otter-jobs-student-access/>.

#### Extern

For students seeking to gain more experience in their chosen fields, externships offer more hands-on experience. Extern supplies students with the necessary resources to find and apply for externships. You can find more information here: <https://www.extern.com/student>.

#### Handshake

Handshake has become a popular tool for students seek-

ing out career opportunities. After creating a profile, students can be seen by dozens of different companies, including Nike, Hilton and TikTok. You can find more information at <https://joinhandshake.com/students/>.

#### LinkedIn

A classic recruiting website, LinkedIn supports both students and employers with finding internships and employees. By creating a LinkedIn profile, students can be seen and contacted by hundreds of different employers seeking out their next summer intern. You can visit LinkedIn.com to create a profile.

#### CSUMB College Career Center

CSUMB's college career center offers students resources and flyers for posted internships across the country. Students can meet with advisors to learn more about internships in their related field of study and how to make connections with different companies and employers. The Center for Advising, Career & Student Success is located on the third floor of the library.

# Yet another housing article

OPINION

**Hunter Overby**  
Student Submission

*Editor's note: After this opinion piece was submitted more housing was made available and according to the school all those on the waiting list have been accommodated. However, judging from comments from students there are still some hard feelings about how the process was conducted.*

Due to the current on-campus housing crisis that has overtaken CSUMB, many students are left scrambling to find a place to stay. The housing disaster which resulted in a waitlist over 300 students long has caused feelings of betrayal and animosity towards the CSUMB housing department as students feel that the campus has turned its back on them. Most students chose to live on campus because of its convenience, but more importantly its affordability. With many left without a place to stay it raises the question of where they will live now.

It is no secret that California has some of the highest rent

prices in the country. Most one bedroom apartments in the Monterey Bay area cost more than 2000 dollars a month to rent which can hardly be considered affordable. With the Monterey Peninsula starting to transform into a place where young people and students want and need to live, the rent prices of the area must begin to reflect that. There have been recent housing developments but they cater to the wrong audiences. Most students have certainly noticed "The Dunes," a brand new neighborhood being built right across the street of the CSUMB campus. The cost of many of these homes begins around 1,000,000 dollars to buy with no apparent opportunities to rent them, these homes are beyond the means of any students and many families to purchase or live in. (source, The Dunes website, Shea Homes).

These new homes seem to be aimed at Bay Area retirees and white collar employees who work remotely and are seeking to live near the water. These people are not respective of many of the young people living in the Monterey area and not at all respective of the students who are

now out of a place to stay. These new housing developments show that the area around campus is not restricted by space but rather a lack of profitable clientele. Many students realize that CSUMB should be capable of constructing more student housing and contracting housing development firms to help build it, especially since the land owned by campus extends into the Fort Ord area far beyond the bounds of Main Campus. It should be the responsibility of CSUMB to work with these organizations and companies in order to provide housing for its loyal student population. It is also the duty of us as young individuals entering the workforce to vote and fight for policies that help make it easier for people earning low to mid level incomes to find a place to stay in our state. No one should be left without a place to lie their head at night, and the recent debacle with the CSUMB housing department has shown the student body that it is all too easy to lose your chances at a home.

Dunes Sources: <https://www.sheahomes.com/new-homes/california/bay-area/marina/the-dunes>

**The Lutrinae**  
wants to hear  
your voices!

Want to showcase your work in the student newspaper?

Email [pfrancis@csumb.edu](mailto:pfrancis@csumb.edu) to have your work considered for our next issue.

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

# Money Talks: Graduating with loans



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

**Karzell McMillian**  
Contributing Writer

As we finish up the semester and people are getting ready to walk the stage, I want to take the time to ease some stress that those inevitable loans may be causing.

The best place to find your student loan information if you borrowed through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the Federal Student Aid website. Here you can find all your loans, who your lender is and when payments will begin.

Two loans will primarily be focused on here: subsidized

and unsubsidized loans. Subsidized loans do not gain interest while you are enrolled as a student or in your grace period, while unsubsidized loans gain interest from the moment you borrow, and said interest is then added to the principal amount.

Steps to ensure you stay informed of your loans:

1. Know how much you owe and when you owe it. The Department of Education gives a grace period of six months after completing your program.
2. Find a repayment that can work for you. The Federal Student Aid website has simulators and various payment options to find the best plan for your situation.
3. Stay in contact with your loan servicer. As obvious as

it sounds, keeping in touch with your servicer can offer alternatives if you ever run into financial difficulties.

As you prepare for life after graduation, this is a great time to begin thinking about a budget that reflects your upcoming loan payments. Understanding how your loans fit into your monthly expenses can ease stress.

If you're able, consider making small early payments during your grace period to reduce the amount of interest that accrues over time. Taking small steps now can make a big difference later. If you ever have questions regarding loans or paying them back, reach out to the Financial Aid office here on campus.

## ‘Thunderbolts\*’: sparking a light in a world riddled with depression

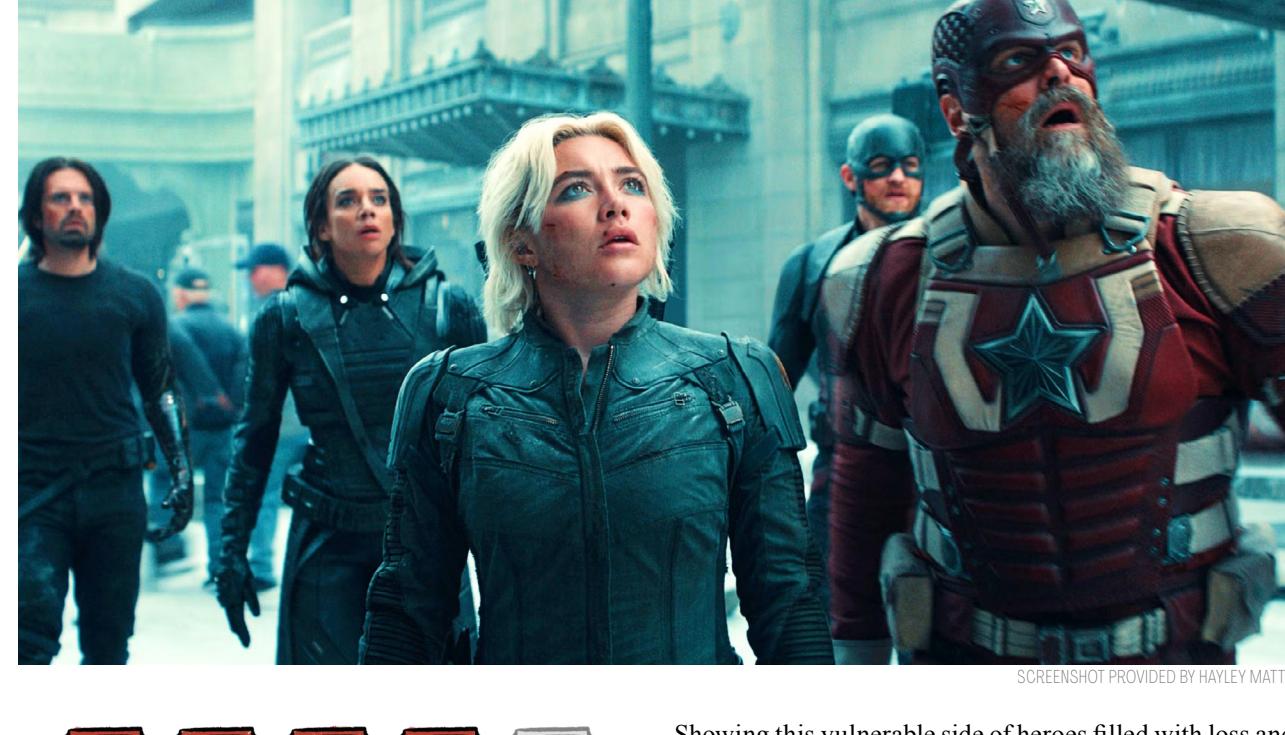
**Hayley Matto and Francine Pamplona**  
Staff Writers

“Thunderbolts\*” is causing quite the spark in the box office this weekend, exceeding the expectations of Marvel fans all over. The film features a stacked cast starring Florence Pugh, Lewis Pullman, David Harbour, Wyatt Russell, Geraldine Viswanathan, Sebastian Stan and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. With fans not knowing what to expect after “Avengers: Endgame,” “Thunderbolts\*” takes the Marvel structure to a whole new territory, fighting not only the villains, but also our mental demons.

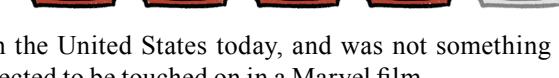
Falling cinematically in the year 2027 after the events of “Captain America: Brave New World” and giving fans the long-awaited return of Pugh’s character Yelena, who we last saw in the TV series “Hawkeye” and cinematically in the post-credit scene of “Black Widow.” This film follows Yelena’s mental health journey, navigating her childhood trauma, her uncertainty with her current place in life, her career and relationship with her father. In her journey throughout this film, she ends up teaming up, out of necessity, with a ragtag team of underdogs to save Bob (played by Pullman) and to defeat greed-driven Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (played by Louis-Dreyfus).

Hayley here – and as a casual Marvel fan, I really wasn’t sure what to expect going into this movie. However, it greatly exceeded my expectations using the familiar structure we have seen time and time again in Marvel films, but adding in some sentimental heart and twists to the plot. The balance between superhero action, humor and emotional depth was done incredibly well, while maintaining accuracy to all comic book characters’ origin stories. In particular, the relationship between Yelena and her father Alexei (played by Harbour) struck a nerve in me in the best way possible. It was refreshing to see a complicated emotional dynamic revolve around a father-daughter duo versus a romantic entanglement.

I also enjoyed how they gave many characters a moment to reflect on their worst nightmares that they had yet to face, despite coming across as these incredibly strong superheroes. The duality and lessons in this film, I think, spoke volumes to the mental health crisis we are seeing



SCREENSHOT PROVIDED BY HAYLEY MATTO



in the United States today, and was not something I expected to be touched on in a Marvel film.

Like Hayley, I (Francine) was just as pleasantly surprised by the film’s direction. “Thunderbolts\*” takes a more human, heartfelt approach to the Marvel formula, and it has the perfect cast to pull it off. Despite all their rough edges and conflicting original missions, the group quickly unites and the audience becomes just as attached as they unravel each of their heart-wrenching stories. Alongside beloved Marvel antiheroes like Yelena and Bucky, newcomer Bob shares the same complex past and mental health struggles that bring an important conversation to the big screen. Following a team of underdogs always pulls at the heartstrings, but this trope within the Marvel universe adds another layer to the complex world, focusing on a realistically human side to the superheroes we know and love.

Showing this vulnerable side of heroes filled with loss and loneliness made “Thunderbolts\*” not feel like just another piece in Marvel’s endless puzzle. Yes, it fits into the larger Marvel Cinematic Universe (and wow, am I excited to see where it’s headed after watching that post-credit scene...), but it also stands worthy on its own, telling an important story that doesn’t rely on endless cameos or franchise setups. The film’s darker tone, gritty visuals and vulnerable emotional lens made it feel more like a character-driven drama with superhero stakes rather than just another action blockbuster Marvel pumped out.

In the end, “Thunderbolts\*” offers not only thrilling fights and sharp humor, but also a genuine look at what it means to carry guilt, grief and the slow, painful journey of healing. It reminds us that even the most powerful heroes are human, and that’s what makes their strength to keep fighting so inspiring.

We happily rate this film 4/5 stars—“Thunderbolts\*” delivers all the hits, both emotional and literal!

# Starlight

Lily Myers  
*Photo of the Week Winner*

An above water look of a starfish in a tide pool at Asilomar State Beach.



## Photo of the Week

**Looking to showcase your photography?** Enter our ongoing photo contest throughout Volume 8 for a chance to have your work featured in our weekly issues. Check out our Instagram @thelutrinae for more details!



# Upcoming Events

## Monday, May 5

Second Year Experience is hosting a Budgeting 101 workshop for students. The workshop is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the library, room 1167. Food will be provided.

## Tuesday, May 6

Welcome to Finals week! A Super Smash Bros tournament will be held in the Makerspace from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, May 6

Eggs After Dark is being taken over by Monte's Western Showdown! Head to the Dining Commons from 9 to 11 p.m. for free breakfast foods, a live DJ and giveaways.

## Thursday, May 8

Calling all graduates! The Senior Toast is from 4 to 6 p.m. in the stadium. This is a chance to bid farewell to the graduating class with drinks and food. Attendees will get to explore the stadium, go on the field and take pictures.

## Thursday, May 8

De-stress during Welcome to Finals week with a LEGO night! The event will be in the Makerspace from 6 to 8 p.m.

## Friday, May 9

The Makerspace is hosting a Mother's Day Bouquet crafting session. Come by to make a paper bouquet for your mother, caregiver or anyone special in your life. The event is from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

# Puzzles

## SUDOKU

In order to complete this Sudoku puzzle, you must fill in the square so that each row and column contain the numbers 1 - 9, with no repetitions within the 9x9 grid and outlined 3x3 grid.

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

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these local restaurant names?

sbars pta

tfrsi kwaaginsne

eonldo rba

ppaa scvheo

mi itah

sneina sheuo

faec ami

dol hiremnfsas trgttoo

npaagea lrgil

snioesr

ANSWERS:

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

Braas Tap, First Awakenings, Noodle Bar, Papa Chevos, I'm Thai, Old Fisherman's Grotto, Annie's House, Cafe Mlia, Pangaea Grill, Rosine's

