





Michelle Cisneros  
*Lead News Editor*

**James B. Milliken assumes role as new UC president**

James B. Milliken, former chancellor of the University of Texas system, began his tenure as the 22nd president of the University of California on Aug. 1. He succeeds Michael V. Drake, who announced last July that he would step down at the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

The UC Board of Regents approved Milliken's appointment on May 2. During his tenureship at UT, Milliken led an initiative to cover tuition for students with a family income below \$100,000 and oversaw almost \$5 billion in annual research expenditures.

"The University of California is universally regarded as the preeminent public research university in the world, and I am deeply honored to have an opportunity to join the many talented faculty, staff, and campus leaders in their vital work," Milliken said in the appointment announcement. "It is more important than ever that we expand the education, research, health care, and public service for which UC is so widely admired and which has benefited so many Californians."

Milliken is inheriting the UC system at a pivotal moment in which the system is facing pressure to comply with federal demands. On Aug. 8, the Trump administration announced it is seeking a \$1 billion settlement from UC Los Angeles over allegations of antisemitism. Other demands have reached beyond the UC, including a February memo from the Department of Education stating that educational institutions cannot use race in decisions across "all" aspects of student life.

The UC is also facing state budget cuts. At the start of the year, California Governor Gavin Newsom proposed an 8% budget cut for the 2025-26 academic year, which he reduced to 3% in May.

**UCLA partially regains lost federal research funding**

A federal judge ordered the Trump administration to partially restore research grants it had suspended at UC Los Angeles last month. The court ruled on Aug. 12 that the National Science Foundation (NSF) must restore 300 suspended grants.

The administration suspended about 800 grants in total, amounting to \$584 million. The National Institutes of Health had granted the other 500.

"While we have not had an opportunity to review the court's order and were not party to the suit, restoration of National Science Foundation funds is critical to research the University of California performs on behalf of California and the nation," the UC said in a statement to NBC.

On Aug. 1, the NSF sent a letter to UCLA claiming the University admitted students based on race and relying on admissions essays to determine the race of applicants. California banned public universities from using affirmative action in 1996 after passing Proposition 209.

"We are doing everything we can to meet this moment head on and restore UCLA's federal funding," UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk said in a statement on Aug. 15. "I am routinely meeting with UC President Milliken, members of the UC Board of Regents, and the chancellors of the UC campuses to take a clear-eyed, strategic look at our options and find the best path forward for our community."

**UC ordered to reconsider policy against hiring**

**undocumented students**

A panel of California judges ruled that the UC must reconsider its policy barring universities from hiring undocumented students on Aug. 5. The ruling states the policy "facially discriminates based on immigration status."

UCLA alums Jeffry Umaña Muñoz and lecturer Iliana Perez filed a lawsuit in October 2024 alleging that the UC violated the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. According to the act, employers cannot discriminate against various factors including immigration status.

The lawsuit came after the years-long Opportunity For All campaign that began in 2022. Founded by the UCLA School of Law, undocumented students and the University's labor center, the campaign aims to lift the hiring restriction. It utilizes a legal theory by the UCLA Center for Immigration Law and Policy that argues federal immigration policy does not prohibit state entities from hiring based on legal status. The federal government prohibits United States employers from hiring undocumented individuals under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.

In May 2023, the Board of Regents agreed to explore an implementation plan but rescinded the policy in early 2024. At the time, former UC President Drake said the proposal "[carried] significant risk for the institutions and for those [they] serve."

According to the Daily Bruin, the UC is currently reviewing the court's ruling.

"To the extent it's compliant with the law, the University continues to believe undocumented students deserve the same opportunities as our other students," Stett Holbrook, a spokesperson for the UC Office of the President, said in a statement to the Daily Bruin.



Jack Dindia  
*Deputy News Editor*

As the academic year approaches, these events are scheduled around the freshman move-in days, Sept. 18 to 21, to provide students ways to get involved with on-campus or community events.

**IHC hosts free screening of 'The Addams Family' with Trivia**

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a screening of the film "The Addams Family" with a game of trivia on Friday, Sept. 19, from 8-10:10 p.m. at Anisq'oyo' Park.

"Join us for a free screening of The Addams Family (1991) in the park! Accompanied by a game of Trivia with some awesome prizes!" the Shoreline description read.

**UCSB Library holds 'Art of Science' exhibit**

The UCSB Library is holding an "Art of Science" exhibit on Monday, Sept. 22, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 1st floor of the library.

"Each image in this exhibit is a testament to the imagination that drives discovery. By sharing these creations, we connect as a community in a celebration of curiosity and creativity. Join us in exploring the beauty of science—where creativity fuels both artistic expression and groundbreaking research!" the Shoreline description read.

The exhibit is a part of "The Art of Science" competition at UCSB, which highlights the "spirit of innovation, transforming research into striking visual expressions."

**S.E.A.L. hosts Campus Involvement Fair**

Student Engagement & Leadership (S.E.A.L.) is hosting the annual Campus Involvement Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Campus Green Lawn.

"Interested in learning about the organizations at UCSB? We invite you to attend our Campus Involvement Fair to learn more! Browse UCSB's 500+ campus organizations to expand your network, explore your interests, and build new relationships!" the Shoreline description read.

The event is open to all students and will have performances and DJs.

**UCSB Sustainability hosts 'Rethink Your Drink'**

UCSB Sustainability is hosting "Rethink Your Drink" on Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stoke Tower side of the Associated Students Annex Lawn.

"Come join us for a day full of fun and excitement, and learn about your water rights, ways to reduce plastic waste, and make healthier drink choices! Come play some games and meet new friends!" the Shoreline description read.

Food will be provided for attendees.

**PWA hosts 'Walk with PWA'**

The Professional Women's Association (PWA) is hosting "Walk with PWA" on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 10-11 a.m., starting at Storke Tower.

"Casual daytime walk to get a stretch, breathe in some fresh air, and meet new or current pals. We will meet at Storke Tower and go for a 30- to 45-minute walk around campus and/or IV," the Shoreline description read.

PWA reminds attendees that the benefits of walking include reduced stress, improved mood and enhanced sleep, among others.

**IHC hosts free screening of 'Sinners'**

IHC is hosting a free screening of the film "Sinners" on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 8-10:30 p.m. at the Isla Vista Theater.

"Join us before classes start for 'Sinners' Thursday September 25th. Free for students and \$5 for community members," the Shoreline description read.

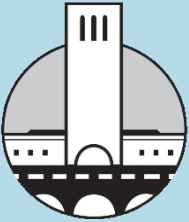
Snacks will be provided for attendees.

**AD&A hosts Mexican prints celebration**

The Art, Design & Architecture Museum (AD&A) is hosting the Mexican Prints: The Garcia-Correa Collection exhibit on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the AD&A museum.

"Please join us for a special reception of our bilingual exhibition, Mexican Prints: The Garcia-Correa Collection, which celebrates the gift of sixty-one Mexican prints from collectors Gil Garcia and Marti Correa de Garcia. As an unprecedented addition to the AD&A Museum's permanent collection, the Garcia-Correa Collection of Mexican Prints features works by artists who have been foundational to the Mexican printmaking movement," the Shoreline description read.

The event is free and open to the public, and will feature a special performance by Mariachi Las Olas de Santa Barbara, who will be presenting songs from the period.



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Printed at the Santa Maria Times printing facility.

"Shawty like a melody in my head."

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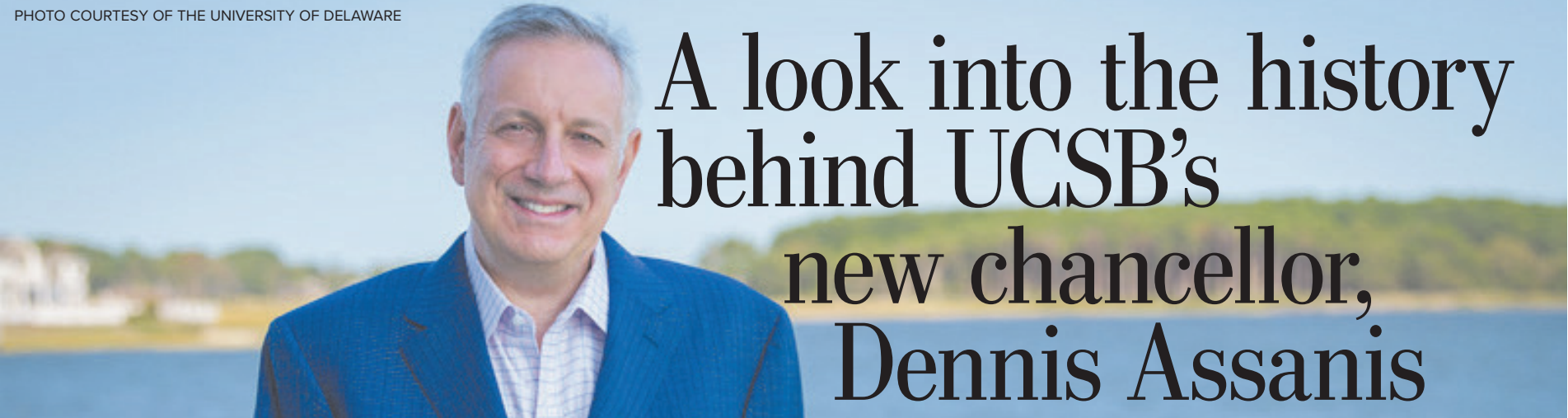
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In 2022, UD introduced the First State Promise program which covers most costs for families that make \$35,000 or less per year.

Michelle Cisneros  
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*Deputy News Editor*

The University announced Dennis Assanis as the sixth chancellor of UC Santa Barbara, who will assume the role on Sept. 1. Prior to this role, Assanis served as the president of the University of Delaware and had previously held administrative positions at Stony Brook University and the University of Michigan.

Assanis spent the first 18 years of his life living in Athens, Greece. His father, Nikolas Assanis, was a sea captain in the Merchant Marine, which sparked his interest in marine engineering. Since his father would spend the majority of his time on voyages, he would be gone from six months to a year and a half. He and his mother, Sandy Assanis, frequently visited his father, with one particular trip from Brazil to Romania standing out to him due to spending time on a 100,000 deadweight-ton vessel.

“Fascinated by the vast scale of these transportation/propulsion systems, I spent most my time in the engine compartment in the company of the ship’s engineers,” Assanis said in a 2018 interview. “That was where I developed my love for engineering.”

Following his father’s advice, Assanis received his bachelor’s degree in marine engineering from Newcastle University in England in 1980. From there on, he went on to receive three master’s degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), including naval architecture and marine engineering in 1982, mechanical engineering in 1982 and management in 1986. He then

went on to earn his doctorate in power and propulsion at MIT in 1985.

Soon after receiving his doctorate, Assanis went on to become an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign from 1985 to 1990, and then an associate professor from 1990 to 1994. Afterward, he became a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan, where he served as director of several engineering programs and became a professor of applied physics in 2003, until his eventual departure in 2011.

After serving as a professor at the University of Michigan, he went on to become provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Stony Brook University, where he oversaw the institution’s academic mission by supervising all academic units, supporting their services and coordinating all academic programs.

In November of 2015, Assanis became the president of the University of Delaware (UD) by a unanimous vote by its Board of Trustees. Assanis went into the role with a desire to promote college affordability and diversify the UD campus.

As UD president, Assanis introduced initiatives in order to expand access to success for all students, with his main focus being on making college more affordable. During his term, UD had grown to place ninth in the nation for highest four-year graduation rates, along with undergraduate financial aid at UD increasing more than 95% since 2016, going from \$94 million to \$185 million. His tenure also saw a rise in applications to UD, with the University achieving a record number

of applicants every year for the last six years.

In 2016, Assanis helped secure UD as the headquarters for the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL), which helped advance United States leadership in the pharmaceutical industry, focusing on bringing safe drugs to market faster and increasing the biopharmaceutical unemployment rate.

Assanis also helped to launch the Delaware First campaign a year into his presidency, a fundraising initiative that has now garnered more than \$1 billion toward scholarships and faculty research. The campaign created 482 scholarships and 189 program and research funds that expanded research opportunities at UD.

He had also helped to establish UD’s Graduate College, which formalized the University’s graduate school experience with the creation of new interdisciplinary programs, offering over 60 doctoral and 145 master’s degree programs.

Assanis had also helped establish the UD Honors College in 2020, which was built upon the pre-existing UD Honors Program. Considering that 88% of honors students graduated within four years and that the college receives 16,000 applicants for 800 placements, the Honors College was considered as a necessary addition to the University.

He also helped solidify the Forward and Forever plan, which represented a commitment to student success and transformation by investing in UD’s intellectual and physical capital, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on the University.

# Students react: I.V. property owners sue county for rental inspection program

Jack Dindia  
*Deputy News Editor*

The Isla Vista Rental Property Owners Association filed a lawsuit in June against Santa Barbara County, arguing that the Isla Vista Rental Inspection Pilot Program is a violation of tenants’ rights. Community members have had mixed reactions to the program, with some seeing its long-term benefits and others arguing it is an invasion of privacy.

Santa Barbara County (SBC) initiated the rental inspection program in order to improve the housing conditions of properties in Isla Vista from problems such as mold or unsafe balconies. UC Santa Barbara is funding the program through a settlement between the University and SBC, which stated that the University failed to construct enough housing for the growing student population.

Once inspections began in early August, the property owners association requested a preliminary injunction to enforce an emergency stop of the program, which a Santa Barbara County Superior Court judge denied.

According to the civil complaint, the property owners association is arguing that the program forces owners to violate tenants’ rights by allowing inspectors inside units, without the tenant being able to object.

“The Ordinance would require the landlord to violate a tenant’s Fourth Amendment Rights by requiring the owner to facilitate entry into a unit for the purpose of an inspection when a tenant is not at home to object to the inspection,” the civil complaint read.

SBC believes that the property owners association lawsuit is a “misinterpretation” of the program, stating that the inspections can’t continue unless they receive consent from the tenants, according to the county’s opposition.

“There is no language in the Ordinance that requires entry and inspection without the inspector obtaining the tenant’s consent,” the opposition read.

With 13,000 of the 20,000 residents of IV, being students, they will likely be the most affected by this program. The Nexus sent out a poll via Instagram on Aug. 15 to survey residents’ reactions

to the program. The majority of responses indicated that they believe the program will be effective, with almost all responses saying that their IV. apartments were not up to general safety and quality standards.

Isabelle Prittie, a second-year sociology and communication double major and IV. resident, believes that landlords are against the program because “they don’t want to meet liveable standards from their tenants.” She also claimed that an op-ed released by Santa Barbara Independent was written by two landlords in protest of the program.

“The op-ed in the Independent about how the program is an infringement on tenants’ rights was written by two landlords! They wouldn’t be [suing] if they didn’t have anything to hide!” Prittie responded.

UCSB alum and former IV. resident Aliya Glick responded that living in the University-owned San Joaquin Villages apartments made her “really disappointed” in how IV. rentals manage their properties.

“When I toured my property I saw mold in the corner of the shower walls. When I moved in a few months later, I could clearly tell they just painted over the mold! And there was so much trash all over my yard before moving in,” Glick said. “There needs to be better oversight of [these] property owner[s] taking advantage of students.”

Jessica, whose last name is omitted as to not affect her current job, is a former IV. resident who lived in an apartment for three years while attending UCSB. Throughout her time, she consistently dealt with black mold, frequent sewage and shower drain clogs, insect infestations, which she said their landlord dismissed, and ineffective heating during the winter.

“The heater wouldn’t really help us much. We would wake up and basically see our breath in the air,” she said.

While Jessica believes the program will open the county’s eyes to the living conditions of IV., she expressed fear that the county will deem certain properties unlivable, forcing tenants to lose their housing.

“That’s probably going to decrease the amount of housing available to students, and people who live in Isla Vista overall,” Jessica said. “[Landlords] know they’re

students. They know that these are students who can’t afford a place by themselves in Santa Barbara. These are people just trying to get an education, so [landlords] know that eventually there’s going to be someone who’s going to take a free spot, no matter how cold or how moldy it is.”

Alex Esparza, a third-year economics major, discussed in an interview with the Nexus that he sees both the pros and cons of the program. Esparza lives in a two-bedroom apartment with three other housemates on the 67 block of IV., and believes his apartment is an “outlier” considering how well-maintained the apartment is. He pays \$800 a month in rent, but said finding affordable housing wasn’t easy.

“I didn’t qualify for student housing anymore, and all the affordable housing

was taken,” Esparza said. “It was just so stressful ... and a lot of the houses that were up for sale were super expensive, like in the thousands of dollars.”

While Esparza has expressed concerns over the potential intrusion of tenants’ privacy, he believes the inspection program will have a net positive impact.

“I wouldn’t feel like I’m being invaded on because it’s really just about [whether] there’s a giant hole in your wall that they haven’t fixed, [and] they need to fix it,” Esparza said.

Esparza believes that if there’s a safety concern within the unit that wasn’t caused by the tenant, it should be the landlord’s responsibility to fix that issue.

“If I’m paying \$1,300 for a bed in a triple, I would expect for [landlords] to come and maintain where I’m living. If

capital planning, or the construction of several new buildings, amidst the University’s ongoing budget deficit and lack of financial transparency.

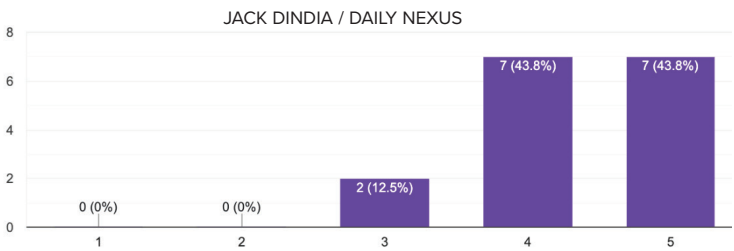
“As far as capital planning, we actively assess needs and opportunities with a focus on the UD student and campus experience. Long-term capital planning has enabled us to keep an eye on the horizon of sources of funding — whether through philanthropy, grants, federal and state allocations, auxiliary revenue, allocated reserves or debt funding — as well as a disciplined process,” Assanis told Spotlight Delaware earlier this year.

In May, Assanis announced he was stepping down as president of UD at the end of the academic year, cutting his contract one year short. The UC Board of Regents approved his appointment as the next chancellor of UCSB in July, ending a nearly year-long search. Alongside the appointment, the Board of Regents approved a salary of \$880,000 for Assanis — a \$620,000 pay cut from his previous salary of \$1.5 million at UD.

Assanis will formally assume the role on Sept. 1, and he said he was “truly honored and thrilled” to serve as the next chancellor in his appointment’s announcement.

“I am particularly excited about UC Santa Barbara’s exceptional academic reputation, amazing students and boundless potential to be recognized among the top public universities, building on the celebrated achievements of its distinguished faculty and dedicated staff. Fostering a culture of innovation, academic excellence and student success has been my core focus as a public university leader,” Assanis said.

How effective do you think the Isla Vista Rental Inspection Program will be?



The majority of responses indicate that students believe the program will be effective, with 5 meaning very effective.

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# TERM IN REVIEW: *Chancellor Yang*

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

Jack Dindia  
Deputy News Editor

Chancellor Henry T. Yang increased UC Santa Barbara’s research capabilities and selectivity throughout his term. Over 31 years, Yang handled various calls to action from students regarding social justice issues and living conditions with varying degrees of success.

COURTESY OF UC SANTA BARBARA

Henry T. Yang is the longest-serving UC Chancellor to date.

## Background

Yang has had an extensive academic career, receiving a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the National Taiwan University, a master’s in structural engineering from

his term, Yang recruited several researchers to join the University. These professors included Finn Kydland, David Gross and Shuji Nakamura, among others. Five UCSB professors won the Nobel Prize from 1998 to 2004 in physics, chemistry and

low, as one of the key indicators of freshman quality is the number of students applying,” Yang said in the same CAS article.

Michael Miller, interim vice chancellor for student affairs and associate vice chancellor for student enrollment and success said in a statement to the Nexus that Yang’s core values of “striving for excellence” and “[improving] the diversity of our student body” impacted his work on the daily.

By 2007, roughly 41,000 freshmen applied. Through Yang’s initiatives and statewide growth, the number of applicants has risen significantly since then. Approximately 110,000 freshmen applied for fall 2024. The University has, in turn, become much more selective. While some see this as a rise in prestige, it can be argued that the aim of a state school should not be selectivity, but instead accessibility. This is a question that is raised across the entire UC system and is not exclusive to UCSB.

“The Chancellor approached me early in his career to say he wanted UCSB to be a leader in bringing more diversity to the campus. He pledged his commitment to support the Office of Admissions in this effort and encouraged us to think of creative approaches to reaching more families,” former Director of Admissions Lisa Przekop, said in a statement to the Nexus. “He and Dilling often came to our recruitment events. There were literally times I just called and said, ‘We have a visiting group on campus today and if you happen to be free, we’d love you to come say hello for five minutes.’ And he came so many times, even on weekends and evenings.”

## Yang’s relationship with Charles Munger

In 2010, the UC Regents voted to approve the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), a contract that requires UCSB to build 1,800 more units of housing for faculty and staff. The contract also required the University to cap student enrollment at 25,000 until 2025. In order to stay in compliance with the contract, the University is building the Ocean Road Project for faculty and the East Campus Housing project for students.

In an interview with the Santa Barbara Independent, Yang talked about how he considers UCSB a “community-based institution” and the importance of contributing to the quality of life of the University.

“We contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by the residents of this region in many ways,” Yang said. “[The LRDP] is part of a collaborative project based on the shared vision of UCSB, the City of Goleta, Santa Barbara County, the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, and other local conservation organizations to preserve more than 650 acres of coastal land and natural habitat for the enjoyment and appreciation of our community.”

However, the East Campus Housing project was not the original plan for student housing

in the LRDP. The original plan was a complex known as Mesa Verde, which was abandoned in 2019. This led to the planning of Munger Hall; a controversial nine-story dormitory which planned to house 3,500 students. Notably, most bedrooms lacked windows.

The project was designed and primarily funded by Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Charles Munger, who was expected to contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to fund the project. His first initial funding to UCSB was \$65.4 million to build the Munger Physics Residence, which opened in 2017.

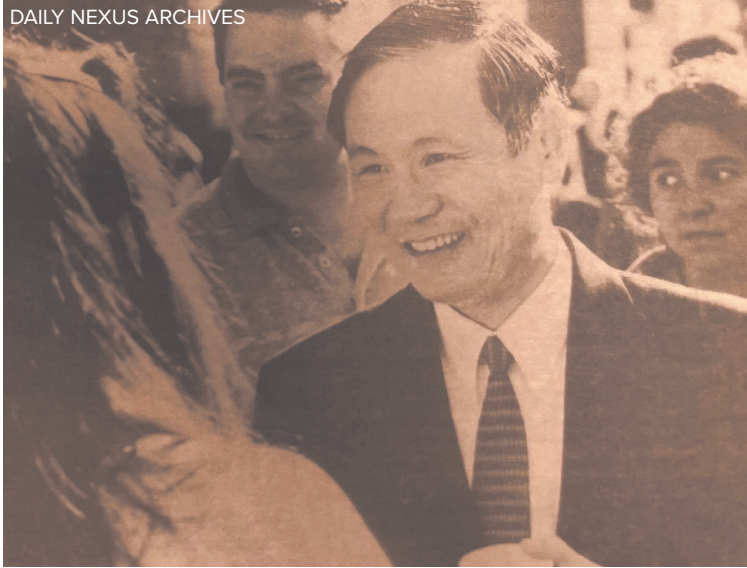
Yang was particularly appreciative of this donation, as it was the largest to ever be gifted to the University up until 2014, seemingly creating a working relationship between the two.

“Our campus is honored by the tremendous philanthropy of Charles Munger,” Yang said in an interview with the Current.

Telescope (TMT) project, which seeks to build a scientific telescope on Hawai’i’s Big Island. This project has been long protested by students and activists, as it would be located on Mauna Kea, land sacred to Indigenous Hawaiians.

In an annual report on UC contributions to TMT obtained by the Nexus in 2022, the UC was required to contribute \$107,223,485 from 2014 to 2024. These controversial contributions to the project led to petitions and open letters expressing opposition to Yang and UC as a whole, demanding open apologies and a permanent discontinuation of the project.

Through a California Public Records Act with the UC Office of the President filed by the Nexus on July 31, 2021, there was frequent communication with Yang and other TMT board members, many of whom are admin at different UC campuses. These emails highlighted a struggle for TMT to receive



Yang during his first visit to UCSB in April 1994.

West Virginia University and a doctorate in civil engineering from Cornell University. He taught at Purdue University for 25 years and became the dean of engineering and the Neil A. Armstrong Distinguished Professor of Aeronautics during his tenure.

In 1993, then-Chancellor Barbara Uehling resigned after seven years at the University. After a seven-month search, the UC Board of Regents approved Yang’s appointment as UCSB’s next chancellor in March 1994. Yang, alongside his wife, Dilling Yang, moved to the University House later that year.

“UCSB is an excellent university with a rich tradition of teaching, research and service,” Yang said in a university newsletter at the time. “It offers a new opportunity and a new challenge for me to make a contribution.”

Along with his announcement as chancellor, Yang stated he would continue teaching at UCSB. Throughout his term, he taught courses in the mechanical engineering department and guided several doctorates.

“Teaching is a cornerstone of research,” Yang said in a 1994 Daily Nexus article. “The role of a research institution [is] to build human resources through teaching and research.”

## Research & early goals

Within the first 12 years of



Yang and his wife, Dilling, during their once-annual tradition of walking the streets of I.V. on Halloween weekend in 2013.



Members of El Congreso and Yang met to discuss the organization’s demands in 2022.

“His gift has crowned the record number of donations made to our campus during the fiscal year.”

Yang continued to praise Munger for his donations to the campus and continued supporting his projects.

“We are most grateful to Charlie Munger for blessing our campus with a gift that will benefit our University for generations to come. This is much more than just a gift of land, but rather a living legacy, a vision for the long-range future of our campus,” Yang said in a 2018 statement.

Once Mesa Verde had been cancelled, Yang had begun plotting the 28-acre stretch of land currently housing the 2,700 beds at the Channel Islands 5 residence halls and the De La Guerra Dining Commons in order to build a new project titled “Donor Funded Student Housing.” This project was primarily being designed by Munger with the help of Yang, and was officially announced in July 2021.

The project led to mass criticism on a nation-wide level, leading Yang to create a review panel charged by the academic Senate to take public input for recommendations. This had led to various changes of the project, with the University eventually scrapping the project entirely in 2023.

## Thirty Meter Telescope project

In 2007, Yang became the chairman of the Thirty Meter

sufficient funding, specifically from the National Science Foundation (NSF), which has still not funded the project as of August 2025.

Not only have the emails obtained by the Nexus demonstrated clear financial and personal investment into TMT from Yang, it was also clear Yang had an understanding of the cultural weight the project held. In an email with a UCSB Foundation trustee, Yang wrote about Queen Lili’uokalani, the last sovereign monarch of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and how “her experiences resonates with the betrayal felt by Native Hawaiians today,” but that they “must work through that for TMT to succeed.”

## Becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution

In 2015, UCSB was federally recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). The designation is given to nonprofit universities with at least a 25% Latine undergraduate population. UCSB was the first university in the Association of American Universities to achieve this status and the third UC overall. As an HSI, UCSB faculty can apply for federal research grants and other initiatives that may benefit Latine students.

Activist student group El Congreso held a meeting with Yang in 2022 to discuss several demands, including transparency surrounding HSI funding and an HSI executive



TERM IN REVIEW

Continued from p.4

director. After the meeting, El Congreso received a list of faculty programs that have received funding through the University's HSI designation, according to Chicana and Chicano studies professor and former department chair Gerardo Aldana. The University announced Veronica Lavenant Fematt as the first HSI director in 2024.

Hit-and-run

In May 2022, Yang was investigated by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for allegedly hitting a student skateboarding through a campus crosswalk. CHP did not proceed with legal charges since they could not substantiate the cause of the collision nor the hit-and-run allegations.

The student, who suffered minor injuries, identified Yang as the driver. The investigation was originally handled by the UCSB Police Department, but then given to CHP due to a conflict of interest.

Yang's name was redacted from the documents released for public record, but two law enforcement officials told the Los Angeles Times that he was the focus of the investigation and that his name was stricken from public record.

The student allegedly was struck by the front of the car and rolled over the hood, injuring his right hip and foot. He then got a clear look at the driver, with a woman in the passenger seat who he identified as Dilling Yang, until the car fled the scene.

UCSB had denied the allegations, citing the CHP report which said no physical damage was found on the chancellor's car which would indicate a collision occurred. In Yang's statement to the Los Angeles Times, he said he wanted to "respect the skateboarder's report of what the skateboarder believed occurred," leaving Yang's involvement in the hit-and-run still a mystery to this day.

COVID-19 relief checks

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the UCSB student organization Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) protested for the University to distribute \$900 in COVID-19 relief checks to all students.

In 2020, UCSB received \$25.2 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (C.A.R.E.S.) Act, 50% of which went to aid students. In 2021, the University received \$38 million from Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), of which over \$12 million went directly to students.

YDSA believed that UCSB should have been distributing more of the COVID-19 relief funding to the student body. YDSA initially had petitioned for all students to receive \$400 from the C.A.R.E.S. Act, which passed in March 2020. Since the additional funding, YDSA advocated for an additional \$500 stimulus checks from the CRRSAA.

Yang never responded to YDSA, and no action was taken to provide students with the additional \$500 in funding.

Palestine encampments

In May 2024, the autonomous pro-Palestine student group known as the Liberated Zone had set up encampments on the lawn between North Hall, also known as Malcolm X Hall, and the library in protest of the ongoing occupation of Palestine by Israel. Just a day after the encampment was mounted, Yang emailed the campus community in response.

The email read that, while the University was monitoring the situation carefully, the administration wanted to work with student groups who wished to protest, as long as they weren't interfering with UCSB's core educational research mission.

"We must ensure campus safety, and respect the right of everyone on campus to feel safe. Those violating laws and codes of conduct in unsanctioned, illegal, and disruptive activities, whether non-affiliates or members of our campus community, are subject to legal and disciplinary action," the email read.

Yang also expressed worry that the encampments would've affected the upcoming

commencement ceremony, arguing that many students who were graduating were already deprived of a high school graduation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We owe it to them to allow them to complete their studies in an environment that supports teaching and learning," the email read.

Faculty reaction

Reflecting on Yang's time as chancellor, several faculty members highlighted his communication and said he frequently consulted others.

"He consults, then he consults, and then he consults some more. He's very cautious in coming to a decision. He makes sure he talks to everyone, and usually twice. Not everyone appreciated his process, but he lasted 31 years because he consulted a lot, and he was deliberate in making decisions. That was a strength," former Executive Vice Chancellor and Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering Gene Lucas said in a statement to the Nexus.

"Faculty could call him, or send a text, and he would always respond, sometimes within the hour. He knows so many of us — not only our academic interests but when we arrived at UC Santa Barbara, what we care most about and what challenges we've faced," Susannah Scott, distinguished professor of chemistry and chemical engineering and former chair of the Academic Senate said in a statement.

Physics professor and former Vice Chancellor for Research, Joe Incandela, said in a statement that Yang's greatest strength is, "to know people and understand what matters to them."

Transition to a new chancellor

In August 2024, Yang announced he would be stepping down from his role as chancellor at the end of the 2024-25 academic year. In his statement, he expressed appreciation for the UCSB community and was enthusiastic to continue working as a professor in the College of Engineering.

"I look forward to returning to the classroom and lab after this academic year, and continuing to support our unparalleled community of students, faculty, and staff to the best of my abilities," Yang said.

During his last year as chancellor, Yang was awarded the UC Presidential Medal in recognition of his "tremendous impact on the growth and stature of the campus he has led for three decades."

El Congreso had sent a letter to Yang in 2022 with a list of demands, including the dissolution of Munger Hall and an expansion of El Centro, which have since been met.

However, after the announcement of Yang's retirement, El Congreso drafted a new letter in May calling for him to meet demands that have not yet been met related to the HSI director, housing contracts and the Comunidad Latinx Graduación (CLG). Yang has not addressed the demands of El Congreso since the updated letter was released.

Yang officially stepped down on July 15, with Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall becoming the interim chancellor in the meantime. On July 17, it was announced that the former president of the University of Delaware, Dennis Assanis, was appointed the sixth chancellor of UCSB, assuming the role on Sept. 1.

In a statement emailed to the Nexus, Yang reflected on his 31 years as chancellor.

"Serving as the Chancellor of UC Santa Barbara has been the highest honor of my career. I am deeply grateful to our faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, and friends for their unwavering support and shared commitment," the statement read. "Together, we have built a world-class institution. Dilling and I are excited for this next chapter of continued service to our beloved university, through research, teaching, and other projects. UC Santa Barbara will always have my heart, and I remain committed to supporting our unparalleled community in every way I can."

# University closes physical therapy department



UPTE-CWA started a petition in favor of keeping the physical department on campus.

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

UC Santa Barbara will close its physical therapy department at the end of summer, laying off two physical therapists and referring students to off-campus providers. The University has not released a public statement on the decision to date.

The union representing the University of California's physical therapists, University Professional and Technical Employees, Communications Workers of America (UPTE-CWA) Local 9119, was notified of the closing on June 30. According to Lead Communications Specialist Zac Goldstein, physical therapists were not involved in the decision and it was announced "suddenly" at an all-staff meeting.

The department provides students with services including sports rehabilitation, spine care, joint and postural restoration and other recovery procedures. According to the department's website, it stopped accepting new patients on Aug. 1.

Elizabeth Alexander, one of the physical therapists who will be laid off, has worked at the department for nearly a decade. Alexander highlighted the impact that the department's closing may have on students who utilize its services.

"To lay off my colleague and me — professionals who have served this clinic and its students for years — while closing the facility forces students off campus, where higher fees, long waits, and transportation hurdles make it far harder to keep up with the multiple weekly sessions many injuries require," Alexander said in a statement to the Nexus. "Even with buses or Uber, the cost, travel time, and energy required to attend multiple weekly visits can become overwhelming, especially for those in pain."

UPTE-CWA started a petition in favor of keeping the physical department on campus. It is unclear what led the University to the decision to close the department.

"In reviewing its services over the past year, Student Health determined that there are a number

of providers in the immediate area who can provide our students with these services," UCSB media spokesperson Kiki Reyes said. "Student Health is reaching out to the small number of students who were utilizing the physical therapy services to help with the transition and to ensure continuity of care. Affordable health care and our students' wellbeing is our highest priority."

In March, former University of California President Michael V. Drake announced a hiring freeze in light of federal and state budget cuts.

"Across UC, we're seeing similar layoffs and a self-imposed 'hiring freeze' even though the UC system holds billions in reserves, and those cuts directly undermine patient care: when timely therapy disappears, minor injuries snowball into chronic pain, lost sleep, and academic setbacks, and many students simply delay or abandon treatment altogether," Alexander said. "This isn't an administrative tweak; it's a choice that erodes student health, equity, and success."

“To lay off my colleague and me — professionals who have served this clinic and its students for years — while closing the facility forces students off campus, where higher fees, long waits, and transportation hurdles make it far harder to keep up with the multiple weekly sessions many injuries require.”

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

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# NEXUS EXPLAINED:

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At UC Santa Barbara, student activism has long held a prominent place in campus life and the surrounding Isla Vista community. For decades, students have mobilized to raise awareness and demand action on political, social and environmental issues at the local, state and international level.

## NORTH HALL TAKEOVER

On Oct. 14, 1968 at around 6:30 a.m., 12 Black students took over North Hall and locked themselves in the building for the next 10 hours until the administration listened to their demands for structural change and inclusivity.

This day of protest demanded material change for UCSB’s Black student population and forever changed the school’s curriculum.

That morning, the group gave their list of eight demands to then-Chancellor Vernon Cheadle, which included the development of a college of Black studies and the prohibition of any race-based student harassment.

In the hours they occupied the building, the students drew a crowd of around 1,000 students and staff. One student in particular, Booker Banks, played a key role in engaging with and educating the audience about their demands through the second-floor window with a microphone.

The group of 12 strategically decided to take over North Hall because it held the mainframe computer that the University could not run without.

The students hung a banner that read “Malcolm X Hall,” temporarily renaming the building in commemoration of the work of Malcolm X, a founding leader of the Black Power movement of the 1960s.

In the late afternoon, the chancellor’s office notified students that they had agreed to all but one of their demands, the firing of Athletic Director Jack Curtice and head of the physical activities department Arthur Gallon for their alleged racist behavior.

While not officially renamed, after that day, North Hall would be forever remembered as Malcolm X Hall, and a year later, the University established a Black studies department. This paved the way for the establishment of the Chicana and Chicano studies department, the Asian American studies department and the feminist studies department.

In 2012, the Black Student Union sent a list of demands to Chancellor Henry T. Yang, one of which was to create a North Hall display to commemorate the events and legacy of the takeover. The display now lines the outside of the building with pictures of that day, showcasing the student activists whose work made the takeover possible.



While they occupied the building, the students drew a crowd of around 1,000 people.



In 2012, the Black Student Union created a North Hall display with pictures to commemorate the legacy of the takeover.

## BANK OF AMERICA BURNING

On the afternoon of Feb. 25, 1970, William Kunstler, an attorney and civil rights activist known for defending the high-profile case of the Chicago Seven, spoke at Harder Stadium. Kunstler addressed instances of violence between students and law enforcement in IV as well as other contentious local issues.

“I have never thought that breaking of windows and sporadic, picayune violence is a good tactic,” Kunstler said in his speech. “But, on the other hand, I cannot bring myself to become bitter and condemn young people who engage in it.”

After Kunstler’s talk concluded, attendees walked together to attend a rally at Perfect Park in IV, which was then patrolled regularly by police officers. Officers stopped and tried to arrest Rich Underwood, a former UCSB student, after mistaking an open bottle of wine in his hand for a Molotov cocktail.

When Underwood resisted arrest, officers beat him. Additional officers in riot gear arrived on scene, and a group of around 500-700 students clamored on the street, with some throwing rocks and bottles at the police vehicles.

The agitation of students spread as they moved through IV, breaking the windows of real estate agencies and setting several police cars on fire. Then, individuals on the streets set the IV Bank of America building — located at present-day Embarcadero Hall — on fire.

Tim Owens, a third-year student at UCSB during this time, worked as a programmer for campus radio station KCSB-FM. Owens witnessed the burning of the bank from across the street and later created a radio documentary about the events, called “Inside IV: There Where the Bank Burned.”

Owens said the incident began when a group of people began to push a dumpster through the bank doors, causing the curtains on the interior of the bank to ignite. The flames spread, and soon the entire building was on fire.

“I don’t know if the fire trucks came and went, but they didn’t stay if they came,” Owens said in an interview with the Nexus. “We just stood around and watched the bank burning and thought ‘Oh, oh, this is not good.’”

Owens left and returned to the scene the next morning — the entire building had “burned to the ground,” leaving only an “emaciated vault.”

According to Owens, the bank was specifically targeted due to its location and students seeing it as a “symbol of the establishment.”

During this time period, many students at college campuses across the country opposed the United States’ involvement in the Vietnam War, holding protests and rallies. According to Owens, student activists at UCSB were part of this new wave of younger people who questioned and opposed “the establishment” and believed in promoting peace.

Student and editor of El Gaucho, a campus publication which was active during the time period, Becca Wilson said of the bank: “It was the biggest capitalist thing around. It was a symbol of the corporations that benefited from war and were oppressing people all over the world.”

In the aftermath of the events, then-California Governor Ronald Reagan declared a state of emergency and called in the National Guard. Police arrested around 300 people for their involvement in the incident. Ultimately, a jury convicted four individuals, with two charges of arson and four misdemeanors adjudicated.



Policemen stationed in Isla Vista.

## 1944 HUNGER STRIKE

Student activists’ efforts led to the establishment of UCSB’s Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies in the fall of 1970, making it the first department of its kind in the UC system. At this time, it employed six faculty members, each of whom was a “half-timer” — employed 50% in the Chicana/o studies department, and 50% in another academic department — making it a department of only three full-time faculty members.

By 1994, UCSB’s Chicana/o studies department still consisted of three full-time faculty members, leading a group of nine student activists to take action. They planned a hunger strike, which organizers held from April 27 to May 5, 1994.

Professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval, who joined the Chicana/o studies department in 1998 and has published a book on Latine student hunger strikes in California, described the students’ mindsets in an interview with the Nexus.

“Some people viewed [the department] as a tokenized thing,” Armbruster-Sandoval said. “University administration gave it to the community to kind of shut us up. ‘We gave you guys a department, what more do you guys want?’ That kind of thing, and they were like ‘Well, we want a real department.’”

The student activists wanted the department to be more engaged in issues affecting Santa Barbara’s Latine community, including mistreatment and deportation.

“If you’re a Chicano studies professor and your position came through organizing and resistance, then you should keep doing that,” Armbruster-Sandoval said of the activists’ beliefs on the matter.

The student activists started as a group of nine, and a few days before they made their strike “official,” they held a meeting at El Centro, where student-led cultural and advocacy organization El Congreso meets. At the meeting, the activists announced their plan to hundreds of people.

“It became like a big community event of a couple of hundred people,” Armbruster-Sandoval said. “It went from a small group of people — about 10 — to much bigger, like a machine almost.”

The students who joined the original activists did not all participate in the hunger strike, but assisted them in different ways, including hosting nightly rallies outside of Cheadle Hall and Campbell Hall. Some also acted as their security, preventing individuals who opposed the activists from harassing them.

The activists had a large number of demands for the university administration, which they selected after congregating and deciding which issues to prioritize. The activists’ demands included expanding the Chicana/o studies department from three faculty members to 15, as well as a doctoral program, a community center, the preservation of the Educational Opportunity Program and greater diversity on campus.

Progress was made after some of the activists’ parents visited UCSB and demanded that university administration listen to their demands. Then, the activists selected three negotiators who were not participating in the hunger strike to represent them.

The activists’ efforts paid off on May 5, with university administrators agreeing to increase the number of faculty in the Chicana/o studies department by 1997, proposing a doctoral program, funding a community center in IV and increasing recruitment of Latine students.

Armbruster-Sandoval describes the activists’ actions and impact as beyond tangible — their efforts pushed for the Latine community at UCSB to be treated as “dignified human beings.”

“How do you achieve dignity really in a system that’s always treated, especially Mexicans and Latinos, in an undignified way?” Armbruster-Sandoval said. “They tried to make it concrete by issuing demands and in granting those demands, they could kind of hold their heads up a little bit higher, and say, ‘I belong here.’”

## LGBTQIA+ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

In 1970, students at UCSB established the Gay Student Union. Over the years, the name had several iterations, including the Gay People’s Union and the Gay Lesbian Student Union. Six years after the union’s formation, students formed the UCSB Coalition Against Homophobia.

Student groups often tackled national issues, including blood banks discriminating against gay men and the legalization of same-sex marriage. In 1998, the Queer Student Union (QSU), Associated Students (A.S.) Statewide Affairs Organizing Director Sergio Morales and Student Advocate Rodney Clara organized a protest of blood drives at UCSB. The group argued that the Food and Drug Administration policy that barred men who had sex with other men from donating blood violated the UC’s anti-discrimination policy.

“The reason we’re here is that this is a systematic discrimination against a large constituency on campus. It’s assuming that all queer men are HIV positive,” Morales told the Nexus at the time.

## QUEER WEDDINGS

From the 1990s until the mid-2010s, when the U.S. legalized same sex marriage, student groups hosted queer weddings during UCSB’s Pride Week. Then-Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Michael Young unified couples in a group marriage ceremony at Storke Plaza.

“Marriage is not the end-all, be-all,” QSU Co-chair Tanya Paperny said during the ceremony in 2006. “[This wedding] represents the culmination of years of struggle to have queer relationships recognized.”



Students participating in the hunger strike met with other students outside of Campbell Hall.



# EVOLUTION OF UCSB PROTEST CULTURE



Community members gathered at Sands Beach.

## UCSB STOP SABLE

UCSB's long history of environmental activism stretches all the way back to Jan. 28, 1969, when the Santa Barbara area experienced one of the largest oil spills in the United States at the time. Equipment in an oil rig owned by Union Oil had become faulty, causing 1,000 gallons of oil to spill per hour. This spill was devastating to the Santa Barbara area, causing the normally bright blue ocean to become completely black, with many of the sea's inhabitants having to suffer the consequences.

Just a few weeks after the spill, 21 UCSB faculty members formed a group called "The Friends of the Human Habitat" to create a more professional form of environmental education at UCSB. By the fall of 1970, the university had established its environmental studies (ES) program, becoming one of the first colleges to offer such a program.

Since then, UCSB has become known for its robust ES program, where students and faculty both work toward environmental education.

One of the most prominent environmental activist groups in recent years is UCSB Stop Sable, a campaign led by the A.S. Environmental Affairs Board (EAB), California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) and the Environmental Law Club at UCSB. Students formed this relatively new coalition in October of last year to unite similar organizations across UCSB as a response to Sable Offshore's efforts to reopen the Refugio Pipeline after another massive oil spill in 2015.

According to fourth-year environmental studies and communication double major Jenna McGovern, who is also an EAB co-chair and Stop Sable co-founder, the coalition aimed to be a more organized opposition by allowing students to come together to amplify the impact of their activism.

"We just try to create a space where all these groups can come together and share the different goals that everybody has going on ... just all of these environmental groups, and there isn't really a great way for all of us to connect," McGovern said.

McGovern explained that the coalition emerged to unify environmental activists, making their sentiments more accessible.

"So in the fall was when there was a big hearing going on at the [City of] Santa Barbara Planning Commission for Sable ... and just all of the attempts to try and get this system restarted has been happening since, like, I think 2023 or 2022 is when they kind of started moving it over," McGovern said.

Since the coalition's formation, they have rallied hundreds of students to attend hearings in opposition to the pipeline. In February of this year, hundreds of students attended a hearing that deadlocked the transfer of county permits for the Las Flores Pipeline System from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore.

"At that [hearing] in particular, that was like our magnum opus. There were so many people there, like hundreds and hundreds of students; it was so cool," McGovern said. So we just had this mass force of students and community members that were trying to get involved and just be there and show support."

McGovern also spoke about the impact Stop Sable has had beyond UCSB, attributing their Instagram account @ucsbstopstable to such a widespread reach.

"I think we have over 650 followers now, which has been really great. And you know, we can see the metrics of it, and it has reached like, over 15,000 people, which was just so mind-boggling," McGovern said. "We get [direct messages] from people in the community, just like general Santa Barbara and who are interested in this. We've also had contact with people in [San Luis Obispo] and all these other UCs and stuff like that have been like, 'I see the work that you're doing,' and that's been so cool."

## PRO-PALESTINE ENCAMPMENTS

On May 1, 2024, the UCSB Liberated Zone, an autonomous pro-Palestine collective, set up encampments on the lawn between the library and North Hall, also known as Malcolm X Hall, in a show of "solidarity with Palestine, Sudan, Haiti, Congo, Tigray and all oppressed peoples."

Israel established itself as a sovereign state in May 1948. It is estimated that 750,000 to 1 million Palestinians were displaced from their homes from 1947 to 1949, also known as al-Nakba, or the Catastrophe. Decades of conflict ensued between Israel and Palestine under the occupation.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel, with estimated casualties of 1,200. Since then, Israel has killed an estimated 62,614 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank as of Aug. 25, 2025, from bombing, gunfire and starvation from an aid blockade.

In a letter addressed to Yang and UCSB administrators on May 3, 2024, the Liberated Zone stated that "UCSB's involvement in Palestinian genocide, through academic, economic, and carceral collaboration, has become unbearable." They went on to list out their seven demands for the University.

The Liberated Zone's first demand was the disclosure of any investments and partnerships with the three largest U.S. weapons manufacturers, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin, who have all given funding to UCSB. The Israel Defence Forces uses weapons and technology of these manufacturers.

The second demand was divestment from all weapons manufacturers, as well as BlackRock and Vanguard, the top shareholders for those manufacturers. They called for divestment from unethical materials such as cobalt used in the UCSB materials department's laboratories, which is often mined using exploitative child labor, primarily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lastly, they demanded divestment from "colonial infrastructure" such as the Thirty Meter Telescope and research on Mauna Kea, which is sacred land in Hawaiian culture.

The group also called on UCSB to demilitarize research by breaking relationships with weapons manufacturers and abolishing UCSB's police department. They demanded for an academic boycott of Israel, increased protection for pro-Palestine and anti-war speech and a public acknowledgement of "the atrocities committed against the people of Gaza" and for UCSB to call for a permanent ceasefire and end to occupation in Gaza. Finally, the Liberated Zone demanded that UCSB reinvest these resources into the campus through the implementation of a Palestine studies program, immediate financial subsidies for Palestinian students and the development of student housing.

The encampment would go on for 54 days, becoming the longest remaining UC encampment. As the weeks progressed, the group set up dozens of tents on the lawn while hosting several events such as food giveaways, de-escalation and EMT training, vigils and poetry readings.

On June 23, 2024, over 75 police officers disbanded the encampment, arresting five students, with the University meeting none of their demands.

Later last year, on Sept. 24, 2024, the UC Police Department (UCPD) issued a search warrant for the Instagram account of the UCSB Liberated Zone, with a court date set on Nov. 22, 2024.

On Dec. 20, 2024, Judge Pauline Maxwell denied the search warrant request, saying it was too broad.

These different acts of protest have helped shape campus culture, academic programs and the surrounding community. Through decades and generations, UCSB students have organized around issues they believe in and demanded that their educational experience be inclusive to the diverse student population.

## 2020 ACTIVISM

Right before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, graduate students protested and later struck in solidarity with the UC Santa Cruz grad workers as part of the Cost of Living Adjustment movement.

In March 2020, the University made all spring quarter instruction remote. According to Nexus coverage at the time, the extended break from usual activities gave students time to reflect, build community relations and advocate for changes they hoped to see across the UC. Student-led organizations such as the Cops Off Campus Coalition and the Asian Coalition held remote and in-person meetings to discuss issues that students of color were facing.

"I think that this past year brought to the forefront and brought to the attention of a lot of folks the reality that many of us have been living for quite a while," UC Student Regent and UCSB graduate student Jamaal Muwakkil told the Nexus at the time.

Students, faculty and community members marched to Sands Beach in 2020 in light of police brutality against Black communities. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and others sparked a national movement that made its way to UCSB in late May.

Then-student Michael Sanders organized the march of close to 1,000 people. He recently told the Nexus he was motivated to take action because "it just seemed like nothing was being done in Isla Vista."

"It just seemed like nobody was doing anything. So I just took it upon myself," Sanders said. "I never thought it was gonna be as big as it was. I just wanted a small group of students to get together and air their grievances and [have] a safe, open space, and then it turned into something bigger."

Sanders said that while he believes mobilizations are important, the experience inspired him to delve into direct action. After graduating in 2020, Sanders helped found Feed The Block, a mutual aid collective. Sanders encouraged students to remember "there's a world outside of the University and organizing is bigger than being a student."

"I just hope that fellow students don't feel discouraged by the current administration that's in power, or the current political climate around being an organizer," Sanders said. "This administration is temporary, but organizing and your values are forever."

In terms of activism related to the pandemic, UCSB's chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) advocated for \$900 relief checks for students. In May 2021, YDSA members marched to Yang's house, demanding that the university redistribute federal money directly to students. The campaign was ultimately unsuccessful. However, YDSA leadership said they remained hopeful for the upcoming in-person academic year.

"I'm sick and tired of the University telling us 'no' while they line their pockets, letting their buildings remain vacant while people sleep outside in the street, charging full rent during a pandemic and charging full tuition," YDSA volunteer Gina Sawaya said during the march.

## MUNGER HALL

Frequently referred to as "Dormzilla," Munger Hall was a proposed dormitory that was in development for over a decade. Charles Munger designed the building and was going to contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to help fund the project. When the University initially announced the project in 2021, the project was consolidated to a single 11-story structure, with nine floors housing 4,536 individual student bedrooms, most of which had no windows.

In a project hearing, planners announced that the residence hall arrangement would contain eight students who each had individual bedrooms and would share a suite that branched into an eight-suite hall, where they would all share a large kitchen area and lounge room. A residential advisor would've been responsible for 62 students per area, over twice the number of students compared to other UCSB residence halls. The pattern repeated eight times per floor, with each floor holding 504 students.

This ambitious residence hall quickly garnered backlash. Community members made two petitions in an attempt to halt the project and totaling over 18,000 signatures cumulatively. Architectural consultant Dennis McFadden, who had worked as an architect for UCSB for nearly 15 years, resigned in protest of the project on Oct. 24, 2021, which caused the story to gain national coverage from outlets such as CNN and the New York Times.

A week after McFadden's resignation, hundreds of students assembled at the front of the UCSB Library in protest of the project, with students holding signs and reciting speeches. This protest also fell under Parents' Weekend, with protestors chanting "Don't send your kids here" as they marched through campus.

Following the mass criticism, Chancellor Yang created a review panel led by the academic Senate to take public input for recommendations. The panel suggested various changes to the project, with UCSB eventually scrapping the project entirely in 2023.



Members of UCSB Stop Sable rallied against the pipeline earlier this year.

## GIRVETZ HALL TAKEOVER

On June 10, 2024, a separate group of pro-Palestine protesters called Say Genocide UCSB occupied Girvetz Hall with the demand that UCSB "release a statement recognizing the genocide in Palestine." The protestors covered the classrooms with fake blood, fake bodies and signage.

The night of June 11, 2024, a community member close to university administration warned the protestors of oncoming police. Around 1 a.m. on June 12, 2024, the university sent an emergency message to students regarding a large-scale police operation. Subsequently, hundreds of students gathered with the protesters around Girvetz Hall. An hour later, over 40 officers from the UCPD and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office surrounded the protest in riot gear. The building was vacated upon arrival, and no one was arrested.



The encampment would go on for 54 days, becoming the longest remaining UC encampment..



# Newly appointed university librarian to expand study spaces and open access resources

Iris Guo  
*Community Outreach Editor*

Todd Grappone was appointed UC Santa Barbara’s university librarian in June by former Chancellor Henry T. Yang. He officially assumed the role on July 1, succeeding Kristin Antelman, who had served in the position since 2018.

Grappone joins UCSB from UC Los Angeles, where he had worked since 2010 and most recently served as associate university librarian. He previously held librarian positions and information technology leadership roles at Stanford University School of Medicine, the University of Southern California and Occidental College.

Reflecting on his path to his new position, Grappone said his frequent childhood moves led him to view libraries as a “welcoming, warm place” that he could always recognize.

“I spent a lot of time in public libraries all over the country, and just formed a bond with books and libraries,” Grappone said.

Grappone said he was drawn to UCSB because of its reputation as an innovative research university.

“[UCSB has] wonderful programs for undergraduates. It’s a very exclusive university,” he said. “What really drew me here was the overall profile of the university, with its strong humanities and strong sciences. It just felt like a really interesting place to work.”

Since beginning his tenure, Grappone has focused on gaining a better understanding of the UCSB community.

“It’s just been a few weeks and my work so far has been [about] getting to know campus, to connect with leaders on campus, to talk to the library about what their aspirations are and how I can support them,” Grappone said.

One of Grappone’s main goals is to make library resources as accessible to students as possible, particularly for first-generation students and students with limited library experience.

“We spend a lot of money making sure that students on campus have access to world-class research materials,” Grappone said. “It’s been my goal over the years to really try to be as creative as possible with finding and providing avenues to those resources for our students.”

He also hopes to promote and expand open-access materials – free books and journal articles – to students without affecting the library’s budget.

“These are things we really promote and provide support for as much as possible for campus,” Grappone said.

In terms of his leadership style, Grappone stated that he enjoys taking a creative

approach to library services and collections in order to make the work interesting for staff.

“I’m into being someone who engenders a sort of curiosity about what we’re doing and why we’re here,” Grappone said. “I think a lot of folks really enjoy that kind of aspect of working with me.”

Grappone is also considering physical improvements for the library, stating that he hopes to expand study spaces on the library’s eighth floor.

“It is such a wonderful view, and I’ve read on the UCSB subreddit that students really like studying up there,” he said. “Expanding the study space that’s available to undergraduates is probably a big part of what I’m going to try to do in the first couple years.”

At UCLA, Grappone helped to develop a research data roadmap. At UCSB, he hopes to promote and potentially expand the university’s equivalent, Research Data Services, which helps students gain data management skills in statistics, R and Python.

“These are fundamental fluencies that people need with research and data,” Grappone said.

Grappone also brings a background in digital preservation due to his experience with various initiatives at UCLA. He praised UCSB’s efforts in preserving sound recordings made on obsolete equipment and hopes to support it.

“Turntables, wax cylinder recordings, these are things that are at danger because the material is becoming harder and harder to find,” Grappone said. “These are things that UCSB does in a world-class way, so they’re already part of that conversation. I’d like to see more ways to support that kind of cultural heritage preservation.”

Upon reflecting on his work, Grappone said that he feels very privileged to be a part of the UCSB Library and to support student research endeavors.

“The University of California is a national treasure. It’s the best public school system in the country and draws the best students and faculty. It produces the best research,” he said. “Anybody would be ecstatic to be accepted and come here to go to school. Anybody in a position like mine is here to support just the fabulous, fabulous research and students.”

Grappone concluded by saying that he hopes every student is aware that the library is a resource available to them.

“It’s going to make your undergraduate experience a lot richer if you walk in the door of the library and ask questions,” he said. “Don’t be afraid to do it – we’ve got 100 years of experience working with students.”

# The Daily Nexus Crossword

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Siddharth Chattoraj  
*Data Editor*  
Andrew Wang  
*Games Developer*

**ACROSS**

- 1. “\_\_\_ Misérables,” Victor Hugo novel
- 4. Brazilian music genre and dance
- 9. Only UC campus with a skateboard lane
- 13. Kick dropped from the hands
- 14. Pie common in Eastern Europe
- 15. One without skills, in gamer slang
- 16. Main antagonist of “Othello”
- 17. 1977 Broadway musical with three film adaptations
- 18. Poetic foot famously used by Shakespeare
- 19. Resources readily convertible to cash
- 22. Greek word meaning “and”
- 23. Organization responsible for environmental health
- 24. \_\_\_TV, reality television channel
- 27. One of two leagues that merged to become the NFL
- 30. Data format used to access website updates
- 32. Wagon route from Missouri to the Pacific
- 34. Dated alternative to “browse the web”
- 38. E-cigarette company
- 39. To hide something away
- 40. Synonym of 67 Across
- 41. Largest airport in Illinois
- 42. From, in slang
- 43. Common counterfeit prevention measures
- 45. Often follows “agua”

- 47. Free trade agreement encompassing most of Europe, abbr.
- 48. Algorithm used for data encryption, abbr.
- 49. Marc-André \_\_\_ Stegen, Barcelona captain
- 50. Cipher alphabet used in Minecraft and Commander Keen, abbr.
- 52. Korean pianist Seong-jin
- 54. Modern equivalent of broadcasting
- 61. Field focused on controlling air quality and temperature
- 63. Moved through shallow water
- 64. \_\_\_ coffee, as opposed to hot
- 65. Princess of Japan
- 66. Proverb
- 67. Synonym of 40 Across
- 68. One between 12 and 20
- 69. Spanish for “stripes”
- 70. To adjust a clock or other machine

**DOWN**

- 1. Traditional Hawaiian feast
- 2. \_\_\_ II, three-story UCSB campus building with a courtyard
- 3. Bird whose name might be confused with a campus landmark
- 4. Language commonly spoken across Central America
- 5. Contraction whose status as a real word is debated
- 6. Polymer responsible for carrying information within cells
- 7. Capital of Idaho
- 8. Also known as a liver spot
- 9. Measure of course load
- 10. Fifth-largest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces
- 11. Currency of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
- 12. Membrane protecting the

- brain from infection, abbr.
- 13. What one might snap, for short
- 20. Synonym for “soil” or “land”
- 21. May follow “dog” or precede “mark”
- 25. Actor and boxer Mickey
- 26. Opposite of “if”
- 27. \_\_\_ as silk
- 28. Yet to come
- 29. Deepest lake in the United States
- 31. Liquid component of blood, plural
- 33. Network of environmental justice organizations
- 35. Accounts used to pay medical expenses
- 36. Unit of brightness applied to electronic displays
- 37. One of three weapons used in fencing
- 41. More populous than its state’s capital of Lincoln
- 43. To start a conflict
- 44. Retreats or diminishes
- 46. Common data format for tabular data
- 51. Often follows “carne”
- 53. Leaves out
- 55. A small image, or a big star
- 56. Slang for Turkey Day
- 57. Hebrew for “wait a moment”
- 58. Drink brand featuring a polar bear mascot
- 59. As simple as a drink can get
- 60. State in Central Europe until 1990, abbr.
- 61. Worn on the head
- 62. Final word in a French phrase of resignation

Answers can be found on our website [dailynexus.com/interactives/games/](http://dailynexus.com/interactives/games/)

# Senate hears from concerned students over PT department closure, updates legal code

Wynne Bendell  
*University News Editor*

The Associated Students 76th Senate passed several bills updating its legal code on Aug. 20. Several student athletes spoke against the recent closure of the physical therapy department and Athletic Performance Center.

The meeting began with public forum where mechanical engineering students, including representatives from Gaucho Racing, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Gaucho Rocket Project, requested a shared work space for their three respective groups.

Second-year mechanical engineering major and Gaucho Racing President Alex Fu said that they currently rely on “very scattered and temporary spaces that are small, unsafe and inefficient,” and that a newly equipped permanent space would ensure opportunities for new projects.

Several members of the triathlon club expressed their disappointment at the recent closure of the physical therapy (PT) department and Athletic Performance Center (APC),

which provides strength and conditioning services to club athletes.

Fourth-year doctoral candidate Nawel Alioua said that the APC is a major contributor to the quality of life for student athletes, as it aims to prevent injuries.

“It’s like the athlete experience here has three pillars. One of them is the club, the second one is APC and the third one is PT,” Alioua said. “And I feel like now [UC Santa Barbara] is being devoid of two of its pillars. It’s like a three-legged stool that’s trying to stand on one.”

For students who are unable to drive, the PT department at Student Health is the most accessible clinic. Fifth-year doctoral candidate Liz Schauer said that the clinic was essential to her recovery when she could not drive.

“On a personal level, I had hip surgery three years ago and couldn’t walk for weeks. PT enabled me to recover from this, and honestly, I wouldn’t be able to run and be at the same activity level that I am now without physical therapy at Student Health,” Schauer said.

Moving into unit reports, the

Senate heard from the Internal Vice President’s Director of Accountability, Jeffrey Wang, who plans to implement a senate attendance and project tracking system. The system aims to bring all initiatives in one place, track project progress and avoid overlap. Senators Eemaan Wahidullah, a first-year biology and political science double major, and Neo Harter, a third-year history and global studies double major, proposed a bill to establish the Language Revitalization Grant Program, which would create a research pilot program to support students studying endangered languages. The Senate referred the bill to the liaison committee for further deliberation.

The Senate then passed several bills to update legal code pertaining to the Office of the President, Boards, Committees and Units (BCU) election code and the Pearman Fellowship.

The meeting concluded with the Senate bundling and approving all resignations and appointments, including those made by Attorney General and fourth-year economics and communication double major Taylor Iden to the Office of the Attorney General.



Since beginning his tenure, Todd Grappone has focused on gaining a better understanding of the UCSB community. department on campus.

COURTESY OF MATT PERLO



# Analyzing one month of I.C.E. presence in Santa Barbara

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

Anusha Singh  
Editor in Chief

The Nexus analyzed Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in Santa Barbara from June 8 to July 28. It was found that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) is present in predominantly Latine areas in the county and is most active in the early mornings on roads and near businesses.

Across the 14 sightings on the Daily Nexus I.C.E. Sighting Tracker in this time period, 11 occurred in areas where the most common ethnicity is Hispanic or Latine. Three sightings occurred in predominantly white areas, excluding those who are Hispanic or Latine. The most recent American Community Survey sourced from ArcGIS Living Atlas provides the map's racial and ethnic demographics. The information provided in the sighting map is made possible through the 805UndocuFund, which verifies sightings and sends out alerts to community members.

Regarding I.C.E. activity patterns, organizers see I.C.E. activity mostly in the early morning between 6-9 a.m..

Organizers most often see I.C.E. in the Lower West and Eastside of Santa Barbara. The Eastside, in particular, is a historically Latine district.

According to the Santa Barbara Independent, District 1, which contains the Eastside, was the only voting district in Santa Barbara with over 60% Latine residents. The Lower West is located in District 3, which has the second largest Latine population in the county.

In July of this year, United States Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem denied the claim made by "judges" and "other individuals" that I.C.E. agents were racially profiling Latine community members when conducting raids.

To date, I.C.E. was closest to the UC Santa Barbara campus on June 19 at a 7-Eleven in Goleta, roughly seven minutes from campus. The three confirmed I.C.E. sightings in Goleta since the map's inception were both vehicle stops.

Federal forces related to immigration activity were closest to campus on June 8. Community members spotted several National Guard vehicles stationed near the Home Depot in Goleta, roughly nine minutes from campus.

For more information, visit the Nexus I.C.E. analysis map:



Stay up to date on I.C.E. sightings in the Goleta and Santa Barbara area:



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The Daily Nexus Co-Editors in Chief present:

BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCES

WESLEY HAVER / DAILY NEXUS

Shayla Prasad  
Editor in Chief  
Anusha Singh  
Editor in Chief

Dear Gauchos,

Let us be the first to welcome you to the 2025-26 school year. Whether you are an incoming freshman, incoming transfer student or a senior embarking on your final year at UC Santa Barbara, we hope that the Daily Nexus can serve as a guide for navigating our beautiful campus and greater community. These resources serve many purposes; our Video section has worked hard to provide quality insights into day-to-day life as a UCSB student, our Games section has created various puzzles and trivia you can play while bored in class and our News section has put together an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) sighting tracker to keep our community informed.

Here's a breakdown of some of the resources embedded in the QR codes below:

2025 Best Of map

Wondering where the best pizza is located or where to purchase your next coffee? Every spring, the Nexus utilizes data collected from the student body to decipher the best of the best in Isla Vista and on

campus. Our staff has compiled a list of explanations of why students have ranked these places the best in 2025, and it's all there for you to easily map out on your next adventure with friends and family.

Labyrinth Grades Search

Curious to know what the grade distribution was for your general education (GE) class in 2023? The Nexus is known for its most up-to-date data on the class distributions of grades. It's accessible to everyone including advisors, parents and students, and it's there to be a helpful guide for the coming years.

DLG Dining Commons video

Ever wondered what do-it-yourself (DIY) meals you can make at De La Guerra (DLG) Dining Commons? Located near the Channel Islands 5 (Chi-5) residence halls, DLG is home to many students wondering what their next meal will be. The food can become repetitive, so hopefully you can learn some new recipes and feel inspired to make your own creations!

I.C.E. Sighting Tracker

In light of recent I.C.E. activity in the Goleta and Santa Barbara area, the Nexus has released an I.C.E. sighting tracker, with the goal of minimizing misinformation regarding I.C.E. activity. The tracker is updated daily, and every sighting is verified by the 805

Immigrant Coalition.

Games and Puzzles

The Nexus has created a variety of games and interactive content. Challenge yourself with one of our sudoku or crossword puzzles, or take a short break with one of our quizzes or trivia challenges. Currently, we have our famous Crossword, Sudoku, Trivia and Quizzes! You can also find the Crossword in the weekly print edition of the Nexus.

Daily Nexus YouTube

For more videos like the DLG dining hall hacks, check out the Daily Nexus YouTube channel for more food hacks, dorm reviews, club spotlights and more.



2025 Best Of map



Labyrinth Grades Search



DLG Dining Commons video





I.C.E. Sighting Tracker





Games and Puzzles






Daily Nexus Video on YouTube

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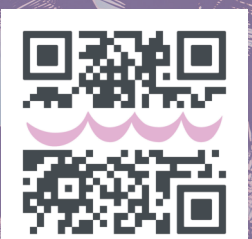
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THE DIVERSITY HIRE



The Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA) was known for emphasizing interracial solidarity, and joined dozens of “Free Huey” protests during the summer of 1968.

“Muddled rather than mixed”

Samantha Dillon  
DEI Intern

“The feeling was euphoric, finding the place you belong.”

These were the words Vicci Wong, an original member of the Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA), used to describe the feeling of leaving the first AAPA meeting. AAPA’s founding six — Yuji Ichioka, Emma Gee, Richard Aoki, Floyd Huen, Victor Ichioka and Wong — were the first to use the term and concept “Asian American” and organize for Asian American political power. AAPA itself became a large catalyst of the Pan-Asian American movement. Wong’s words capture a profound reality I only recently believed to be possible: the idea that out there, there is a community that I belong to.

For 18 years, I believed I was white, so much so to the point that when I arrived at college and someone told me I was also Asian, I was in disbelief. Obviously, my Asian mother clued me into the fact that I was indeed biracial, but it wasn’t until college, when I was surrounded by peers who shared and celebrated their Asian heritage, that I looked in the mirror to see someone different. These people helped me realize that my Asian identity was never something I needed to hide, and never something I was going to be able to.

Yet, this realization helped me identify a complicated feeling, one I’ve always had: What does it mean to be multiracial in a world that has been historically built for singular identities?

Recently, I was in contact with Wong, the aforementioned activist, and through her insights I have come to understand something I didn’t before. In the 1960s, Wong fought fiercely for farm workers’ and civil rights, Black power, draft resistance and against the United States imperialist war in Vietnam. When she was 17 and left home to attend UC Berkeley, she was eager to join the Black Panther Party (BPP). However, upon asking to join, the BPP politely declined and stated she needed to “find where she belonged.” At the time, however, she didn’t know where that was.

In the 60s, there didn’t exist a concept of Asian Americans, as Chinese Americans, Korean Americans and others were each isolated and separate — never uniting politically for common cause. Wong said AAPA changed that. For the first time, she was not only Chinese, she was Asian American, and for her and so many others that was revolutionary. But what resonated with me was the fact that no place existed for Asian Americans, and the children of those unions, like me. And even as our community grows in a new era of acceptance, many of us, despite looking around and seeing many other multiracial people, feel lost. We still live in a world where our history haunts us, and in my opinion, manifests through the lack of representation of the complexities of multiracial identity in media, daily life and education.

And that’s why I bring up the history and revolution of AAPA: It was not just about politics; it was about the power of carving a space where none existed. Today, multiracial individuals may need to do the same, not merely seek belonging in existing communities, but new spaces that honor our complexity. Steps toward this can be seen with movements towards biracial or multiracial studies at leading universities. For example, doctoral students across the country have been pioneering new research regarding multiracial identity. Take, for example, studies involving multiracial microaggressions, which are “indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, enacted by monoracial persons that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative slights toward multiracial individuals or groups.” Multiracial microaggressions are rarely talked about, but perpetuate the stigmatization of multiracial identities.

People should not have to wait until adulthood to feel comfortable to embrace their multiracial identity or, like me, they shouldn’t lack the education that enables them to do so. Though small in comparison to the time spent on other disciplines, teaching the complexity of multiracial identity through introducing multiracial scholarly work is a starting point.

So perhaps this is my call to the students at UC Santa Barbara, and to anybody who feels like they don’t quite belong: Embrace your heritage, find where you belong and if no place exists, maybe the best thing you can do is build it yourself. Because for those of us who feel muddled rather than mixed, the journey toward belonging is not about fitting into a box, it’s about expanding the space itself.

The makings of the Diversity Hire

Kaavya Saini  
DEI Chair  
Nathan Kwon  
DEI Intern  
Samantha Dillon  
DEI Intern

Writer and activist Audre Lorde once declared, “It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.” In today’s modern climate, her words are a clarion call: a challenge to embrace the full spectrum of the human experience in spite of our divisions.

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are not just buzzwords, but rather values that are infused in the stories we choose to tell and the voices we choose to uplift. The Diversity Hire exists to face that challenge directly. Journalism that consciously embraces DEI offers a fuller view of the world and, in our case, a more honest representation of our campus community. This representation acknowledges that the stories of the marginalized, underrepresented and disenfranchised are not optional to tell.

It’s also a direct reflection of the Nexus’ commitment to the free press during a national moment in which the free press and the integrity of journalism are under attack. Just this May, President Donald Trump signed an executive order cutting tens of millions in funding to the National Public Radio (NPR) and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and has repeatedly referred to the media as the “enemy of the American people.” This rhetoric isn’t just dangerous for democracy; it’s a direct threat to our ability to stay informed, challenge systems of power and foster meaningful dialogue. The Diversity Hire stands firmly against that erosion of liberties.

Our mission is simple but critical: to tell the story of the federal political landscape with lived local realities. The policies coming out of Washington, D.C. are not abstract concepts; they impact our everyday lives, from research funding cuts to immigration raids. Through the Diversity Hire, we aim to make those impacts visible, to provide an unflinching account of how national policies filter down to our community and to amplify voices often drowned out in mainstream media.

We aren’t here to placate those who dismiss the importance of DEI as something “overly sensitive” or “woke.” We’re here to show why it’s essential. We’re here because stories matter. The ability to think critically, challenge the status quo and fight for inclusivity matters. Justice, equity and human dignity matter.

The strength of our community lies not in its uniformity, but in its diversity. The Diversity Hire is a declaration that our stories are not only worth telling, they are worth prioritizing as necessary acts of resistance.

*The DEI team works with the conviction that journalism serves all people, with no exceptions.*

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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT GROUP OF GAUCHO ATHLETICS

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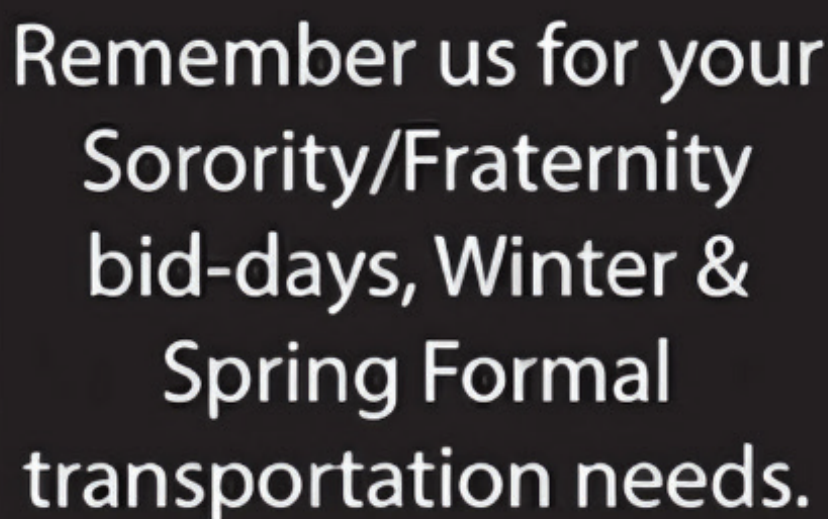


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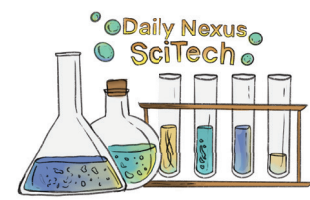




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# SCIENCE & TECH

## Simply Stated: The health implications of soaking up the summer sun

**Yumiko Florando**  
*Staff Writer*

As summer is in full swing, many members of the UC Santa Barbara community may be spending time relaxing on the beach, surfing the waves or hiking one of the beautiful trails in the Santa Barbara area. Still, others may take trips to tropical destinations or spend time with their family and friends back home. While these are all fun ways to connect and unwind, outdoor activities in the sun paired with longer days, less protective clothing and an increase in the ultraviolet index can all contribute to greater amounts of sun exposure, causing both costs and benefits to human health.

While the sun gives off multiple types of light, the ultraviolet (UV) rays it produces have more energy than visible light and are most likely to cause diseases like skin cancer. The three types of UV rays primarily produced by the sun are Ultraviolet A (UVA), Ultraviolet B (UVB) and Ultraviolet C (UVC) rays. While UVC rays are blocked by the ozone layer in Earth's atmosphere, UVA and UVB rays do reach humans and are the primary causes for sun damage and diseases.

This is not, however, to say that all sunlight is bad. Aside from providing energy that is used for functions such

as the light, agriculture and heat that sustain life, the sun also offers important psychological benefits.

Studies have found that sunlight helps regulate the body's production of the hormones serotonin and melatonin. Moderately high levels of serotonin during the day are linked with less distress and better moods, while stable levels of melatonin in the evening and night are important for the regulation of sleep.

Furthermore, research done in recovery settings have found that sunlight exposure for at least 30 minutes a day for 14 days during a four-week time period leads to a decrease in depression among post-stroke patients. Another study found that bipolar patients whose windows faced east, and were thus exposed to sunlight in the mornings, had shorter hospital stays than those in other rooms. These studies suggest that there could be psychological benefits to sunlight exposure in increasing mental wellbeing and improving recovery times.

Additionally, the body can use sunlight to help produce vitamin D, which plays an important role in calcium absorption and bone health. However, levels of vitamin D production based on sun exposure vary greatly depending on factors that include the season, time of day, geographic location or skin

pigmentation. Vitamin D can also be obtained through foods that naturally contain them such as salmon, egg yolks or beef, or through foods that have been enriched to include vitamin D. Vitamin D can also be found in cereals, milk or orange juice.

Experts at Yale Medicine and the American Cancer Society agree that, while vitamin D is important, it is also vital to take measures to protect yourself from UV rays. Because of this, both suggest that forgoing sunscreen or using tanning beds in an effort to increase vitamin D production is not recommended. Instead of trying to gain additional vitamin D from the sun, it can be obtained from dietary choices.

It is important to be informed and protect yourself, as skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, the two most common causes of skin cancer are UV tanning beds and UV rays from the sun.

But there are actions you can take! Most skin cancers can be effectively treated when diagnosed and treated early. Remember that UV rays are still present in winter months and when the weather is overcast. They can reflect off surfaces as well. The Environmental Protection Agency offers a UV index tracker, which allows you to see the level of the index

in a given region at any time and prepare accordingly.

Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has tips to increase sun safety. They recommend:

- Wearing clothing with coverage such as long shirts and long pants or skirts. Darker or tighter woven fabric may provide more protection as well.
- A hat with a tightly woven fabric that has a brim that circles all that way around can protect your face, neck and ears.
- Sunglasses can protect your eyes. Make sure to purchase those that

block both UVA and UVB rays.

- Choose a broad spectrum sunscreen that blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Additionally, the CDC recommends sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) over 15. Make sure to check the expiration date and remember to reapply every few hours, or as instructed.

The sun is very powerful and a vital part of life on Earth. However, whenever you are outside, it is important to remember that the sun can also be harmful and take steps to help protect yourself! Have a safe summer, Gauchos!



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

## Rooted in place: How traditional ecological knowledge is transforming environmental studies at UCSB

**Olivia Lohrer**  
*Science Editor*

When second-year transfer student Terra Sage Wallin walked into her first day of ENV S 193TK: Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Honoring All Our Relations taught by Margaret McMurtrey in the summer of 2021, she had no idea how profoundly it would shape her academic journey at UC Santa Barbara. Now, after having completed her first year as a master's student in the Department of Religious Studies, she recalls how McMurtrey's course opened her eyes to a worldview that combined her undergraduate interests.

"It really actually changed my life," Wallin said about ENV S 193TK. "I came to college to do environmental studies and philosophy because I wanted to look at how people interact with the land and what worldviews inspire those connections and that action ... When I had the opportunity to take [McMurtrey's] class it was like this aha moment, this is what I've been looking for."

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is defined by the Indigenous Climate Hub as the "cumulative body of knowledge, practices, and beliefs about the relationship between living beings and their environment. Passed down through generations via oral traditions, TEK is deeply rooted in the cultural and spiritual practices of Indigenous communities."

As the primary facilitator of the course, McMurtrey defined TEK as "the idea that people of the land have been for a millennium observing changes in the land and the interrelationship of the land, and [are] putting those observations into practice with every-day seasonality."

McMurtrey started at UCSB as a freshman in 1970, the same year that the environmental studies department was founded. She has a master's degree in religious studies and educational administration, and is currently in her fifth year of the doctoral program in English literature.

Additionally, McMurtrey is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

"I was asked to lead this class because we felt that it was needed, and there was nobody on campus that felt remotely qualified to offer it," she said. "I like to say that I facilitate the class because I am not a TEK practitioner in the sense that it is not something that I've

been traditionally taught, but it is something that I know about and I invite members of our Chumash community or other communities to come talk to our students."

McMurtrey first led the course in the summer of 2020 via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "The idea was to give students an introduction to Indigenous ways of knowing, what that meant, what it might have meant to different authors we read, as well as speakers that came in," she said.

Upon completing the second rendition of the course in the summer of 2021, Wallin felt strongly that TEK should play a more prominent role in the environmental studies curriculum at UCSB. She and other students articulated this belief in an email to the environmental studies department.

"I wrote to the environmental studies department with a few other students and we expressed that being in Santa Barbara, on the land that we are on, the land of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, that it should be a requirement for all environmental studies students to take this class. And there needs to be institutional support behind that," Wallin said.

"They told me at that point, 'Yeah, love your enthusiasm, maybe five or 10 years and we'll see what we can do.' And we just weren't very happy with that," she recalled. "So we got together with our communities and were able to collaborate on creating this new curriculum that is an addition to [McMurtrey's] curriculum for 193[TK]."

Alongside McMurtrey and classmate Cameron Bahnsen, a 2023 environmental studies alum, Wallin worked to establish a second course, ENV S 194TK: Traditional Ecological Knowledge Studies. Where 193TK aims to provide the contextual framework and theoretical foundations to understand what traditional ecological knowledge is, McMurtrey describes 194TK as an "applied" course, or a "lab" that takes place in the Three Sisters and Four Directions Indigenous Garden on West Campus, as well as the wetlands space outside of the American Indian and Indigenous Collective center in Building 434.

The course, first offered in the spring of 2022, consists of a two-hour block once a week. One hour is spent outside "tending," or taking care of, the flora in the garden or the wetlands space while the other half is spent in the

classroom discussing that week's topics and materials.

The 194TK course has two major assignments. The first is the "plant relative" project, where students choose a plant in one of the Indigenous garden spaces on campus and build a relationship with it throughout the quarter.

"Whether that looks like sitting with their plant, drawing their plant, watering, pruning, planting more, removing it — it can look like a number of things depending on the plant's need," Wallin said. In addition, students leave behind a care guide for their plant relative for students to come.

"What that looks like is extending personhood to our nonhuman relatives and understanding that nonhuman relatives are relatives as well," Wallin said.

Both TEK are listed in the course catalog under the environmental studies department, although environmental studies students accustomed to their chemistry, biology and ecology course requirements may find that these classes do not fit into the typical mold of a college-level science class. Still, rooted in inquiry, observation and experimentation alongside elements of relationality and cultural tradition, these courses offer students a different perspective in environmental studies.

"I think that maybe we can redefine what science means, because if it's based on observation and trying out things, Indigenous people have been doing science for a millenia," McMurtrey said. "There's this binary between science and traditional ecological knowledges and it's an artificial one."

The second assignment in the 194TK course is the creation of a land acknowledgement that incorporates the students' places of origin, where they are now and a pledge for how they will occupy different lands moving forward.

As a co-founder and previous co-facilitator alongside Bahnsen, Wallin now works as a student mentor for the teaching team each fall and spring quarter.

"This class is undergraduate led. As a grad student, I show up when I can but I'm not the teacher of this class and neither are the student leaders," Wallin said. "We try to use the language of 'facilitators' because we're not experts. What we want to do is reach out to our community members who are experts."

This past fall and spring, the

course had an all-female, all-Native teaching team. "It was really incredible because they got to reach out to their aunts and their uncles and their grandparents, and get their family members to come talk about the work that they do. And each one had a different background, different tribal affiliations," Wallin said.

Furthermore, the facilitators rely on the perspectives of members of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation in shaping their curriculum. Wallin noted that Mia Lopez has been particularly "paramount" to not only the establishment of the TEK courses, but has supported the American Indian and Indigenous community at UCSB in a myriad of ways.

"She shows up. She does what is needed and supports students with everything. After the first couple of times I met her, she became Auntie Mia," Wallin said. "With our curriculum, we brought it to [Lopez] and were like, 'Can you please help correct us if we're taking any missteps?' She's not afraid to tell us if we did something out of step and in a loving way."

McMurtrey emphasized the significance of including Chumash voices in her course. "I believe that it's very important and why I've chosen to be the facilitator of this class is to bring these people to this place to share their wisdom with others. I think it's my way of honoring that I am a visitor to this land," she said.

Despite being the UC campus with the highest number of self-identified Native students, almost 1% of the total student body, UCSB lacks an American Indian and Indigenous studies major or official department. There is an American Indian and Indigenous studies minor, however both Wallin and McMurtrey note that there is a limited amount of faculty trained in teaching the discipline.

"We do have an American Indian and Indigenous collective academic council, and that's been in effect since about 2016," McMurtrey said. "A group of students met with the chancellor and the executive vice chancellor and some deans and asked that we have some more faculty on campus that were American Indian and Indigenous with I think the hope of establishing a department."

McMurtrey and Wallin are both supportive of the effort to establish an official department and major at UCSB, however McMurtrey acknowledged the challenges

of this process. "We have had advocates and supporters and allies in the administration, it's not us against this monolith. But the University works very slowly and there are layers and layers of bureaucracy and we sometimes get stuck in that morass," she said.

In the meantime, the traditional ecological knowledge classes offer students not only a deeper understanding of Indigenous culture and practices, but what McMurtrey calls "an alternative hope."

"In the current climate where we're all wondering what we can do, we can look to how other generations or iterations of our human family dealt with these catastrophic changes," she said. "I think that knowing that there's a way of being in the world that is different from what we've grown up with based on a capitalism ... I think that it resonates with a lot of students and they want to share it and empower others with this worldview. It's what's going to save us, I think."

McMurtrey shared an example from her own experience as a course facilitator, illustrating the real-world impacts of teaching traditional ecological knowledge. "[One student's] family was in real estate and, as a result of taking this class, she convinced her family to give land back to the Native communities in one of the areas they had real estate ... That's the impact that I know of; [the students are] going back and sharing this information with their family and their passion and their understanding of 'Oh, wait a minute, we have a responsibility to this land and the people of this land.' That is how we make change."

For Wallin, who started in the McMurtrey's classroom as an undergraduate and has now become a fundamental component of sharing traditional ecological knowledge to the new group of UCSB students, TEK as an academic discipline and a worldview is about being rooted in place.

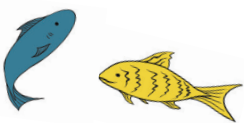
"When I think about global scale, I see local autonomy. I see local community building, rather than a prescriptive 'everybody needs to do this,'" she said. "It's not a one size fits all, it's truly about a relationship to place and everybody has that, everybody has a place that they come from. To sit in that and develop your relationship to place is powerful."



# ON THE MENU



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS



## Top 5 vegetarian destinations in I.V.



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

**Pihu Jain**  
*On the Menu Editor*

As I enter my last year at UC Santa Barbara, it's time to look back at my favorite mealtime haunts. These are places I've been to quite often, and I know I will miss them when I graduate. I'm always weirdly affected by nostalgia, as some things stoke a greater grief in my heart but others surprise me with how little I feel. I cried on the last day of eighth grade, but not a tear was shed when I took photos in my cap and gown at my high school graduation. For some weird reason, I find myself remembering the places that have closed down in Isla Vista that were once so dear to me: Dank Bowl Kitchen and PokeCeviche. My life has always been driven by food, and I feel perhaps the baser instincts of our ancient hominid ancestors (survival, finding your next meal) are far too enhanced in myself. So, you can see how I've attached many meaningful memories and emotions during my college years to food and the places I've gotten it from. Especially as a vegetarian, the scope narrows and there's only so many places we can go. Don't worry, I have your back!

In no particular order, here are my recommendations for vegetarians in Isla Vista and Goleta:

**1. Freebirds**  
Freebirds is an Isla Vista classic, and I've been going there for four years now. What stands out to me is the amazing freshness of the ingredients and the fairly affordable pricing. The first time I had Freebirds was a chilly fall night during my freshman year, on the

lawn outside the San Miguel Residence Hall on a picnic blanket with my friends huddled around a platter of vegetarian nachos. I still remember that night, bonding with the people that would become my family here at UCSB, savoring each chip in a frenzy before they got soggy (which inevitably happens when you get as many toppings as we did: sour cream, jalapeños, cheese, lettuce, onions, guac and so much more ...). Since then, for any parties or lazy days, my friends and I will often order this platter and it will always transport me back to that night and many others like it. I also love the burritos there, and of course as a vegetarian, I love the amount of vegetarian-friendly fillings I can put in (which is standard for burritos, but again where Freebirds stands out in freshness and authenticity).

**2. Zocalo**  
Even during the infamous I.V. storms and flooding circa January 2023, I marched out brave (in flip flops, for some reason, thinking it was better to risk gangrene than murder my new Reeboks) to Zocalo to procure the Enchiladas Suizas. Zocalo is definitely my most ordered restaurant in I.V., especially because of how vegetarian-friendly the menu is. Normally, it can be difficult to find flavorful Mexican food without meat in it, but Zocalo certainly takes the cake there. The Enchiladas Suizas, the vegetarian highlight of the menu, come in a beautiful green sauce, paired with delicious refried beans and the most fragrant rice you'll ever have... which is unfortunately cooked using chicken stock, a fact I

sadly discovered too late (a few days before this article hits your eyes). But, fear not, with the flexibility of the Zocalo kitchen I'm sure a simple substitution can be made. Zocalo was one of my first obsessions in I.V. — I remember a month where I went there so often that I had amassed a large collection of salsas (which they will give you generously, if you ask) in my fridge. 10/10 food, service and ambience, wouldn't change it for the world.

**3. TAP Thai Cuisine**  
Oh, TAP Thai, what can I say about you that I haven't already shouted from the rooftops? In such close range to I.V. (next to Hochaya in Goleta, just passing the marketplace with Costco), TAP Thai is like a warm, welcoming family friend's house (the one with impeccable taste in lighting and decor) where you can lounge around with your loved ones and have some of the best Thai food you've ever had in your life. Seriously. The Thai tea is perfectly balanced, and I personally love to order the roti with Panang curry (which does have fish sauce, but can be removed if asked). The Pad Thai is brilliant, with a perfect crunch of peanuts, deliciously flavored noodles and tofu. I also highly recommend ordering the crispy edamame, which comes with a creamy Sriracha sauce to dip. TAP Thai is a great spot for a night out, and I highly recommend coming here, especially on dates (wink, wink).

**4. Panino**  
Some people say that life starts and ends between two pieces of bread. After eating at Panino, I really understood that

phrase. Though they're only open until 4 p.m., Panino is a sandwich enthusiast's dream available seven days a week. As a vegetarian, I have made many a sandwich, but am not always able to consume high-quality ones outside of my home. At Panino, you get your choice of bread, made in the style as described on the menu (which features a whole vegetarian section), and modifications are extremely flexible. My personal favorite is the Mixed Veggie on sourdough, with delicious sun-dried tomatoes, artichoke hearts, a gorgeous honey mustard dressing mingling with beautifully fresh basil, roasted red peppers and a host of veggies. I recommend you sprint to Panino for your lunchtime fancy. Plus, if you're ever out of Goleta and exploring downtown and other areas in Santa Barbara, you'll be pleased to know that Panino has two other locations nearby (a favorite of mine being the one in downtown Santa Barbara, in the lovely white, cottage-style house).

**5. Chili's**  
All of my friends and family know that I am an absolute FIEND for Chili's. My first exposure was back home in New Jersey in 2015, and my life was forever changed. Now, now, I know what you're thinking: Pihu, aren't there a ton of wonderful local restaurants that deserve this spot? Why are you wasting your resources on Applebee's deranged sister? I wholeheartedly agree, but for some reason (the Veggie Santa Fe burger), Chili's is something I must recommend to my fellow vegetarians. Not only do I have fond memories of eating

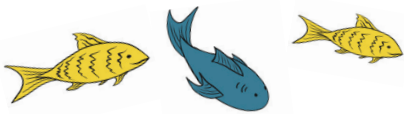
at Chili's growing up (which does make me biased, true), but it is home to some of the consistently best veggie burgers I've ever had. It's hard for us vegetarians to get a burger that goes beyond the simple veggie or black bean patty, and Chili's certainly takes things to a whole 'nother level. My personal favorite is the Veggie Santa Fe, with the delicious combination of onions, Santa Fe sauce (spicy and creamy), diced jalapenos, avocado and a delicious black bean patty housed between two perfectly baked burger buns. Fun fact, you can get any of the burgers at Chili's made vegetarian with a simple black bean patty substitution, which I wish they did at every burger joint. Plus, the drinks here are fun and the Cajun pasta (which the chicken can be removed from) is a delight, creamy and delicious dish. I love to end my meal with a chocolate lava cake and drive home in a dream-like state to pass out shortly thereafter.

As I prepare to leave I.V. and college life behind me (yes, I know there's still a whole year), I can't help but feel jealous of all the incoming freshmen. I wish I could turn back time and have my first bites at some of these places again, experience the wonder of college, meet new friends, live in a beautiful beachside town of youthful mischief — the best years of my life yet to come. I am not quite ready yet to move forward, but for now I will cope by passing down my knowledge to you. When you get here, don't be afraid to grab some new people and head on over to these places for vegetarian delights and unforgettable memories. See you in the fall!

KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS



## A one-day Denver food tour



**Piper Cheney**  
*On the Menu Editor*

Denver, Colorado's charm may lie in the Rocky Mountains — and they certainly don't disappoint (though their MLB team might) — however, the city is not particularly known for their good eats. I set out to challenge that perception during my one-day stay in the Mile High City.

My first stop was Leven Deli, a small bakery with a large assortment of drinks and sandwiches nestled a couple streets away from the state's blue capitol building. This whimsically decorated, white brick spot is always buzzing. Tables outside are filled with chatty folks drinking mimosas while tables inside are quieter, with customers sipping on iced lattes and diligently working away on their laptops. My favorite feature of the deli is the smell of freshly baked bread wafting from the oven to outside the glass doors; a warm, yeasty aroma that draws you in.

The aroma nearly rivaled the sandwich itself. I ordered the BLT and my brother opted for the hot pastrami. Both are served with thick, lightly pickled cucumbers and a side of chips. The pastrami sandwich comes with only mustard, how pastrami

sandwiches are traditionally made. The meat is so soft that it melts in your mouth. Any other toppings would take away from the delicate bite; the meat stands perfectly by itself — but the real star of the dish is the bread. Two large slices of crusty, soft sourdough bread that seem to be sent from heaven. I could probably eat a whole loaf in one sitting (which, thankfully, you can order). My sandwich, the BLT, was hands-down the best I have ever had. The BLT is served on the same bread as the pastrami, but coated with a layer of dill mayo. The tomatoes are thick and meaty while the bacon is crispy and salty, perfectly balanced out by the lettuce leaves placed on top. It's a beast you have to unhinge your jaw to eat, but definitely worth it.

My second stop of the day was Gusto, an Italian restaurant located just past Empower Field at Mile High and next to a scenic pond. I sat outside, savoring the cool Colorado evening. The menu is set up to order an antipasti (appetizer), pasta and pizza. To begin, I ordered the wagyu beef meatballs. The meatballs come sitting in pesto and smothered in marinara sauce. The fattiness of the wagyu and the bottomless sauce pairs perfectly with the crispy, buttered bread

served alongside it. For the pasta, I ordered the bucatini carbonara. The pasta is so simple, with only three ingredients: guanciale, egg yolk and black pepper. Yet this was the best carbonara I have ever tasted. The pasta is made in house with an al dente bite to it. The sauce was creamy and perfectly salted by the thick slabs of diced guanciale (pork). I thought about this pasta dish on the entire ride back to California. Lastly, I ordered the Amalfi pie for my pizza dish. It comes out blazing hot, with the cheese still bubbling. The toppings consist of lemon confit, Calabrian chiles, pecorino and ricotta. The lemon slices add a sweetness amongst the spicy peppers and salty pecorino. The creamy dollops of ricotta contrasted with the flakiness of the thin pizza crust. Each dish at Gusto delivered, I would highly recommend it.

The one day I spent in Denver this summer convinced me the food there doesn't receive the hype it deserves. There's nothing better than hiking the Rockies and ending the day with a fantastic plate of food. Despite what critics say, this is possible in the under-the-radar streets of Denver.

Craving more hidden gems across the country? Follow On the Menu on TikTok (@otmdailynexus)!



PIPER CHENEY / DAILY NEXUS

The pastrami sandwich (left) and BLT (right) from Leven Deli.



PIPER CHENEY / DAILY NEXUS

The Amalfi Pie from Gusto doused in ricotta and and lemon confit.



# WELCOME TO UCSB!

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Provides a safe and inclusive community space and full calendar of events for all students at UCSB.

Website: [mcc.sa.ucsb.edu](http://mcc.sa.ucsb.edu)  
Instagram: @ucsbmcc

## OFFICE OF BLACK STUDENT DEVELOPMENT (OBSD)

Advances the experiences of all students with a particular interest in the issues and concerns of the Black experience at UCSB, advocates for their needs, and fosters their personal and academic achievement through graduation and beyond.

Website: [obsd.sa.ucsb.edu](http://obsd.sa.ucsb.edu)  
Email: [sa-obsd@ucsb.edu](mailto:sa-obsd@ucsb.edu)

## ASSOCIATED STUDENTS (AS)

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Instagram: @asucsb

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What's your major?

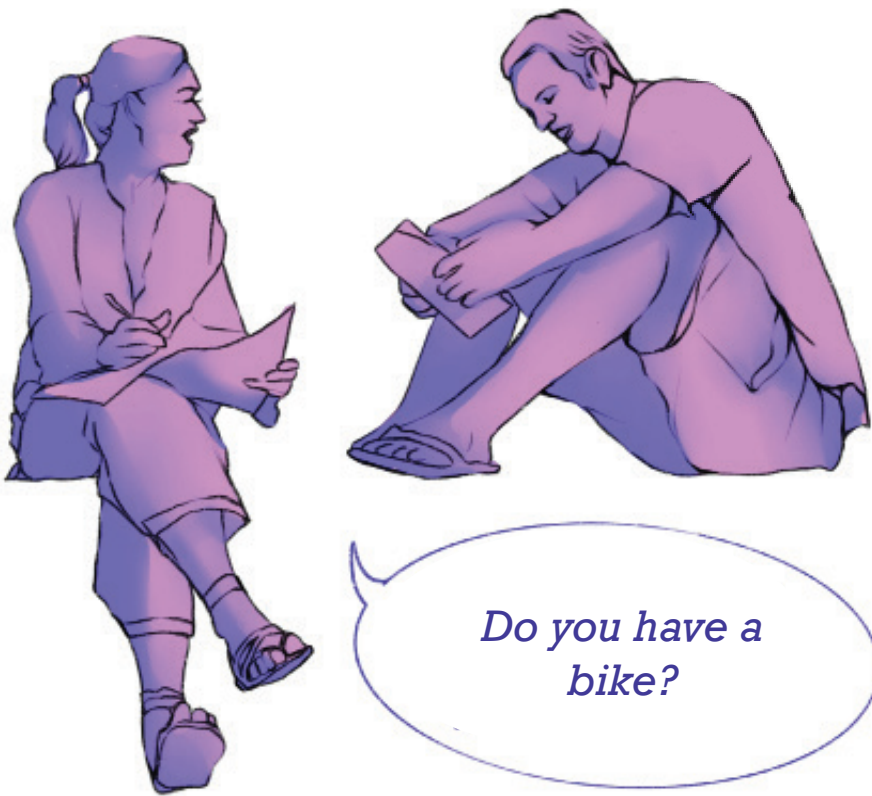


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## NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

Provides a community space for undergraduate students who are over 24 years old, graduate students who are over 28 years old, students with dependents, re-entering students, student veterans, students who are formerly incarcerated and those who are interested in learning more about these populations.

Website: [nontrad.sa.ucsb.edu](http://nontrad.sa.ucsb.edu)  
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## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP (S.E.A.L.)

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Website: [seal.sa.ucsb.edu](http://seal.sa.ucsb.edu)  
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Website: [womenscenter.sa.ucsb.edu](http://womenscenter.sa.ucsb.edu)  
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## ORIENTATION PROGRAMS AND PARENT SERVICES

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Email: [orientation@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:orientation@sa.ucsb.edu)  
Instagram: @ucsborientation

## OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT (OSC)

Upholds community standards and maintains a safe learning environment. OSC is a resource available to all in the UCSB community.

Website: [studentconduct.sa.ucsb.edu](http://studentconduct.sa.ucsb.edu)  
Email: [Studentconduct@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:Studentconduct@sa.ucsb.edu)

Student Life is here to support you. Check us out at:  
<https://studentlife.sa.ucsb.edu/>



# LA VISTA

## He aquí, mi jornada como periodista empieza así...

Nestor Manzanares  
Editor para La Vista

Ser periodista en cualquier parte del mundo tiene su cierto riesgo. En países latinoamericanos, específicamente, significa sacrificar la vida y hasta las de tu familia. A pesar de todo, yo siempre quise ser periodista. Desde muy pequeño, me imaginaba contando historias, investigando verdades ocultas y usando la palabra como herramienta. Para iluminar lo que otros intentaban mantener en la oscuridad. Sin embargo, mis sueños no eran muy aplaudidos por mi familia, incluso por mi madre. “Te pueden matar” o “A los periodistas les pagan por mentir y pierden sus carreras. Mejor hazte doctor,” me decía con preocupación. Entendía su miedo. Ella había crecido en un país donde ser periodista no solo era mal pagado, sino también un oficio marcado por la censura, la represión y el peligro constante. Pero yo no seguí su consejo. Tenía dentro de mí una convicción tan grande que ninguna advertencia podía apagar. Al moverme a los Estados Unidos, mi sueño al fin vio esperanza.

Por primera vez sentí que la palabra “periodismo” no estaba asociada únicamente con peligro, sino también con posibilidad. Trabajé muy duro en la escuela secundaria para ganar la experiencia necesaria que me permitiera mejorar en mi nivel de escritura y eventualmente, estar frente a cámaras. Escribir para mí no era solo un pasatiempo. Era la manera de entender el mundo, de conectar con otras personas y de dar voz a quienes no la tenían. Al ser aceptado en la Universidad de California, Santa Bárbara, mi esfuerzo y dedicación me abrieron una puerta invaluable: Convertirme en escritor de La Vista, la sección en español del Daily Nexus. Ese momento fue como entrar a un espacio donde mi identidad cultural y mi pasión por el

periodismo podían coexistir. Me encontré rodeado de Erick y Nadia, editores de La Vista, que fueron mis mentores y guías al trabajar con ellos.

Esa transición no fue fácil. Editar significaba no solo cuidar el estilo y la gramática, sino también motivar a otros escritores, pulir sus ideas y guiarlos para que confiaran en su voz. En el proceso, descubrí que ser periodista no siempre es estar en el centro de la noticia. A veces es dar un paso atrás para que otros brillen. Una de las experiencias más significativas fue conocer a antiguos editores y escritores de La Vista. Personas que habían construido este espacio antes que yo. Escuchar sus historias me hizo entender que yo era parte de una tradición. Un legado de estudiantes que habían luchado por mantener viva la voz en español en un

campus donde predomina el inglés. Algunos me contaron cómo La Vista les dio confianza para seguir carreras en medios nacionales, mientras que otros compartieron cómo ese espacio se convirtió en su refugio cultural y académico. Cada encuentro me inspiraba, me recordaba que no estaba solo y que lo que hacíamos importaba. Escribir para La Vista no solo reforzó mi identidad como periodista, sino también como latino en los Estados Unidos. Es un espacio donde puedo explorar temas de inmigración, cultura, justicia social y experiencias estudiantiles que muchas veces no tenían cabida en otros medios. Cada artículo era más que una tarea: era un puente entre comunidades, una forma de demostrar que nuestra voz no podía ser ignorada. Hoy, al mirar atrás, entiendo que mi sueño de ser periodista nunca fue simplemente una ambición personal. Era también un llamado a representar, a resistir y a construir. Y aunque mi madre aún me recuerda los peligros que implica esta profesión, yo sé que la palabra, cuando se usa con honestidad y pasión, tiene la capacidad de transformar vidas, empezando por la mía.



Nestor Manzanares / EL NEXO DIARIO  
Nestor Manzanares y su primer publicación con La Vista.

Ahí, mis palabras tenían un doble poder. Comunicar y representar. En poco tiempo, pasé de ser escritor a ser editor de La Vista.

## Mi trayectoria en la UCSB

Azucena Sanchez  
Editora asistente para La Vista

Hacía frío cuando llegué a UCSB. Me asignaron a la Casa Gaviota en Manzanita Village como mi residencia durante mi primer año, y la vista que recibí fue impresionante. El océano estaba a solo unos pasos, lo que me permitía salir y respirar el aire salado. El atardecer aquí todavía es hermoso, como una pintura llena de tonos rosados y anaranjados, pero cuando vivía en Gaviota, era más bonito. Por la noche, dormía escuchando las olas romper contra las rocas y el croar de las ranas. Recorrí la universidad después de instalarme, un poco ansiosa, pero con ganas de comenzar una nueva etapa en mi vida. Sin embargo, para ser honesta, no hice mucho durante mis primeros años aquí en UCSB. Es decir, paseaba por la playa, recorría la laguna o salía con amigos en lugar de unirme a un

club. Digamos que no estaba segura de mi futuro en UCSB. Me gusta la universidad, no me malinterpreten. Pero cuando la universidad es grande y la gente cambia constantemente, uno se siente pequeño. Nunca extrañé mi hogar, pero siempre me sentía como una impostora. Siempre me sentía tres pasos por detrás de mis compañeros. De hecho, cambié de carrera varias veces porque siempre estaba en espiral con respecto a mi futuro. Empecé con Filosofía (irónico, lo sé) hasta que finalmente la terminé y me quedé con Inglés. Todo en un solo año. Aun así, al comenzar mi último año, no lo tengo todo resuelto, pero he llegado a comprender que no pasa nada. Para mí, uno de los desvíos que me ocurrió fue ser redactora de La Vista, la sección en español del periódico estudiantil de la UCSB, el Daily Nexus. Siempre me ha gustado escribir, sea poesía, relatos creativos o cualquier cosa que

me permitiera plasmar mis pensamientos. Pero nunca pensé en el periodismo.

“  
La vida, como aprendí en la universidad, no se trata de tener tu futuro resuelto, sino de desvíos y de estar presente en el momento.”

Cuando surgió la oportunidad de unirme, estaba un poco insegura. Escribir para uno mismo y

escribir para otros son cosas completamente distintas. En cualquier caso, acepté esa oportunidad que lo cambió todo. A través de La Vista, encontré una comunidad que hizo que este gran campus se sintiera más pequeño. Conocí a personas que compartían mi pasión por las palabras y descubrí la alegría de escribir para los demás, no solo para mí misma. Para mí era mucho más importante saber que también escribía para mi comunidad. Al principio empecé sin estar segura, escribiendo sobre todo y sobre nada, pero a medida que escribo más, leo y veo lo que está pasando en el mundo, me doy cuenta de que puedo escribir sobre temas importantes. Contar historias es poderoso. Y, sobre todo, me enseñó que a veces las mejores experiencias surgen cuando sales de tu zona de confort. A los nuevos estudiantes de primer año que lean esto: no es necesario que lo tengan todo claro ahora mismo.

Ni siquiera necesitan saber qué carrera van a estudiar. Lo más importante es estar abiertos: a las personas, a las oportunidades, y a ustedes mismos. Caminen por la playa, paseen por la laguna, disfruten de las puestas de sol y abran puertas al azar. Nadie los va a detener. Pero también dan el salto a algo nuevo, ya sea un club, una clase o una organización que nunca pensaron que probarían. Nunca se sabe qué pasó cambiará su trayectoria. La UCSB es un lugar precioso para vivir, pero también es un lugar para crecer. El crecimiento no siempre se produce como uno espera, pero se produce. Y un día, como me pasó a mí, mirarás atrás y te darás cuenta de que los desvíos, la incertidumbre e incluso los sentimientos de impostura formaban parte de lo que hizo que tu viaje fuera único y tuyo. Bienvenido a la UCSB, espero que comiences un capítulo que nunca olvidarás.



AZUCENA SANCHEZ / EL NEXO DIARIO

¿Interesado en unirte a La Vista?  
Síguenos en Instagram.  
@lavistadeucsb





**Armchair QB**

The 2025-26 NFL season is starting soon. The season kicks off with an opening season rivalry game when the Cowboys play the Eagles on Sep. 4.

# SPORTS

**UCSB Athletics**

The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team were picked as the Big West favorites to win the conference this year in the preseason coaches poll.

# UCSB secures first win, shuts out CBU



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

The Gauchos celebrate a goal in their first win.

**Haiden Rogers**  
*Sports Editor*

The 2024 Big West Conference champions, UC Santa Barbara's women's soccer team faced off against the 2024 Western Athletic Conference champions California Baptist University on Aug. 22, resulting in a commanding 2-0 victory for the Gauchos. This showdown was the Gauchos' first win of the 2025 season.

The Gauchos were dominant on both sides of the ball in this game as they maintained possession well and had 13 total shots, eight of them being on target. The Gauchos defense held steady as the CBU Lancers had a total of 5 shots with one of them being on target. This resulted in the shutout win and

a 2-goal performance for the Gauchos.

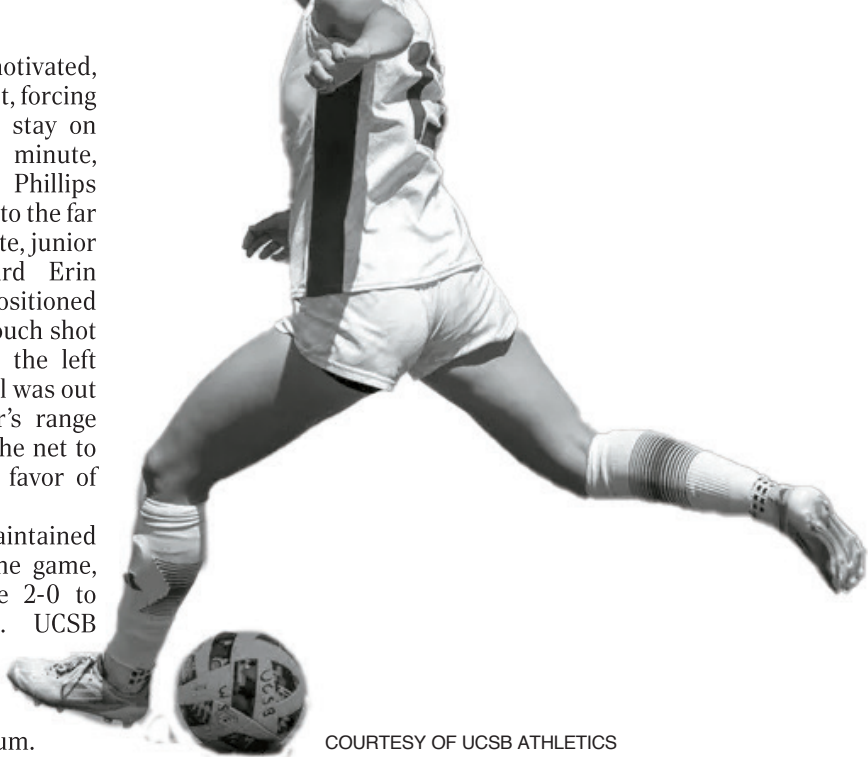
"It is really hard to win games at this level ... The girls did way more things right than they did wrong, and you have to appreciate the team's grit," UCSB Head Coach Paul Stumpf said.

At the start of the first half, the Gauchos created many shot opportunities but were unable to capitalize. The defense remained steady and the offense was aggressive, but it was not until the 40th minute after a pass from sophomore midfielder Caitlyn Simons that junior forward Hayden Halscheid slipped through the defenders in the box and fired off a well-placed shot into the left side of the goal, finding the back of the net. The Gauchos led 1-0 at the half.

The Gauchos offense went

into the second half motivated, totaling 6 shots on target, forcing the CBU goalkeeper to stay on her feet. In the 62nd minute, senior forward Haley Phillips played a perfect cross into the far post where her teammate, junior midfielder and forward Erin Ellsworth, was well positioned and showcased a one-touch shot with her left foot into the left side of the goal. This ball was out of the CBU goalkeeper's range and found the back of the net to make the score 2-0 in favor of the Gauchos.

The Gauchos maintained this lead throughout the game, making the final score 2-0 to defeat CBU Lancers. UCSB women's soccer will face off against University of San Diego on Sunday, Aug. 24 in Harder Stadium.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

UC SANTA BARBARA

September 2025

Dear New Gauchos,

We are excited to welcome you to campus this fall! At this time of transition, we want to address some key topics that are important for you as a student and scholar at UC Santa Barbara.

**Free Expression**

You are joining a university where upholding the constitutional right to free expression is one of our key priorities. At the same time, we value civility, dignity, and differences of opinion. Free expression nurtures innovative thinking and the creation of new knowledge, which are essential to advancing the mission of our University. We hope that you will engage in differences of opinion thoughtfully by expressing yourself empathetically and keeping in mind our Principles of Community (see <https://diversity.ucsb.edu/about>). Free speech is broad but not unconditional. Speech that harasses a particular individual or in which a direct threat is made is not protected speech; it is a violation of our Student Conduct Code. Additionally, our Campus Regulations have time, place, and manner restrictions that ensure that free expression does not disrupt classes or the orderly operation of the campus. The Student Conduct Code, full Campus Regulations, and additional information about our Time, Place, and Manner Policies are all available online at [regulations.sa.ucsb.edu](https://regulations.sa.ucsb.edu).

**Campus Safety and Emergency Response**

Your safety and wellbeing are our top priority. As a student, you will automatically be enrolled to receive timely warnings and emergency notifications by email from the campus police department (UCPD). To receive text messages, log into UCSB Alert at <https://alert.ucsb.edu> to add your cell phone number. In case of emergency, always dial 911. To contact the police with a non-emergency concern, call 805-893-3446. And to request an escort anywhere on campus or in Isla Vista, 24 hours a day, call the Student Safety Partner (SSP) hotline at 805-893-2000.

When interacting with UCPD, please rest assured that campus police officers will not contact, detain, question, or arrest an individual solely on the basis of suspected undocumented immigration status or to discover the immigration status of any individual, nor will they undertake joint efforts with federal immigration enforcement authorities to investigate, detain or arrest individuals for violation of federal immigration law.

**Title IX Sexual Harassment and the Anti-Discrimination Policy**


We are committed to a campus that is free of sexual violence and sexual harassment. We have zero tolerance for sexual violence or assault of any kind, including sexual activity without fully informed and conscious consent, dating or domestic violence, and stalking. These actions, whether committed on or off campus, are violations of UC policy, campus regulations, and the law. If you experience or become aware of such an incident, please make a report and/or seek assistance from one of the following resources:

CARE Advocate Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence or Misconduct, a confidential resource, to receive information on reporting options for sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and harassment. Student Resource Building, 805-893-4613 (24-hour advocacy line), or [care.ucsb.edu](https://care.ucsb.edu). Office of Title IX Compliance and Discrimination and Harassment Prevention to officially report incidents of sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, discrimination, and other prohibited conduct, 805-893-2701, or [titleix-dhp.ucsb.edu](https://titleix-dhp.ucsb.edu). Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and 24/7 Counseling, to access individual or group counseling, 805-893-4411, or [caps.sa.ucsb.edu](https://caps.sa.ucsb.edu).


If you have concerns about behaviors you witness on campus, we urge you to share those with the appropriate office. To make a student or registered campus organization conduct report, please go to [studentconduct.sa.ucsb.edu](https://studentconduct.sa.ucsb.edu). To make a report regarding a bias issue, please visit [studentlife.sa.ucsb.edu/bias](https://studentlife.sa.ucsb.edu/bias).

Belonging is one of our core values at UC Santa Barbara. Staff in all of our departments are ready to assist in making your transition to UCSB as smooth and supportive as possible. A complete directory of Student Affairs departments and their contact information is available at [www.sa.ucsb.edu/departments](https://www.sa.ucsb.edu/departments). Each department listed offers student support and involvement opportunities. We look forward to working with you as we lead the way together in making sure our campus is a safe and welcoming place for all.

Sincerely,



Michael Miller  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



Suzanne Perkin  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life



# ARTSWEEK

## DRAWN TO NATURE: ART 117 BRIDGES ART AND SCIENCE TO SPOTLIGHT THE PLANTS AROUND UCSB

**Kendra Martinez**  
*Artsweek Editor*

Arboretum (noun): a place where trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes.

UC Santa Barbara, despite having one of the oldest environmental studies programs in the world, does not have an arboretum. Even with the school's second chancellor, Vernon Cheadle, being a botanist and planting many of the trees we currently see on campus with the intent of studying them, there is no designated place where students can go learn about the plethora of diverse plants located around the school. Ironic.

In an effort to bring awareness to UCSB's lack of an arboretum, the Department of Art's continuing lecturer and primary drawing instructor Eric Beltz designed ART 117: Drawn to Nature around a final project where students create their own signage for various plants and trees around campus.

After not teaching the course since 2008, Beltz began teaching Drawn to Nature again last summer. With the six-week intermediate drawing course, Beltz aims to not only bring awareness to UCSB's lack of an arboretum, but also combat potential "plant blindness" experienced among his students and use drawing and art to develop a relationship between students and plants.

Plant blindness: A phenomenon where people don't see plants, rather they see a "green smudge," as Beltz puts it. "[The plant] doesn't have a face."

Most of the time, even though a person acknowledges that plants are around them, they still don't think about it with any real importance. Recent UCSB alum Morgan Lindroos, a chemistry and art double major, touched on their experience with the

Ginkgo biloba before taking this course.

"I know what a Ginkgo tree is, I've seen them. But I genuinely had no idea that there were Ginkgo trees right there until we went and visited them and I did my project on them," Lindroos said, referring to the triangle of Ginkgos in between the bike path and the Humanities and Social Sciences Building.

In order to help his students develop a stronger relationship with plants, Beltz combines science and art to structure his class and give them a deeper understanding of plants.

"Drawing is a way of seeing the world more clearly; we make a lot of casual assumptions about what we are seeing and when we start to draw it, we start to refine our vision. We notice through our drawings the things that we actually can't see very well," Beltz said. "The drawing process is about creating a deeper understanding in your mind and your vision, and then that informs how you record the world."

Fourth-year economics and accounting major Olivia Shu agreed with Beltz's sentiment after the course was over.

"[Science] helps you understand what you're drawing. And art vice versa helps you understand what you're seeing," she said. "I gained a lot of awareness, knowledge and appreciation, not just here on campus, but around the world in general."

Shu focused on learning about and drawing the *Lyonothamnus floribundus*, commonly known as the Catalina ironwood.

With the help of UCSB's biology greenhouse manager, Cameron Hannah-Bick,

Beltz started off the course by having students learn the basics about plants, including plant morphology and flower anatomy.

"I want them to have a knowledge base that will help them identify plants," Beltz said. "If they're walking around and see something that catches their eye, they have a way to break it down. The plants around them are basically an encyclopedia if you know how to read them."

Beltz and Hannah-Bick strolled around campus, picking plants and trees that had interesting architecture and were within the capabilities of the students' drawing skills. They also factored in the location of the plants when picking which ones students would draw for their final project, choosing those in areas on campus that are more prone to foot traffic.

One of the conditions of having a designated arboretum is to have informative signage around the relative specimen, which was what the final project of the course was. So, by having students create signs for a plant around campus, Beltz gave them an avenue to share the knowledge they had gained

throughout the course while simultaneously combating the issue of no arboretum.

"I wanted there to be visibility around the arboretum, but also these trees have a story and it's worth getting to know them," Beltz expressed. "I want people to not just casually walk by plants and see a green smudge, I want them to see all the myriad history and stories that is contained in each of those individual [plants] that are on campus."

At the end of the course, his students were able to see the importance of that goal and understand why signs are needed to help other people see the value of plants. Fourth-year philosophy major Winter Hierholzer focused on the *Thaumatococcus bipinnatifidum*, also known as the tree philodendron, which is near South Hall.

"I didn't really care for plants too much at all, I thought they were cool or whatever. Spending a lot of time with them, you really appreciate how beautiful those things are," Hierholzer said. "And learning about them makes them that more interesting and engaging."

In fact, it even changed the way Shu walks around campus.

"It's made me a really slow walker now because I will be walking and stop and be like 'Wait, that's a cool looking plant,' whereas I might have never seen that before and wasn't aware of or knew how to look at the world like that," she said. "Being forced to sit down and draw every single vein and every single serrated edge on a leaf has really helped me slow down and notice all of these little wonderful, beautiful things in the plants and world around us."

The website, which is full of all the drawings and descriptions, can be found by traversing through UCSB's campus and spotting the different trees and plants and scanning the QR code found on the posters.



Get to know the recent sounds of Isla Vista ...  
All album icons courtesy of Spotify.

- 

Hippie Summer  
Eternal Wave
- 

Tugowar  
Molly O'Connell
- 

Sway  
Big Hungry
- 

Dispersing and Dispelling  
Magnetize
- 

5 AM  
Dawn Patrol
- 

Daisy Chain  
Pretty Cheeky
- 

Nothing is Nowhere  
Orangepit!
- 

Mt. Rainier Getaway  
Jack Corliss & The Devereux Quartet
- 

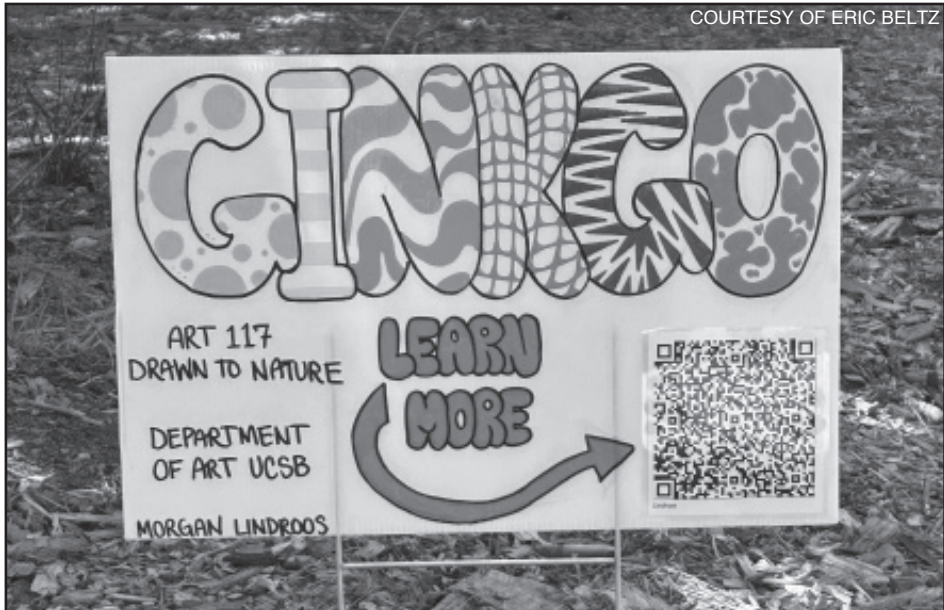
Angeline  
Molly O'Connell & Miles Carter
- 

Identity Crisis  
Magnetize
- 

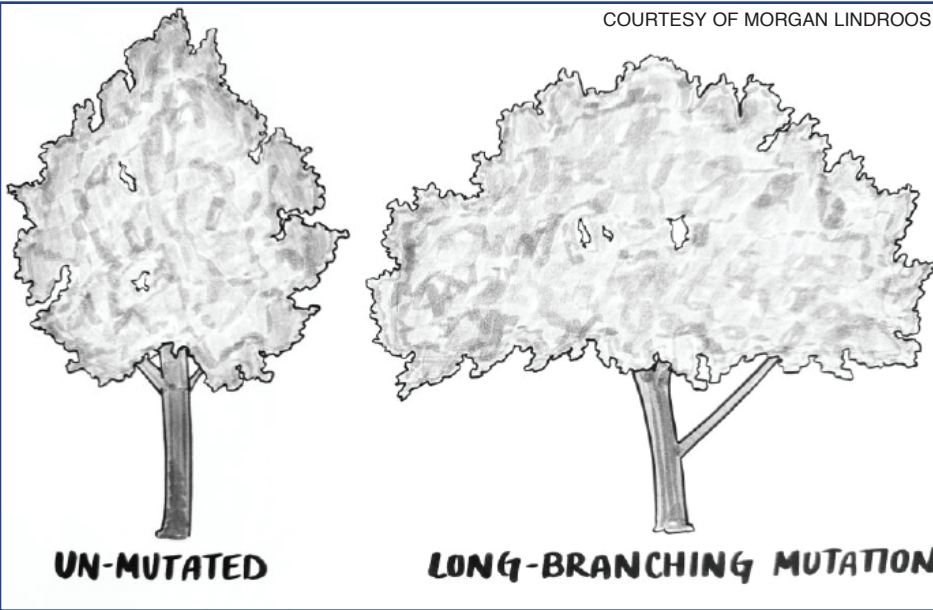
King of Nothing  
The Bad Neighbors
- 

Luna  
Dawn Patrol & The Devereux Quartet

This list of songs have been written by Isla Vista students and locals. Want to hear any of them live? Check out one of the many weekend band shows by following @soundsofiv on Instagram!



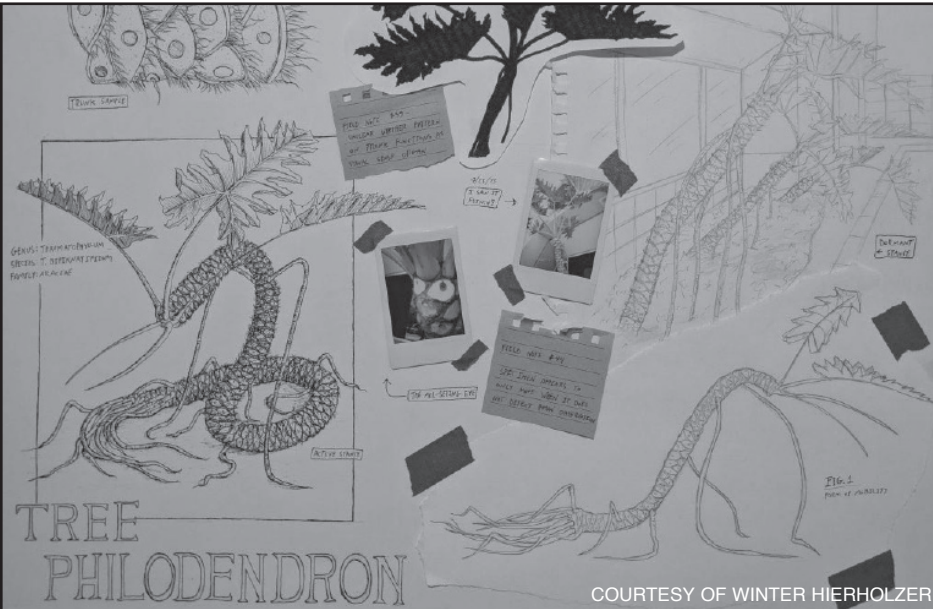
UCSB alum Morgan Lindroos did their ART 117 poster and final project on the Ginkgo biloba. They are located in front of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building.



Fourth-year philosophy major and ART 117 student Winter Hireholzer did his project on the tree philodendron.



Fourth-year economics and accounting major and ART 117 student Olivia Shu did her project on the Catalina ironwood.



Fourth-year philosophy major and ART 117 student Winter Hireholzer did his project on the tree philodendron.



Daily Nexus Stench

NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



## Newsom continues mimicking Trump, plans insurrection

Joseph R. Biden  
*Political Strategist*

For the past several weeks, California Governor Gavin Newsom has made headlines by giving the political right a taste of their own medicine with his all-caps X posts, circulation of AI-generated images and general flagrant remarks. In copying President Donald Trump, Newsom now plans to recreate one of Trump’s most infamous incidents: Jan. 6.

Newsom announced this idea in an X post this past Wednesday. “BIG PLANS coming SEPTEMBER 6!! Do your PATRIOTIC DUTY and defend ME, GAVIN NEWSOM, at the WHITE

HOUSE in WASHINGTON, D.C. BIG PRESS CONFERENCE there at 10 A.M.,” Newsom posted.

The post garnered over 2 million likes and thousands of responses, both criticizing and endorsing the insurrection.

“i would do anythingggg to support zaddy newsom. i can’t wait to vote for him in 2028. actually maybe after September 6, we won’t have to wait until 2028 for him to be prez! #horny,” caligirl\_ashleigh44 responded on X.

Aside from the social media attention, political science experts across the country warned against the implications of the insurrection.

“It is a dark time for

democracy, and what the Democrats need to do is to stay quiet,” UC Santa Barbara political science professor Jim Orlo said. “It is our duty to uphold the standards of American politics, so I recommend that Democrats simply tell the president that what he’s doing is wrong. Then, maybe he’ll listen.”

After the backlash, Newsom held a press conference on Friday to answer questions and clarify his plans for Sept. 6.

“Californians, don’t worry. I plan to fly planes of San Francisco’s homeless population to Washington to fight on the front lines. That way, nobody meaningful will get hurt,” Newsom said.

Trump officials responded to Newsom’s threats, claiming that faith is what will keep the White House protected.

“Newsom and his homeless army do not concern us here,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a briefing on Friday. “Here, we have the best president ever in history, God and God’s army, the National Guard.”

In an attempt to recreate some of the iconic fashion seen at Trump’s Jan. 6, Newsom has hired a special costuming and props task force to don the protestors in insurrection-chic gear.

“We’re working on the AI-generated Newsom flags right now. Our most popular will definitely be a shirtless, jacked

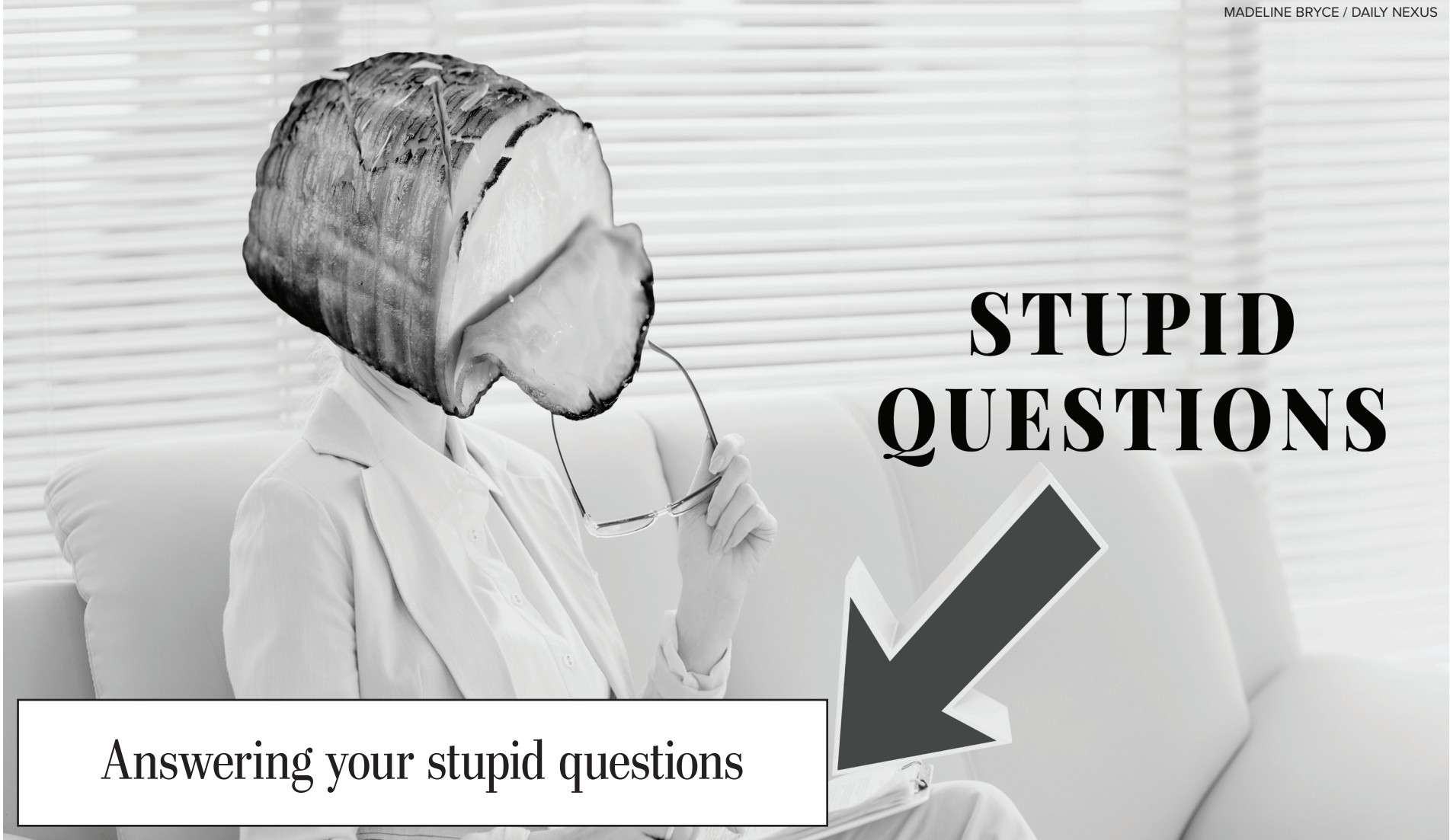
Gavin beating up JD Vance,” task force leader Amanda Kissnhug said. “We’re also working on making blue hats that say ‘Make America Horny Again’ on the front.”

The latest in Sept. 6 news came this morning on X, where Newsom responded to the accusations that his plan is an insurrection.

“STOP calling September 6 an ‘INSURRECTION’!!! It is an INSERECTION! Get it right, MAGA! I will personally assure that EVERYONE who supports me will be ERECT on SEPTEMBER 6!!” Newsom posted.

*Joseph R Biden will be fighting the National Guard on Sept. 6.*

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



## STUPID QUESTIONS

### Answering your stupid questions

Serrano Ham  
*Mentor Figure*

In response to the copious amounts of incoming freshman questions, the Daily Nexus has made answering them an all-hands-on-deck event. Below are a few of the questions Serrano Ham has been forced to address.

**Q: How should I make friends?**

A: First of all, in college, they’re called colleagues, not “friends.” There’s no time for frivolous relationships like that anymore, especially if they won’t help you get closer to the JPMorgan interview or medical school acceptance. If they don’t have a LinkedIn with at least 200+ connections, they don’t matter.

You want to comb through potential colleagues’ networks and really prioritize yourself. If they can get you into the frats

because they “know a guy,” there you go, that’s someone of value that you want on your side. So basically, go to mixers and club meetings and kind of work your magic. Get an idea of what they want to do in life, if they’re going to do it better than you (preferably not) and decide if that’s a beneficial work relationship. College is all about the future and trying to get a head start, so you need to get moving first!

**Q: What’s the party scene like?**

A: Let me just say: If you’re not on Del Playa Drive, what are you doing?

If you want a more detailed answer, watch “Deltopia” (2023), take some notes and come back to me with your thoughts.

**Q: What clubs should I join?**

A: I actually couldn’t care less.

Just make sure they aren’t the ones I’m in.

**Q: How do I become an authentic UC Santa Barbara student?**

A: You start by never asking a dumbass question like this again, and then you take what I’m about to tell you to heart. It all starts with the attitude: You’ve got to be chill – chill is the very crux of the SB mindset, but with a kind of subtle ambition that lies just under the surface.

I’m talking hair still dripping in your formal suit because you had a cheeky surf sesh before your mock trial final. SB is all about deception. To the outside world, all we are is our party reputation. But what about the world-class research facilities? The students running environmental campaigns that reach the capitol? Why don’t we hear about those things?

It’s because the students are

walking around in their Rainbow Sandals flip-flops, or clogging up the bike paths as they ride mid-conversation, and stiff at Yale University or UC Berkeley don’t want to admit that tan people having fun are their competition.

Oh yeah, that reminds me. Always be kind to our Ivy League students, they have it tough (please reference the Yale Daily News’ lovely tribute piece entitled “Deltopia”). Sure, Weeks 1-9 (and maybe dabbling a little in 10), you can find a party somewhere in Isla Vista Wednesday through Saturday (okay maybe Sunday, too), but I guarantee you won’t be able to find a place to sit in the library Weeks 8-10, either.

The motto “work hard, play hard” is a little overexposed, but that doesn’t make it any less accurate. To be a UCSB student, you’ve got to know that the girl collapsed in front of a frat that you tripped over probably has

a higher GPA than you, and will be interning at Bain & Company over the summer. She might be your ECON 10A tutor, or your peer counselor, and damn straight she knows how to party, too.

At UCSB, you’ll realize that a little fun in the sun, breathing in that fresh ocean air, makes you stronger, smarter and more importantly, happier. You will become an authentic UCSB student if you embrace every experience with tanned arms, meeting new people (who are probably assessing your network-benefit–see above question) and defying any labels people try to slap on you. To be an SB student is to live without too much worry, because between commuting from the library to I.V. to catch the frats, who really has time for that?

*Serrano Ham hopes this helps!*



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UC SANTA BARBARA

ARTS & LECTURES

2025-2026 Highlights

UCSB students get significant discounts on world-class events like these.\*

Compagnie Hervé KOUBI

Jan 25

<div>Fareed Zakaria, Oct 16</div>	<div>Molly Tuttle, Dec 7</div>	<div><div>Abundance Ezra Klein Derek Thompson</div></div> <div>Ezra Klein, Nov 4</div>	<div>Yuja Wang, Apr 23</div>
<div>Lila Downs, Oct 23</div>	<div><div>HERE COMES THE SUN BILL McKIBBEN</div></div> <div>Bill McKibben, Apr 21</div>	<div>Yo-Yo Ma, Feb 22</div>	<div>Jake Shimabukuro, Dec 10</div>

See the full lineup and get tickets online at [www.ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu](http://www.ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu)

\*Discount available to full-time UCSB students that have completed enrollment for Fall 2025.





# FROM FAST FASHION TO THRIFT FINDS, STUDENTS DEFINE CAMPUS FASHION

Grace Mundaden  
Reporter

With styles coming and going at lightning speed, it is easy to feel like your closet is already outdated before the quarter even begins. The race to keep up with trends can push students toward quick, low-cost fixes, but there is growing interest in making choices that are both unique and affordable.

This year, emerging styles among Gen Z have leaned toward athleisure and oversized baggy jeans, while skinny jeans have somewhat lost their appeal. Second-year biology major Maya Wu said she’s observed a growing interest in baggy streetwear styles.

“I like the more baggy clothing, like jeans and jorts. I feel many brands are starting to offer those options,” Wu said.

Wu, who works at the Hollister/Abercrombie & Fitch store at the San Francisco Premium Outlets, also observed new back-to-school trends.

“During back-to-school season, I’ve seen Hollister bringing back styles that were popular a few years ago, which are getting a lot of teenagers’ attention. The Hollister section is very busy, while Abercrombie tends to draw more adult shoppers,” Wu said.

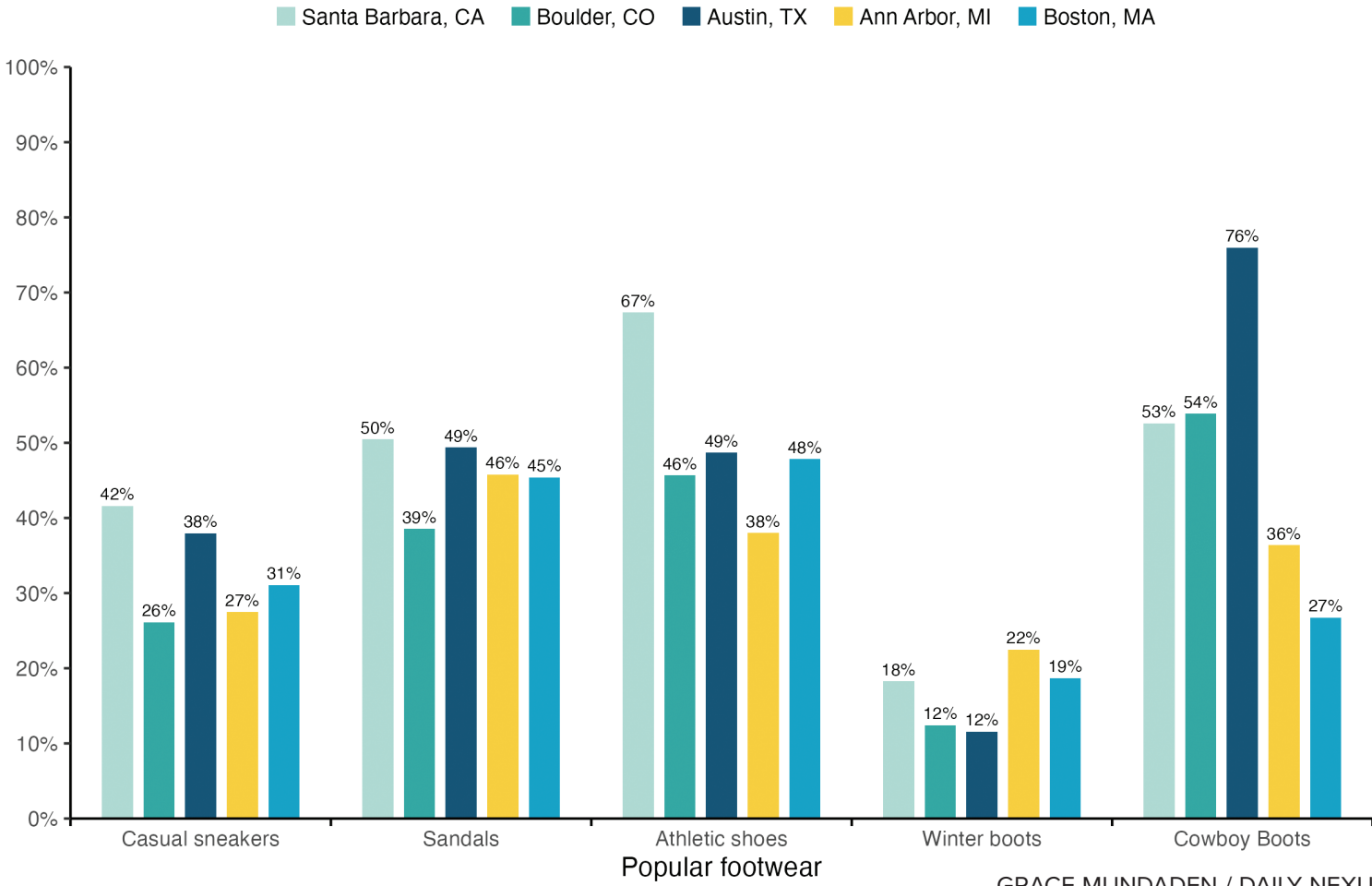
Fourth-year communication and political science double major and President of the UC Santa Barbara Fashion Club Malena Stenvall highlighted the latest trends in fashion at UCSB.

“Over the years, backpacks have been taken over by the love for huge slouchy shoulder bags that can fit everything from your laptop to your headphones to whatever snack you grabbed from The Arbor,” Stenvall said. “Obviously in SB, the go-to will always be denim and flip-flops, so it’ll be fun to see how this year’s students accessorize this uniform, whether it be through chunky belts, head scarves,



CLOTHING PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRACE MUNDADEN, MAYA WU, LEA JACOBSON

Relative Google search interest in popular shoes across college towns



GRACE MUNDADEN / DAILY NEXUS

Relative search frequency indicates how popular a brand is compared to other searches in a region, scored on a 0-100 scale where 100 represents peak interest. This approach makes it possible to compare interests across cities of different sizes. The shoe categories shown represent common footwear types among college students, reflecting climate, lifestyle and current trends. Google Trends data current as of Aug. 17, 2025.

bangles, etc.”

Through Google Trends, the Nexus analyzed fashion trends from five towns — Santa Barbara (CA), Boulder (CO), Austin (TX), Ann Arbor (MI) and Boston (MA) — near large public universities across the United States and five major brands associated with common fashion styles trending among students today: casual, athleisure and outerwear.

Santa Barbara’s mild year-round climate allows students to embrace summery fashion choices, including footwear like flip-flops and sandals, throughout every season. In

contrast to Santa Barbara, college towns in other regions of the United States like Boulder, Austin, Ann Arbor and Boston — known for their energetic social scenes, local culture and more extreme weather — tend to favor practical and weather-resistant footwear. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Online Weather Data, Boston’s temperatures in 2024 ranged from 15°F to 28°F in January and 70°F to 98°F in July, which is much more extreme than Santa Barbara’s winter lows of 52°F and summer highs of about 96°F, highlighting that local weather may shape campus style at different schools.

Second-year communication and sociology double major Lea Jacobson reflected on how cowboy boots became a staple in her first year at UCSB, both for school and fun.

“Cowboy boots have always been in, but I feel like they’ve

definitely made a comeback in the past year for me. I love to go line dancing in SB, and people always have the cutest boots. I think they’re the perfect shoe to elevate any outfit, whether it’s for a fun night out or to wear to class!” Jacobson said.

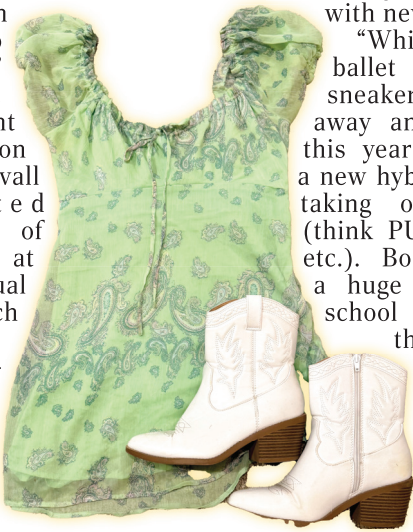
As president of the Fashion Club, Stenvall highlighted the culture of footwear at UCSB as casual and beach friendly.

“Flip-flops and Birkenstocks will always be the backbone of UCSB style, like a perfect metaphor for the campus’ carefree and easy-going nature. The charm of UCSB comes from the fact that

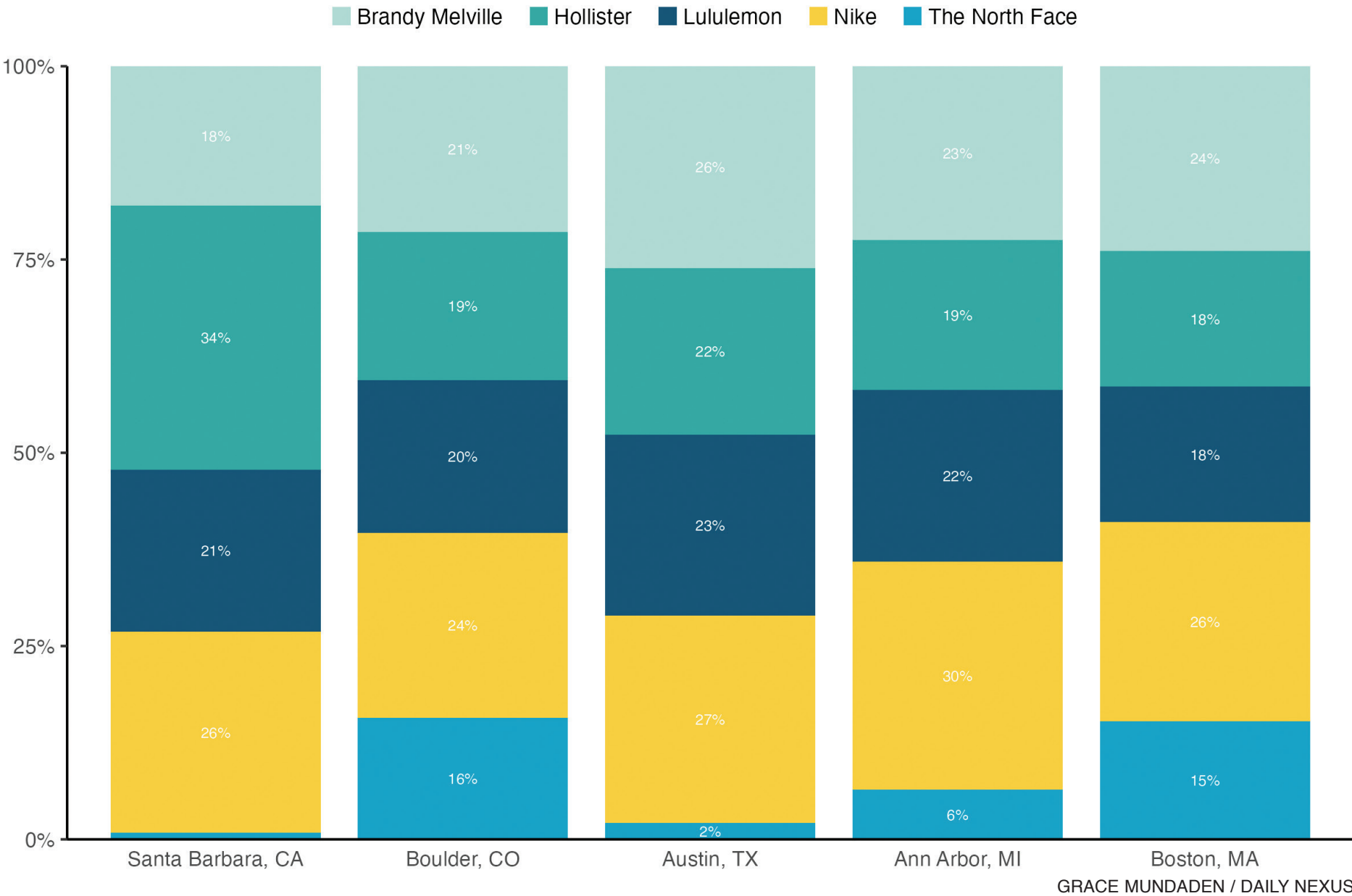
you often have to question if a student on campus is going to class or going straight to the beach,” Stenvall said.

Stenvall added that students are mixing classic choices with newer trends.

“While traditional ballet flats or sneakers aren’t going away any time soon, this year we’re seeing a new hybrid of the two taking over footwear (think PUMA, JW PEI, etc.). Boots also had a huge moment last school year with the Frye boot craze, and I think that energy will carry over into cowboy boots or even boat boots,” Stenvall said. “Honestly, I wouldn’t even be surprised if the ankle boot makes a comeback.”



Relative Google search interest in popular fashion brands across college towns



GRACE MUNDADEN / DAILY NEXUS

Fashion brand popularity varies across college towns: Brandy Melville leads in Austin, Nike dominates Ann Arbor and Boston, Lululemon and Hollister are strong in Austin and Santa Barbara while The North Face remains moderately consistent. These trends highlight regional differences in student brand preferences and represent the main fashion categories trending among students today: casual, athleisure and outdoor wear. Google Trends data current as of Aug. 1, 2025.



DATA

Stenvall said that the fun of campus style comes from its unpredictability.

“Whether students lean toward athleisure, dressing up or somewhere in between, there is nothing more fun than watching outfits parade through The Arbor during fall quarter,” Stenvall said.

With fashion trends changing rapidly, many students may turn to fast-fashion brands like SHEIN to keep up, especially during back-to-school shopping. Second-year financial math and statistics major Deepthy Mukkara explained that the low cost is one of her primary reasons for shopping at SHEIN.

“I guess I turn to fast fashion as a backup option, especially if I’m in a rush or need something specific. It’s usually the more budget-friendly option when I’m in a pinch,” Mukkara said.

Fourth-year doctoral candidate Jaenna Wessling, who is currently researching the sustainability of apparel at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, explained in a statement to the Nexus how fast fashion’s rapid production and consumption have serious environmental consequences.

“From an environmental standpoint, the main concerns associated with fast fashion brands like SHEIN are high energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and usage, pesticide and chemical use, microplastic pollution and waste at the end-of-life of clothing,” Wessling said. “Fast fashion is particularly harmful due to the massive amounts of apparel that are being produced annually. Since the rise of fast fashion in the late 1990s, there has been extreme growth



in the amount of clothing produced and consumed annually.”

The growth of production and consumption has resulted in a rapid growth of waste and pollution. “This overproduction and overconsumption is significant for such a short time period, and is not sustainable in our current climate,” Wessling stated.

Wessling also emphasized the human cost behind fast fashion.

“The garment manufacturing industry, and especially fast fashion companies, have a record marked by poor working conditions, including low wages, forced labor, long hours, child labor, exposure to chemicals and lack of protection from unions,” Wessling said.

She added that these labor abuses have intensified due to global competition.

“Competition among developing countries to win contracts with the lowest production costs [has resulted] in widespread poverty wages (Bhattacharjee & Roy, 2016, Kates, 2019, Williams, 2022).” Wessling stated.

However, the demand for cheap, trendy clothes to keep up with the latest fashion trends may keep this harmful cycle alive, taking a toll on both people and the planet. The fashion industry produces up to 100 billion garments each year, yet as much as 92 million tons of clothing end up in landfills annually.

In response to the environmental and ethical consequences of fast fashion, thrifting has steadily gained popularity over the past decade as a sustainable alternative to fast fashion. Thrifting helps extend the life

of clothes, reducing textile waste and keeping more items out of landfills. Beyond its positive environmental impact, thrifting can offer budget-friendly options for students and the chance to discover unique pieces that help them stand out.

Thrifting has become a go-to option for many UCSB students, with local shops and community events making it easy to participate. Escobar’s

“Whether students lean toward athleisure, dressing up or somewhere in between, there is nothing more fun than watching outfits parade through The Arbor during fall quarter.”

Malena Stenvall

Little Things, located in the heart of Isla Vista, offers a variety of garments from cowboy boots to formal dresses. Just a short bus ride away are other options like Alpha Thrift Store, Crossroads Trading and Urban Flea Market.

Stenvall added that one of her favorite thrift pieces is her Kate Spade bag.

“My personal Kate Spade brown school bag that I have used every day since buying it from Alpha Thrift my

sophomore year,” Stenvall said.

Second-year psychological & brain sciences major Cody Lee said a knitted vest he thrifted is one of his favorite pieces.

“Knitted vests have always been an appeal for me since my dad always wore them. I was in SF with my friend and just found it at a thrift store. Now I wear it all the time,” Lee said.

Furthermore, Santa Barbara resident Brittney Cotledge holds Thriftopia at least once a quarter at Little Acorn Park to make thrifting more accessible for students to find unique pieces and keep fashion fun without sacrificing the planet. The first Thriftopia of the school year will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27.

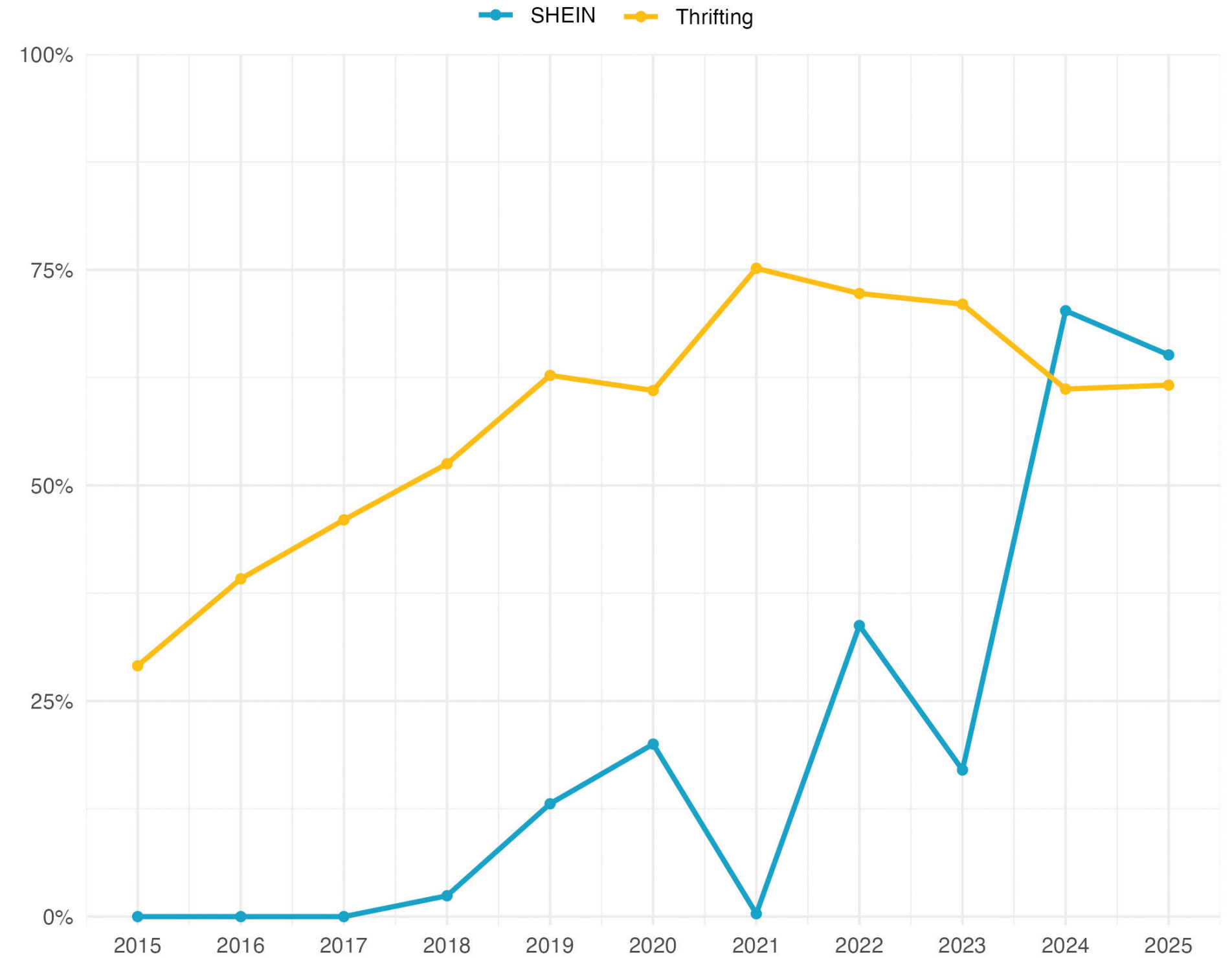
“Buying less is the most sustainable choice we can make. We vote with our dollars, so in collectively decreasing our consumption, we can decrease demand and overproduction,” Wessling said.



OUTFIT PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEEPTHY MUKKARA, MAYA WU, CODY LEE



"SHEIN" vs. "thrifting" Google search trends in Santa Barbara



GRACE MUNDADEN / DAILY NEXUS

In Santa Barbara, the relative popularity for the Google search term “thrifting” remained higher than that of the search term “SHEIN” until 2024. In 2025, “SHEIN” remains in the lead. Google Trends data current as of Aug. 20, 2025.



