

“WE ARE TIRED!”: Black Student Union reaffirms demands for accountability with petition



By Sean Tubo
Staff Writer

The Black Student Union (BSU) held an emergency meeting last Thursday to reaffirm demands made to the administration last semester after multiple incidents involving racist graffiti on black students' dorms. The meeting was held in the wake of concerns about treatment of their decorations and the quality of food following a cultural collaboration with the dining hall.

The Black Student Union says that they did not receive clear communication as to when and how to remove the decoration they put up for the collaboration. When they went to take them down, the decorations were returned to them in a trash bag. BSU members say the action feels disrespectful and disheartening.

With that comes two new demands for “extensive cultural research and respect with dining take-overs” and “respect and research in any and all events surrounding black culture.” A full list of demands can be found on their petition.

“Exhaustion” was the watchword of the emergency

meeting, with many students expressing a lack of energy to take action after what feels like repeated failures to respond from campus.

That message resonates in the simple call to action at the end of the petition, “Black students at CSU Monterey Bay have experienced racial discrimination on a continuous basis and WE ARE TIRED!”

Among the full list of demands were biweekly updates on security measures, a zero-tolerance policy for instances of racial discrimination, an African/Black Studies Department, more transparency in campus emails regarding incidents of racism, and improved security cameras in the dorms.

The petition also lists three key demands which the BSU says were never followed up on.

Discrimination to be addressed more directly.

RAs to enforce no whiteboards on doors, if that is

not possible, a written section located in community standards.

Update fire safety alarms on doors.

Recently, the university announced the first steps in an initiative to improve campus security, directly referencing a recent incident of graffiti found in the loading dock area of the OSU. The plan includes a three-phase upgrade and replacement of cameras in the residence halls.

A university spokesman was able to confirm this decision was made with input from the Black Student Union and Associated Students.

“In addition to the ongoing investigation, we are strengthening prevention and response efforts across campus. Actions underway include expanded education and training, enhancements to security camera coverage where appropriate, and increased oversight and monitoring in impacted areas,” said an email from campus officials.

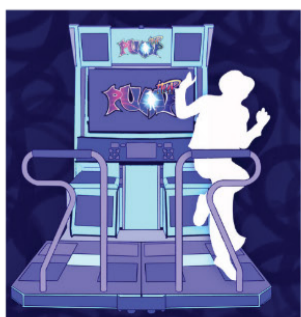
MCHA scholarship

Learn about the Monterey County Hospitality Association's scholarship before the deadline!



Pump It Up Club profile

The party of the OSU Rookery, learn more about the Pump It Up Club here.



Opinion piece (Daisy)

Read ahead to hear our staff writer's opinions on the importance of third spaces.



Two professors, two departments, two perspectives on AI

Sean Tubo
Staff Writer

“I know this is a thing I want, but this, I think, would ruin my interactions with people,” was computer science professor Sam Ogden’s take away after a 30-minute interview about the role of AI in college and teaching.

Sam Ogden is a computer science professor currently teaching advanced machine learning; Mridula Mascarenhas is a Humanities and Communications professor teaching the capstone class Being Human in an AI driven world.

For both teachers, AI is already playing a role in the classroom.

Where can AI go wrong in the learning process?

Mascarenhas: If students don't use [AI] intelligently enough, then what they might be using it for is answering a prompt in a very general way. If I get submissions that don't look like they've gone in depth, particularly with respect to course material that we've talked about or discussions we've had in class, then that tells me that this was written by somebody that wasn't necessarily present in class and thinking about our coursework particularly.

Ogden: [Computer Science] is kind of taking the stuff that you've learned previously, and every year we kind of roll back another layer. AI can add a level of confusion to it. It'll give the way-too-deep answer, or it'll give the way-too-shallow answer.

How do you feel about the use of AI in assisting research?

Mascarenhas: I don't know the architecture underlying [AI searches], and that's what makes me hesitant. But you know, the computer science professor, for example, might say ‘well, those five articles are coming up precisely because it's trolling the internet really well.’ What I will say about old school research, or at least the joy of it, was when you are the person going down



the rabbit hole. There's also something about rolling yourself around in the literature, as opposed to getting it thrown up.

Ogden: Retrieval assisted generation or augmented generation, where it's going to go off and look in a database for specific things. It's great, but getting the systems to actually go off and query the database is a lot harder than you think it would be. For our school-specific information, say we had a bunch of information on CSUMB, getting it to pull from just that, it's not going to often do that.

What difference have you noticed in students before and after AI?

Ogden: I don't see individual students code all that much. But what I do tend to see is on exams, I have a lot of open-ended short answer questions. And I will definitely see that there is a difference between how students who seem to have really grappled with the material will write the answers to questions and the ones who are just kind of like ‘I know this stuff’ and then the ones where there's a total disconnect.

Mascarenhas: I'm noticing across the board is

something that makes me wonder if students are relying on this more than they have in the past. Because I used to, as I mentioned in class, hear students' voices in their submissions, because everyone's got a unique way of speaking, a unique way of writing, particularly with students who are still formulating their academic voice. There used to be much more diversity. And when I see that uniqueness erased and very generic language, then that's usually a tip off.

What can AI not do?

Mascarenhas: AI cannot teach you in that sense how to be a better thinker personally, or how to develop a life philosophy that is more profound than what you have right now, right? That's what universities do, that's what classrooms have done for a very long time.

Ogden: Sure, they can do very technically proficient things, but there's a difference between technically proficient and actually creating something artistic. And that's where it's the, I don't know where that line is because everyone else in my family is good at that. It's not me. But it seems to be something of that introspection, reflection and thinking about how to push back on the world a bit.

“You have the passion, we have the cash”: Applications still open for hospitality scholarship

Tom Nolan
Staff Writer

Scholarships worth at least \$2,500 will be awarded to hospitality students this summer through the Monterey County Hospitality Association (MCHA). Applications close March 15, and recipients will be announced in May.

The scholarship is open to undergraduate students majoring in hospitality or related fields. Preference is given to California residents – particularly those in Monterey County, including Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students.

“Our hope is to keep the funds local – for the future leaders of our hospitality industry,” said Kirsten Horton, executive director of the MCHA, in a prepared statement.

The MCHA has offered the scholarship annually since 1995 as part of its partnership with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. The foundation, whose scholarships webpage declares that “you have the passion, we have the cash,” funds the MCHA program through an endowment that grows annually. They've awarded hospitality students over \$27 million total since 1987, including \$80,000 through the MCHA scholarship alone.

Hospitality is a diverse industry that includes hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions like aquariums and theme parks. Among its strengths, Horton says, is the career flexibility the field offers.

“The wonderful thing about the hospitality industry is that there is great opportunity for career growth, and the ability to shift based on needs and interest. Many current general managers in our local industry have been involved in various areas of hospitality over the years,” said Horton.

The scholarship is far from the only opportunity the MCHA offers students looking to start a career in hospitality. “We welcome volunteers at our events and have several students that are currently involved,” said Horton. “It is a wonderful way to network and get a better understanding of the type of work and people in

the industry.”

According to Horton, the MCHA's student volunteers are overseen by Paige Viren, executive director of the sustainable hospitality management program at CSUMB. The two also collaborate to offer internships, training and development opportunities. Horton encourages students interested in MCHA programs to contact Viren.

“MCHA hosts a spring Hospitality Job Fair and partners with CSUMB on a Fall Hospitality Career Fair. Both are open to students and a great way to get in front of employers.”

Some opportunities, like the scholarship, are competitive and may not be available to every student. Overall, MCHA's main goal seems to be enabling especially motivated students to achieve excellence. An article published on their website last year demonstrated this by highlighting the achievements of Carson Meachim, a 2023 CSUMB alum now working in management at the Sanctuary Beach Resort.

“Carson's story is a great example of how CSUMB prepares students to lead with purpose. He's now applying what he learned in class directly to his role at one of Monterey's top hotels—and showing future students what's possible when you combine education with passion and community engagement,” said Enya Koo, the MCHA intern and CSUMB hospitality student who wrote the article. “His journey proves that local schools like CSUMB are essential for developing skilled professionals who care about sustainability and their communities.”



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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