

## Isla Vista, UCSB's COVID-19 Cases Spike With Winter Surge

### UCSB the Only UC To Allow In-Person Instruction

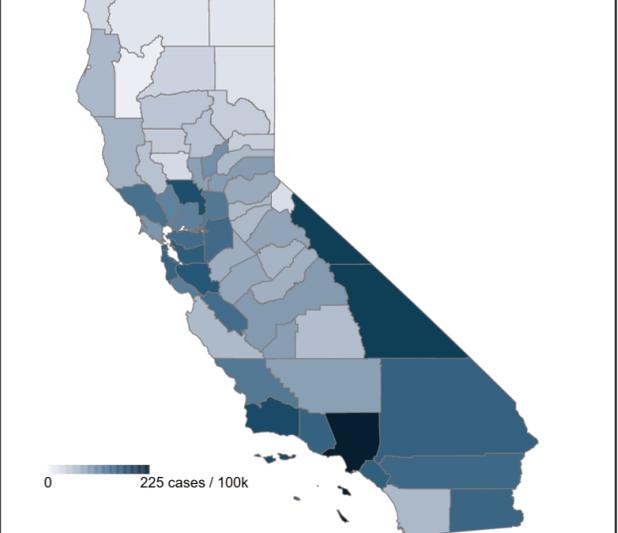
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County News Editor  
Alex Rudolph  
Data Editor  
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Data Writer

COVID-19 cases across Santa Barbara County have spiked since December 2021 as the omicron variant spreads. In response to the rising cases, UC Santa Barbara chose to begin Winter Quarter 2022 entirely remotely for the first two weeks of instruction, but by the end of Week 1, allowed instructors to choose whether or not to hold class in person

highlights, the decision was made following extensive consultation with 'the Academic Senate and members of the faculty, deans and administrative colleagues, students, staff, and campus medical experts,'" Leachman said in a statement to the Nexus. UCSB External Vice President of Statewide Affairs and UC Student Association President Esmeralda Quintero-Cubillan, along with other leaders in Associated Students, advised against the decision to allow faculty to decide whether instruction will be remote or in person.

of guiding the institution's response," Quintero-Cubillan said in a statement to the Nexus. "However, they've made it clear they do not value the input of student leadership or student voice." Students have tested positive by the hundreds since Week 1. The university received 130 positive tests on Jan. 4, peaked at 303 positive tests on Jan. 5 and had 132 positive tests on Jan. 8. As of Jan. 12, UCSB is reporting 262 active cases, and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department's (SBCPHD) COVID-19 Data Dashboard is reporting 635 active cases in Isla Vista.

COVID-19 New Cases Per 100k in California Counties 1/8/22



Source: California Health and Human Services Agency

#### COVID-19 Spikes Across UC System

UCSB is not the only UC with a high number of positive COVID-19 cases, but all other UCs are staying online through Jan. 31 to mitigate the virus's spread. UC Davis' cases peaked on Jan. 5 with 246 positive tests and on Jan. 8 with 138 positive cases. UC San Diego's cases also peaked on Jan. 5 with 577 positive tests among students. UC Santa Cruz's cases peaked on Jan. 5 with 115 positive cases, and UC Riverside reported 190 new cases on Jan. 3. During the week of Jan. 8, UC Irvine reported 1,622 active cases. UC Berkeley's cases peaked on Jan. 7 with 202 positive cases; however, Berkeley's semester has not yet begun. At UC Los Angeles, 1,200 community members tested

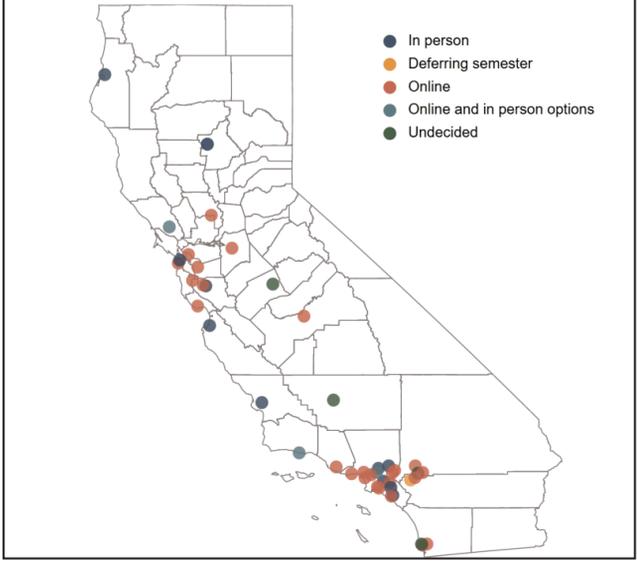
or remotely until Jan. 28. "Chancellor Yang's decision to redirect blame onto faculty rather than take decisive leadership is extremely

The decision made UCSB the only UC school to not fully extend remote learning through Jan. 28 and went against the desires of many in the student body and community.

According to the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (SBCPHD) Spokesperson Jackeline Ruiz, public health officials were not consulted in UCSB's decision to give instructors discretion over how to proceed with their classes.

When asked if the university consulted public health prior to deciding not to fully extend remote learning, UCSB Spokesperson Shelly Leachman said that the university is in regular contact with SBCPHD and observing its protocols, but did not say whether SBCPHD was consulted on that specific decision.

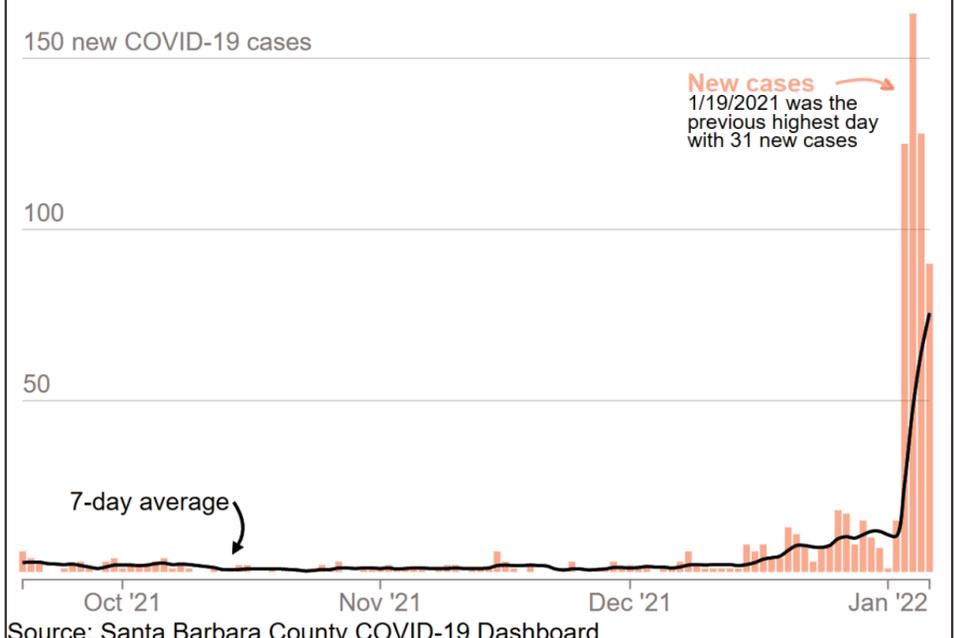
#### California Universities and Colleges Upcoming Instructional Plans



disappointing. We've offered Chancellor Yang and the COVID-19 Task Force polling, policy recommendations, and student testimonies in hopes

positive between Jan. 1-7, the Daily Bruin reported. Nearby, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo reported case

#### New COVID-19 Cases in I.V. Reach an All-Time High



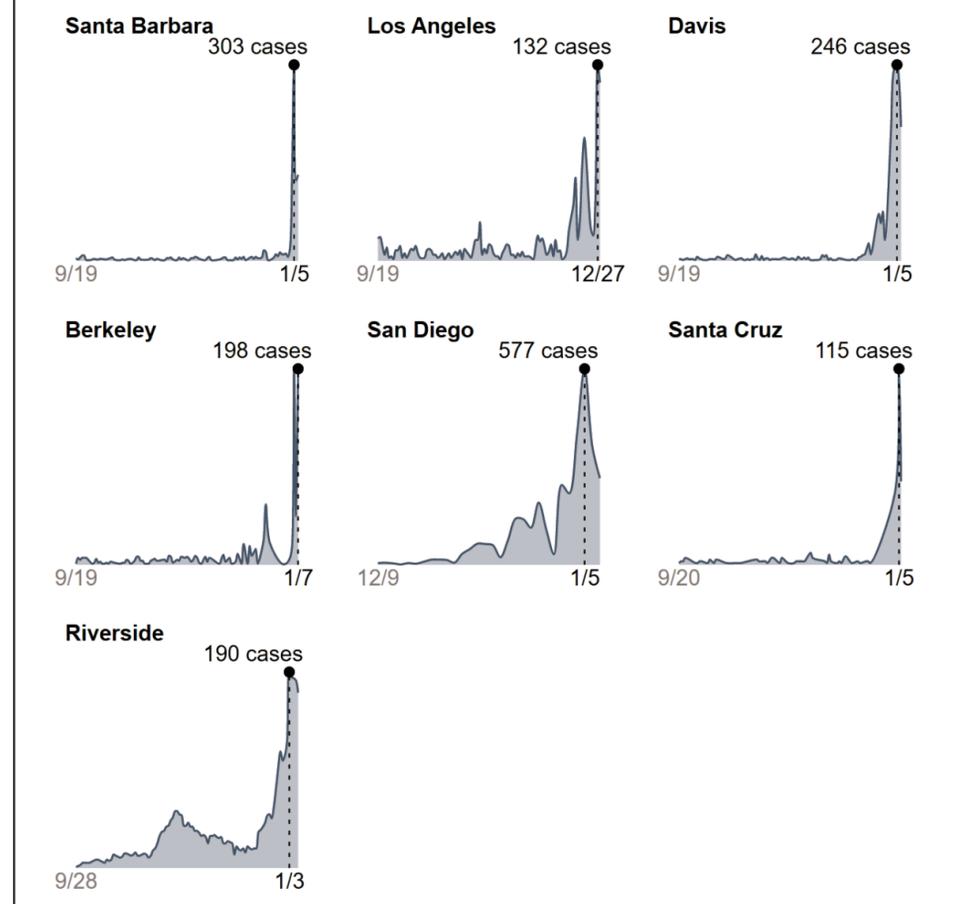
Source: Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Dashboard

numbers in the hundreds with the university reporting its highest number of positive

isolate at home, the Mustang News reported.

number of cases last year was on Jan. 10, 2021, with 779 cases. The peak of cases as of Jan. 10

#### COVID-19 Cases Peak at UC Campuses



New student and faculty cases from each school's COVID-19 dashboard. UC Irvine and UC Merced don't provide daily numbers. UC Los Angeles's last update was on Dec. 28, 2021.

cases of 239 on Jan. 4. The university is so overwhelmed with positive cases that they have begun isolating students in off-campus hotels and offering \$400 gift cards to students who

#### Majority of Schools Across California Are Online in January

The UC schools are not alone in their decision to hold classes remotely; many colleges throughout California and the U.S. have decided to begin their quarter or semester with remote instruction. The Nexus gathered information about colleges with a population larger than 5,000 throughout California. However, because of the lack of information on all California colleges, this chart does not include every university with a population of higher than 5,000.

this year is 1,300 cases on Jan. 8. Active cases have gone up 80% from the previous two-week average of 3,628 cases to the current two-week average of 6,513 cases. As of Jan. 6, the current case rate per 100,000 people is 187.78 and the testing rate is 26.6%.

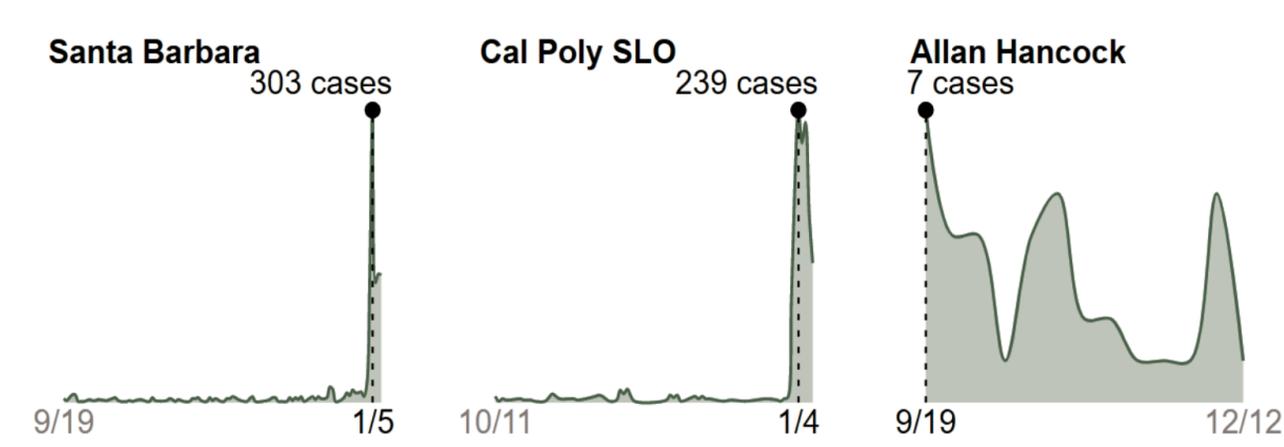
This time last year, the variant of concern in the county was the epsilon variant. Now, the variants of concern are the omicron variant and the delta variant.

Vaccination rates peaked toward the end of March 2021 and declined until July, at which point the numbers remained low. Vaccination numbers picked up again toward the end of October 2021. The most recent vaccination peak since March 2021 was on Dec. 3, 2021, when 3,862 doses were administered.

Out of the 44 colleges shown on this map, 23 have chosen to begin their quarter or semester remotely. The SBCPHD's COVID-19 Data Dashboard shows that the 2021-22 winter surge in cases has eclipsed the 2020-21 surge in cases. The highest

As of Jan. 12, 69.3% of the county's eligible population is fully vaccinated.

#### COVID-19 Cases at UCSB vs Neighboring Schools



New student and faculty cases from each school's COVID-19 dashboard. Allan Hancock only provides weekly case numbers.

# Tri-Alpha National Honor Society Honors First-Generation Community

Ausmi Shuda  
Community Outreach Editor

The Alpha Alpha Alpha National Honor Society established its Delta Alpha chapter at UC Santa Barbara in 2021 to support and celebrate first-generation students, faculty, staff and alumni communities of the institution.

Students must qualify to be inducted into Tri-Alpha based on the following criteria: the student must have earned at least 45 UCSB units toward a baccalaureate degree or 12 UCSB units for transfer students, they must have an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale and they must not have any parents, step-parents nor legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree prior to the student.

Graduate students who are first-generation students can also be admitted if they have completed at least nine graduate units and have a GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Students who qualify based on these requirements are invited to join the honor society.

To operate this society, seven students and three faculty members were nominated by UCSB faculty to serve as the board for Tri-Alpha.

"From there, we had a meeting to discuss what we wanted our



ESME PUZIO / DAILY NEXUS

specific work to look like," fourth-year sociology major and secretary Andrea Hercules said.

During this meeting, the board discussed what they felt was important to create a community for first-generation students. Some key points included making community events for members to meet one another, holding workshops for mental health and self-care, collaborating with other groups on campus, building relationships with faculty for opportunities of academic support and resources, and connecting members to resources, tutoring and preparation for post-graduation plans, such as graduate school and the workforce.

"Additionally, we would like to

collect first-generation stories of systemic and institutional shifts and culture to support first-generation college students," Hercules said.

The board said they also hope to connect current students with UCSB alumni to provide students with networking and mentorship opportunities and greater resources.

"When you're a first-generation student, it's so new to you because obviously you're first-gen," fourth-year communications major Jenna Jorgenson said. "So providing [students] with as many resources as we can was really important to us."

To expand on these

opportunities to connect with faculty, Hercules and Jorgenson spoke about possibly doing a mentorship program between faculty and students or bringing faculty in to talk about their careers.

Hercules and Jorgenson emphasized that above all, Tri-Alpha is prioritizing the needs of its members first, so they recently sent out a survey to its members to see what they specifically would like the organization to provide for them.

"What we want to do is figure out what are the needs of the students who we're taking in right now," Hercules said. "We'll assess the survey soon, and we'll just assess the needs of the students who are joining our org and see what kinds of things they're interested in."

Currently, the board is planning its induction ceremony for new members, to be held on Feb. 26. From there, the board aims to host more events during spring quarter, though Jorgenson said events may be held virtually depending on whether or not instruction returns to in person.

Above all, Jorgenson highlighted the importance of having an honor society for first-generation students at UCSB.

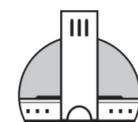
"There are a lot of first-gen

students on campus. It's definitely overwhelming," Jorgenson said. "It was very overwhelming when I came to UCSB, and I came in right in the middle of the pandemic. So it was so hard for me to make connections during my first year, and even coming back in person, it was even more overwhelming even though I had already been at UCSB for a whole year already."

"I think providing students with a community of students who are like them is going to be really important for their overall well-being and their success at UCSB because they're going to have an outlet and they're going to know people," she continued.

Hercules echoed Jorgenson's sentiment, emphasizing the importance of celebrating the achievements and success of first-generation students.

"I think it's really important that we're honoring first-gen students' achievements and contributions that they've already done at UCSB, which I think would help a lot with imposter syndrome, which a lot of first-generation students get," Hercules said. "There's already resources that exist on campus for first-gen students, but this is a student-run organization. We're building a community amongst these students, and more resources don't hurt anyway."



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"I wish that I could take pain meds, but all of my pain is emotional."

The Daily Nexus is published by the Press Council and partially funded through the Associated Students of the University of California, Santa Barbara on weekdays during the school year.

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Single copies are free; additional copies cost \$1.

Printed at the Santa Barbara News-Press printing facility, in Goleta.

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## Accessing your online UCSB accounts shouldn't be puzzling.

Beginning January 25, you'll be required to log in to the Student Health Patient Portal using Duo, a multi-factor authentication (MFA) tool. The Patient Portal is where you take the daily COVID-19 symptoms screening survey, required for entry to campus.

Duo will soon be required for you to log in to most campus applications, including Gmail.

Scan the QR code and enroll today!



## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

TODAY'S PUZZLE LEVEL: 2

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				9		7	
	5				8		6



DANIELA GOMEZ / DAILY NEXUS

## Weekly Goings-on in Isla Vista

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor  
Holly Rusch  
University News Editor

### UCSB MCC Theater Presents "Reel Bad Arabs"

UCSB's MultiCultural Center will be screening "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People" on Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. The film dives into negative, stereotypical portrayals of Arabs and how those images have been used or drawn upon in U.S. history.

"Featuring acclaimed author Dr. Jack Shaheen, this film explores a long line of degrading images of Arabs; from Bedouin bandits and submissive maidens to sinister sheikhs and gun-wielding 'terrorists,'" the MultiCultural Center website stated.

### UCSB Library Hosts "Martin Luther King Jr. 2022 Commemoration: The Dream Lingers On" Exhibit

UCSB Library is holding the "Martin Luther King Jr. 2022 Commemoration: The Dream Lingers On" exhibit in the Ethnic & Gender Studies Collection from Jan. 10 to Jan. 31. The exhibit, curated by librarians Yolanda Blue and Angela Chikowero, and Diversity & Engagement Assistant Marcos Aguilar, honors the legacy and life of Martin Luther King Jr. and "includes items from UCSB Library's archival and circulating collections," the website stated.

### UCSB's Women's Center Hosts "Envision Empowerment: A vision board and resolu-

### tion workshop for feminists!" Virtually

The UCSB's Women's Center is hosting "Envision Empowerment: A vision board and resolution workshop for feminists!" on Jan. 12 from 3 to 4 p.m.

"Join us for a conversation about empowering, self-care driven resolutions that reject the 'new year new me' idea and instead focus on meeting your mental, physical, and intellectual needs," The Women's Center wrote for the event's Shoreline description.

"This is a diet-free, body-neutral zone! We'll talk about how to identify harmful trends in New Year's resolutions, like unattainable career goals, weight loss goals, and resolutions steeped in capitalist ideas of productivity rather than in feminist notions of self and community care."

Students who want to participate need to register on Shoreline.

### Edible Campus Program and the Environmental Justice Alliance Present "Community Gardens and Social Justice" Virtually

The Edible Campus Program and the Environmental Justice Alliance are hosting "Community Gardens and Social Justice," where the two groups will teach attendees "how the act of producing food at community gardens is rooted in social justice. This workshop will provide introductory information about how people have been reclaiming their relationships with the land in order to feed themselves," according to the event description on Shoreline.

# Instructors Respond to Chancellor's Remote Learning Decision

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor  
Holly Rusch  
University News Editor

Of all nine undergraduate campuses in the University of California system, UC Santa Barbara was the only university not to fully extend remote learning until the end of January. Instead, UCSB put the choice to hold classes remote or in person beginning Jan. 18 into the hands of its instructors.

"Between January 18, 2022, and January 31, 2022, instructors may continue to offer instruction remotely or choose to teach in person," Chancellor Henry T. Yang said in an email to the UCSB campus community on Jan. 8.

"Students who choose to remain off campus or who must isolate or quarantine following COVID-19 protocols will be provided with reasonable opportunities to participate remotely in any in-person class."

UCSB spokesperson Shelly Leachman said that the email announcement was based on heavy consultation with the Academic Senate and other staff and faculty members.

"Instruction falls under the purview of Academic Senate and academic affairs. As the Chancellor's message highlights, the decision was made following extensive consultation with the Academic Senate and members of the faculty, deans and administrative colleagues, students, staff, and campus medical experts," Leachman said in a statement to the Nexus.

Instructors were notified at the same time as students that they would be deciding whether or not classes would be conducted in person or remotely.

While some instructors said they appreciated that Yang's approach to remote learning allowed them to decide how to conduct their classes, others took issue with his decision.

Political science lecturer Chase Hobbs-Morgan said that though they didn't envy being in Yang's position, the remote learning decision was ultimately a "non-decision."

"I think Chancellor Yang had a tough decision to make, and I don't envy being in that position. But I think the decision ultimately amounted to a non-decision, which passed the tough decision down to instructors like me, who aren't in positions of leadership," Hobbs-Morgan said.

"I'll be the first to admit that I'm not qualified to make the judgment call as to whether or not we can all be back in the classroom safely," they continued. "I very much want to be, but since I tend to stick to the precautionary principle, I've decided to keep the online format. That feels like the only responsible choice to me."

Mireille Miller-Young, an associate professor within the feminist studies department,



described Yang's announcement as "problematic" and said she was not aware of the decision until Yang's announcement email was sent out.

"I think leaving the decision about whether to return campus in-person [to] instructors and faculty currently teach[ing] classes is problematic because it is not about allowing specific classes that really require an in-person component, like labs and studio art or theater classes, to take place like other UC's are doing. The policy allows any faculty member to teach in person as long as students who remain remote are not disadvantaged by not being allowed to participate," Miller-Young said in a statement to the Nexus.

Miller-Young added there has been no uniform approach to addressing social distancing, class size, testing, etc.

"Now there is no common practice for classes based on the size of the course, social distancing, the classroom set up, etc," Miller-Young said. "All that talk has gone out the window with an overzealousness to get students back in the dorms and on campus, even while parts of the campus are closed and there are staff shortages everywhere from the dining halls to the secretaries that run departments."

"The decision does not insist on a testing regime for those that do come back to campus, and it does not explain how the super contagious omicron variant won't be circulated in those in-person classes," Miller-Young continued.

Walid Afifi, a professor in UCSB's communication department, didn't take issue with the Chancellor's decision to let instructors choose their class format. Instead, Afifi said he was "really appreciative" of the way the university has handled an "impossible situation."

"It's easy to throw leadership under the bus. But I also understand the challenges that any leader faces in making decisions like this. It's easy to be an armchair quarterback, which I'm trying not to do," he said, although he noted that following

the decision of the other UC's would have come with its own advantages.

Afifi made the decision to continue with remote instruction for his 185-person COMM 89 class, saying there are many valid reasons to continue with virtual instruction.

"I personally decided to immediately extend the online aspect of the course for two more weeks. Because all the data that we have, all the guidance from the other UCs, all suggested that that is the smart thing to do, especially for my circumstance," he said.

"If there was a lab that had 10 people and a large space, would I make that same decision? Probably not? Maybe not? I don't know," Afifi continued.

He said that compared to colleagues at other universities, he felt lucky to have the option to continue teaching virtually.

"I know the worst case scenario, which is to be at universities where there really is pretty awful guidance, and it really does force students and professors and instructors to be in really difficult situations for [their] health," Afifi said. "I'd rather [have] the option, right, then no option at all."

Deborah Fygenon, a professor in the physics department and an associate professor in the biomolecular science & engineering department, said she appreciated Yang's decision, as it empowers instructors and students to make the decision that best suits their needs.

"I think it is the right decision for the moment. The uncertainty is annoying, but that's a feature of the pandemic. Yang's decision does the rational thing in the face of uncertainty: It empowers individual faculty and students – both by now very familiar with the risks of COVID and the limitations of remote instruction – to decide what's optimal for their situation," Fygenon said.

Some instructors also felt that the timing of Yang's email was too late to properly prepare for the

beginning of Winter Quarter 2022, while others said they felt Yang responded as best as he could.

"It was not early enough, but I do understand that the situation is evolving dynamically and such decisions have to be taken," said Prabhajan Ananth, an assistant professor in the computer science department.

Miller-Young said UCSB "never" makes announcements in a timely manner for faculty.

"The timing of these announcements, all of the announcements we have ever received, are never enough for faculty to adjust. Don't forget we spent our Christmas and New [Year's] holidays prepping for the earliest start to Winter Quarter in years," Miller-Young said. "However, I decided that my class would be remote for all of Winter [quarter], against the rules, I guess. We were told that we could only teach up to 49% of the class remotely. But since my 4 year old is not turning 5 until the end of February, when he can finally get his vaccine, I was not going to comply with that order."

Whether or not instructors liked Yang's decision, professors, like Fygenon, gave a shout out to UCSB's staff who have been providing instructional support especially as instructors transition between in-person and remote learning.

"I'd like to give a shoutout to all the career staff who provide instructional support. I don't know if the students realize all [the] non-faculty person hours that go into enabling instruction," Fygenon said. "Staff make the technology work and prepare and support instructors to use it. Staff stay up on the latest pedagogical insights and innovations and pass on what they find. They are the unsung heroes of our pandemic response; their dedication and flexibility have been phenomenal. I don't think we can thank them enough."

# C.A.P.S. Partners With Teletherapy Service Uwill



In addition to an influx of teletherapy appointments with Uwill, C.A.P.S. continues to offer single-session therapy and "Let's Talk" appointments.

Nexus File Photo

Holly Rusch  
University News Editor

UC Santa Barbara's Counseling & Psychological Services is rolling out a new partnership with Uwill – a technology-based mental health platform – in light of the department's long wait times for services fall quarter.

"This is a service which will greatly bolster students' ability to connect with a community provider for tele-therapy/counseling," Counseling & Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.) Clinical Director Turi Honegger, Associate Director Brian Olowude and Mental Health Specialist Gladys Koscak said in a statement to the Nexus.

"We know that the Santa Barbara community has been impacted and finding availability with an outside provider has been difficult. Uwill offers availability every day of the week, including evenings and weekends."

Last quarter, some UCSB students expressed their disappointment with a lack of diversity among C.A.P.S. clinicians. Now, the C.A.P.S. program has seven new staff members, which "bring with them a wonderful range of diversity," according to the statement.

"CAPS is looking forward to better serving students who identify as South and East Asian/Asian American, Latino/a/x, Hispanic, Black, Jewish, and LGBTQ. Within this group there are Multi-racial and bilingual staff," the statement continued.

To access Uwill's teletherapy services, which include "cutting-edge technologies that facilitate best-in-class video and message-based counseling within a secure environment," according to their website, students must fill out a C.A.P.S. brief assessment.

"We ... know that these updates can inadvertently feel invalidating to specific experiences of having to wait for services during fall quarter or being put on a waitlist to be able to see a therapist," the C.A.P.S. statement continued.

"We do, however, hope that it can demonstrate that C.A.P.S. is actively looking at options that can help our service delivery be more streamlined and more accessible to students moving forward as we all remain flexible and safety-minded this quarter."

In addition to an influx of teletherapy appointments with Uwill, C.A.P.S. continues to offer single-session therapy and "Let's Talk" appointments, according to their statement.

"As we move through this Winter quarter, please remember that many of us are having very normal reactions to very abnormal times. Find ways to connect with your support system, practice healthy coping skills and self care in ways that feel true and valid for you personally, and be your biggest advocate in consulting with different departments and resources," the statement concluded.

# Deceased Person Found at Campus Point

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Police Department found a dead body at Campus Point at 3 a.m. on Jan. 10. The deceased individual was not a UC Santa Barbara student, according to UCSB spokesperson Shelly Leachman.

Leachman said that foul play is not suspected. The identity of the deceased individual has not been released yet, though next of kin have been notified.

The wife of the deceased individual called local authorities after realizing that the deceased individual was missing. The deceased

individual was known to take walks on campus, and a Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO) canine unit came in to help find the missing person but was initially unsuccessful. However, local authorities were able to locate the deceased individual's car.

Later that evening a missing person report was filed, and this time UCPD searched the campus for the missing person. UCPD found the deceased individual's body at Campus Point right before 3 a.m. on Jan. 10. UCPD has concluded its investigation, but SBSO is conducting an autopsy which will reveal the cause of death.

# 2022-23 State Budget Increases

Sindhu Ananthavel  
Ass. News Editor

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced the 2022-23 state budget proposal on Jan. 10, which includes an overall \$602.3 million increase in funding for the University of California.

Part of the increase in Newsom's proposal includes a \$307.3 million increase in ongoing funding for the UC. Of this funding, \$200.5 million will be given over the course of five years for "support[ing] University costs."

The proposal also allots \$98.8 million to address enrollment shortcomings. Of this allocation, \$67.8 million will be directly used to increase enrollment of California resident students, and \$31 million will be used to offset revenue reductions associated with a loss of

non-resident students.

Other aspects of the budget proposal include a one-time fund of \$185 million to support UC climate initiatives and another one-time fund of \$100 million to support deferred maintenance and energy efficiency projects.

UC President Michael V. Drake issued a statement in support of the proposal, praising the stability in the budget.

"This [proposal] will enable UC to make critical long-term investments, particularly in areas that directly support our students: further expanding California undergraduate enrollment, boosting resources to traditionally low-income and first-generation students, and increasing college access and affordability for hard-working students and families across the state," Drake said in the statement.

Representatives of the UC Student Association (UCSA) responded in support as well, describing the budget as an example of the "continued promise of this administration to reinvest in higher education" in a press release.

"Students are enthusiastic about the much-needed certainty that this multi-year compact provides for the University, as well as the opportunity it presents for necessary change," UCSA President Esmeralda Quintero-Cubillan said in the press release.

"We maintain that realizing our shared commitment to affordability and accessibility also requires the state to invest in modernizing the Cal Grant, but we look forward to working with the Governor's office and the state legislature to continue building on the strong framework presented in this January proposal."



Courtesy of the University of California

\$200.5 million will be given to the UC the course of five years for "support[ing] University costs."

# UC Leadership Affirms Support for DACA

Nisha Malley  
Asst. News Editor

University of California Office of the President Michael V. Drake and UC chancellors issued a letter to the Department of Homeland Security on Nov. 22, 2021 affirming their “strong support” for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and making policy recommendations to expand eligibility for the program.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, first created in 2012, provided legal protection to eligible youth who came to the United States as children without documentation and provided forbearance from deportation.

Since July 2021, the DACA program has been effectively suspended following a federal court injunction that prevents the DHS from processing new applications. In September 2021, the Biden

administration announced its intentions to codify the Obama-era policy and preserve protections for undocumented youth. The chancellors’ letter offered comment on the Biden administration’s proposed rulemaking, “Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.”

The chancellors’ letter described both the sizable presence that DACA participants have across UC campuses and the value they bring as students, employees and community members.

“For UC in particular, the thousands of DACA participants who have enrolled at UC as students, worked at UC as employees, and represented UC as graduates have brought irreplaceable perspectives and talents to the University,” the letter stated.

Nearly 3,460 DACA participants are enrolled at a UC campus and at least 544 non-student DACA participants are

employed by the UC, with another 1,200 in work-study positions on campus, according to the letter.

“These students’ contributions to the UC community and more broadly depend on the continuation of DACA. Not only does DACA protect them from removal from the United States, it also – just as importantly – ensures that these students are able to work before, during, and after their time at UC,” the letter said.

DACA status grants participants with the authorization to work in the U.S., along with other benefits including the ability to obtain a driver’s license, social security number, bank account, state-level financial aid and tuition scholarships and employer-based health insurance.

The letter described these benefits as “critical” for student success, citing

UC data that showed the percentage of students continuing their education after their first year to increase significantly for DACA-participant students following the program’s implementation in 2012.

The letter also recommended that the DHS expand DACA eligibility criteria to encompass “deserving individuals” excluded due to “arbitrary” cutoffs established in the proposed ruling.

For example, the existing requirement that participants must continually reside in the U.S. since June 15, 2007 “excludes many individuals brought to the United States as very young children who are now, or soon will be, old enough to graduate high school and attend a UC school,” the letter stated.

“After 2025, virtually all college-age, undocumented individuals in California will have been born after 2007, and will not satisfy this requirement ... The June 15, 2012 date does not carry substantive

significance or define a category of immigrants more or less deserving of deferred action; it was merely the date when a memorandum was issued,” the letter continued.

Similarly, the UC also advocated for the elimination of the requirement of DACA participants’ “physical presence” in the U.S. on June 15, 2012 and the requirement that participants be under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2022, stating that the rule “excludes deserving current and future UC students who were brought to the United States as children, and have lived here virtually their entire lives, but who

were born on June 15, 1981 or before.” The UC also urged the DHS to adopt a fee-waiver program to reduce or eliminate the cost of DACA applications, which can amount to \$495 including work authorization permits.

## GUSD Keeps Schools Open Amid Omicron Winter Surge



Nexus File Photo

Under the current state directive for K-12 schools to safely remain in person, GUSD has no plans to transition to fully remote instruction.

Nisha Malley  
Asst. News Editor

Goleta Union School District returned to in-person instruction on Jan. 3 after its winter break, closely monitoring COVID-19 cases in its community as cases continue to spread due to the omicron variant.

Isla Vista Elementary School and the rest of Goleta Union School District (GUSD) serve just over 3,500 students at nine schools. The district experienced a wave of new cases that began around Thanksgiving and grew in numbers through December, according to Assistant Superintendent David Simmons.

“It is a crazy increase. Even in the first surge that we had, we didn’t have nearly these numbers,” Simmons said.

Under the current state directive for K-12 schools to safely remain in person, Superintendent Dr. Diana Galindo-Roybal said GUSD has no plans to transition to fully remote instruction. However, she said the district is closely monitoring conditions related to the spread of COVID-19 and communicating daily with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.

In addition, students can opt in for independent study for any period of time as an alternative to in-person instruction. According to Simmons, roughly 30 students, or 2% of the district’s student population, are currently enrolled in independent study.

“We are doing our community a great service by being able to keep our schools open safely,” Galindo-Roybal said. “The overwhelming parent communication has been, ‘Thank you for keeping schools open. We need you to keep schools open.’”

Nevertheless, in-person instruction amidst an ongoing pandemic is burdening staff with new responsibilities on top of their teaching demands, like sanitizing classrooms, contact tracing and coordinating independent study for remote learners.

Additionally, high COVID-19

positivity rates are stressing the bandwidth of district employees, causing students of absent teachers to either be taught by a substitute or temporarily moved into a different classroom. On Jan. 11, 18 of 203 teachers were absent due to COVID-19, according to Galindo-Roybal.

Yet, Simmons said that the district’s decision to hire an excess of educators and reduce class sizes helped reduce the impact of a potential teacher shortage. The district is effectively “overstaffed” by 52 teachers, based on its pre-pandemic average class size of 24, according to Simmons.

Currently, the class size average for primary grades – Transitional Kindergarten through third grade – is 16.6 and for fourth through sixth grade is 17.9, he said.

“One of our core mitigation strategies was to have small enough classes that we could make sure we were doing physical distancing,” Simmons said.

The district increased hiring of substitute teachers and incentivized non-teaching staff who held a bachelor’s degree to receive an emergency substitute permit ahead of the start of the school year.

“We know that there are more staff testing positive because of omicron, but we have been able, because of [additional staff and subs], to flex staff members around to provide coverage,” Galindo-Roybal said.

Vicki Ben-Yaacov, GUSD board member and parent to a sixth grader at I.V. Elementary School, said that this policy helped reduce class sizes and bolster teaching staff but also produced shortages amongst classified employees.

According to Simmons, free COVID-19 testing for the community and the increased presence of trained nurses at school sites has also helped provide the district with the medical capacity to weather the pandemic.

GUSD offers same-day results testing to staff, students and their families through Aptitude Clinical Diagnostics that visits each school once a week. Testing was available the week before spring semester

began to the community, and with school in session, teachers have access to weekly testing and students, biweekly.

“What we’re seeing with omicron, though, is that there are a ton of people that are asymptomatic and because we’re doing so much testing, we’re really catching it,” Simmons said.

In the fall, the district additionally hired five registered nurses, all trained by Johns Hopkins University in contact tracing and two licensed vocational nurses who provide medical assistance.

Vaccines, which became available to kids ages 5 to 11 in November 2021, present another new resource for mitigating the spread of the omicron variant.

Ben-Yaacov said she feels “good” sending her kids back to school after more than a year of remote learning, especially now with her children’s vaccinations.

“You can see toward the end, they get quite depressed, and we do everything we can. We exercise, we take them biking, we do everything we can, but that social [environment] is just really really difficult to not have it for their age,” Ben-Yaacov said. “So going back, it’s just a huge difference, having that interaction and having that routine. I see such a big difference in my own kids and I can tell the difference in the kids that I work with. They’re just so happy to be back.”

Galindo-Roybal also described the difficulties and financial barriers that families dealt with in having to supervise young children when schools closed.

“Not all of our families in our district have the ability to miss long periods of work to stay home with their children, and we know that the reality is that many children are left home alone simply because a parent, if they don’t show up to work, they don’t get paid,” Galindo-Roybal said. “We know the economic struggles that many of our families face, and so we really believe that school is the best and safest place for our kids to be right now.”

According to Ben-Yaacov, the district is hoping to see cases peak within the next week or two and then come down, based on trending data.

“That means the next two weeks are super, super critical for what we can look like. I think we need to be as careful as we can and do everything we can to keep the cases low,” she said.

Galindo-Roybal echoed Ben-Yaacov’s hopefulness that cases will peak and then begin declining soon.

“Obviously, we are counting on cases to decline and things to get better,” Galindo-Roybal said. “We’re looking forward to that happening, but I would say, furtively, we have been able to keep school going for our kids, and I know that’s super important for our community.”

## Redistricting Moves Isla Vista, UCSB Into the Second District From the Third

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor

Following the 2020 Census, the United States launched into redistricting within each of its counties. In Santa Barbara County, Isla Vista and UC Santa Barbara have been moved from the third district to the second district for the first time.

As a result of the shift, Isla Vista and the university now have a new representative on the Board of Supervisors: Gregg Hart. On Saturday, he will replace Isla Vista’s representative from the past five years, Joan Hartmann.

“I’m looking forward to serving as Isla Vista’s voice on the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. This is a bit of a homecoming for me, as I actually began my career in public service as a member of the Isla Vista Community Council while attending UCSB,” Hart said in a statement to the Nexus. “I am eager to collaborate with local residents and community partners to improve the quality of life for all who call Isla Vista home. I’d also like to thank Supervisor Joan Hartmann and her staff for doing a great job representing Isla Vista over the past five years.”

The second district is composed of part of Goleta, Eastern Goleta Valley, Isla Vista and part of the city of Santa Barbara.

The housing crisis at UCSB led many students to find housing throughout Goleta. As a result, some students may still be represented by the third district instead of the second.

The shifting district also impacts the political makeup of the Board of Supervisors. The first and second districts have a larger liberal demographic, while the fourth and fifth districts have a more conservative demographic. The third district has historically been a swing district, with UCSB and Isla Vista providing a strong liberal demographic of college voters. But now, the third district has lost that demographic.

Spencer Brandt, the board president of the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD), stressed the importance of representation on the Board of Supervisors for Isla Vista. Since Isla Vista is an unincorporated part

of the county, it is especially dependent on its supervisor for county-level representation.

“We’re very dependent on the Board of Supervisors for being the interface between our community and county government, which is where we get most of the municipal services in the community from,” Brandt said. “The Community Services District was created to supplement those services by both creating more localized resources for residents but also by growing our community’s power and being a voice for the things that we care about.”

UCSB spokesperson Shelly Leachman echoed Brandt, adding that the relationship between the university and the Board of Supervisors is essential.

“UC Santa Barbara is the region’s largest employer of local Goleta and Santa Barbara residents and a campus that contributes more than \$1 billion to the regional economy in indirect and direct benefits, including retail, restaurants and hotels as well as learning, arts, lectures and school-based programs, making a strong partnership between the campus and local government essential for the region,” Leachman said.

Brandt believes Hart’s record on the Board of Supervisors shows a passion for issues that Isla Vistans also share.

“I think he understands a lot of the issues here. His record on the Board of Supervisors is one of being a strong advocate for fighting climate change and criminal justice reform. These are things that Isla Vista residents really care about, so I’m really excited about working with his office,” Brandt said.

Aside from the shift to a new supervisor, Isla Vista’s local elections will now occur on midterm years instead

of election years, which raises concerns about civic engagement.

“Usually voter participation in Isla Vista is very high during presidential years, but it’s much lower during midterm election years,” Brandt said. “Moving forward, civic engagement in Isla Vista during midterm election years is going to become incredibly important to make sure that our residents’ voices are represented at the county level.”

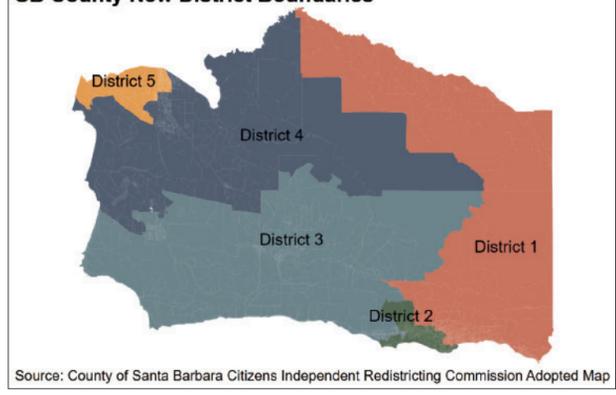
Brandt added that he’s “prepared to work very hard to make sure that we preserve a progressive majority on the boards.”

“If you look at the voting patterns, both in Goleta but also in other parts of the county like the city of Lompoc, you continue to see a trend towards becoming more diverse, more progressive. And I’m very hopeful that we can continue to have a progressive majority on the Board of Supervisors,” he continued.

Brandt thanked Isla Vista’s former representative Supervisor Joan Hartmann for her efforts in representing and advocating on behalf of the Isla Vista community. As the third district and I.V.’s representative, Hartmann played a role in the IVCSD’s growth over the past few years as it expanded its role as a governing body. Brandt said she was “instrumental” in efforts to open the Isla Vista Community Center and in advocating for I.V. at the county level.

Leachman added that the university is “look[ing] forward to working with Supervisor Gregg Hart on issues that affect the campus, our students and the greater Goleta and Santa Barbara communit[ies].”

SB County New District Boundaries



Source: County of Santa Barbara Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission Adopted Map

# Veteran Students Reflect on the Support They Receive From UCSB

Asumi Shuda  
Sindhu Anathavel  
Community Outreach Editors

At UC Santa Barbara, veteran students have two main avenues of support from the university: the Veterans & Military Services and the Veterans Resource Center.

Veterans & Military Services (VMS) at UCSB is a center that provides support, assistance and a community for student veterans and military-related community members on campus.

"What VMS provides at a high level is a source for veterans and for military-related students and a way to support them," Director of VMS Mike Fogelsonger said. "Whether it's career services, counseling, financial aid – it's kind of a one-stop shop solution to be able to give them guidance in all of that."

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) provides walk-in services for veteran and military-related students and serves as a place for them to study and socialize with students of similar experiences.

"[VRC] provides a place where [students] can meet, so it has a social aspect to it, but also a place for them to study," Fogelsonger said. "We have a computer set up there, we have a printer set up and it's open 24/7, so [students] can come in any time during the day or a weekend when they need a quiet

place to study, do some research, print out papers or documents."

The VRC also hosts events, like luncheons and educational information sessions from local Veterans Administration representatives, for the military-related student community.

Fourth-year veteran student and Chicana/o Chicana studies major Ramiro Detrinidad is participating in a work-study program through the VRC and said that the center went a full academic year without a director before Fogelsonger stepped in.

"[Being without a director] was hard, because that's the intermediary. That's the person in the middle that kind of is the connection between the coordinators and the financial people," Detrinidad said. "He's kind of like the one that hears us and sends a message out."

Detrinidad said that an issue among veteran students is a lack of "interconnectedness" only exacerbated by the pandemic.

"Veterans like me, we were like, 'OK, well, we can't go to campus, we can't effectively communicate with the staff, so we're just going to just do what we have to do and just get out,'" he said.

Upon admission to UCSB after spending two years at Santa Barbara City College, Detrinidad described struggling with imposter syndrome that further made him

feel excluded from the campus population.

"It's very common in the military to say, 'We're gonna celebrate you but don't get too comfortable,' and it's taken me a while to tell myself that I was good enough regardless of my status as a non-traditional student."

His goal at the VRC is to increase interconnectedness among the veteran community at UCSB and build a strong support system within the center.

"We want to build something that's going to interact with the community, because there's so many factors that can discourage a veteran not to go to school, especially if you're a veteran with a family, especially if you're a veteran that's already on the older side and can pick to be more practical instead [of] getting your education," Detrinidad said. "Our main focus is making sure that every person that's involved with the Veteran Resource Center is aware that we're still open and that we're still here."

Due to lack of staffing at both the VMS and VRC, however, students have still encountered roadblocks in fully accessing its services. Second-year veteran student and sociology major Alyson Solis voiced her experience with not having sufficient aid in navigating the process of receiving her veteran benefits on time

through the VRC.

In order to receive benefits as a student veteran, one is required to submit a Veteran Benefits Request Form (VBRF) at the start of every quarter, which is then submitted by the VRC to the Veterans Benefits Administration for them to process through and confirm the benefits being given.

"I would submit [the VBRF] right after I have all of my units and then it takes them two months to submit it to the VA," Solis said, "At that point, it's out of my hands and I can't submit it to the VA myself, so there have been times where I will call the VA, and the VA is difficult to get a hold of already."

This delay in receiving her veterans benefits forced Solis to have to pay out of pocket for her expenses, including rent and food, which should have been fully covered.

"Basically that entire time, I did not get any money because all of my paperwork wasn't done right," Solis said. "I wasn't getting paid for that, so when I had to come out here, I basically had to pay my first month's rent and security deposit with no assistance, making Texas income while trying to pay for a place in California."

Solis emphasized the difficulty she has had in covering these expenses, saying that as a veteran, she was promised benefits that

will cover her costs of living so that she could focus on her education without having to work.

"The whole idea is that as a veteran student, you wouldn't need to get a job while going to school so you could focus on school," Solis said. "But I have a job because I can't just not pay rent, and I can't just not have food."

"I just have to get everything out of pocket and just budget differently, and let the money that comes [from the benefits] refill my pockets."

Solis also spoke about the difficulty of getting a hold of people at the VRC through its appointment and phoning system.

"You have to contact the veterans' coordinator and you have to schedule a meeting, from which they call you from a blocked number, so you can't call back ... So if you miss the call, that's it. You have to schedule another appointment."

However, Solis said she sympathizes with the VRC and understands the stress of submitting all of the veteran students' paperwork on time, but she wishes that there was more transparency from the administration in communicating any issues with submitting forms for enrollment confirmation, veterans benefits and more.

"I get that people are being overworked, and it's probably really

difficult to submit everything at once within a [certain] time – I am a student, I know how difficult it is to meet deadlines," Solis said.

"But [I've dealt with this] every quarter, for the past seven quarters, with the same issue, and I'm constantly in the dark [about] it. I don't know when I'm going to get the money, I don't know if my classes are going to be paid for, I don't know if I have an extension, I don't know if I'm going to be dropped from classes."

This difficulty in adapting to the university experience is something that Detrinidad echoed, in terms of being among a campus population that often has vastly different personal experiences than him.

"I've had a very varied experience in terms of relating to a cohort that sometimes has no idea what you've been through," Detrinidad said. "Sometimes that makes a lot of veterans feel out of place, but bringing that experience is so unique and so important to a classroom because it's like you're sitting right next to someone that probably didn't have the same experience, and I think sharing that's important."

"I think it's important to know that we're here, despite having more experience than the average student, and I want veterans and military-dependents to feel like they do have a sense of belonging in this institution."

## Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Hosts Annual Event Series, Themed "Regeneration"

Nisha Malley  
Asst. News Editor

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center at UC Santa Barbara is holding its annual Public Events Series this quarter, with this year's theme being "Regeneration."

Serving as the public face of humanities on campus, the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) offers public events every year, including forums for faculty to present research and creative endeavors.

The Public Event Series, which has been offered every year since the IHC's founding in 1987, brings together academic and creative voices of national and international stature across humanities fields to address topics of broad social concern.

Susan Derwin, the IHC director and a professor of German and comparative literature, described the theme of "Regeneration" as an opportunity for discussion about how the global community and culture can address challenges and

heal from upheaval and various social conditions.

Derwin said the theme of "Regeneration" was especially important following the number of disruptive events that the world has faced, from issues of social justice and equity to public health.

"We really want this year to help people think about how to move forward into an equitable and just future after these years of upheaval. Of course we've had a lot of racially motivated violence, we've had the pandemic, we've had health challenges, social justice challenges, we have a fractured political climate," Derwin said. "How do we really come together and move forward? That's really what our goal is, that we will be able to think about these things in a regenerative way."

This year's lineup includes journalist and climate expert Elizabeth Kolbert, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History." Dexter Filkins, a staff writer for The New Yorker, will

also discuss the future of Afghanistan following the United States' exit from the region.

Alexandre Gefen, a research professor at the French National Centre for Scientific Research, and Sandra Laugier, a philosophy professor at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, will explore the path to "recovery" after the pandemic caused the "destruction of the space of ordinary life" and "undermined the democratic public space," as stated on the IHC website's description of

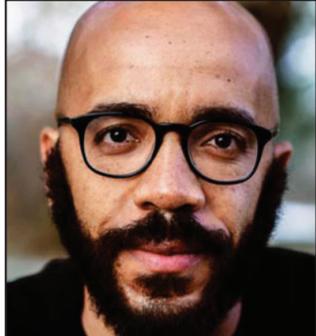


COURTESY OF IHC

their event series.

Afro-Cuban American artist Harmonia Rosales – who is delivering the next event series on Jan. 27 – will present the ideas behind her creative project "Entwined," which will be on exhibition in UCSB's Art, Design & Architecture Museum from Jan. 19 to May 1.

"Rosales' interweaving of representations from ancient Greek and Yoruba mythologies invites viewers to challenge their ideas



about identity and empowerment. Women and people of color, the protagonists of her canvases, assume roles of power and beauty in exquisite imaginings of ancient myths and Renaissance paintings," the IHC website event description stated.

Derwin described the serendipity of featuring Rosales in the event series alongside the presentation of her work with the museum.

"This exhibition was being organized, and a faculty member came to us, because we solicit ideas



too, and said, 'Hey, this would be really great for the Regeneration series,'" Derwin said. "We do collaborate with other entities on the campus and try to cosponsor projects when we can."

According to IHC Associate Director Erin Nerstad, the Jan. 27 event featuring Rosales will be held virtually following UCSB's decision to offer remote learning through Jan. 28.

Attendance for all events is open to the public and free, with the event format being subject to change based on campus COVID-19 policies. Attendees can view the IHC website for up-to-date information.

"We try to make our program a platform for people whose voices are often not heard so that these voices can be heard and they can resonate in our communities. So we want people to be made aware and incentivized to or heartened to continue their work, knowing that they're in solidarity with people who we are bringing," Derwin said.

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FROM LAX: 8AM, 10:30AM,  
12:30PM, 2PM, 3:30PM,  
5:30PM, 7:30PM, 10PM



# International Students Facing Travel Restrictions Amid Remote Winter Quarter

## New CA Bill To Provide UC, CSU and CA Community Colleges With Housing Construction Loans

Holly Rusch  
University News Editor

A new bill introduced in the California legislature on Jan. 3 could provide all public secondary education institutions with one-time, zero-interest loans to create new student, faculty and staff housing, meant to address housing shortages across the state's public universities.

The bill, named AB-1602: California Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund Act of 2022, would appropriate \$5 billion to serve the state's three public college institutions: the California State University, the University of California and the California Community Colleges systems.

"Housing is often the most expensive component of college costs for California students, even more than tuition," the bill stated. "The lack of rental housing is often a significant problem for California communities near college campuses."

If enacted, the bill would allow applicants to apply for a loan by July 2023 if they meet several conditions, including that construction of the project could begin by June 30, 2024 or the "earliest date hereafter," the per bed rate for students would be below local rates for comparable housing and the receiving of the loan would result in "a public benefit."

Priority will be given to applicants able to begin construction the earliest and with the greatest unmet need for student housing.

At UC Santa Barbara, an unprecedented housing crisis left students scrambling for housing fall quarter, with students resorting to living in their cars or in university-subsidized hotels.

One proposed solution to the housing crisis, Munger Hall – a dorm partially funded by billionaire Charles Munger – drew national criticism for its lack of windows and ventilation.

General manager of the Isla Vista Community Services District and State Assembly candidate Jonathan Abboud said that the bill, if passed, could alleviate some of the pressures of UCSB's housing crisis.

"[Currently], the university has to rely on donor funding sources, or they have to take out their own very expensive loans [to build housing]," Abboud said. "This is a way to get a very cheap loan."

While the bill has a "long road ahead of it" to pass, according to Abboud, he sees the proposal as an affordable and equitable opportunity for public universities to build much-needed housing.

"This gets around the issue of money coming with interest and extra costs and makes a more affordable policy that can build houses for more people," he said.

Abboud noted that, at UCSB, building on-campus housing at below-market cost can have positive economic, environmental and human benefits – something the bill reiterated.

"The University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges often lack debt capacity to build enough student housing to meet demand," the bill stated. "The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a severe economic recession, and state-funded construction projects can be a tool to help the state's economy to recover."

Asumi Shuda  
Sindhu Anathavel  
Community Outreach  
Editors

As Winter Quarter 2022 moves into its third week of majority online instruction, UC Santa Barbara international students are facing a bevy of travel restrictions that have swayed their decision on whether to stay in their home country or at UCSB. From mandatory quarantining for international travel to rising prices in booking flights, home has now become an unattainable destination for many international students.

Second-year psychological and brain sciences major Phuong Nguyen holds an F-1 student visa and is from Vietnam. Nguyen lived at home for the entirety of her first year and, after coming to UCSB for her second year, has not been able to return home.

"If I were to go back to Vietnam for the break, I would have to quarantine and it would just take up a lot of time," Nguyen said. "It's a lot of money to travel internationally right now ... if I just want to visit and spend my break, and it's not really a good enough excuse. So unless it's an emergency, I don't think I'll be able to go back home anytime soon."

Nguyen said she contracted COVID-19 after visiting a family member in Texas who tested positive over winter break and is currently in isolation housing.

"It's just a bedroom by myself, and they send me meals twice a day," Nguyen said. "I don't have any symptoms. So it's a bit easier on me, and I don't really suffer in that sense. I've been able to join my classes online and do my homework."

"I'd love to be back home if remote instruction extends, but that's probably not the case for me. So I'll probably still be here even if it extends," she continued.

Second-year applied mathematics major Sophia Wei said she opted to spend her winter break in Goleta and that China's quarantine policy for international travelers influenced her decision.

"I didn't go to my home country because of the quarantine policy," Wei said. "If I went back to China, I'd



LAUREN HUANG / DAILY NEXUS

have to quarantine for at least 14 days, it might be 14 plus seven days, but at least 14 days, and by the end of the quarantine, the quarter would have already started."

Wei said that even though she understood the efficacy of the travel quarantine policy, it made travel difficult for many students like her.

"The quarantine policy in China is kind of strict but it is proven effective to curb the spread of COVID so it may be good," Wei said. "But, it poses a lot of inconveniences."

Wei said that other international students from China that she knew of also opted to stay in California, with some of them choosing to travel domestically over winter break.

"I only know of one student from China who went back," Wei said. "Many of the Chinese students stayed in Goleta and a bunch of them [went] to other places, notably Los Angeles, also the East Coast, but mostly within California."

Wei said that she wouldn't have chosen to travel back to China, even in the absence of

the pandemic, because she's trying to obtain California permanent residency. However, she said she would have traveled outside of her residence in Goleta if it hadn't been for the risk of catching COVID-19.

"It was very boring," Wei said of her experience staying in Goleta over the entirety of break. "The most horrible thing is that I stayed in Goleta primarily to not be infected, and I got COVID anyway because of my roommate who went to a party."

Second-year environmental studies major Yirui Qiu and first-year graduate student and electrical and computer engineering major Rey Yue also emphasized the extensive quarantining they would have had to undergo in order to fully enter their respective home provinces in China.

"[Winter break was] just two weeks, so it's not worth going back ... if I want to go back to China, we have to quarantine [in the United States and China] for at least 21 days," Qiu said.

Qiu also noted the high price

of travel and quarantine.

"You have to pay out of pocket for the hotel, and you have to stay there for the quarantining period," Qiu said. "The price for a flight is also insane, like two grand, and they would cancel our flights randomly and frequently."

Returning home to Shenzhen, China was also not an option for Yue.

"If I want to get into China, [I have to] pay for a hotel for 14 days, but then I also have to quarantine at home for seven days," Yue said. "But that's our entire winter break."

Even if UCSB's remote instruction period for this quarter extends past Jan. 18, Yue said that going back home to Shenzhen is not a feasible option.

"I unfortunately cannot go home [to China] because once classes are back in-person, there will be no option to do hybrid again."

"All of my graduate research work is always done online anyway, but I do have classes so I have to be here. Otherwise, why am I paying rent?"

Yue explained that because

they have already signed a full-year housing contract with university housing – and because they already plan on going back home after the end of spring quarter – it would not be practical to leave early.

"For me, it's kind of different because I already plan on going back after spring quarter ends," she said. "I also signed this contract with student housing, so there's no reason to leave early."

Looking into the future, Yue worries about the longevity of COVID-19 and its impact on her time at UCSB as an international student.

"I just think that it would be super cool if hybrid is always an option because I don't think that COVID is going to end for another two years," they said. "I feel like we'll have a couple months where it's chill, and then the virus will mutate ... and it's really hard to coordinate your [travel] schedule [between home and UCSB] because when it's in person, you have to be here."

Yue explained that because

# Goleta Officially Files Lawsuit Against UCSB

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor

The city of Goleta filed its lawsuit against UC Santa Barbara last month, after publicly accusing the university of violating its plans to expand dormitories and cap enrollment.

Each UC school has a Long Range Development Plan, a contract developed in 2010 stating that the university must cap enrollment at 25,000 until 2025, build more dormitories for the additional 5,000 students the UC mandated that every campus enroll and build 1,800 new units for its faculty and staff. The city of Goleta publicly accused UCSB of violating its long Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) in November.

The city of Goleta said in a press release that the LRDP "ensured that the pace of UCSB's growth in student population from 20,000 to 25,000 would be matched by the construction of on-campus housing."

The city of Goleta claims that

this part of the LRDP was breached by the university and that "As a result of UCSB's unmitigated population growth and ongoing negative impacts on Goleta's housing shortage, the City had no choice but to resort to litigation."

Additionally, the city of Goleta argues that UCSB has been violating the LRDP since 2015 "by failing to provide sufficient housing for its students." Thus, the goal of the lawsuit is to "compel UCSB to abide by its promise," according to the press release.

In addition to breaching the contract, the city of Goleta accused the university of depriving the city of critical tax revenue by placing students in Goleta hotels, which took up Goleta housing, decreased the housing supply for other residents and placed a greater demand on Goleta's public services.

"There is no foreseeable end in sight for these negative impacts on Goleta," the press release read.

The city of Goleta has also expressed a lack of faith in the success of the controversial Munger

Hall planned dormitory as a potential solution to the university's housing crisis.

"UCSB's currently proposed student housing project, Munger Hall, a 4,500-unit dorm, has recently received harsh scrutiny in the national press. In light of this, we, at the City, are concerned that there may be no certainty as to whether the needed student housing will be built in a reasonable time frame," Goleta Mayor Paula Perotte said during the Nov. 5 meeting.

UCSB maintains that it did not violate the LRDP and that "it looks forward to the courts having an opportunity weighing in," according to UCSB spokesperson Shelly Leachman. "The University hopes the most efficient resolution of this dispute can be achieved so all energies can be devoted to serving California students and families and supporting the community through transformative research endeavors," Leachman said.



Nexus File Photo

In addition to breaching the contract, the city of Goleta accused the university of depriving the city of critical tax revenue by placing students in Goleta hotels

**Armchair QB**

After looking sluggish midway through the year, the Tennessee Titans were able to win 3 games in a row to end the year to clinch the No. 1 seed in the AFC. A healthy Derrick Henry awaits in the Divisional Round.

# SPORTS

**UCSB Athletics**

After falling below .500 to begin the year, the UCSB women's basketball team has remained undefeated in the Big West, winning 5 straight games.

## Women's Basketball Carries 5-Game Winning Streak Into 2022

Garret Harcourt  
Sports Editor

After a shaky start to the season with a 2-3 record, the Gauchos have managed to string together a 5-game win streak. During the streak, UC Santa Barbara has dominated their opponents, winning the games by no less than 8 points and beating Bethesda University by a score of 117-28.

Their most recent win came against their rival Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in a blowout, winning by a margin of 21 points.

Although the Gauchos are on this 5-game winning streak, it was put to a halt due to COVID-19 complications that have taken place in college and professional sports, like with the

National Hockey League putting a stop to their season as of last month.

Luckily, the Gauchos' season was not canceled, but they were unable to play their opening game of the Big West Conference against UC San Diego.

Also because of cancellations, they were not able to play UC Irvine for another Big West matchup on New Year's Day.

Although they have had their last two games canceled, the Gauchos have been putting up great numbers on the court this season.

Senior guards and forwards Megan Anderson and Taylor Mole have had a hot hand on the court this season with Anderson shooting 50.8 from three on 59 attempts and Mole shooting 54.5

from the 3-point range.

The top scorer on the team is junior center and forward Ila Lane, who is shooting an impressive 59.0 from the field and leading the team in scoring by having 115 points in total. On the defensive side, she has been a force as well, leading the team with 1.4 blocks per game and being the only one on the team averaging a block.

Senior point guard Danae Miller is putting up solid stats with 3.4 assists per game while averaging the second-highest time with 28.1 minutes a game.

The other point guard on the squad is junior Johnni Gonzalez who is averaging 3.4 assists per game while adding 1.4 steals per game on the defensive end.

As a team, the Gauchos are

putting up impressive numbers despite not having the best shooting stats. The UCSB women are averaging 69.8 points per game while shooting 42.1% from the field, 29.4% from the 3-point line and 72.4% from the free-throw line.

The defensive side of the Gauchos are excelling with opponents averaging 58.8 points per game, while shooting 38.7% from the field and 27.6% from the 3-point range. The Gauchos as a squad are also averaging 9.2 steals per game and 3.6 blocks per game.

The UCSB women's basketball team will look to keep this winning streak up and stay undefeated in Big West conference play against Cal State Bakersfield.



MADDY FANGIO / DAILY NEXUS

MADDY FANGIO / DAILY NEXUS

## Attendance Policy Remains Unchanged

Preston Espar  
Sports Editor

After the administration's decision to have instructors decide if their courses should be held in person beginning Jan. 18, UC Santa Barbara Athletics has made no new announcement regarding fan attendance. As of now, UCSB will not be admitting fans until after the 17th.

The original decision to delay fan attendance for winter quarter directly correlated with the school's decision to have all learning done remotely. However, now that some students will be returning to campus, the athletic department's choices have become more complicated. UCSB will need to make a decision soon, as the men's basketball team will play only three days after the original ban on fan attendance is lifted.

UCSB Athletics may choose to continue their attendance ban or have limited capacity to keep players and staff safe from the omicron variant that is sweeping through the country. Multiple programs have already been affected. Both the men's and women's basketball teams have already been affected by this new variant, as games where opponents, such as UC Irvine, had COVID-19 outbreaks were canceled. With prior experience with the omicron variant, UCSB Athletics understands that seasons could be delayed or ultimately canceled if a program experiences an outbreak. Having fans breathing on student athletes would not be the best way to protect the programs at UCSB or

keep competitions going.

As things stand, UCSB students can assume that attendance will be allowed after Jan. 17. However, a new announcement from UCSB Athletics will be made in the coming days on if the Gauchos faithful can support their student athletes in the future.

The main goal of UCSB Athletics during this pandemic is to protect their athletes and staff, as well as the student body as a whole. With data at their disposal, prior experiences with omicron and the administration's decision to hold in-person classes to some extent, the athletic program at UCSB can be expected to make the best decision possible when it comes to safely having fans return to athletic events.



PIA RAMOS / DAILY NEXUS

## UCSB Swimming Looks for a Strong Finish to the Season

Garret Harcourt  
Sports Editor

This year's UC Santa Barbara swim team started their season in October taking 2 straight victories at the Cal State Bakersfield Sprint Classic and the Cal State Bakersfield Roadrunner Invite.

The following week, the male Gauchos took on a tough opponent with the University of Southern California and came up with a 172-85 loss at the meet. The women also took a loss at UC Los Angeles with a score of 167-92.

That meet began a rough stretch for the Gauchos as they ended up losing the following two meets.

At the opening conference meet against rival Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the male Gauchos' swim team took a narrow 146-142 loss while the women's team captured a 174-120 victory.

The Gauchos were away at the following conference meet against UC San Diego where the men took a 152-110 loss and the women took a 153-103 loss.

In the next meet, the male Gauchos took first place in the Dixie State Invite with 1056 total points. In the 200-yard backstroke, freshman Kyle Brill dominated with a first-place finish. Another freshman standout, Taber daCosta, finished second in the 1650-yard freestyle. Senior Kian Brouwer, junior Dominic Falcon and sophomore Corban McIntosh each finished top three in their respective events.

The women's side had loads

of success with a second and third place finish from junior Maelynn Lawrence and senior Dora Seggelke in the 200-yard fly, respectively. Sophomores Reagan Nibarger and Cami Collins each had a top-six finish in the 100-yard fly and Collins in the 200-yard fly. Overall, the women's team took third place with 545.5 total points.

Unfortunately, at the following meet, the Gauchos lost the meet they hosted against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas rebels by a score of 150-107 for the men and 171-86 for the women.

Once again, Brill dominated, finishing first in the 200-yard individual medley, third in the 100-yard backstroke and second in the 200-yard backstroke. Brouwer, junior Kennan Hotchkiss, freshman Matthew Driscoll and senior Timothy Lee each finished second in their events. Falcon was another big-time performer, finishing first in the 200-yard fly and second in the 200-yard individual medley.

Senior Molly McCance, junior Gillian Flath, freshman Tyryn Empremsilapa, Lawrence and Nibarger each had a second-place finish, with Nibarger also having a dual third-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle.

The women's and men's relay teams had identical finishes at third place in each of their 200-yard medley relays.

The Gauchos will look to rebound at their senior day on Saturday, Jan. 15, against Cal Baptist before they close their regular season on Jan. 22 at Pacific University.



Nexus File Photo

# ARTSWEEK

## UCSB Dhadkan Gears Up for In-Person Nachle Deewane 2022

Sunidhi Sridhar  
Artsweek Editor

After losing two years of an in-person competition to the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone at Dhadkan, a South Asian philanthropic organization at UC Santa Barbara, could not be more excited for this spring's Nachle Deewane.

"Each year, we host a dance competition called Nachle Deewane," said fourth-year computer science major and co-president of Dhadkan, Gautam Mundewani. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was started at the university in 2012, Dhadkan puts on various fundraising events for charity, such as Nachle Deewane, a collegiate Bollywood and bhangra competition, which is the organization's biggest one.

"Throughout the year, our goal is to raise as much money as we can, and we choose a charity to partner with each year," Mundewani said. "At the end of the year, we donate all of the proceeds to that charity." Last year, Dhadkan allied with A.I.D. India to help with COVID-19 relief efforts during the height of the pandemic in the country.

While they are still finalizing the details of this year's philanthropy efforts, the group is hoping to work with a charity that aids South Asian women and families dealing with domestic violence.

Although Dhadkan certainly attracts many dancers who are looking forward to the opportunity to showcase their talents, the vast majority of people who are a part of the organization aren't so well-versed in dancing, according to Mundewani.



Courtesy of UCSB Dhadkan

Co-president Maya Sinha, a third-year Asian American studies and math double major, added, "We are fully behind the scenes. It's nice when people have dance experience but there is definitely no dance experience needed."

She continued, "Personally, I didn't do dance at all throughout my life. I did one show [in] my senior year of high school and it was absolutely god-awful."

Nonetheless, all of the different committees at Dhadkan rely on the expertise of the dancers to make sure the production is plain sailing.

"They tell us that teams like lighting in this particular format, or that they like the sounds to be this loud. They like acceptances and apps being out this early," Mundewani said. "We use their advice to build a better show."

This year's Nachle Deewane is scheduled for April 9 at Santa Barbara's historic performing arts center, the Arlington Theatre.

"The applications for Nachle Deewane are now open, so we

have teams from all over the country applying," Sinha said. "At the end of this quarter, we'll be selecting the teams and showcasing them on our social media accounts."

"This year is important because it's like a bounce-back year, because of COVID-19," added Mundewani. "I don't think there's anyone on campus other than seniors who have been to an in-person Nachle Deewane show, so that weekend will be completely new for a lot of people."

Last spring's show, themed "Across India," was adapted into an online format that was aired on YouTube Live. Teams sent in their videos, and the show was narrated by a recorded script.

"That's how we were able to keep our show and our brand alive," Mundewani said. "That was quite challenging. In 2020, our show actually ended up getting canceled because we transitioned to online so immediately."

All three presidents of Dhadkan first heard about the organization during their

freshman year and saw a chance to be more connected to the South Asian community on the university's campus.

"I knew one of our old presidents from high school and she kind of introduced me to Dhadkan," said co-president Nidhi Satyagal, a third-year economics major. "I wanted to get involved in the South Asian community, especially freshman year, and I thought it was a really good way to meet people."

For Satyagal, Dhadkan was a way for her to define her relationship with her cultural identity on her own terms.

"I independently immersed myself in the South Asian community, and I've met a lot of really great people," she said. "I think the biggest part of it is being intentional about meeting

other South Asian people."

Mundewani agreed that the organization was an avenue for him to connect with his heritage outside of the community that he grew up in.

"I'm from the Bay Area, so the vast majority of the people around me were of Asian descent," he said. "I feel like I had no choice in the Bay Area, which is not a bad thing, but I think it's nice to have that opportunity to go out of my way to be in touch with South Asian culture."

As a person of Indian and Chinese descent, Sinha said that her decision to join Dhadkan reflected "how [she] feels more Indian."

"I literally knew nothing about it coming into it but I'm really glad I chose this organization to be involved in," she added. "I

feel like we do good work and we help the community, not only here but back in India."

Despite the omicron variant causing a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, Dhadkan remains hopeful that the teams will be able to perform in front of a live audience at this year's Nachle Deewane in April, and everyone in the organization is eager to get back into it.

"The goal is to keep Dhadkan going and to keep putting on great shows and just continuing to pass it down," Sinha said. "We want to reignite the interest in Nachle Deewane and let people know who we are again."

For more information on the organization and this year's show, follow @nachle.deewane on Instagram or visit [www.dhadkan.org](http://www.dhadkan.org).



Courtesy of UCSB Dhadkan

## Record Recap: 53 Years Since Led Zeppelin's Explosive Debut

Jadon Bienz & Evan Gonzalez  
Staff Writers

By the waning years of the 1960s, the musical space of rock had been well explored. The Beatles had made rock music internationally popular and opened the floodgates for rock music to wash over the mainstream. The Rolling Stones had become the archetypal image of a rock band with all of their hedonistic implications. Jimi Hendrix had injected psychedelia into rock music, showing that virtuosic talent could be paired with rock music. However, on Jan. 12, 1969, a new band would define the sound and look of rock and roll in the 1970s and beyond with their debut album: Led Zeppelin.

The band Led Zeppelin was formed by pairing already established studio musicians with a couple of relatively unknown, local musicians. The group emerged from the ashes of guitarist Jimmy Page's old band, The Yardbirds, naming themselves The New Yardbirds before eventually changing the name to the now iconic Led Zeppelin. Besides guitar savant Jimmy Page, the new lineup consisted of the underrated yet genius session bassist John Paul Jones, the powerhouse drummer John Bonham and an at-the-time unknown singer named Robert Plant, who became recognized as perhaps the greatest voice in rock history.

The band's self-titled debut album, canonically referred



Courtesy of MoMA

to as "Led Zeppelin I" to avoid confusion with the band itself, was released on Jan. 12, 1969. The album finds a young Zeppelin distorting their blues influences with a heavy rock sound, covering a number of blues staples along the way.

Two excellent examples of

Led Zeppelin's reinterpretation of blues classics lay in "You Shook Me" and "I Can't Quit You Baby." Both are covers of songs by blues pioneer Willie Dixon, turned into proto-heavy metal songs with Plant's wailing vocals front and center on each cover. While other blues-influenced bands

at this time, such as Cream, had covered blues songs with more distorted instrumentals, no band had the powerhouse vocalist that Plant was. The slow instrumentals of these blues tracks allow for all the other members of the band to sit back while Plant displays his vocal prowess. "You Shook

Me" also allows for Jones to show his organ playing in a breakdown section that also features a Plant harmonica section and a Page guitar solo.

In sharp contrast to the slow-burn blues of "You Shook Me," the majority of "Led Zeppelin I" showcases a bold and brash sound that set the stage for future metal and hard rock. Within the first second of the album, "Good Times Bad Times" explodes with a sturdy guitar riff tailed by intense drumming.

Similarly, "Communication Breakdown" catches the listener off guard after the peaceful instrumental "Black Mountain Side," brandishing a more rhythmic and repetitive style of guitar. This riffing is reminiscent of many metal tracks and was even quoted as core inspiration by the guitarist Johnny Ramone of legendary punk rock group Ramones.

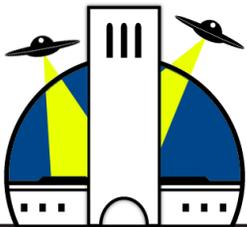
Classic rock radio staple "Dazed and Confused" stays in line with the heaviness of the other tracks but in a slower manner. Wailing guitars and vocals substitute for riffing, establishing a loud and warbling soundscape that spontaneously erupts into a killer guitar solo.

While many groups offered their unique approach to rock music, Led Zeppelin's debut effort was particularly successful, owing to their successful modernization of the blues without compromising on its emotional intensity. Album highlight "Babe I'm Gonna Leave You" starts off acoustic,

with Plant painfully singing about anticipating a breakup. As the track progresses, Plant's sadness becomes anger, as his shouts and wails ring out through dramatic guitar and crashing symbols. By the end of the track, Plant has advanced through all five stages of grief, as he cries "I've got to go away ... Baby baby, baby ... that's when it's calling me back home."

It may be surprising to modern listeners that "Led Zeppelin I" was not well received by contemporary critics. The group's musical artistry was frequently regarded as inferior to that of Jeff Beck, another member of The Yardbirds, the group that Page had been a part of. Plant's voice was disparaged as a poor imitation of Rod Stewart's raspy style, and the group's writing as a whole was criticized as underdeveloped. However, the album had found a place in listeners' ears, earning a gold certification by July 1969 that evolved into eight-times platinum certification by the present day.

Led Zeppelin's debut album stands out within the modern musical canon, as it perfectly captures and amplifies the emotional intensity of blues within its rock compositions. While certain albums may be historically significant in inspiring other artists or subgenres of music, "Led Zeppelin I" was monumental in redirecting the entirety of rock music's trajectory to be louder and more exciting than ever before.



# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

## Chancellor Yang: "Babe, What Do You Mean the Other UCs Are All Going Online? That Must Have Been a Bad Dream..."



A. WIESSASS / DAILY NEXUS

Meel F. Lover  
*Junior Resident Gaslighter*

Babe, this is so unlike you, you're acting kind of crazy right now ... I don't know where you might have seen that the other UCs are staying online longer, that would be insane. Where would you have even heard that? Your friends? People are kind of unreliable, babe, you don't know where they could be getting their information from. You know I don't trust your friends, and now they're trying to make me look bad? This has got to be a joke, it's so obvious...

I know the other UCs - I talk to them all the time. They would never do something like that, and you can't tell me you know them better than I do. I'm pretty sure I would know if they were extending online, babe, it's kind of my job LMAO. What do you think I do at all those meetings I go to? Just fuck around? I go to those meetings for us, babe!

Are you sure this wasn't a dream? Did you hit your head on the way home? I'm sorry, OK,

I just really can't take you seriously right now!

Babe, OK, hold on, come back. I'm sorry. Just tell me how long they supposedly are extending online for. Until January 28????? Babe, do you know how insane that sounds?? Have you even talked to anyone else about this? I can't be the only one who doesn't trust this. Babe, all I'm asking for you to do is stop and think for a second, OK?! Just use your brain! I know you're smarter than this. Look at me, OK, you know I take COVID seriously, and I make sure we do our best to respond to it.

Wait, what? Don't even think about bringing up the hotel dorms right now, babe, I can't believe you would do that. That really hurts. I can't believe this. Can we just drop this? Please? That's literally all I wanted. Jesus, thank you.

Let's just forget about all of this and go get some ice cream, OK? Thank you. OK, don't forget your mask, babe! Haha.

*Meel F. Lover feels like a lighter next to a propane tank the way she's being gaslit right now.*

## I.V. Nerd Finally Loses Virginity After Being Screwed by Landlord



A. WIESSASS / DAILY NEXUS

Miss Informed  
*Real Estate/Sex Expert*

Ah, Isla Vista. The home of barely legal hedonists, the world record for the highest density of human DNA per square foot of sidewalk and, of course, a cutthroat housing market that can smell fresh blood from 10 miles away.

While this may sound horrifying to the average Joe, it's music to the ears of those who haunt the loneliest halls of Davidson. Even the grimmest nerd knows that while their crush in Linear Algebra won't give them a second look, they need only to email their landlord about a busted fridge in order to get their holes stretched in the filthiest, most depraved way possible.

Local (former) virgin Carl Marks recounts his experience with his own landlord dreamily. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought anybody could tolerate my touch. But when I filed a dispute with my landlord over the discovery of asbestos in my ceilings, he screwed me with more unbridled fury than a

K-9 unit in heat," Marks said while blushing hard.

"He seemed to have a lot of pent-up rage, which I can only guess is in response to all of his tenants contacting him regarding the lack of hot water in their apartments. Being a soul-sucking bourgeois dog must really be taking a toll on him," he added, sighing sadly.

"After a blissful two minutes, which also happens to be the same amount of time he spends on building repairs each month, he climbed off of me and handed me my eviction notice," Marks said, smiling bashfully while standing on the street with all of his belongings. "Not only did I lose my lease, I also lost my virginity. Two birds, am I right?"

When asked if he still keeps in contact with his landlord, Marks shook his head. "That was the last I saw of him. Though I do still hang around my old place just in case he pops in for one of his classic unannounced visits. His tenants love those!"

*Miss Informed has definitely lost her virginity before.*

### DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS



LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS

# ON THE MENU

## Top Food Trends of 2021

Stephanie Gerson  
On the Menu Asst. Editor

2021 presented itself as another year of constantly rotating viral food trends. Many of these trendy recipes enjoyed a few weeks in the spotlight while others are still wildly popular. Let's take a trip down memory lane and relive some of the internet's favorite foods of this year. Have some of these trends become staples in our diets, or are they just fads?

### Feta Pasta and Rise of Vegan Feta

Baked feta pasta took the internet by storm in the early days of 2021. It's essentially a one-pan meal that's creamy and packed with flavor. I was a little late to the trend and made my first baked feta dish over the summer, but I was pretty impressed! It has definitely become a comfort meal of mine. I noticed that the recipe's popularity led to an increase in nondairy feta cheese options in grocery stores, including Trader Joe's. However, I think this trend won't carry on into 2022. For an in-depth critique of the viral recipe, read the Daily Nexus article by writers Nicole Wakeland and Sarah Ismaili.

### Emily Mariko Salmon Bowl

Emily Mariko (@emilymariko on TikTok) charmed TikTok with her aesthetically pleasing grocery hauls and soothing cooking videos filmed in a

beautiful kitchen. In September, Emily shared her salmon rice recipe consisting of mashed salmon, white rice, kewpie mayo, soy sauce, sriracha, avocado, kimchi and nori sheets. I attempted to make my own vegan version using tofu as a salmon substitute. While the recipe is definitely delicious, I don't see a resurgence of this meal happening in 2022.

### Pickling at Home

During the early stages of the pandemic, many stockpiled food in fear of shortages due to supply chain interruptions. Additionally, excessive trips to the grocery store were discouraged. In an effort to pick up a new hobby and preserve fresh food for as long as possible, every home cook started pickling and canning their vegetables. OTM writer Laura Tucker took a stab at the decades-old preservation method in her raw cider pickles article. I pickled carrots for the first time this year, and I can't wait to pickle more things next year!

### Baked Oats

I have to admit, I never attempted to make baked oats. I really love the concept, and I think the cake-like texture won over a lot of oatmeal haters. The one downside to this trend is that, unlike instant oats, your breakfast takes 25 minutes to cook. I'm predicting that oat muffins, which can be made in batches and prepped ahead of time, will be more popular in

the new year.

### Wellness beverages

Many drinks marketed to calm people down during a stressful time became widely available this year. We saw ingredients, such as CBD and adaptogenic mushrooms, hit the shelves in drinks by brands including Recess and Centr. Lured by the drinks' claims to increase focus and relaxation, I tried a variety of wellness beverages and saw no change in my mood or productivity. While I like the concept, I think high-stress individuals might look elsewhere for relief.

### Plant-Based Foods

As a plant-based eater, I was pleasantly surprised that more restaurants and grocery stores increased the number of meat-free options. One of my favorite new vegan products of 2021 was Nancy's oat milk yogurt. Almost every restaurant now has an Impossible burger on the menu or a vegetarian option that isn't cheese pizza. Looking forward, it's likely that plant-based diets will be more focused on whole foods rather than meat and dairy substitutes with questionable ingredients.

We never know what the next food trend will be, but you can count on the On the Menu writers to review the latest viral dishes. To stay up to date on what's happening in the culinary world, visit The Beet. Wishing you a fantastic new year!



MICHELLE LEE / DAILY NEXUS

## Janchi-Guksu

Michelle Lee  
On the Menu Co-Editor

Everyone has those dishes that remind them of their childhood. For me, that dish is janchi-guksu, which roughly translates to "festival noodles." Janchi-guksu is a dish my grandma would make for my siblings and me as an after-school snack. Growing up, this dish was actually not my favorite – I found the plain anchovy broth with thin noodles boring, with my Americanized taste buds craving something more flavorful (preferably with cheese). Now, I have a newfound appreciation for the dish's simplicity. Janchi-guksu has an understated flavor profile that is warmly comforting – kind of like a hug in a bowl.

During break, I had a lot of free time, so I attempted to recreate my grandma's janchi-guksu. While obviously nothing can beat the real deal, I think it came pretty close.

### Ingredients (Serves 2):

#### Noodles

- 8 ounces somen noodles (or noodle of your choice)

#### Broth

- 5 cups water
- 10 dried anchovies or 3 anchovy stock tablets
- 1/2 medium onion
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 to 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon Dasida beef stock
- Salt and pepper, to taste

#### Toppings

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 carrot
- 1/2 zucchini
- 1 shiitake mushroom
- Sesame oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste

#### Directions:

1. In a large pot, add the water, anchovies (or anchovy tablets) and medium onion and bring to a boil over medium-high heat.
2. Once the water is boiling, lower to medium-low heat so the water comes to a simmer. Add in the sugar, soy sauce,

fish sauce and Dasida beef stock. Stir the mixture so the sugar and Dasida completely dissolve.

3. Taste the broth and season with salt and pepper to your liking.
4. Let the broth simmer over medium-low heat for 30 to 45 more minutes. While it's simmering, be sure to skim off the foam that floats to the top of the surface with a skimmer or large spoon.
5. While the broth is simmering, prepare the somen noodles according to the instructions on the package. Once the noodles are fully cooked, wash them in cold water to prevent them from overcooking and set them aside.
6. Wash and prepare the vegetables. Cut the carrot, zucchini and mushroom into julienne strips (long and thin).
7. In a small pan, add a small amount of sesame oil and heat over medium-low heat. Add in the carrots, season with salt and pepper and saute for 1 to 2 minutes, or until slightly softened. Take out the carrots and repeat this step with the zucchini and mushroom individually. By the end, you should have three separate piles of sliced carrot, zucchini and mushroom.
8. In the same pan, add a little bit more sesame oil and add in the beaten egg, swerving the pan to ensure the egg completely covers the pan. Cook the egg over medium-low heat for approximately 1 minute. Once it's fully cooked, remove the crepe-like egg from the pan and roll it up and slice it into 1/4-inch-thick slices. This should create thin ribbons of egg.
9. Assemble the dish by placing one bunch of noodles into a bowl, adding in the broth (make sure it's piping hot and remove the onion and anchovies) and topping it with the julienned carrots, zucchini, mushroom and egg as you wish. Enjoy!

The highlight of janchi-guksu is the broth. The subtle anchovy flavor is enhanced by the soy sauce and other aromatics, creating a nice, clean broth that won't make you feel bleh after eating it. While making janchi-guksu from scratch definitely takes time, from letting the broth simmer to slicing up the toppings, you're left with a comforting dish that will warm you up from the inside out.



STEPHANIE GERSON / DAILY NEXUS

## Brothy Beans & Mushrooms

Alice Bilyk  
Staff Writer

**BROTHY BEANS!** A perfect, toasty, soupy bean recipe for a chilly, insulation-free I.V. night. The beans and mushrooms are perfectly soft, warm and umami, the toast is crunchy and the scallions are fresh; they're a really great winter meal since they fill you up and warm you from the inside.

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup beans of your choosing (I used pinto)
- 2 cups stock
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 white onion, diced
- 6 sage leaves
- 2 cups small whole mushrooms (I used shiitakes)
- 1 scallion
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Toast
- Salt and pepper, to taste

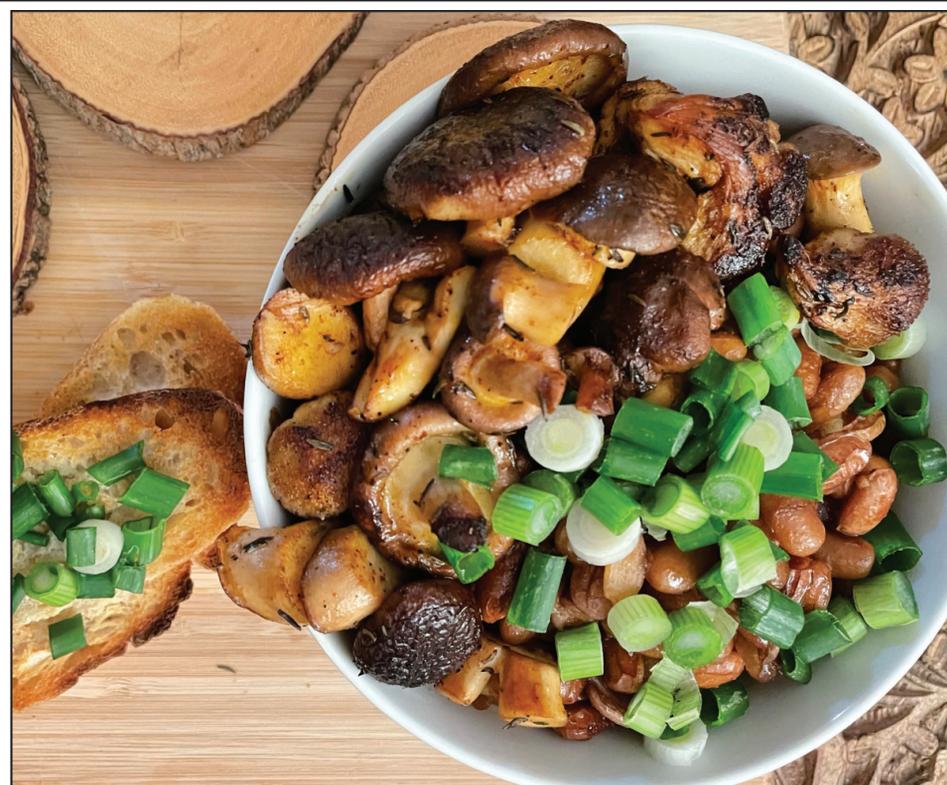
### Directions:

1. Soak beans for 8 hours or overnight. If you do not want to soak your beans overnight, don't worry, they'll just take a little longer

in the oven.

2. Preheat the oven to 375 F. In a deep baking dish approximately 8-by-8 or 9-by-9 inches, add your beans, garlic cloves, stock, olive oil, 4 whole sage leaves, onion, salt and pepper. Stir lightly and cover the dish in foil tightly. Bake for approximately 90 minutes.
3. At 90 minutes, check the beans, uncover and bake until tender. This will take anywhere from another 90 minutes to 2 hours, depending on whether the beans were soaked.
4. 5 minutes before the beans are done, salt your mushrooms and pan fry them until golden. If you have any leftover stock, feel free to add a little (maybe a tablespoon). Salt and pepper to taste if needed.
5. Once the beans are fork-tender, take them out of the oven and let them rest for 10 minutes. Add the mushrooms and chopped scallion. Toast and butter a few pieces of bread and serve them topped with the beans and mushrooms.

These beans would be great in any form – on their own, on toast, on rice, as a side, etc. For reheating, I refried them in a pot with some of the broth until they warmed through. Enjoy!



ALICE BILYK / DAILY NEXUS

# SCIENCE & TECH

## At North Campus Open Space, Years of Restoration Work Unveil a Transformed Landscape

Sean Crommelin  
Science Editor

As a freshman living in Santa Catalina Residence Hall, I would occasionally run in the open spaces immediately to the west: an interconnected patchwork of wetlands, estuaries, grasslands and eucalyptus groves making up Sperling Preserve on Ellwood Mesa, Coal Oil Point Reserve and – adjoining the two parcels – the North Campus Open Space.

I hadn't the foggiest idea then that that parcel providing this continuity had, less than a decade before, been a golf course.

When I told this to Andy Lanes, the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration (CCBER) education and outreach coordinator, he grew visibly excited.

"[I've been] talking about shifting baselines with kids and their relationship with nature. How you might be born into this world and this environment that you're living in is what you know, whether it's a little bit polluted or contaminated," Lanes said.

"Now we're doing restoration. Some of these sites might someday be the opposite. There might be somebody that comes by and goes never having known it as a golf course."

The name of this golf course was Ocean Meadows Golf Club, and its construction decades ago was marked by the inundation of a network of natural wetlands with 500,000 cubic yards of soil, forever changing them.

From 1965 to 2013, the course welcomed golfers who could tolerate its tendency to become muddy and waterlogged. Even prior to the establishment of the golf course, the land north of Devereux Slough was altered to

accommodate the ever-changing and multitudinous needs of its human inhabitants.

"We have some early aerial photos of the areas starting in 1921. We can see what those systems were like. But even by that time, they were largely degraded from all the change from agriculture to other developments in the area," Lanes said.

In a landmark conservation deal with the Trust for Public Land in 2013, Ocean Meadows Golf Club was sold by its owner, Mark Green, for \$7 million, with a further \$10 million raised to facilitate the golf course's transformation into a "functional and educational wetland," with CCBER's help.

For the past seven years, CCBER – led by Lisa Stratton, the director of ecosystem management – has spent those millions of dollars working to bring the historic tidal estuary back to the present.

"The general idea was, would it be possible to take this golf course and integrate it back into this historic wetland? And so, we've been doing that," Lanes said.

First, they brought in heavy equipment to grade the former golf course and create a landscape of wetlands and uplands. A total of 350,000 cubic yards of soil were excavated to accomplish this. In addition, the network of concrete paths which navigated the golf course was broken up and left in piles throughout the preserve to serve as a habitat for wildlife. Then came revegetation efforts by CCBER, which has carried out thousands of hours of work to suppress invasive species and promote the reestablishment of native plants.

"We have new strategies to do larger areas out there like drill seeding the seeds of native grasses to plant much higher numbers of



SEAN CROMMELIN / DAILY NEXUS

What was once a waterlogged golf course now welcomes the return of the upper reaches of Devereux Slough.

grasses than we otherwise would be," Lanes said.

"When we can't do that, however, we're planting individually. Individual plants in 2-inch pots, hundreds of thousands. It's a huge project, a lot of work, and they're all grown organically and initiated from seed that we collected locally – not just focusing on California natives but also local genetics."

What has resulted from this work is a landscape transformation. Now, the North Campus Open Space (NCOS), readily accessible from Sierra Madre Villages, encompasses an undulating wetland landscape with tributary drainages that extend north of Devereux Slough and penetrate east and west.

Surrounding these wetlands is a series of trails and bridges, 2.25 miles in total length and connecting to the California Coastal Trail, which provides walkers with ample opportunities to see the slough from a variety of vantage points.

How water moves on the land

has also transformed. What was once a waterlogged golf course now welcomes the return of the upper reaches of Devereux Slough, which itself welcomes wildlife large, like the great blue heron, as well as small, like the elusive and ephemeral tidewater goby, which sneaks into the slough when it connects to the ocean following heavy rainstorms.

"So the golf course wasn't a bad habitat [for birds]. However, we know that we've lost a lot of wetlands in California, particularly Southern California, and rebuilding a wetland may change the number of birds or change the types of birds that we see in the wetland," Lanes said.

"I've seen a huge change in the wildlife, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds and even the endangered snowy plovers."

The broken-up concrete slabs strewn about the open space are even known to host burrowing owls, according to Lanes.

As the wetlands and mudflats have extended the range of the tidal estuary, the architects of

the NCOS have worked to make the landscape more resilient to climate change by incorporating potential complications from sea-level rise into management plans. Since then, the project has taken on many new helpers. Anywhere from 10 to 40 undergraduate students per quarter work on the project part time, carrying out ongoing landscaping and restoration work to reestablish native plants in the open space preserve.

What Lanes finds especially rewarding about the restoration process are the educational opportunities that it has provided for students – not just undergraduates, but also young children throughout the South Coast.

"It's an ideal place. We have this unprecedented wetland restoration project within a mile of [the] UCSB campus but also right next door to elementary schools, to preschools, and then the whole surrounding community over there. So all of these people are using it. There's even an outdoor

classroom being constructed currently," Lanes said.

To provide services to those in the community, the open space has also enlisted the help of naturalists in the general public who have become certified to serve as nature guides. These guides provide tours on the third Saturday of every month as well as more specialized tours during other times. A tour on the 15th this week, for instance, will be held in both English and Spanish.

For those hoping to contribute to restoration efforts, the second Saturday of every month provides an opportunity to volunteer.

"The school year before [2020], we had over 1,200 students come to visit to work on the project. For me, a local, seeing it all happen is crazy. It's so much different. I used to play golf there with my dad when I was a kid ... it's amazing seeing it now as a wetland and being like, 'Oh, this is where the ninth hole was or where I made that one day.' Now I'm working there with kids. It's such a trip."

“

I used to play golf there with my dad when I was a kid ... it's amazing seeing it now as a wetland and being like, 'Oh, this is where the ninth hole was or where I made that shot that one day.'

Andy Lanes

## Looking Back From Campus Point

Devanshi Tomar  
Asst. Science Editor

### A Zwitterionic Solution

One ambition in the world of materials is a vision for durable, energy-dense lithium-ion batteries, as they are reusable. However, this development was previously hindered by material instability and safety concerns. A research team belonging to the UC Santa Barbara Materials Research Laboratory, including graduate students such as Seamus D. Jones, Howie Nguyen and Peter M. Richardson, sought to solve this problem.

They found that solid polymeric electrolytes (SPEs) are a possible solution to this issue, although they were initially found to have limited conductivity. However, this challenge was overcome via "zwitterionic SPEs," meaning

that the electrolytes have a positive and a negative charge, allowing for excellent lithium conductivity.

### Detangling Plant Population Dynamics

A recent publication by researcher Tom W. Bell and UCSB geography professor David A. Siegel from the UCSB Earth Research Institute highlights the difficulty in quantifying plant abundance and health on relevant scales of space and time. According to Bell and Siegel, these estimates are important to quantify, as they can elucidate how environmental change impacts plant population dynamics both in the sea and on land. Specifically, they studied patterns of biomass loss across kelp forests.

To dissect what drives ecological population dynamics, Bell and Siegel found it important

to first organize the scales in order to observe the system, which is influenced by both extrinsic and intrinsic biotic factors. They used remote sensing observations to assess patterns in nutrient concentrations and temperature of seawater, which were found to be inversely correlated with each other. The impact of separating external and internal drivers of the dynamics of plant population and conducting repeat measurements provided them with a better and more complex knowledge of what factors regulate abundance.

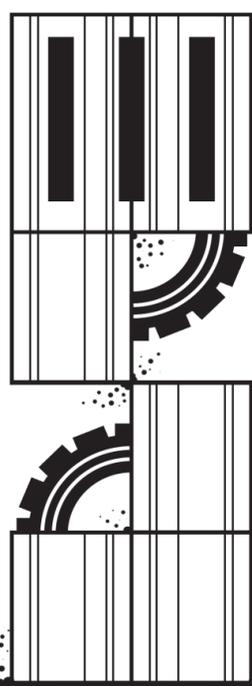
### Into the Interstellar

The cosmos has remained to be an expanse overwhelmingly foreign to us, as the human race has completed only a couple of missions to the moon or to various planets. Despite exciting developments in our astronomical understanding, our interstellar

exploration is limited by the brevity of human life, as it takes several decades to travel beyond the heliopause 18 million kilometers beyond, which is the boundary where the sun's solar winds are stopped by the interstellar boundary.

However, a recent NASA study called Project Starlight holds promise in significantly increasing spacecraft speed and rethinking current measures of space propulsion. In an article published this month in *Acta Astronautica*, UCSB physics professor Philip Lubin and molecular, cellular and developmental biology distinguished professor Joel Rothman consider the potential and consequences of this project as well the ethical implications. The goal of the project, they analyze, is to use direct photon momentum exchange to achieve velocities that would condense what took

previous space probes years into mere days. This is made possible by very recent technology that uses photon propulsion to achieve extremely high velocities. A dramatic decrease in the time it takes to go beyond the interstellar boundary provides NASA with the unique opportunity to study living microorganisms in the interstellar.



LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS



# OPINION

## Introverts Are Not Immune — But Everyone Thinks We Are

Yiu-On Li  
Staff Writer

It is March 2020. Andrew Ferguson writes in *The Atlantic* that, “for a true introvert, any encounter closer than six feet constitutes foreplay.” At the top of his article, a smiling face peeks through the blinds. Without eyes, of course — eye contact is so terribly awkward for us. This is how the story usually goes: Introverts have been socially distant their entire lives. They’re special — they need no friends. Indeed, they scorn them. They wish everyone would just leave them alone.

And so, the coronavirus pandemic, a once-in-a-century calamity that has torn friend from friend and family from family, is just Tuesday for introverts. No, even better — it’s utopia.

“The world has caught up with us at last,” Ferguson writes. “The social order has been upended, and extroverts find themselves living in the introverts’ world.”

It is January 2022. When I, an introvert, see the beginnings of another round of school closures due to the omicron variant of the coronavirus, I am not smiling. I am, in fact, reeling in fear — the fear of, once again, being alone.

And I wonder — two years after we gave a name to this innocuous, terrible collection of RNA, lipids and spike proteins — if Ferguson is smiling now.

It is April 2020. Like Ferguson, I smile. I smile at the irony. I smile at the introvert memes. I smile at the news articles — written by extroverts, surely — that describe a new way of life, not unlike how I’d already been living for 20 years.

It is November 2020. This new way of life is too new, and I feel very sad. I can only look forward to the comforting regularity of my routines, actions ingrained in memory from years of practice — brushing my teeth, cleaning my glasses, exercising at odd hours, closing my bedroom window in the late evening. The days become one, and my actions become days. Sometimes I cry myself to sleep.

It is December 2020. I forget to start my math final on time and only have half the time to finish it. I don’t. I can’t. My dad comes into my room. He is no longer smiling — the months have taken a toll on him too. He starts yelling, a kind of yell frightening in its rarity. I start yelling too, but louder, and uglier, tears and snot and shivers everywhere, and I surprise myself with the volume and clarity with which I sputter. I have been waiting to share this with someone for so long. And for the first time in a long time, I am alive.

It is February 2021. I hate my major. If I’d been on campus, perhaps I would, at the very least, not feel so alone — that despite my disinterested professors, that despite my dread at being stuck in this dead-end field for the rest of my life, I could have a good laugh with someone about the stupidity of market economics suffocating individual passions. But I am alone, and I can’t.

my middle school teachers worries I am not social enough. She refers me to one of the counselors. I tell her that friends come with strings attached: Either they’re too slow for me, or I’m too slow for them. It wouldn’t end well.

It is April 2021. I miss simply being around people. Even though I’ve never had too many friends, I’d always been reliant on the buzz that people generate by talking with each other. Or even the occasional “Hi” from a casual acquaintance, or a simple “Sorry” for bumping into someone — even that, that brief spark of human connection, I miss.

According to Ian James Kidd, an assistant professor at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Nottingham, a misanthrope’s isolation comes from the belief that human nature is riddled with vice. He writes that misanthropes respond to these flaws with outright hatred, fearful escape, hopeful activism or quiet coping — or a combination of or oscillation between all of these.

An introvert, in my experience, avoids people for more mundane reasons. Sometimes we’re just shy or uncomfortable, and we think too much about how we present ourselves to others that we give up on presenting ourselves entirely. We don’t really judge the human condition so much as we judge ourselves.

Unfortunately, too many people conflate misanthropes with introverts — even us introverts. What we forget — what I had forgotten — is that introverts are still human.

“Social connections are a basic human need,” Danièle Gubler and Katja Schlegel, psychologists at the University of Bern, Switzerland, said to BBC News. “Being an introvert doesn’t mean you don’t want to socialise at all.”

Certainly, a misanthrope can have some introverted qualities and vice versa. But even Ferguson, in his original article, notes that “despite lots of overlap, the two are not the same.”

It’s not the same, being an introvert and constantly seeing the worst in humanity to the point where you want to distance yourself from everyone. But that’s exactly what we’ve done — in our haste to rationalize our deficient social lives and to rub it in the extroverts’ faces, we and everyone else have sublimated our unassertiveness and propensity for solitude into unyielding, spiteful, boastful individuality.

And we have suffered for it.

Anahita Shokrkon, a doctoral student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alberta (UoA), surveyed more than a thousand people in Canada during pandemic lockdowns. She analyzed these responses in her research article in *PLOS One*, a peer-reviewed

science journal, finding that extroversion was, “positively and significantly related to all three scales of emotional well-being, psychological and social well-being.”

Additional research backs up Shokrkon’s findings, from Gubler and Schlegel’s own study to doctoral graduate Maryann Wei’s at the University of Wollongong, Australia.

In other words: Extroverts were happier than introverts during the pandemic. We all had it backward.

“Extroverts have better mental health in general,” Shokrkon said in the *Folio*, the UoA’s journalism site. “They are happier, and they usually have more friends, and better quality relationships. They can lean on the support of those friends to keep their positive mental health.”

Unless we introverts take these findings to heart, we remain trapped in a self-fulfilling prophecy of unhealthy isolation.

Is this really who we are? Or is this only who we think we are, who we think we should be?

It is October 2021. I sit by the elevator in my dorm while working so that I can talk to people as they pass. I join the Hong Kong Student Association for no other reason than to hang out. I rejoin the *Daily Nexus*, forcing me to regularly talk to strangers. I even start to ask people who sit alone at the dining commons if I can sit down with them. I switch majors.

And on Saturdays, I visit friends for a night of games, food and talking. Yes, friends. I met one of them in my first year at UC Santa Barbara, but only now do I decide to invest more time in that relationship.

I am happy in a way I have never been

before.

It is November 2021. I sit down for lunch — alone this time because being back on campus has spoiled me such that I again have the luxury of deciding when and where I want to be social. Someone else sits next to me.

He describes himself as an ex-introvert trying to be more of an extrovert. “I used to be like you,” he says to me.

The thing is, I still like being an introvert — I don’t think I’ll ever let go of the peace and quiet that introversion offers. It’s a good home.

But it’s not healthy to stay home all day. So this person who sits next to me, who after more than a year of being alone no longer wants to be alone, is onto something.

Which brings us back to January 2022.

We’ve now had a taste of what a world without people is like. The pandemic thrust us into what was likely the most isolating period of our lives, something we introverts have all dreamed of at some point or another. But did that make you happy? Probably not.

And as the pandemic upends the world, from teleconferencing to single-use containers and utensils, this is our chance to upend ourselves — to reexamine what it really means to be an introvert.

Some things should stay — our ability to concentrate, our perceptiveness, our fantastic dreams.

But some things need to go. We must recognize that introverts are not immune to the loneliness of solitude, that our lone wolf style is weakness masquerading as strength. A company of one may be enough to satisfy us for a while — and indeed, sometimes we must recharge ourselves with a good nap

or a good book or a good YouTube video — but the reality is that we’ll find the rest of our happiness when we are not alone.

Forcibly inject yourself into a group, even if it just means quietly sitting in the corner of the room working. Join student organizations even if you’re only mildly interested because you won’t know for sure until you try.

Be kind. Be resolute. You may reel in fear, but what matters is that you show up, day after day. And eventually, you will find someone, perhaps more than one.

Of course, it won’t be easy — there’s omicron, and not to mention how extroverts seem to dominate UCSB. We are not out of the woods just yet, and these forests seem never-ending. The next few months will be scary for all of us, introvert or otherwise, and I am starting to think we will have to adjust to a permanent life in the treetops.

We will have to be courageous. But not fearless — courage is not the absence of fear, but is action despite it. And perhaps the most courageous action we can all take is to ensure that the bonds of friendship — or acquaintanceship, if friendship is too much — do not dissolve even in our physical isolation.

Introverts know a thing or two about staring down the face of fear. And the fear of social awkwardness just pales in comparison to the apocalypse. Now that’s something to smile about.

*Yiu-On Li encourages introverts to turn the confines of their mind into a cozy home by having guests visit regularly. They already have so many stories, souvenirs and stargazings to share — what a shame it would be to keep the blinds drawn.*



JORDAN BEDELL / DAILY NEXUS

# HOROSCOPES

The Signs as Things To Do During Zoom Class

## ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Get to Level 295 on Candy Crush

## TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Make yourself a gourmet meal

## GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Sidewalk Slammers

## CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

The New York Times Daily Mini

## LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Handwrite a love letter to your TA who momentarily supported your (incorrect) analysis

## VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Binge BuzzFeed Unsolved on YouTube

## LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Have a good cry

## SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Crochet yourself a punching bag in the shape of Chancellor Yang

## SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Cook 5 gallons of soup

## CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Play rock-paper-scissors with yourself and/or your imaginary friends

## AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Blow shit up

## PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Analyze the effect of cannabinoid products on the nervous system