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Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

UC Berkeley suspends international student work authorization program following I.C.E. threats

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement sent out a memo on Aug. 12 warning all Student and Exchange Visitor Program-certified universities that officials who incorrectly authorize Curricular Practical Training could face personal liability. Immigration and Customs Enforcement also threatened to remove universities' capacities to enroll international students if they do not comply.

In response, the UC Berkeley International Office (B.I.O.) announced that it is temporarily suspending all applications for Course Credit Curricular Practical Training (CPT) — a work authorization program that grants international students paid off-campus internship opportunities.

The memo claims that the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has seen a rise in CPT authorizations that do not meet regulatory requirements, emphasizing that CPT must be "an integral part of an established curriculum" and that it "cannot be authorized solely for the purpose of employment."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) is threatening liability and possible legal consequences for the individuals and universities found to be in violation of federal regulations, and the memo is not enforceable by law.

According to an email from B.I.O. Director Ivor Emmanuel sent to all international students, students with fully processed CPT applications will not be affected. The B.I.O. will continue to process "Degree-Requirement" CPT applications as normal.

In 2025, President Donald Trump issued presidential proclamations citing national security concerns, imposing full and partial travel bans on nearly 40 countries. Additionally, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued memorandums directing its personnel to "place a hold on pending benefit requests" for countries on the ban lists, among other things. This hold has paused adjudication of Optional Practical Training (OPT), which allows international students to work in the

U.S. for 12 months post-graduation in a field related to their studies. This directly impacted UCSB international students who were a part of the OPT program.

'Defending Education' files lawsuit against the UC over alleged free speech violations

Conservative activist group Defending Education filed a lawsuit against the UC on June 18 alleging that the UC's sexual harassment policies and anti-discrimination training violates free speech. The group alleged that the UC's designation of deadnaming — the intentional use of a transgender person's given name rather than their lived name — as potential sexual harassment is suppressive of students' opinions.

The national organization Defending Education claims to be "working to restore schools at all levels from activists imposing harmful agendas" in order to "fight indoctrination in classrooms and on campus." Defending Education and similar organizations have filed dozens of lawsuits attacking diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives across the country.

The lawsuit claims that the UC's sexual violence and sexual harassment policy is too broad and vague, creating a "hostile environment."

In a statement from the UC Office of the President to the Daily Bruin, the University developed the sexual violence and harassment policy in accordance with state and federal law to protect community members.

"The University of California is committed to fostering an environment that is welcoming to all while respecting freedom of speech and expression," the statement said.

Defending Education asked the judge to block the UC from enforcing deadnaming policies and declare it unconstitutional.

The UC admits a record number of California students

The UC has offered 102,031 California first-year students admissions for the 2026-27 academic year, marking a new record. This is an increase of 1,458 admitted California students, bumping the overall UC acceptance rate for California first-year students to 78%.

Over 205,000 students applied to the UC this application cycle, with 153,272 first-year students being accepted from the pool of California

residents and nonresidents. This growth is in line with the UC 2030 capacity plan that aims to add 17,000 in-state undergraduates by 2030. The capacity plan adheres to the UC's multi-year compact with the state, which requires the UC to increase California undergraduate enrollment by at least 1% annually to receive state funding increases.

"For generations, a University of California education has been one of the state's most powerful engines of social mobility, opening doors for talented students from every background and region of the state," UC President James B. Milliken said. "The record number of California students we're welcoming this year reflects UC's enduring commitment to expanding opportunity while preparing the next generation of leaders, innovators, educators and public servants."

Additionally, the UC increased California Community College (CCC) transfer admissions by 6% from the previous year. 29,372 CCC transfer students were accepted, 46% of which are first generation and 53% have low family incomes.

UC Regents appoints Jordan Roiland as the 2027-28 student regent

The UC Board of Regents appointed Jordan Roiland as the 2027-28 student regent on July 14. Roiland will serve as student regent-designate for about a year, after which he will gain voting privileges as his one-year term begins on July 1, 2027.

Roiland is currently a medical student in the UC Berkeley - UC San Francisco Joint Medical Program. Roiland previously earned his bachelor's degree double majoring in applied mathematics and statistics and biochemistry from New York's Stony Brook University. He then earned a Master of Science in health and medical sciences from UC Berkeley.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Roiland worked for two years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Associate Program. Roiland's work focused on Human Papillomavirus and cervical cancer prevention. When Roiland joined the UC Berkeley community, he served on the Student Advisory Committee to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, advocating for housing needs, technology services and student professional development programs.

Elena Irwin appointed dean of Bren School of Environmental Science & Management



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Irwin's research mainly addresses the sustainability of human-natural systems.

Julia Sanabria
Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara has welcomed a new dean for the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management. Elena Irwin will assume responsibility starting Sept. 21.

The previous dean, Steve Gaines, served for 15 years before stepping down in July 2025. Former Chancellor Henry T. Yang highlighted "[Gaines'] outstanding leadership as Dean, and his continuing contributions as our faculty colleague" in an email message. The vacancy was initially filled by Interim Dean Sarah Anderson, who was praised by Chancellor Dennis Assanis "for her dedication, service, and leadership over the past year."

Now, this position will be filled indefinitely by Irwin, current Distinguished University Professor and faculty director of the Sustainability Institute at Ohio State University (OSU). Irwin has had a lengthy career that the search advisory committee believe has prepared her to take on this role.

"[Irwin] has secured more than \$30 million in externally funded research, published extensively, mentored postdoctoral scholars and doctoral

students, and led interdisciplinary research teams throughout her career," Assanis stated in an email to the community.

In addition to these accomplishments, Irwin has held many leadership positions. While at OSU, she launched the university-wide Sustainability Institute in 2019, which focused on strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration. Furthermore, Irwin was an advisory member of the chartered Science Advisory Board, served as a member of the Environmental Justice Science and Analysis Review Panel and is nationally leading as president-elect of the National Sustainability Society.

Due to Irwin's experience working in numerous environments with different colleagues, Assanis expressed optimism about the future of the Bren School under her leadership.

Irwin's research mainly addresses the sustainability of human-natural systems, such as examining land usage locally and in the wider region.

"We are confident that she will work with her colleagues at Bren and throughout the campus to develop an ambitious vision building on campus strengths and priorities," Assanis said.

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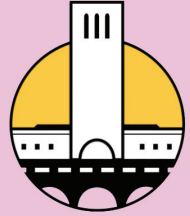
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What it’s like living long-term in America’s number one college party town

Levi Kauffman
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Every year, thousands of students graduate from UC Santa Barbara and subsequently leave the adjacent college town of Isla Vista behind, making room for the next generation of similarly temporary residents. But, who remain amongst this fluid population are the residents that continue to call this beach town, known for its party culture, home.

According to Santa Barbara County Planning and Development, IV has a population of around 20,000, of which about 65% are students. Among the remaining roughly third of the community are recent graduates building careers, couples raising families and local leaders.

Their stories and experiences offer a glimpse into the idyllic and difficult lives of long-term IV residents.

Building a family

Henry Sarria has lived in IV for 39 years with his wife Kim and their family of five cats. He explained that while many plan for a life after IV, he found himself establishing his life in it.

“I was too busy doing school or work, playing in bands, skateboarding in contests, [and] racing bicycles, Motocross and mountain bikes,” Sarria said. “I was always too busy ... to think about moving.”

Peegen and Jon Soutar, long time friends of Sarria, met at UCSB in the early 1980s and bought the home where they still live in 1983. The Soutars have raised two children in IV since then, a son born in 1988 and a daughter born in 1990.

Although they briefly considered moving to Santa Cruz while Peegen was pregnant with their daughter, the couple chose to stay in IV and make it better for their children and the community. To this end, the Soutars have strongly advocated for more parks, sidewalks and increased safety while Peegen served on the IV Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for 20 years.

The Soutars described the IV community as “always super friendly,” especially toward their children, diverse and having a “culture of learning.” They recalled allowing their children to go to any house in IV as long as the people living there called them and shared their names, address and told them what the kids were doing.

“We had a lot of trust for the students here,” Peegen Soutar said. “[For students] it’s like a puppy. It was like, ‘look what just showed up on our front doorstep; these two little kids that for some reason decided our house was a cool one to come visit.’”

Despite the Soutar’s fond memories of their children’s childhood, they still acknowledged the certain risks of raising a family in a town known for its party culture.

“I think if you weren’t watching what was going on there was probably opportunities for the young kids to get involved and stuff a little earlier than might happen someplace else,” Peegen Soutar said.

Peegen Soutar also said that cars speeding in IV was a major issue when they were raising their children. The family lost a dog and a cat after they were struck by vehicles driving recklessly.

In regards to raising kids in IV today, the Soutars feel that it is likely similar in terms of safety and other challenges compared to the nearby communities of Goleta and Santa Barbara. One particular challenge they highlighted was that IV is “a magnet for young people,” leading many kids to come for parties, a fact they feel has been aided by an increase in electric bike use.

The biggest difficulty they see in starting a family in IV today is affordability.

Aaron Howard, who has lived in IV since starting at UCSB in 2007, said that while he isn’t seeking to start a family currently, he doubts he would be able to in IV without owning a house.

“I’m just not quite in that phase yet of my life,” he said. “I imagine I’d probably be living on my own and without housemates by the time that happens, which would likely mean outside of Isla Vista.”

The Soutars said they know many people who have left the community to start families and despite wanting to return, can’t afford to do so because of the high cost of living.

“This place is magic,” Peegen Soutar said. “And those people that have figured it out want to live here and they can’t cause of the rents.”

An ever changing community

Multiple people interviewed by the Daily Nexus noted seeing



The memorial paddle out honoring the victims of the 2014 Isla Vista mass shooting drew thousands of IV residents.

an increasing number of homes occupied by long-term residents taken over by student tenants. A key factor in this trend has been rising rents, which are among the highest in the county.

“I think there’s a really tight-knit community of the long-term residents and there’s just fewer of them now,” Spencer Brandt, who has lived in IV for over a decade, said.

During his time in IV, Brandt recounted the 2023 evictions of residents living in 243 apartments across three buildings located on El Colegio Road, collectively known as CBC & the Sweeps, as the biggest single change in population. According to the Santa Barbara Independent, this was a case of “renoviction,” where a property owner evicts tenants in order to renovate and subsequently raise rent.

“Families were evicted by a company that believed that they could upgrade the income of their tenants,” Brandt said.

He highlighted that the evictions were particularly felt at IV Elementary School, where enrollment dropped by 30 students the following year and has continued to decline.

The Soutars said that a friend of theirs, a single mother who lived in the Sweeps apartments for 20 years, was forced to leave.

Howard has witnessed this shift too. In the west end of IV, where Howard and many other long-term residents live, he has seen “many” family-owned houses converted to rentals and taken over by students.

“One house where there’s maybe one couple living there, it sells, and then all of a sudden it becomes a renter and then you’ve got, what, six, eight, 10 people?” Howard said.

With the increased density, Howard said he’s seen more waste on streets, foot traffic and vehicles.

“Even one house turning over on the 68 block has an impact,” he said.

Sarria highlighted that the growth in population and infrastructure is more than he has ever seen. UCSB has experienced a rising student population, and when coupled with the limited on-campus bed spaces offered, students must find spaces in tall apartment complexes within IV.

“In my early days here, I would have never thought there would have been a four-story building in IV,” Saria said. “Now you got the new one that’s being built over in the corner of Trigo and Embarcadero Del Mar.”

The fluidity of IV’s population was particularly noticeable to the Soutar’s, who recalled students attending universities other than UCSB and Santa Barbara City College living in IV while taking classes remotely. Despite assumptions that IV cleared out during the pandemic, the couple said “it was just as full.”

Response to tragedy

2014 is remembered as one of the darkest years in IV’s history. In April, riots erupted during Deltopia celebrations and a mass shooting the next month killed seven people. Brandt arrived as a freshman at UCSB the next year.

“As a student during that time period, that was always something that was in the back of your mind,” he said.

Sarria described the periods where IV has experienced tragedy as a major challenge he’s faced while living there. He explained that it’s difficult to see the community he’s a part of go through devastating loss.

“The challenges that I face in IV have been what some people have gone through as a function of those [tragic] incidents,” Sarria said. “A grief that a lot of people are undergoing is tough — it’s hard to watch. Imagine coming back [to IV] and wondering if some of your friends got killed or injured, you know; it’s just not right.”

Brandt emphasized that discussion among students about the causes of both the riots and shooting was very common at the time but has declined in the years since, which he attributed to the transient student population and “human nature to forget.”

Howard, who graduated three

years before 2014, recalled a “somber atmosphere” hanging over IV for a while after the shooting but simultaneously “a lot of beautiful community support.” He fondly remembered joining the memorial paddle-out honoring the victims that drew thousands of people.

“It was just a very heavy situation that you don’t think would happen in your town and then it does,” Howard said.

The Soutars also recalled the community coming together after the shooting.

“I don’t know how to describe it but there were a few years there where people would look right at you and smile and say ‘Hello,’” Peegen Soutar said.

Since entering the community in the aftermath of tragedy, Brandt said the biggest change he’s seen in IV has been increased safety, which he

attributed in-part to services like the Community Service Organization, bridging the gap between students and law enforcement. However, not all long-term residents agree to having witnessed this shift.

Sarria believes that crime reporting has decreased due to negative attitudes toward law enforcement, thus skewing crime rate statistics to appear lower. He clarified that he doesn’t believe crime is drastically increasing, but he has viewed a shift in the severity of crime.

Sarria referenced the rape and strangulation that occurred in May, the arrest of several men living in IV for illegally possessing multiple firearms last year, among other incidents.

“There’s a lot of stuff that goes on that doesn’t go reported, [and] when I say reported, I don’t mean just to law enforcement,” Sarria said. “A lot of

what goes on the media doesn’t know about.”

Sarria attributed this lack of information to the desire to “present a nice image” of IV, so that parents feel secure in sending their children to UCSB. While he understands where the avoidance of negative press comes from, he believes it is important “to report the truth [because] there’s a certain responsibility.”

Looking ahead

With the next class of UCSB and SBCC students arriving to IV, some who may one day become long-term residents, Brandt voiced his excitement for them and hope that future residents will leave IV “a little bit better than [they] found it.”

“You’re about to be moving to one of the most vibrant and special communities in the entire world,” he said. “You’re gonna experience some of the best and most exciting years of your life. Living here, building relationships with people [and] getting to enjoy everything our community has to offer.”

Sarria emphasized the importance for the community to get along with one another as a piece of advice for the continuing community and the incoming alike.

“We’re all gonna have differences of opinions on things, [but] that doesn’t mean we have to be a jerk about it,” Sarria said. “It just means that you have to learn to accept those differences and be with them or around them. We’re not a city or a town — we’re a community.”

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An analysis of a decade of crime at UCSB

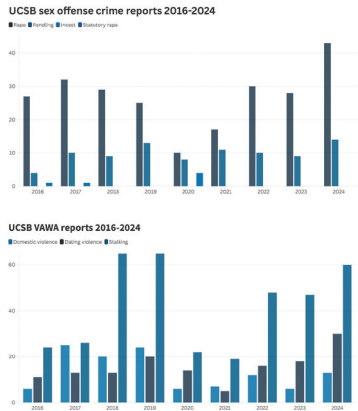
Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor
Levi Kauffman
County News Editor

Warning: this article contains mentions of sexual assault.

The Daily Nexus compiled and analyzed crime data from 2016 to 2024 obtained via Clery reports at UC Santa Barbara in order to observe trends over the last decade in sex offenses, hate crimes and drug and alcohol related crimes, among others. Additionally, UCSB crime rates have been compared to other UC campuses — excluding UC Santa Cruz and UC San Francisco.

Observed increases in crime

Sex offenses



Over the past decade, reports of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) offenses, which includes domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, at UCSB have been steadily increasing — excluding a general crime dip during 2020 and 2021 that coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the pandemic decrease, as of 2024, incidents of dating violence offenses have surpassed pre-pandemic rates. While 2018 and 2019 saw the peak of stalking reports — with 65 incidents each — rates have been trending upward, with 60 cases reported in 2024. Alternatively, the pandemic dip has remained for reports of domestic violence, with rates remaining below pre-pandemic levels. Reported incidents of rape have significantly increased at UCSB, surpassing pre-pandemic

rates with 43 reports in 2024. Other rates of sex offenses such as fondling, statutory rape and incest have remained consistent over the past decade, except for a significant deviation of four cases of statutory rape in 2020, which has otherwise remained at zero cases every other year. Additionally, attendance for Sexual Assault Prevention for UCSB undergraduate students dropped from the 90% range in previous years to 60% in the 2024-25 school year. The Nexus remains committed to reporting on cases of sexual violence on and around the UCSB campus. In light of several recent incidents, the Nexus compiled a guide of local and university resources available to students and community members who are survivors of sexual violence.

UCSB violent and property crimes

In general, cases of violence and property crimes have increased over the past 10 years, including motor vehicle theft, burglary, aggravated assault and arson — incidents of robbery seem to remain consistently low prepandemic and postpandemic. While the nation saw a surge of motor vehicle theft following the pandemic, with its peak in 2023 and a subsequent decline, UCSB saw the rise continue with 63 reports in 2023 and 71 in 2024. In 2023, the definition of motor vehicles was expanded to include electric scooters and bikes. However, this increase seems to signal a plateau compared to the spike between 2022 and 2023 which had a 40 incident difference. Additionally, burglary, aggravated assault and arson all saw their peak in 2024.

Observed decreases in crime

Drug and alcohol related crime

Overall, there was a 59% decrease in alcohol and drug

related crimes at UCSB from 2016 to 2024 despite a 7% increase in enrollment.

UCSB liquor/drug/weapons reports 2016-2024

Liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action have fallen dramatically in the last decade. There were 26 in 2024, compared to 417 in 2016, which represents a nearly 94% decrease. Similarly, drug law violations referred for disciplinary action have fallen over 91%, from 120 in 2016 to 10 in 2024. Drug and liquor law violations resulting in arrests saw a similar dip around the pandemic, falling about 71% and 89% respectively from 2019 to 2021. It seems too early to tell if the number of these arrests will return to prepandemic levels, but they have both begun trending upward since 2022. This is also the first time since at least 2016 that there were more liquor law violations resulting in arrests than referred for disciplinary action. Weapons law violations resulting in arrests have greatly fluctuated over the last decade, peaking at 27 in 2018 while sinking to three in 2023. The decline in alcohol and drug related violations aligns with larger trends of youth abstaining from drug use. The 2025 Monitoring the Future Study Annual Report conducted by the University of Michigan, which has monitored drug use among American 12th graders since 1975, found that 42% of 12th graders surveyed in 2024 used alcohol in the past 12 months, compared to 75% in 1997 and nearly 56% in 2016. The study also suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a lasting impact on drug and alcohol consumption among youth, with a sharp drop from 55.3% of 12th graders consuming alcohol in the last 12 months in 2020 to 46.5% in 2021.

Hate crime

Reported hate crimes have significantly increased at UCSB in the last decade, with 0 cases reported in 2016 compared to 27 in 2024.

UCSB Clery Act hate crime or unfounded crime reports 2016-2024

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crime Data Explorer, hate crimes have been on the rise nationally since 2016, with 7,485 reported in 2016 compared to 13,950 reported in 2024.

Homicide

There have been two murders reported since 2016, with one in 2021 and one in 2022.

How UCSB compares to other UC campuses

Editor's Note: The Nexus was unable to obtain data for UC Santa Cruz, and UC San Francisco data was excluded because the university does not have an undergraduate program.

Drug and alcohol related crime

Compared to other UCs that the Nexus was able to obtain data for, UCSB has seen the sharpest dip in liquor law violations resulting in arrests. This trend can't be fully accounted for by the pandemic, as UCSB's number of liquor law arrests was similar to other campuses in 2021 and 2022, but was 975% higher than UC Berkeley in 2019, the UC campus with the next most arrests. Drug and liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action at UCSB have fallen relative to other UCs since 2016. While drug arrests appear to be trending towards prepandemic levels, liquor arrests don't seem to be. It should be noted that in 2020, the United States Department of Education fined UC Berkeley \$2.35 million for Clery Act violations, including misclassifying 1,125 crimes, mostly liquor, drug and weapons violations. Since the audit that uncovered the violations concluded in 2019 until 2024,

reported liquor and drug law violations have fallen 58%. Also of note, UC San Diego has a much higher number of drug and liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action than resulting in arrest. Additionally, UC Merced's student population of about 9,000 is markedly lower than other UCs and likely explains the inflated trends when the data is normalized per 10,000 students.

Sex offenses

Across the UCs — except for UCSF and UCSC — reported sex offense crimes have increased by 156% from 2016 to 2024, alongside a nearly 14% increase in student enrollment. In the same timeframe, UCSB saw a 119% increase in sex offenses. Reported incidents of rape have increased 59% at UCSB, while the systemwide increase is 48%. From 2016 to 2024, UCSB had the highest rates of rape per 10,000 students for five separate years. While domestic violence rates have decreased at UCSB postpandemic, after normalizing for the student population, UCSB did see the highest rates of domestic violence prepandemic. Since 2020, UC Los Angeles has seen the steepest rise in domestic violence reports. Across the UC system, UCSB consistently has some of the highest rates of dating violence, on par with UC Riverside. Dating violence saw its highest rates in 2024 at both UCSB and UCR, exceeding prepandemic rates. The other UC campuses do not seem to have the same increase in recent years. UCSB stands out in terms of stalking reports prepandemic, not just with more cases per 10,000 students, but a significantly higher amount than the other UC campuses. Overall, when each sex offense is accounted for and normalized for campus population, UCSB consistently ranks the highest among UC campuses in the amount of incidents reported, except for 2020, 2021 and 2023. Malia Guy and Krithi Saravanan contributed data collection/visualization.





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Students explain how to navigate UCSB clubs

Julia Sanabria
Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara is home to multitudes of clubs; there are 677 campus organizations registered on Shoreline, the university co-curricular and community engagement platform, as of August. From academic oriented clubs to recreational, sports, cultural, Greek life, community service and women organizations; there is one for nearly every interest.

Many UCSB students may be unsure of how to choose the right club, finding this wealth of choices to be overwhelming. Second-year history of policy, law and governance major, Maya Schwartz, revealed how she felt as a first year experiencing this for the first time. “As a freshman, it can be overwhelming to decide clubs to commit to with such a large pool of organizations, but I eventually followed my gut, sticking to the clubs that felt the most fulfilling to me,” Schwartz said.

Schwartz is involved in a community service based organization called Isla Vista Surfrider, which is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the ocean and beaches for all. Their student club features several committees dedicated to different aspects of their protective mission.

“Surfrider adds value both within campus culture and sustainability as a whole. Our campus is defined by its gorgeous geographical location, which can only be preserved for years to come by students’ efforts to conserve and protect,” Schwartz said.

Other opportunities to get involved in activism and community service are Freedom 4 Youth — which aims to empower youth to build safe and compassionate communities — and Best Buddies, whose mission is to create meaningful one-on-one friendships with individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities.

About 13% of UCSB students participate in Greek life. This includes groups under the United Sorority & Fraternity Council, a cultural or identity based organization, the Interfraternity

Council for male identifying students, the Collegiate Panhellenic Council for students who do not identify as male and the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which is a historically Black and African American organization.

Ingrid Ramirez, a fourth-year sociology major, is a member of Lambda Sigma Gamma Sorority, Inc., which is part of the United Sorority & Fraternity Council.

“I met so many girls with so many similar backgrounds, and it was just so nice building those connections,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez is also part of Sociedad Eterna — a Latine organization with three pillars: networking, community service and academics. During her first-year orientation, Ramirez said she remembered feeling out of place.

“I didn’t see people that looked like me. ... The culture shock when I first got here was crazy, and especially being homesick, I needed to find my community. So within those organizations, I’ve been able to find my closest friends,” Ramirez said.

Luna Castellanos, a fourth-year political science and philosophy double major, shared a similar feeling when she discovered she did not feel like she truly belonged in any of the spaces already at UCSB. As a result, she created her own by co-founding the Central American Student Association (C.A.S.A.).

“I personally felt like there wasn’t really a space for Central American students specifically on campus. I know you’ve probably seen the Chicano Latino room in the [Student Resource Building] or El Centro, but those always have Chicano in front of them and a lot of Central Americans don’t really feel like that word represents them and their identity,” Castellanos said.

In addition to being co-president of C.A.S.A., Castellanos is the incoming co-chair of the Legal Education Association for Diversity (L.E.A.D.). She joined her second year and described it as a “life-changing experience” that led her to pursue pre-law.

Through L.E.A.D., she experienced an all-expenses-paid trip to Boston to visit prestigious

law schools and talk to Latine law students. Castellanos said she valued hearing experiences she could relate to and found it easier to imagine herself in their position because of that.

“I want to make sure that that legacy of L.E.A.D. keeps going and that students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds get to actually experience those things and feel like they have a space in those campuses,” Castellanos said.

Addysen Wilson, a second-year political science and economics double major, is part of a different academic club: Model United Nations (MUN). After trying other academic clubs, such as Mock Trial, she ultimately felt drawn to MUN.

“I heard about the travel opportunities, the team building and the speeches you create. And how every time [you compete] you’re just working on your public speaking skills — that really spoke to me,” Wilson said.

Not only has she gained skills applicable toward her career aspirations, but she has also met her closest friends in her clubs. Overall, being a part of MUN has benefited Wilson in ways she did not foresee.

“The people in [MUN] are just so dedicated to the club, but also their academics, and most of them are in the same major as you are. And so it really helps one, that community support, and two, I’ve seen just through so many people that the more extracurriculars you have, the more balanced you become, and it really helps your schoolwork too,” Wilson said.

Aurora Thompson, a fourth-year communication and film and media studies double major, was looking for a creative outlet when she found Her Campus, a digital women-led and focused magazine.

“It is also a very diverse organization, and I think it is very cool seeing the different things that are written about and what certain interns care about. Some people like to tell really personal stories, some people are into pop culture and what’s going on in the world, so I think it’s cool to have different perspectives that all stem from women because I feel like women



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCSB DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
Looking to further prepare for a potential career or make lasting bonds, UCSB students have found the resources to do so through clubs on campus.

aren’t usually taken as seriously and heard from as much, and so it’s nice to have that outlet for us,” Thompson said.

Thompson joined the spring of her third year and appreciated how welcoming the members were. She described them as being incredibly welcoming of new members.

There are a myriad of women’s only organizations such as Women in Business, Women in Law, Women in Media and more. Thompson noted feeling empowered as a woman being a participant of a woman-centered organization.

Struggling to find community within a community so large is what led second-year environmental studies and geography double major Audrey Young to join club ultimate Frisbee.

“I feel like college is so overwhelming and it can feel very isolating at times because you don’t know anyone and you don’t really have close friends at the beginning of your freshman year. I remember at the information meeting [for club ultimate Frisbee] this girl was like, yeah you know I enjoyed Frisbee and all of a sudden I didn’t have to worry about having friends or having people to do something with, there’s always someone to do something with,” Young said.

Young commented that club sports are typically ranked among high school varsity sports in terms of time commitment. There are multiple practices a week and many teams travel for games in and out of the state.

“I think it’s all about what you make of it. I think I could have

probably joined other sports and had fun, but I just really loved the community and Frisbee. And the people doing it, I just got along with,” Young said.

What all of these club members have in common is they were looking for a place to belong, including Sophia Green, a second-year political science major, who joined UCSB Psychedelic Club after conversing with different clubs at a club fair.

“I think it adds a really safe space for a subgroup of students that maybe they don’t have a lot of friends that have similar interests or experiences regarding psychedelics to them. And so I feel like it offers a nice sense of belonging, and also it’s like a little community,” Green said.

The club features education and awareness around psychedelics through history, science and personal stories. Green commented that the level of deep communication she has reached with the other members has reassured her that there are people similar to her at UCSB.

Joining a club can prepare students for future career aspirations or offer unforgettable experiences. For Ramirez, it cultivated the community she needed.

“I get a really big sense of community and familiarity. When I first came here, I really didn’t have people. So now that I’m a part of the organizations and I’m a lot more involved, I go outside and I run into people all the time. I feel so much more familiar,” Ramirez said.

Struggles of small businesses in an ever-changing college town

Elijah Obando
Asst. News Editor

From chains to independent businesses, UC Santa Barbara students can shop for clothes, grab a bite to eat and order a coffee without ever leaving their backyard — known as Isla Vista. At the start of each academic year, new students discover what Isla Vista has to offer while returning students flock back to their favorite spots.

However, returning students may notice the constant changes IV undergoes every year: new businesses move in, old businesses move out and a “for-lease” sign may be posted in a building where a restaurant stood the previous year.

Entrepreneurship can be difficult no matter where one establishes their business, even more so in a community where a majority of residents leave for periods of time throughout the year. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, roughly half of private businesses in California close in their first five years.

Many factors contribute to this low survival rate, and operating in IV brings its own unique challenges, particularly for businesses whose customers’ presence in IV largely follows UC Santa Barbara’s academic calendar. Despite this, some businesses manage to stand the test of time, while others may not.

The IV Bagel Cafe has been a longstanding establishment in IV. since 1991. Owner Doron Friedman came to the community with the purpose of bringing East Coast university bagel culture to a West Coast audience. After doing extensive research, he and his previous business partner set their sights on IV.

“I was 21 years old when I moved there,” Friedman said. “I scrounged up all the money I had — worked all my life through high school and borrowed a little bit from my siblings here and there ... and I’ll never forget the day that I was pulling up tile, and the owner of Sam’s To Go comes by my shop and he says, ‘Good luck, six businesses went out of business here in the past two years.’”

Friedman described Bagel Cafe’s first year as “particularly difficult.” At the time, he had been dealing with issues from his business partner and her father. Friedman explained that she was originally meant to fund the business, however, disagreements led to changes in



COURTESY OF SIMON KOGURE-TAKAMA
For a business to survive in I.V., it means more than having the right product or sufficient funding.

their deal and threats of legal action.

According to Friedman, his business partner and her father threatened to bankrupt him if he was unable to buy her out and pay double her prior investment.

“[Her father] is a very rich, sophisticated business guy, and here they [were] sitting with me and I was just floored,” Friedman said. “I didn’t know what to do. I was scared, and I walked out and he was like, ‘You have 24 hours.’”

Friedman explained that with the help of his own father, he was able to buy his partner out for what she invested, and soon after the business “started to take off because that negative energy was no longer [there].”

Friedman later purchased what became IV Pizza Pub after the original restaurant, Pizza My Heart, was going out of business. Rather than watch IV lose another restaurant, he chose to help save it.

“I was ... so tired watching restaurants just go out of business in Isla Vista,” Friedman said. “I don’t want another business to go out of business. I want to save this business. People love this place.”

Businesses established in IV are heavily reliant on UCSB students, and each year brings periods where a large portion of their customer base leaves. Friedman described summer as one of the greatest challenges of operating in IV, as businesses lose customers during summer, winter and spring breaks while many of their expenses remain the same. During slower periods, Friedman said he reduces labor if possible but avoids cutting hours for longtime full-time employees such as his bakers.

“I’ve written checks for years to cover payroll,” Friedman said. “People don’t realize that it’s personal — you’re sending your personal money. People put their life savings on the line, and they lose

everything. [A] majority [of] businesses go out of business.”

Pete Smith, one of three owners of Best Coffee, formerly operating under the KOZY Coffee name, took over the business on March 5. Smith works most of the summer hours himself, allowing the business to cut back on labor costs until students return.

During the academic year, Smith said rent accounts for around 8% of the business’s revenue. During summer, that figure increases to around 30% as the shop operates at approximately 25% to 30% of its normal sales volume.

“It’s impossible to be anything other than negative in the summer,” Smith said. “We’re just flat out losing money.”

The seasonal slowdown is not limited to restaurants and coffee shops. Rozzana Lirio, the owner of Babes, a clothing store that recently took over ownership of Escobar’s Little Things, said she caters largely to the student population by shaping the store’s hours and inventory around their habits.

Lirio said students tend to shop at different times throughout the day, including later at night, requiring the business to adjust its schedule around its primary customers. During slower periods, particularly summer, Babes reduces its hours to account for fewer customers.

Lirio said part of the goal behind Babes is to give students access to vintage and seasonal clothing within walking distance, especially for those without cars.

The seasonal difficulty also affects community-owned businesses. The IV Food Cooperative has been a part of IV for over 50 years, and it still looks for ways to combat these slow periods.

The IV Food Co-op previously established another location in Santa

Barbara, which later closed in December 2025. According to Grocery Manager Tyler White, the expansion was partially an attempt to gain more consistent revenue outside of IV. during slow periods.

White described IV. as an “ever-changing, dynamic environment,” where businesses must not only prepare for students leaving during breaks but attempt to establish a connection with the new cohort of students each year brings.

“We have to rebuild our relationship with every new wave of students,” White said. “And that also means because we’re a co-op and we serve the community, we have to also respond to the needs of that ever-changing community.”

Despite the difficulties the academic schedule creates for businesses through IV’s seasonality, students are what many of the businesses attribute their connection to the community to.

Around 70% of IV Bagel Cafe’s employees are students, according to Friedman. He said one of his favorite parts of owning the business has been watching student employees grow, eventually placing them into management positions and giving them experience they can take into their careers.

“I created so many jobs and helped people pay through college and pay for their rent,” Friedman said. “It’s a great feeling.”

Smith similarly wants Best Coffee to eventually become primarily student-centered. During summer, he is regularly behind the counter himself, but said he plans to become less customer-facing as students return and begin working at the business.

At the Food Co-op, the relationship extends beyond a consumer-employment connection. White said

the co-op primarily serves students and hopes to function as a “third space” where student organizations and community members can gather. The co-op also works with the Associated Students Food Bank and has partnered with university organizations to provide bulk orders and catering.

The relationship between local businesses and the student population can become especially important during large community events. Soltopia, the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) sanctioned Deltopia alternative, featured partnerships with many local businesses such as Yetz’s Bagels, IV Bagel Cafe and IV Food Co-op, among others.

Friedman said the original Deltopia provided IV Bagel Cafe and IV Pizza Pub with one of their most profitable weekends of the year, helping compensate for losses during breaks when students leave the area. While Friedman praised efforts to support businesses through Soltopia, he said the event did not generate the same revenue as Deltopia.

“[IVCSD] really made a good effort,” Friedman said. “But I would be lying if I didn’t say that ... it just didn’t match Deltopia.”

Apart from Soltopia, Friedman said future community events could better support IV. businesses by directing attendees toward them rather than bringing in outside food vendors.

“That just destroys business. It doesn’t help us at all,” Friedman said.

Smith raised a similar concern, arguing that food trucks and temporary vendors can compete with brick-and-mortar businesses without carrying the same rent and overhead.

Businesses depend on students to shop, eat and work, while students depend on the businesses to provide goods, gathering spaces and employment within walking distance of campus.

For a business to survive in IV, it means more than having the right product or sufficient funding. Each year requires preparation for thousands of customers to leave and come back for a community whose tastes and needs may have changed in the meantime.

White said that constant change is simultaneously one of the most difficult and rewarding parts of working in IV.

“[It’s a] dynamic community that’s always shifting,” White said. “But also still holds on to a lot of that core essence of Isla Vista.”



YDSA's demands to the Office of the Chancellor included a petition of support signed by over 3,000 UCSB students demanding protection from I.C.E.

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

For decades, UC Santa Barbara student activism has played a prominent role in campus culture by raising awareness for issues – local and global – influencing curriculum and university action. For the 2025-26 academic year, hundreds of students organized demonstrations and campaigns speaking out against United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In the first year of President Donald Trump's second term, the number of individuals held in immigration detention centers increased by almost 75% – the highest number in American history. This unprecedented expansion of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) was enabled by Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill," which allocated over \$170 billion to immigration and border enforcement. Earlier this summer, Congress voted to direct around \$70 billion to the Department of Homeland Security to fund I.C.E. through the end of Trump's term.

On July 4, 2025, the Daily Nexus launched an I.C.E. Sighting Tracker in light of raids in Goleta and Santa Barbara. Since June 8, 2025, 805UndocuFund – a local non-profit dedicated to supporting undocumented communities in the 805 area code – has sent reports of 60 I.C.E. sightings throughout Goleta and Santa Barbara, with one being an impersonation attempt.

Unidentified federal agents attempt to identify student

On October 2, 2025, Santa Catalina Residence Hall staff alleged that unconfirmed immigration officials entered the building searching for a specific individual, but no information was shared by staff.

The hall's staff believe the agents entered the building by waiting for a student who was entering or exiting, as an electronic key is needed to enter. The agents showed the staff a file on a person with the Santa Catalina Residence Hall address. No information was disclosed as per the Family

Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which prohibits the sharing of personal information from educational records without student consent.

Former Associated Students (A.S.) President Le Anh Metzger told the Daily Nexus that the UC Police Department (UCPD) informed her the two individuals were a man and a woman who asked about an international student's visa status.

While the University stated it did not believe the individuals were I.C.E. agents, they began an investigation into the unidentified federal agents. The University told the Nexus that per UCPD's investigation, it believed the individuals were government officials but had not confirmed their agency. Metzger also noted that UCPD had contacted the Ventura and Los Angeles I.C.E. field offices and were told that no agents were sent to the dormitory.

There has been no more information provided by the University regarding the agencies or identities of the federal agents.

Associated Students create 'Protect Your Peers' week

In January, several A.S. executives created the "Protect Your Peers" week, where university departments and local organizations led events surrounding immigrant rights and community advocacy.

A.S. collaborated with 805UndocuFund to host its second rapid response training at UCSB as part of the week of events. With over 200 attendees, the training discussed the requirements needed to be a volunteer for their Rapid Response Network, presented attendees with the various warrants federal agencies may use to detain individuals and explained how to spot I.C.E. vehicles.

The week also included a "Know Your Rights & Legal Resources" workshop presented by the Undocumented Student Services (USS) and the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS).

Additionally, A.S. held a town hall with local representatives to provide undocumented and

international students with resources.

The week ended with a U.S. immigration policy teach-in by Asian American Studies professor John Park titled "Learn From History: Immigration in the U.S."

Student groups organize vigils and protests

Throughout the school year, UCSB's students joined nationwide activism against I.C.E. and Trump by holding protests, teach-ins and vigils to honor the lives lost at the hands of federal agents.

On Jan. 28, I.C.E. agents pushed one individual and pepper sprayed another in Eastside Santa Barbara. Following this incident and several other detainments and I.C.E. sightings in the community, El Congreso – a student-led activist organization – held a vigil to honor those impacted by I.C.E.

Organizers and attendees honored the killings of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Keith Porter Jr. and others by federal agents. Some spoke to their own experiences in detention centers, while others gathered around an offenda – a traditional Latin American altar which honors the deceased – with photos of individuals killed or detained by I.C.E. Several other organizations, including Students for Justice in Palestine, expressed their solidarity in their joint struggle.

Student groups went on to hold several other demonstrations, including a protest on Feb. 4 which drew roughly 700 students and community members. These protests featured speakers from several local activist organizations including 805UndocuFund, SBResiste, La Cultura Del Mundo, Unión del Barrio and Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success, among others.

Students establish a new chapter of Indivisible in I.V.

In February, a group of UCSB students established the Isla Vista chapter of Indivisible, a nationwide grassroots organization founded in 2016 that works to "stop the rise of authoritarianism in the U.S. and

to demand a real democracy."

The chapter was established by third-year political science and philosophy double major Tallula Borman, third-year geography major Kira Valles-Knoll and third-year political science and philosophy double major Juju Johnson. The group often holds educational meetings about political organizing under the Trump administration.

On Feb. 7 Indivisible IV. held its first demonstration, drawing community members to Anisq'Oyo' Park to protest I.C.E. and the Trump administration.

Students stage citizens arrest as 'political theatre'

On Feb. 12, four students masked in bandanas wearing "Make America Great Again" hats entered the Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall during an Introduction to Communication lecture yelling in protest of immigrants and LGBTQIA+ people on campus. The students then performed a mock citizen's arrest of a student and a staged altercation before leaving the building.

The video of the staged event was quickly sent around the school via the anonymous social media platform Yik Yak, where large numbers of students posted negative comments about the "activists."

Professor and Communication Department Chair Tamara Afifi sent a department-wide email stating the disruption was conducted by a group of "politically progressive" students trying to promote an anti-I.C.E. and pro-transgender message. Afifi stated that the students were remorseful for their actions.

Many students that were in the class at the time reported feeling unsafe and immediately worried if the group was armed with weapons.

UCSB's YDSA chapter advocates for sanctuary campus campaign

Each year, UCSB's chapter of Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) chooses a new campaign topic; this past year it was urging UCSB administration to designate UCSB as a sanctuary campus for undocumented students.

On March 5, as part of a rally, YDSA members delivered a list of demands to the office of Chancellor Dennis Assanis, which included a petition of support signed by over 3,000 UCSB students demanding the University to protect its students from I.C.E. The petition's demands included prohibition of I.C.E. and other immigration enforcement agencies from operating on school grounds, an emergency fund and rapid response team for students who have been detained and guaranteed housing for undocumented students, among others.

The petition also called for compliance with California Senate Bill SB98 – which required all universities to immediately notify students, parents and staff of I.C.E. presence on campus.

At the end of the rally, a group of YDSA members entered Cheadle Hall to deliver the demands to the chancellor's office, but both the chancellor's office and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs had locked their doors, drawn the blinds and did not respond to knocking and verbal calls. YDSA students slid the list of demands underneath the door of the chancellor's office.

Following this, YDSA's negotiation team met several times with Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Suzanne Perkin, and Dean of Students, Joaquin Becerra, to discuss the demands; however, in a statement to the Nexus, Perkin and Becerra clarified they were not negotiators but rather reached out to offer their support.

On May 21, YDSA held a teach-in outside Cheadle Hall calling on the University to meet their demands. The teach-in emphasized the importance of community building when fighting against federal agencies. Several organizations spoke, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) 3299.

As of today, YDSA's demands have not been met by the University.



Student groups went on to hold several other demonstrations, including a protest on Feb. 4 which drew roughly 700 students and community members.



A.S. collaborated with 805UndocuFund to host its second rapid response training at UCSB as part of the week of events.

Analyzing one year of I.C.E. presence in Santa Barbara

Lucy Wellons
Staff Writer

A spatial, temporal and population demographic analysis of Immigration and Customs Enforcement presence and community response from June 8, 2025 to June 31, 2026.

Background

In the summer of 2025, the federal government significantly expanded its deportation efforts nationwide, affecting the Santa Barbara community and the Central Coast as a whole. After one year of increased immigration enforcement in the county, the Daily Nexus continues to find that most sightings occur in predominantly Hispanic or Latine areas early in the day. Local institutions and organizations have acknowledged the increase in enforcement at varying degrees.

On July 4, 2025, the Daily Nexus launched an I.C.E. Sighting Tracker in light of raids in Goleta and Santa Barbara as part of nationwide expansions in I.C.E. activity.

The Nexus has documented I.C.E. presence in Santa Barbara that has been confirmed by the 805UndocuFund, a local organization that verifies sightings and alerts community members.

Since June 8, 2025, 805UndocuFund has sent reports of 60 I.C.E. sightings throughout Goleta and Santa Barbara, with one being an impersonation attempt.

Of these 60 sightings, there have been 35 confirmed detainments or reported disappearances, according to the 805UndocuFund alert system. This number does not accurately represent the real number of detentions in this time period.

Through analyzing spatial and temporal aspects of I.C.E. sightings across Goleta and Santa Barbara, along with overlaying population data from the American Community Survey (ACS), the Nexus aims

to detect and report patterns in I.C.E. presence across the community.

Confirmed detainment numbers

2,054 confirmed detainments or reported disappearances in the 805 area

805UndocuFund

The following numbers were collected from January 14, 2025 to May 28, 2026:

2,054 confirmed detainments or reported disappearances in the 805 area, according to 805UndocuFund.

Detainment patterns

As of June 30, 2026, 60 sightings have been confirmed in Santa Barbara and Goleta. According to numbers collected by 805UndocuFund through observation and independent confirmation, I.C.E. has detained over 848 people in Santa Barbara County (SBC) overall, and over 2,054 people on the Central Coast since January 14, 2025.

Several organizations have adopted the terminology “kidnappings” to describe detainments due to the tactics used by I.C.E. and the alleged bypass of due process when conducting arrests.

At the jail:

A significant presence of I.C.E. agents have been reported at the SBC Jail. Of the 60 sightings reported by 805UndocuFund, 17 occurred at the jail, which is located in an area with a predominantly white population. Latine individuals make up roughly 57% of the jail and booking population in SBC, as well as approximately 47% of the county’s overall resident population. 805Undocufund volunteers also report a near-daily presence at the SBC Jail.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office stated they received 221 requests from I.C.E. for information or access to people housed in the county jails in 2025. Officials said only 28 of those requests met the criteria under Senate Bill 54, which restricts local police from helping federal immigration agents. According to the Sheriff’s Office report, 28 requests led to I.C.E. being notified, and 12 people were arrested directly out of Sheriff custody. I.C.E. arrested another 33 people inside jail facilities on warrants signed by a federal judge.

These numbers reported by the Sheriff’s Office do not align with data found in UC Los Angeles and UC Berkeley’s publicly accessible Deportation Data Project, which collects and posts public, anonymized U.S. government immigration enforcement datasets directly from the government. Under the “landmark” listed as the SBC Jail, the data shows that I.C.E. made 99 arrests. These arrests do not necessarily mean that an individual was detained.

During an SBC Board of Supervisors meeting on April 21, Sheriff Bill Brown acknowledged the findings, saying, “There are instances, some that we’re aware of, apparently a lot more that we haven’t been aware of, where I.C.E. does use our parking lots and lobbies at times to go there when they know that someone is going to be released and make an arrest.” An investigation conducted by the Santa Barbara News-Press found the office had a variety of information about I.C.E. arrests in and near jails, and about when agents took an interest in jail inmates

Of the 60 sightings, 17 occurred at the Santa Barbara County Jail, which is located in an area with a predominantly white population, with high school diplomas and poverty rates in line with the national average. Due to the high volume of sightings

concentrated at the SBC Jail, the data is skewed to support the conclusion that sightings have become less focused in the population demographics this analysis examines. If we exclude the repeated sightings at and around the jail as an outlier that does not represent wider trends, the numbers dramatically change

Population demographics
Race & Hispanic origin variables

32 out of 60 I.C.E. sightings took place in areas where the population is predominantly Hispanic or Latine.”

32 out of 60 I.C.E. sightings took place in areas where the population is predominantly Hispanic or Latine.

Poverty status variables

33 out of 60 I.C.E. sightings took place in areas where 12% or more of the population’s income in the past 12 months is at or below the national poverty level.

Education attainment variables

27 out of 60 I.C.E. sightings took place in areas where over 20% of the population 25 years and older do not hold a high school diploma – compared to the national average of 11%.

Community response

Local organizations – including but not limited to the 805UndocuFund, La Casa de la Raza and the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy – have increased their fundraising, workshops and organizing efforts.

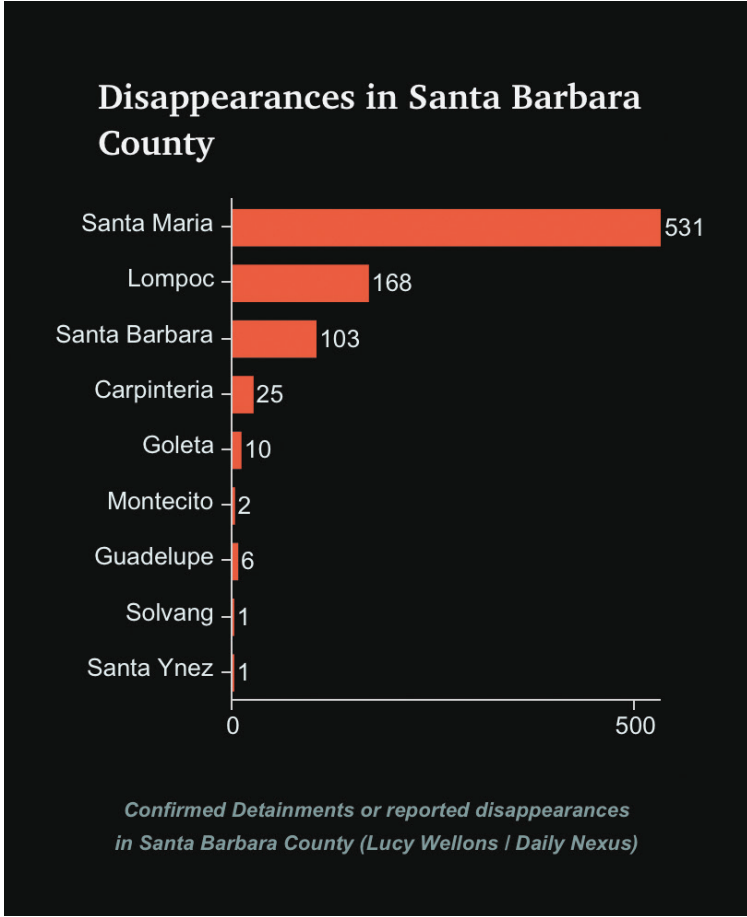
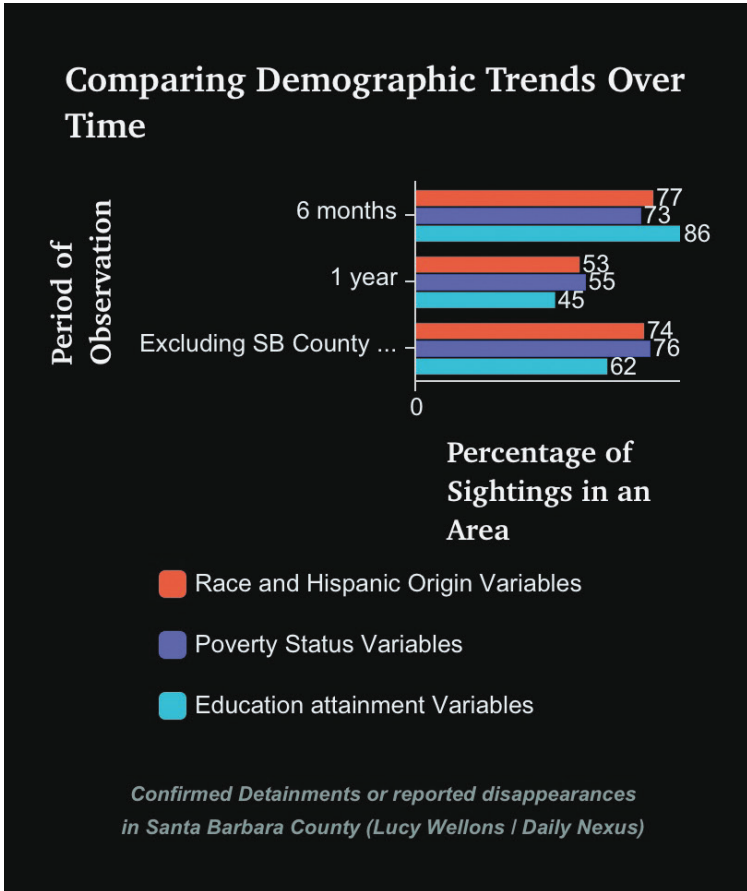
Organizations are also advocating at the local level during board and council

meetings. In June 2025, Second District Supervisor Laura Capps requested \$240,000 to fund mental health services provided by the Immigrant Legal Defense Center, which the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved. Roughly two months later, the board voiced its support for bills mandating increased transparency and accountability for I.C.E. agents.

Improper conduct

Testimonies of rapid response volunteers have reported I.C.E. agents violating traffic laws with the intention of trying to evade volunteers. I.C.E. agents must follow local traffic laws unless they are responding to a verified emergency. Under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, federal officers performing official duties may be shielded from local prosecution for minor traffic infractions if a specific federal action requires it, but they do not have a blanket exemption to drive recklessly or break traffic laws at will. Under the First Amendment, it is legal to monitor, document and record I.C.E. agents performing their duties in public spaces. This right is protected as long as an individual remains at a safe distance, obeys all local traffic and safety laws if following in a vehicle and never physically interferes with I.C.E. operations.

In April, a core member of the rapid response volunteer network SBResiste, Ana Garcia, was involved in a violent altercation with I.C.E. agents while responding to a reported sighting at the Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor of California office on West Carrillo Street. Despite allegedly following proper protocol in recording and monitoring I.C.E. activity, Garcia was allegedly restrained against a wall and pepper-sprayed directly in her face. She was the only individual responding to the sighting, and there was only one other witness to the altercation.



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ARTSWEEK

Rainbow Kitten Surprise rocks the Santa Barbara Bowl

Sherine John
Photo Editor

American indie rock band Rainbow Kitten Surprise took the stage by storm at Santa Barbara Bowl on July 19, delivering an unforgettable performance during their bones tour.

The concert opened with Spacey Jane, an up-and-coming Australian indie rock band, whose heartfelt yet melodic music eased the audience into the evening before Rainbow Kitten Surprise's more dynamic style took over. Fans sang their hearts out to their hit songs, including "Whateverrr," "Hardlight," "Booster Seat" and their new release, "I Never See Her."

After an intermission and as the sun set over the Santa Barbara hills, Rainbow Kitten Surprise took the stage, delivering their classic hits, including "Cocaine Jesus," "First Class," "Never Have I Ever" and "Goodnight Chicago." Midway through the show, the band surprised the audience with a cover of "Mr. Brightside" and the audience belted the lyrics to the timeless song.

As the show came to a close, Rainbow Kitten Surprise ended the night with their most famous song, "It's Called: Freefall." While some fans were serenaded as they climbed down the hilly terrain of Santa Barbara Bowl to their cars in hopes of beating traffic, others stayed behind to watch the final song in person. Regardless of where they ended up, everyone could say that the night was truly magical.



Australian Indie rock band, Spacey Jane, opening the concert. Lead vocalist Caleb Harper and bassist Peppa Lane commanded the stage.



Rainbow Kitten Surprise performed for a packed crowd at Santa Barbara Bowl.



Lead singer Ela Melo sings "Goodnight Chicago." Performing alongside her is Darrick "Bozzy" Keller on guitar and vocals, Jess Haney on the drums, Drew Long on the keyboard and lead guitarist Ethan Goodpaster.



Pictured is Maddie Bouton, bassist for Rainbow Kitten Surprise.



Rainbow Kitten Surprise toured after their album, "bones," was released late 2025. The band performed hit songs including "Cocaine Jesus" and "Painkillers."



Fans sing alongside the performance. The band ended the night with their hit song "It's Called: Freefall."

Nolan's simplified reading of "The Odyssey" is a moralist spectacle

Sophia Benito
Staff Writer

Review contains some spoilers and the writer is an English major who has studied "The Odyssey" numerous times

Director Christopher Nolan's seafaring blockbuster "The Odyssey," an adaptation of the Homeric epic and a foundational text synonymous with the high school English class, is entertaining, but not intellectual. Nolan does not reinterpret the nearly 3,000-year-old text, instead he simplifies everything that makes the long-studied story and its cast of characters interesting.

For one, Matt Damon's Odysseus is too likable and uncomplicated. In Homer's epic, Odysseus is characterized by his complexity and multifacetedness; he's cunning and intelligent, but flawed. His flaws define and shape him, and cause his prolonged journey home. Nolan allows some Odysseus-related flaws for the sake of the plot; like the poem, it is his unnecessary arrow that blinds the cyclops Polyphemus (and results in his being cursed by Poseidon).

The film also discarded memorable scenes that



Christopher Nolan's seafaring blockbuster "The Odyssey" simplifies everything that makes the long-studied story and its cast of characters interesting.

showcased Odysseus' shrewd intelligence (and why he is backed by Athena on his journey home). It also disregards some of his blunders, such as when Odysseus told Polyphemus his name is "Nobody," and when the giant is blinded and screaming "Nobody is killing me," he is

left alone by the other cyclops, allowing Odysseus to escape. Odysseus ends up ruining this plan by gloating and yelling his name and address as he leaves.

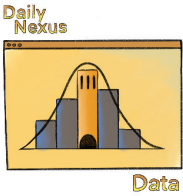
Nolan focuses heavily on ethical morality through the image of the Trojan horse, a wooden behemoth rising out of

the sandy shore that breached the walls of Troy under the guise of a gift and thereby violating and breaking Zeus' law, a golden rule repeated like a mantra throughout the film. The breaking of Zeus' law is the harbinger of civilizational decline and kindles a crisis of

ethical morality for Odysseus. He is burdened and tormented by psychological guilt and goes into self-imposed exile with wife Penelope (Anne Hathaway) at the film's conclusion, leaving the Ithacan throne to his son Telemachus (Tom Holland), a twist original to the film.

Women in "The Odyssey" aren't given the space or lines to be interesting beyond the roles they play for men. By simplifying Odysseus' relationships with Circe (Samantha Morton) and Calypso (Charlize Theron), Penelope's role is diminished beyond that of a woman yearning behind a screen. Even Circe — whose performance by Morton is one of the best in the film and who molded Odysseus' men into pigs in an act of visceral body horror before finally encountering the late-arriving Odysseus — is simply another obstacle.

Nolan's film is more based on "The Odyssey," rather than a faithful adaptation, and not without its flaws, but incredibly entertaining — the plot and pacing moving quickly enough to offset the nearly three-hour run time. It's a good movie, but not a good adaptation.



DATA

Exploring majors at UCSB with fewer than five students

Vivian Simmons
Data Reporter

In Spring Quarter 2026, UC Santa Barbara Office of Budget & Planning’s enrollment dashboard featured four majors with fewer than five undergraduates in them: Latin American and Iberian studies, medieval studies, Middle East studies and Portuguese. Latin American and Iberian studies had three undergraduates, while medieval studies, Middle East studies and Portuguese each had two undergraduates in them.

The Daily Nexus spoke with four undergraduate students from these departments as they reflected on what drew them to their respective majors, how they have navigated their academic experiences thus far and what they hope to pursue after graduating from UCSB.

Olivia Stimson: Second-year medieval studies major
Stimson is interested in pursuing law after earning her undergraduate degree. She was originally a political science major but realized it wasn’t the right fit for her after taking a class in the department.

“[Medieval studies is] very interdisciplinary, so that’s what attracted me to [the] major,” Stimson said.

Lina Elsayaf: Recent graduate with Middle East studies B.A. and history of public policy and law B.A.

Elsawaf began at UCSB as an undeclared major. The daughter of Egyptian immigrants, Elsayaf identifies as Egyptian American. Her extended family lives in Egypt, and all her relatives speak Arabic. Prior to attending UCSB, Elsayaf could understand Arabic when spoken, but she couldn’t read or write it.

“It was always something that I felt was missing from my personality [and] my skill set,” Elsayaf said.

This motivated her to pursue Arabic classes at UCSB when she noticed they were offered. She was subsequently encouraged by her professor to pursue a major in Middle East studies.

Bella Wagner: Recent graduate with Portuguese B.A. and chemistry B.S.

Wagner was originally a chemistry major at UCSB. Their mother is from Brazil, and so growing up Wagner spoke a little bit of Portuguese. They began taking Portuguese classes at the beginning of their second year with the goal of improving their Portuguese skills. One of their professors eventually encouraged them to pursue the full Portuguese major, so they declared it as a double major in their third year.

“And at that point, I didn’t even know we had a Portuguese major. That’s when I learned we were the only UC that actually has a full Portuguese major, which is really unique,” Wagner said.

Abigail Rizqallah: Recent graduate with Middle East studies B.A. and Anthropology B.A.

Rizqallah started off as an anthropology major at UCSB with an emphasis in archaeology because of her interest in both the science and humanities behind archaeology. Rizqallah is half Arab but didn’t learn Arabic growing up, which prompted her to begin taking classes on Arabic at UCSB. She realized that taking these classes entailed a significant time commitment and didn’t earn her credit that she could apply to her anthropology degree. While searching for programs that required Arabic study, she found the Middle East Studies major. Currently, Rizqallah is interested in pursuing Middle East archaeology in graduate school.

“I feel like archaeology is a good mix of the science and humanities, and the Middle East studies part is kind of the focus,” Rizqallah said.

Are you aware of how small your major is? Does it come up in your daily life?

Stimson mentioned that she was aware her program was small but didn’t actually realize there were only two other people enrolled in it that spring until she was interviewed for this article.

“Two people small is a little crazy. I think it’s just simply due to it not being advertised enough,” Stimson said.

Elsawaf said that she learned about her major’s size through an email from the chair of the religious studies department.

“[The email] was only to me and two other people, so I kind of had a sense, but I didn’t know that now it’s just me and one other person,” Elsayaf said.

When asked about how being in a small major affects her day to day, she mentioned that she has great access to advisors and professors.

“I’ve never been short of finding resources on campus that help me in my major classes,” Elsayaf said.

Wagner noted how their Portuguese classes continued to get smaller and smaller as they advanced through the Portuguese 1-6 track. While taking Portuguese 6, she realized she was the only Portuguese major in her class.

“So I always knew that it was small,” Wagner said.

Wagner mentioned that faculty are usually very responsive due to their major’s size. “I do have access to getting a lot of attention directly from the faculty and lecturers,” Wagner said.

Rizqallah said that when she was preparing to study abroad in Jordan for the Middle East studies major, an advisor mentioned that she was the only person from UCSB who would be going to Jordan.

“She made an offhand joke about ‘Oh, yeah, you’re only one of a few people in your major,’ and I was like, ‘That’s crazy,’” Rizqallah said.

Stimson, Elsayaf and Rizqallah expressed that their peers are often unaware that their major even existed.

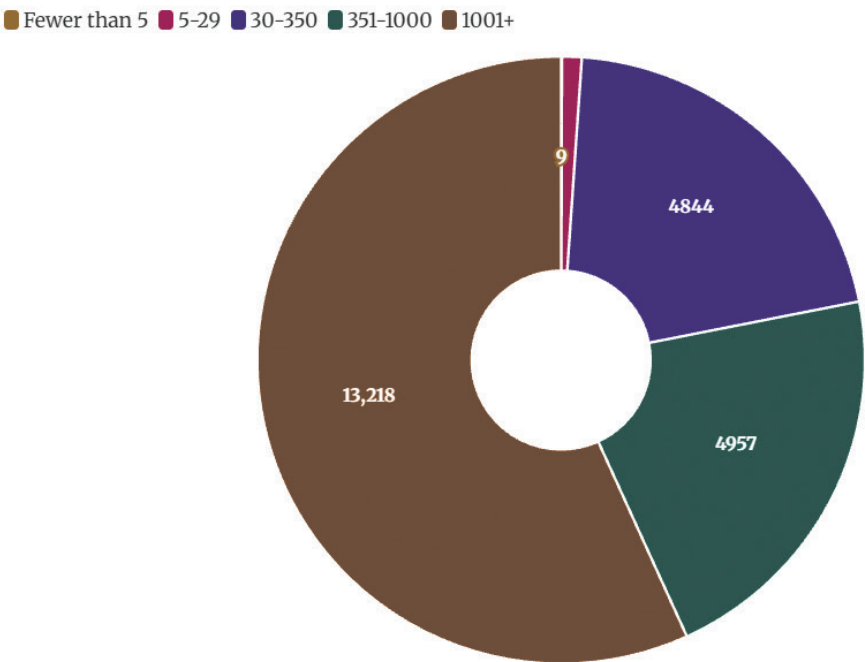
“They’ll say ‘I didn’t even



“[The] Arabic program was definitely a highlight of my major, and even more so of my entire undergraduate experience.”

LINA ELSAWAF

Number of majors by enrollment size



SOURCE: UC SANTA BARBARA OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PLANNING

VIVIAN SIMMONS / DAILY NEXUS

know we had that major,’ or ‘I didn’t know that was even an option,’ or ‘I didn’t know we had those classes,’” Rizqallah said.

Have you met anyone else in your major?

Since Stimson hasn’t been in medieval studies for long, she hasn’t met anyone else enrolled in the program yet.

“I think there is only one other person, so it might be hard to find them,” Stimson said.

Elsawaf knew someone else in Middle East studies with her who has since graduated.

“I met her on campus partly in the Arabic classes and just partly at community events ... now I don’t really run into anyone anymore,” Elsayaf said.

Wagner said that over the course of her time at UCSB, she has only met one person in her major program.

“We were in some of the more upper division electives together, and she’s super sweet. She’s the only one I know right now,” Wagner said.

Rizqallah remarked that she hasn’t come across anyone who shared her major since she declared Middle East studies.

“I don’t think I’ve met anybody else with the major,” Rizqallah said.

What is a part of your major that you think is notable?

Stimson repeatedly mentioned that the scope of the medieval studies program was very intriguing to her.

“I’m just really excited to get into all the different aspects of all the different classes that are available to me,” Stimson said.

Elsawaf said that her favorite part of her major is Arabic language study.

“After the two required years, I took an extra quarter of upper division Arabic, which was a translation class, and that was really interesting,” Elsayaf said.

Elsawaf explained that another highlight of her major was a couple of her professors from the Arabic program.

“So the Arabic program was definitely a highlight of my major, and even more so of my entire undergraduate experience, thanks to both Professors Magda [Campo] and Wael [Hegazy],” Elsayaf wrote.

Wagner noted that their coursework has been the best part of their major.

“I have enjoyed every Portuguese class that I’ve ever taken,” Wagner said.

They continued to say that for them, the classes in the Portuguese major have expanded their worldview.

“It taps into both art and culture and history and all these things ... They come together and you kind of get this larger view of the world around you,” Wagner said.

According to Rizqallah, the faculty made her experience in the Middle East studies major particularly rewarding.

“I love all the professors that I’ve had,” Rizqallah said. “Each professor really, deeply cares about what they’re teaching, and you can tell in the way that they teach. It never feels like a chore to go to class. It always feels exciting because they care, and so I care.”

Is there a part of your major that can be challenging?

Stimson said that while the breadth of medieval studies can be a good thing, it also makes course planning daunting.

“It seems like I have too many choices, and that the

route is very, like, build your own route, and I like that, I do,” Stimson said. “[I]t does make me feel like I’m wading in the deep end a little bit.”

Elsawaf explained that the time commitment when learning a language for Middle East studies is challenging.

“Probably just the first two years of taking Arabic, it was a really big time commitment ... I loved it, though,” Elsayaf said.

In the Portuguese major, Wagner’s biggest struggle was meeting major requirements due to lack of course offerings.

“There is a hard thing of access to having all the courses that I need,” Wagner said. “I had two classes that were cancelled this year that I had to do independent study for because they weren’t offering them.”

Rizqallah mentioned how she feels that after a certain point, different classes seem to repeat some of the same information.

“I think it’s just there’s not enough classes, but I get why there’s not a bunch of classes, because there’s only two of us,” Rizqallah said. “On the other hand, I feel like a lot of the classes I’ve taken have been kind of the same stuff recycled.”

Would you recommend students pursue this major?

Stimson said that medieval studies may appeal to students in related disciplines.

“[I]f someone’s finding that they’re double majoring in English and history, ... art history [or] people who are doing religious studies. It’s all involved in the medieval studies world,” Stimson said. “[A]s long as you can find an interest in the time period, I think [that’s] going to be the most important because it is obviously based in the Middle Ages.”

Elsawaf shared that she thinks any student can succeed in Middle East studies, so she recommends any interested students in pursuing it.

“Anyone, literally anyone can take it. You don’t have to have prior knowledge ... [and] the homework is set up to make you succeed,” Elsayaf said.

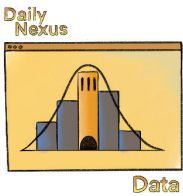
Wagner recommends that



“These courses have taught me things that connect what I learned to my position at the university and the world, and I think it’s helped me reevaluate my own ethics or the way that I navigate things, especially in America.”

ABIGAIL RIZQALLAH

DATA



“We always promise that we are going to remember our history and our roots, so I think it’s really important with history-based studies here that we don’t lose our history.”

OLIVIA STIMSON

students with any interest in anything Portuguese related should consider the Portuguese major.

“If you enjoy language learning, if you were interested in any kind of Portuguese speaking country, or you like the culture, or you like the music or just really any kind of base interest that you have, I think it’s a really good place to investigate with it because you’ll just learn a lot of things,” Wagner said.

Rizqallah explained that you need to have an open mind to succeed in Middle East studies.

“I think you have to deeply care about people, but you also have to kind of be willing to challenge your own assumptions or your belief system,” Rizqallah said. “I think the courses are really great, and I feel like these courses have taught me things that connect what I learned to my position at the university and the world, and I think it’s helped me reevaluate my own ethics or the way that I navigate things, especially in America.”

Do you have any idea of what you want to do after graduation?

Stimson reiterated her aspirations of going to law school.

“I do plan on going [to law school] right after I finish my degree here,” Stimson said. “It’s a little early for me to be putting myself on the map yet, but I definitely have an idea, like right now the dream is to go to the East Coast.”

After graduating, Elsawaf is going to take some time off.

“I am moving back home to the Sacramento area for a bit, and I’m going to work and apply for jobs, and just like, have my gap year,” Elsawaf

said.

Wagner has an interest in cosmetic chemistry, and was the co-president of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists at UCSB.

“I am going to go back to the cosmetic chemistry angle,” Wagner said. “I’m going to be a research and development chemist for a contract manufacturer up in Northern California.”

She then shared how her Portuguese major helped her in her career goals.

“It’s kind of aside from my Portuguese degree, but in the same way, it definitely helped make me a more attractive applicant,” Wagner said.

Rizqallah stated that she wanted to continue her academic journey after she takes a gap year.

“I’m planning on going to grad school because undergrad is so general, but what’s nice about grad school is there’s a specific Middle Eastern archaeology degree,” Rizqallah said.

What do you think is lost if not a lot of people (or potentially no one) participates in this program?

Stimson shared that she believes that participation in medieval studies is integral to remembering history.

“We are losing history,” Stimson said. “If you don’t teach it, and no one’s going to learn it, no one’s going to remember it, and we always promise that we are going to remember our history and our roots, so I think it’s really important with history-based studies here that we don’t lose our history.”

Elsawaf explained that Middle East studies allows students to see the Middle East in a fairer way.

“I think just cultural

knowledge of a region in our world that is misunderstood by Western media a lot,” Elsawaf said.

She also stated that the program is key to increasing empathy for the Middle East.

“If the program was taken away, there would be an even higher, or like, greater, gap in sympathy, not even sympathy, like empathy,” Elsawaf said.

Wagner highlighted that UCSB is very unique because it is the only school within the University of California system with a dedicated Portuguese major.

“I think that there would be a bit of uniqueness lost to UCSB that even UCSB doesn’t even recognize as being a unique aspect of them,” Wagner said.

Rizqallah commented that the Middle East studies major is relevant to lots of other fields, particularly in the humanities.

“I’m taking an Asian American [studies] course right now that is really interesting, but there’s so many times in that class where I’m like, ‘This directly relates to Middle East studies,’” Rizqallah said.

She then explained that thinking of the Middle East in humanities discussions is not intuitive for most Americans.

“People don’t think about it because it’s not talked about, especially in American education systems,” Rizqallah said.

Previous enrollment data shows that over the past 10 years, enrollment in each of these majors has declined. Reasons for these decreases may vary between programs, but Dr. Kathleen Moore, a professor of religious studies, noted in an email statement to the Daily Nexus a couple reasons why Middle East studies may be seeing decreased enrollment.

“It may be due to the increasing number of course offerings in the Social Sciences related to the Middle East [...] the Middle East comprises courses from several departments in the Global Studies major,” Moore wrote. “I would speculate that the Global Studies Department does a better job of advertising its major than the current MES configuration does. There’s strong representation of faculty with MENA (Middle East | North Africa) specialization in the Social Sciences: Anthropology, Communication, Sociology, Global Studies, etc.”

Moore also explained how the school is able to maintain such a small major.

“[F]unding decisions are based on course enrollments, not on the number of majors,” Moore wrote. “The

administrative costs of maintaining the MES major are relatively low because it is managed by a single department and consists basically of course scheduling and undergraduate advising.”

In a statement to the Nexus, University Spokesperson Kiki Reyes explained that enrollment numbers do not influence changes to academic programs.

“There is no official minimum requirement for the numbers of majors in a degree program; any formal program change would follow established campus review processes, faculty governance, and appropriate consultation,” Reyes wrote.

Reyes also highlighted that small majors and departments provide value to the student body in different ways.

“UC Santa Barbara’s humanities programs serve students in ways that are not fully reflected by declared-major counts. For example, a department with a small number of declared majors could still teach thousands of students in a single academic year, including those fulfilling general education requirements and exploring the humanities as part of a broader undergraduate education.”

Since being interviewed, Elsawaf, Wagner and Rizqallah have graduated with degrees in their respective fields, showing that despite the challenges that come with being in a small major, they are rewarding to those who are passionate about the subject.

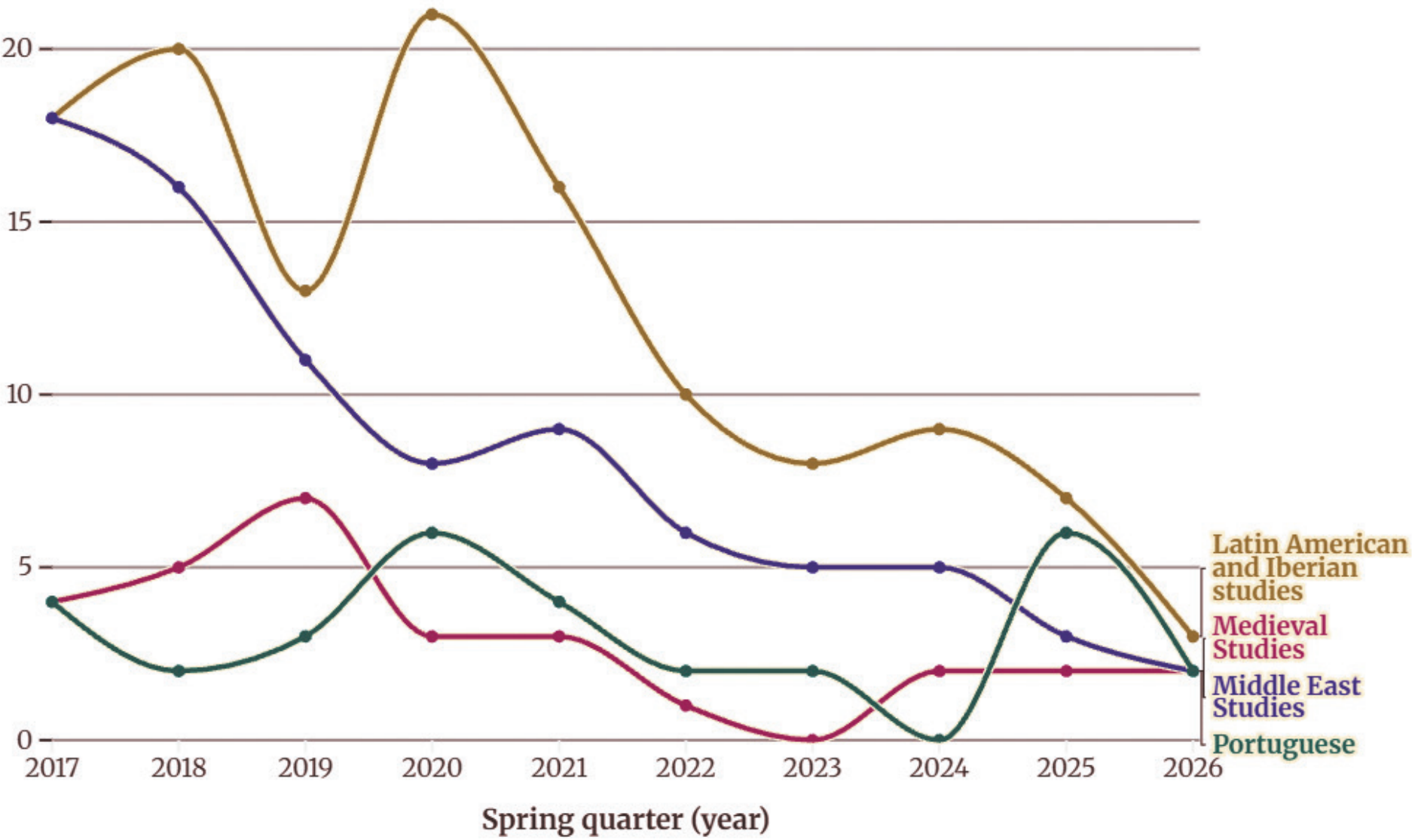
Portraits by Seetha Rao



“[The Portuguese major] taps into both art and culture and history and all these things ... They come together and you kind of get this larger view of the world around you.”

BELLA WAGNER

Number of students in major



SOURCE: UC SANTA BARBARA OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PLANNING

VIVIAN SIMMONS / DAILY NEXUS

THE DIVERSITY HIRE

DEI’s ‘fairness / false balance’ dilemma

Meher Indoliya
DEI Chair
Kalyssa Chu
DEI Chair

Fairness is a major pillar of ethical reporting, but putting that principle into practice is easier said than done. While the Society of Professional Journalists’ Code of Ethics stresses fair journalism through truth-seeking, independence and transparency, newsroom stories demand countless choices that can shape how a story is told: what to cover, whom to interview, which facts to emphasize and what language to use. With so many steps involved, are writers able to remain impartial at each and every step?

The Daily Nexus’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) team recognizes that it is difficult for individuals to report as wholly unbiased entities in their processes; therefore, we seek to analyze the Nexus’ reporting procedures and address whether they produce complete coverage offering just representations of our campus community. Amid a national culture shift in which the free press and independent integrity of journalism are under attack, DEI’s commitment to facing the challenges of journalism, addressing historical inequities and bolstering community voices is more crucial than ever in our pursuit to curate a fair media landscape.

Yet as newsrooms work to diversify coverage, efforts collide with a key journalistic trap: false balance. False balance, also referred to as “false equivalence,” occurs when journalists present opposing viewpoints with equal weight despite evidence or consensus significantly favoring one side.

This fallacy closely is intertwined with newsroom

DEI, where cries of false balance emerge from claims of superfluous coverage on certain topics or viewpoints – often alleging performative motives where DEI coverage is unfairly pushed for the sake of tokenism or image. As American Journalist Liz Spayd puts it for The New York Times, “the problem with false balance doctrine is that it masquerades as rational thinking.” Under a guise of inclusivity, newsrooms practicing false balance can purportedly elevate fringe or unfounded opinions with flawed practices that disregard forms of merit or significance.

The problem with these claims is they fundamentally misunderstand the purpose of inclusive journalism. A common issue with standard reporting has rarely been an overabundance of conflicting or minority perspectives but rather severe coverage gaps that frequently overlook marginalized communities and narratives. At the Nexus, DEI’s principles do not call for giving unsubstantiated claims a microphone simply to fill a quota or artificially balance a debate. Rather, we seek to consider past imbalances to contextually promote respectful, truthful and balanced representations of all campus voices – acting as a safeguard against false balance.

This misconception of false balance – that DEI’s efforts to close coverage gaps are an overcorrection compromising standards of equality – reflects attitudes central in today’s broader national debates over DEI. Critics of DEI initiatives, particularly those involving corporate hiring practices and university admissions, often argue that taking background or systemic barriers into account creates a false balance in candidate selection

that undermines a national meritocracy. Yet DEI’s alleged attack on meritocracy rests on a false premise that its principles necessarily come at the expense of merit.

Properly implemented DEI frameworks do not aim to lower standards or elevate underqualified subjects to imitate equity but rather eliminate institutional blind spots to truthfully evaluate merit in a more contextual manner. With this, DEI can work

to preserve merit-based systems by addressing gaps in traditional hiring practices that often favor candidates with specific institutional access while overlooking exceptional talent outside those systems. Well-practiced DEI cannot destroy meritocracy, or fairness, when it strives to support its very principles.

The inaccurate conflation of DEI with false balance obscures the mission of inclusivity and is a major reason why the concept

remains misunderstood. But really, the ultimate challenge with DEI is not about whether we should abandon fairness but about what fairness requires in a diverse society. And when grappling with such ethical questions surrounding DEI and inclusive journalism, there are no straightforward answers; yet, DEI at the Nexus remains committed to exploring these questions to help inform our community as completely, fairly and accurately as possible.

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SPORTS

From UCSB to the world stage: how Gauchos Calvin Proskey and AJ Krodel made it to the MLB

Izabella Nickerson
Asst. Sports Editor

The odds of being drafted by a Major League Baseball team are slim, but for seven members of UC Santa Barbara baseball, their dreams became a reality. These talented athletes were among the 613 players selected in the 2026 Major League Baseball draft on July 11 and 12.

Calvin Proskey, a third-year communication major, was selected on July 12 by the Cincinnati Reds in the 11th round as the 332nd overall pick. That day, Proskey had

“It’s close enough where my family can drive if or when I make my debut,” he noted.

Now stepping onto the world stage, he knows he has work to do to succeed as a Major League Baseball (MLB) player.

“It puts more of a chip on my shoulder at the end of the day,” he said.

Because baseball has been a part of Proskey’s life since he was young, he grew up with the ultimate dream to play in the MLB. As a Gaucho, Proskey had been in contact with two professional baseball

Proskey learned the importance of “mentality over mechanics.”

“Nobody knows the game of baseball like the back of [Checketts’] hand,” Proskey said. “Sometimes it feels like he can tell the future of what’s going to happen.”

Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Dylan Jones also contributed to Proskey’s development.

“[Jones] brings more of a mentality to it, pushing you, making you a little bit uncomfortable ... whether that’s at practice or in the bullpen,” Proskey said.

Checketts recalled first discovering Proskey at a high school prospect camp.

“We didn’t know who he was until he showed up for that camp,” Checketts said. “That’s when we offered him a scholarship.”

Over three seasons, Checketts watched Proskey grow, highlighting his strengths as a “fastball commander” — someone who can pitch a fastball with impeccable accuracy — as well as his ability to throw multiple different pitches in the strike zone.

Checketts saw tremendous growth in Proskey during his time as a Gaucho.

“I think he grew up over the course of his career and matured and learned what needs to be done ... to continue to improve,” he said.

Beyond coaching, Proskey highlighted the strong bond he shared with his teammates as another strength of UCSB baseball.

“We all stepped on campus together ... we were pushing each other in the offseason,” he said. “At the end of the day, it’s a competition, but also, I love those guys, and going out there every day with them was fantastic.”

He remembers the team’s opening series against the University of Southern Mississippi in 2026, which the Gauchos lost 1-2.

“I think that really helped us throughout the season knowing that ... we can pretty much beat whoever and that we put up a good fight with those guys, even though we only took one,” Proskey said.

The excitement of Sunday’s draft was shared by his teammate AJ Krodel, a third-year communication major who was

selected by the New York Mets in the 12th round with the 360th overall pick.

Krodel has long dreamed of being drafted and was eager for any opportunity.

“Anybody taking me felt like an amazing opportunity,” he said. “There weren’t really any expectations, just excitement to see where I was going.”

At home with his parents and brothers, Krodel received a call from his agent hours before being selected and ultimately accepted the Mets’ offer. It all sank in when he saw his name flash on the screen, and he expressed that the moment was particularly special because he was surrounded by family.

“My parents have sacrificed more than anybody could ever imagine for me in their lifetime,” he said. “It’s been awesome to have this journey with them and my family as well.”

Introduced to baseball at the age of three, Krodel simply stated, “I love to compete” as the reason for his love of the sport. He credits the little things at UCSB for making the baseball program unique. Checketts and Jones boosted his confidence and baseball IQ, preparing him to play in the MLB.

“They helped me out with anything ... whether it was preparing me mentally or getting me ...

“I made some brothers that ... I’ll never forget,” he said. “When you know you got those people around you, it’s super easy to work for them and get better, and the results just sell themselves.”

Among his favorite memories, Krodel recalled a 4-0 shutout win against the University of California, Los Angeles that snapped the Bruins’ 27-game winning streak. Pitching during that game, he remembers the adrenaline and excitement of the historic win.

“It just felt like such a quality team win, and that bus ride home felt absolutely amazing,” he said.

Looking ahead, Krodel intends to finish his degree in communication and graduate as a Gaucho before starting his MLB career.

Checketts emphasizes that the active involvement from the assistant

been waiting for news at home with his family.

“We were kind of just hanging around the house, waiting to see what happens,” he said. “I got a call from my agent saying there were a couple of teams interested, and one of them was the Reds.”

Describing the once-in-a-lifetime experience as “very nice, very calm,” Proskey felt that being drafted was particularly memorable because he was able to share the experience with his family.

Raised in Chicago as a baseball fan, Proskey followed the Reds during his childhood. Because his family has remained there, Proskey expressed that he appreciates the relative proximity between Chicago and Cincinnati.

teams that he hoped would draft him.

“Teams told me they were interested and liked what they saw and all that stuff, but at the end of the day, that doesn’t really matter up until draft day,” he explained.

Once selected, his first reaction was to hug his parents.

“The first thing I did was give my mom and dad a hug,” he said. “I told them thank you because they were the ones that really got me here ... I was just very excited.”

The UCSB baseball program has become known for developing players who go on to professional baseball. Head Coach Andrew Checketts has led 76 players to the MLB draft since his first year with the Gauchos in 2011.

Proskey credited Checketts’ knowledge and skills with helping him take his game to the next level.

Under Checketts’ guidance,

stronger,” he said. “They really did an awesome job paying attention to everybody and making sure they improved day by day.”

Checketts observed tremendous growth during Krodel’s three years at UCSB. He noted improvements in his strength, velocity and maturity.

Speaking of the tight-knit community that surrounded him, Krodel reflected on the connections he formed with his teammates.

coaches in the recruiting process continues to bring great talent to the team.

“I think that being disciplined in that recruiting approach and aggressive, it’s allowed us to recruit a lot of talented kids over the years,” he said. “Creating a competitive environment where their discipline, hard work and daily improvements really reached and were valued.”

For Checketts and the team, the 2027 baseball season will begin in February in Arizona, where the Gauchos will face Oregon State University, Vanderbilt University and the University of Nebraska in the Surprise College Baseball Series.



Gauchos celebrate after a big win.

UC SANTA BARBARA

Summer 2026

Dear New Gauchos,

Welcome to UCSB! We are excited to welcome you to campus this fall! At this time of transition, it feels particularly important to reaffirm our campus values and expectations of you as a student at UCSB.

Free Expression

At UC Santa Barbara, 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](#). 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](#).

Campus Safety and Emergency Response

Your safety and wellbeing are our top priority. As a student, you are automatically enrolled to receive timely warnings and emergency notifications by email from the campus police department (UCPD). To receive text messages, log into [UCSB Alert](#) 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](#).
- 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](#).
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and 24/7 Counseling, to access individual or group counseling, 805-893-4411, or [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](#). To make a report regarding a bias issue, please visit [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 <https://www.sa.ucsb.edu/departments-and-services>. 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

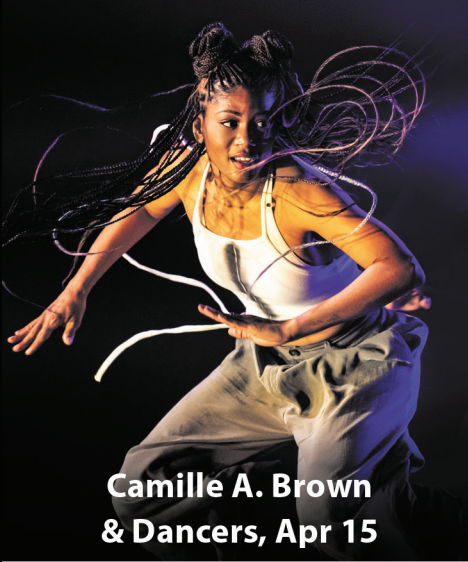
Lang Lang, piano
Oct 9



UC SANTA BARBARA
ARTS & LECTURES

2026-2027 Highlights

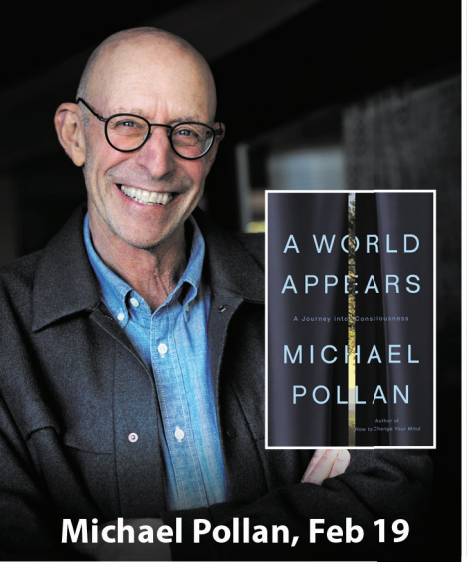
UCSB students get significant discounts on world-class events like these.*



Camille A. Brown
& Dancers, Apr 15



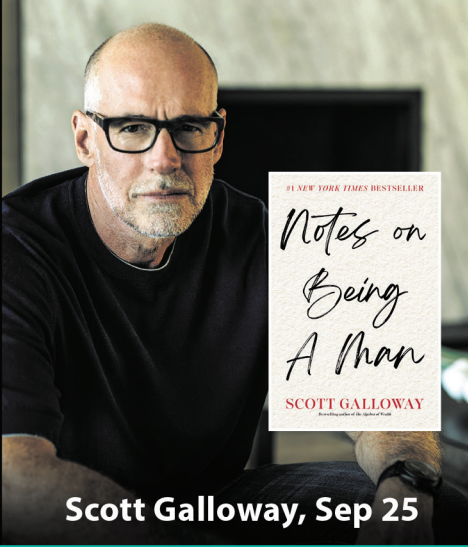
Niladri Kumar, sitar, Apr 14



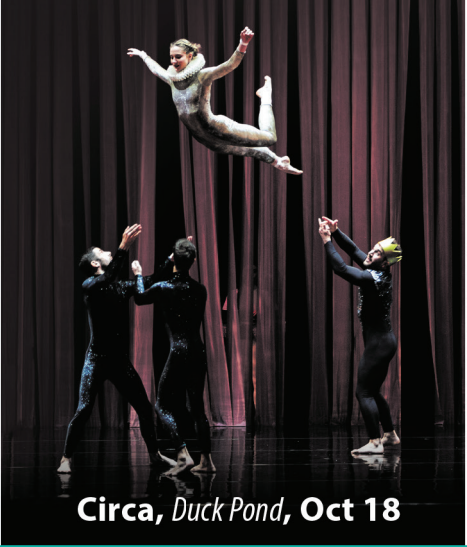
Michael Pollan, Feb 19



José González, Sep 26



Scott Galloway, Sep 25



Circa, Duck Pond, Oct 18



Terrace Martin, Nov 6



Margaret Atwood, Apr 23

See the full lineup and get tickets online at www.ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu

*Discount available to full-time UCSB students that have completed enrollment for Fall 2026.

SCIENCE & TECH

Physics professor David Weld receives Brown Investigator Award

Rebecca Raymond
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, UC Santa Barbara physics professor, David Weld, was awarded the prestigious Brown Investigator Award. Established in 2020 through the Brown Science Foundation, the award supports curiosity-driven research fundamentals with the potential to seed breakthroughs that will benefit society.

Through this award, Weld will receive \$2 million in funding over the next five years to support his group's research into an unusual and intriguing idea: controlling atoms to make a mirror that can exist in a quantum superposition of reflecting light and letting it pass through.

The Weld lab cools down atoms such as potassium and lithium to one hundred-millionth of a degree above absolute zero, creating Bose-Einstein condensates — a state of matter where many atoms behave as though they are a single quantum object. At these ultracold temperatures, the atoms' thermal motion slows down, allowing their quantum behavior and properties to become more pronounced and easier to study. Because the atoms in a condensate share the same quantum state, they can also behave collectively like a wave at these temperatures.

The group aims to use these matter waves to control the atoms: by bringing multiple matter waves

together, the waves can overlap and interfere with each other. According to Weld, the group intends to use atoms to make an atomic mirror, which, unlike a conventional mirror, would be intrinsically quantum mechanical.

“You can use those overlapping waves to build little structures of atoms,” Weld said. “It is in a quantum superposition state of reflecting all the light or reflecting none of the light.”

One way the group could create this superposition state is using Rydberg excitations, where an atom's electron is moved to an orbital further away from the nucleus than normal.

“Instead of orbiting the nucleus like Mercury, it's orbiting like Pluto,” Weld explained.

Moving the electron further from the nucleus greatly increases the atom's size and polarisability, strengthening its interactions with neighboring atoms.

“This lets you do very sharply defined quantum operations in these atomic gases,” Weld said. “That's the kind of technique that we would pursue to try to create these superposition states.”

The result would be a system in which both the light and matter that make up the mirror behave quantum mechanically — a system Weld described as “doubly quantum” optics. He described how the group could test the atomic mirror.

“You could take one mirror and

put it in a superposition state, then shine light off it and you should see that it all reflects or doesn't reflect, but those things happen with equal probability,” Weld said.

According to Weld, the group could take their investigations to the next level by arranging two mirrors in a loop — sending a single photon at this system could create quantum entanglement between the two mirrors.

“It actually projects the mirrors into what's called a Bell pair,” Weld said.

This phenomenon, in which the quantum states of two objects become connected so that measuring one reveals the state of the other, would further confirm that Weld's group has created a quantum mechanical system that cannot be explained by classical physics. The potential applications of such a system extend to future quantum communication technologies. Optical fibers already play a central role in modern communication technology, carrying information as light over long distances by repeated total internal reflection, which keeps light contained within the fiber.

“If you could do that in a way that the mirrors that guide around the light are also themselves quantum mechanical, I think that would open up a lot of possibilities that people haven't really explored,” Weld said.

The main driving force behind



COURTESY OF UCSB PHYSICS

the Weld group's research, however, is a fundamental curiosity to understand the quantum behaviour of these systems.

Weld believes that “society actually benefits hugely from curiosity-driven research.” He recalled that decades ago, curiosity-driven research done into Gila monster venom eventually became essential to the development of GLP-1 drugs, a medication now taken by 10% of Americans for weight loss purposes. While this kind

of research is not the kind with immediate and transparent benefits, such as elongating phone batteries, Weld believes that all types of research can “maximize practical human progress.”

The Brown Investigator Award will greatly contribute to the Weld lab in their investigations into producing a doubly quantum optic system.

“I really want to express gratitude to the Brown Foundation for their support for curiosity-driven research, and to campus for their support to faculty,” Weld said.

Opinion: I did pilates for 10 weeks and here are 10 changes I noticed

Makena Eggiman
Staff Writer

For the 10-week duration of spring quarter, I took mat pilates classes twice a week through UC Santa Barbara's Recreation Center and the Associated Students Commission on Student Well Being's workshops so I could report back on the changes I experienced, both physically and mentally. Pilates classes have been a popular trend as of recently, on the reformer, on the chair and, like these classes, on the mat. Here are 10 changes I noticed that affected my everyday lifestyle, and could affect yours next.

1. I accidentally became a morning person

As someone who tends to opt for the late-start classes, I found myself waking up much earlier, pretty consistently as the clock struck 7 every morning. Our internal biological clock is controlled by the circadian rhythm, a phenomenon in the body that tells you when to rest and be awake. Exercise, which increases the production of good hormones while reducing lower ones in the immune system, directly contributes to the nervous system, telling your body when to wake up and go to bed. Having this cycle reset to match the same hours as the sun can really improve the quality of one's sleep. Even on days I didn't go to class, I still stuck with that same newly developed schedule and felt much more alert throughout my early-morning days.

2. Hyper-attentive breathing

Breathing is the fundamental thing keeping us alive, hence being a very important technique to master. Pilates totally changed the way I breathed during sessions, in the gym and in my everyday movements. Even just riding my bike to class, every push of the pedal subconsciously lined up with my exhale, hence engaging my abs. I know this is such a little phenomena, but normally my legs get pretty tired from biking to class against the wind with a full backpack. Using my core for simple

tasks like this one helped take that load off the rest of my body.

3. I “got taller”

I went from being 5 feet, 3 inches tall to a whopping 5 feet, 3 ½ inches tall. Crazy right? While it was really just a major improvement in my posture, I will take anything I can get. Pilates emphasizes length over flexibility, getting your legs and arms to reach new lengths which overtime will increase flexibility and posture. In reality, I have probably always been this tall, I have just been slouching. Posture is so important for your health, as overtime bad posture can limit mobility and even cause bone complications. Getting in the habit of good posture came easier to me during these weeks with pilates.

4. I went from sore to strong

I was incredibly sore the morning after my first session, and unlike a regular workout that targets one area, pilates targets everything which left me feeling nearly paralyzed. However, with consistency I adapted quickly and stopped feeling any soreness at all post-session. In fact, even when I did spend some time in the gym targeting legs or abs I still didn't feel that regular soreness, since my whole body's muscle strength was constantly being shaped.

5. Homemade stimulants

This observation was a little contradictory. After

my Monday night sessions, I found myself much calmer and had an easier time falling asleep. Conversely, after my 9 a.m. session on Wednesdays, I felt much more alert and concentrated throughout the rest of my day.

Pilates not only helps with sleeping schedules, but the exercise and blood flow it supplies straight to the brain can act alternatively as an aid to staying consciously awake simultaneously. Not only was I able to stay awake, but I noticed I had a much easier time focusing in my classes.

6. Serotonin spikes

This was the one controversially negative connotation I noticed: the fluctuation of feeling great about myself to days I didn't do anything drastically impacted my highs and lows to be even higher and even lower. Serotonin is a pathway for the happiness hormone, one that controls our mood and well-being. Doing activities that involve exercise, like pilates, can

actually activate our internal neurological systems that boosts the production of that good feeling. Since these classes only took place twice a week, my off days felt even more sluggish than usual so I didn't find it substantial enough on its own. Consistency is key, especially in controlling well-being, but finding the right amount and balance will depend on the person. For me, I supplemented by spending some time at the gym 3-4 days a week outside of sessions.

7. Fixed back pain

I didn't even know that I had back pain until it was relieved. Does this make me old? As said before, pilates lengthens all parts of the body, stretching all the places you might not even think needed it. To me, a pilates workout was almost equivalent to a full body massage, as I would walk out of classes feeling relaxed, lighter and knot-free. Pilates targets your spinal support through its movements, both strengthening the muscle protecting the spine and redistributing the pressure surrounding it. With a more stable spine, the weight is taken off your back to relieve that built up tension.

8. I got loose

Exercise doesn't need to be serious to be effective. A lot of pilates motions are meant to be silly, involving movements like “act like a seal” or “roll like a ball.” These classes totally challenged what I thought of as a traditional workout class, both physically and emotionally.

I was able to fully let my body stretch, turn, twist in new ways that I've never

stretched before. On top of that, I was able to fully let go of any social stigmas during such crazy movements and just let my body work to its full potential.

9. My mind worked harder than my body

I thought that pilates would totally change and tone my body, leaving me with the ability to do new party tricks, like breaking out into the splits or showing off my new six-pack.

Maybe with more consistency and a longer duration, these classes could have done that, but most of the changes I endured were something I felt rather than saw. Even during classes, my heart rate never spiked nor did I run out of breath. Instead, these classes challenged my patience, my endurance and my perseverance, both on the mat and in my everyday life.

10. I got to be a pilates princess

The trending title of “pilates princess” is one that I've been jealous of for a while now, so of course I will take pride in calling myself it. This final point simply comes down to confidence.

When you feel good about yourself, you can push yourself harder to try new things, persevere even when it's difficult and feel proud of what you accomplish. I was actually really excited coming to pilates class each session, and in turn I got a lot more out of my experience than just another workout.

Overall, none of these observations were a benefit that came directly from pilates. They came from a consistent schedule to get my body moving and staying healthy in an active environment. Any workout can do this, it's about finding the one that's right for you and feels fun, which will motivate you to stick with it.

Whether it's pilates, sports, runs, gym sessions or any of the many types of exercise, I hope this reflection will encourage more people to get involved, get in tune with their bodies inside and out and maybe even try something new!



ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

ON THE MENU



The Legend, a vanilla caramel macchiato.



If you’ve walked down the Pardall tunnel in the past year, you’ve probably seen a banner featuring a hibiscus flower and blue text advertising the oh-so elusive Makenna Koffee Company.



Customized drinks!

Coming soon: Makenna Koffee Company

Sahasra Hanumiahgari
On The Menu Editor

If you’ve walked down the Pardall tunnel in the past year, you’ve probably seen a banner featuring a hibiscus flower and blue text advertising the oh-so elusive Makenna Koffee Company. While it was initially expected to open last spring, the project was unfortunately significantly delayed. You know what they say though, good things are worth waiting for! I know I’m ready for this wait to be over and see just how good these drinks are. The manager is hoping the shop will open before the 2026-27 academic year – sometime in early September – but I will be keeping an eye on their Instagram for specific dates (@makennakoffee.iv).

I was able to get in contact with Lucca Santolamazza, a third-year financial math and statistics major. Santolamazza has been a regular at Makenna Koffee in the town where it first started in 2019, Simi Valley. Not to mention, he is the manager of I.V.’s soon-to-open location!

Speaking to Santolamazza – seeing the energy and excitement he had on his face while answering even the series of questions that I besieged him with – I’m confident that Makenna Koffee is going to have amazing vibes and create a presence unlike any other coffee shop that we have in I.V.

Located at 6521 Pardall Road, this tropical themed café will feature an outdoor patio and a “huge menu, different from other coffee shops,” Santolamazza said, featuring various types of refreshers, blended drinks, matcha, boba and their own brand of energy drinks! According to Santolamazza, their most popular drink is the Sandy Blonde, a rich, creamy, white chocolate and caramel latte. However, his favorite is the Maui Vanilla: their signature Maui latte with vanilla syrup. Blended with their signature Maui milk, a secret sweet cream recipe which allegedly “tastes like melted vanilla ice cream,” I can see why this would be his favorite drink. If you’re more of an energy drink kind of person,

he recommends The Vacation, which he describes as similar to a piña colada, is a pineapple coconut Makenna Energy drink topped with Kona Cloud, a sweet cream cold foam (a dairy free option is also available). At Makenna, the menu reminds me of the drinks at Dutch Bros combined with the events and energy you find at Woodstock’s!

The words of the hour were “energy” and “vibe.” It’s clear that (besides serving delicious drinks) the goal of Makenna Koffee in I.V. is to boost people’s energy through the environment they hope to create and the connections they aim to foster. Santolamazza aims for the shop to create a “fun, inviting, open vibe” where students can study or hang out – an atmosphere that will embody the “work hard, play hard” culture of I.V.

During the day, Makenna Koffee will be a chill study spot with leather couches, outlets and Wi-Fi for students to lock in inside, and socialize on a nice patio that is expected to be the hang-out spot. While the typical store hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.,

Santolamazza says he’s not opposed to staying open later until 10 or 11 p.m. In fact, he hopes Makenna will eventually become a late-night study spot, similar to Slodoco in Goleta! During finals week, we’ll most likely see the establishment open later to keep students motivated to get more studying done.

Not every night will be just for studying! At night, Makenna will feature live music, karaoke and maybe even DJ sets! I couldn’t be more excited for a new café to be opening in I.V.!

Students will also be able to utilize a rewards program and fun promotions and discounts! If you create an account with your phone number, you’ll earn one point for every drink you buy. For every 11 points, you get a free drink! Makenna Koffee will also offer frequent promotions. For example, during the World Cup, they sold Mexico-themed drinks for \$5 if Mexico won a game. According to Santolamazza, the shop will offer a back-to-school promotion where you can get two energy drinks for \$10!

In terms of engaging with the community, Santolamazza says they’re in contact with the Isla Vista Community Services District in order to work towards getting their green certification to demonstrate their commitment to pro-environmental practices. As well as partnering with different events, such as Thriftopia, they’re getting involved with the university and I.V. residents. Santolamazza wants Makenna to feel as “Isla Vista-fied” as possible.

I’ve been missing blended sweet drinks since I moved to Isla Vista and I’m so excited to try the Oreo Chiller. Too many times I’ve thought to myself, “I wish there was a Dutch Bros closer to SB.” Looks like my wish is coming true; I.V. is soon to be home to a menu of drinks like none other in town at Makenna Koffee! I can’t wait to finally walk in and experience the hype I’m sure that Santolamazza and his team will create – I’m confident that Makenna Koffee Company is going to be a coffee shop like no other in I.V.

In defense of the dinner party

Francesca Gasparini
On The Menu Editor

As Virginia Woolf once said, “One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.” For years, students’ diets have been governed by the holy trinity of frozen meals, instant ramen and a questionable collection of whatever leftovers can be excavated from the back of the fridge. This year, however, I am determined to bring a little more elegance – and perhaps an entirely unnecessary degree of refinement – to my dining habits. I am advocating for the return of the dinner party: At least one night a month where you get together with friends to set the table, cook something

that did not come wrapped in cellophane and spend an evening enjoying good food and unhurried conversation.

I believe the dinner party is a missing fixture in many Isla Vista homes, and perhaps an antidote to some of the everyday qualms of college life. While they may seem like a luxury, dinner parties are often more affordable than you may believe. When cooking for a large group, the cost of groceries is often slight in comparison to a 2 a.m. DoorDash purchase you’d wake up regretting, or the study latte you get to feel less remorse for taking up a table for several hours in a crowded café. Of course, price will vary depending on the dishes you choose to execute,

but there are ways to make the event incredibly affordable while remaining delicious. Whether you want to set up a customizable pizza bar, spend the night rolling handmade pasta, throw some barbecue skewers on the grill, build your own tacos or toss together a stir fry, there is no shortage of ways to make dinner feel like an occasion without breaking the bank. There is something uniquely rewarding about creating a meal with friends and then sitting down to enjoy the fruits of your collective effort.

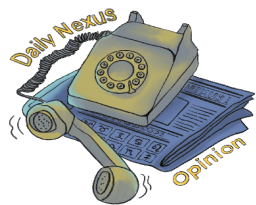
What’s more, dinner parties bring people together in a way that can feel more distinguished and heartwarming than the usual nightlife offered in I.V. They

create an opportunity to spend time with friends you may not see often, meet people you might not know at all and bring different circles together to get to know each other over a shared meal. Leave it open-invite to friends of friends, or keep it intimate with your inner circle; no matter what, having a night full of friends and food to look forward to every month – or even every week – can make your schedule a bit brighter in the midst of countless homework assignments, tests, job interviews and frat parties that demand your attendance. It won’t be long until all your friends are no longer just a couple of blocks away. We need to take advantage of our proximity, the gorgeous weather and our youthful spirit

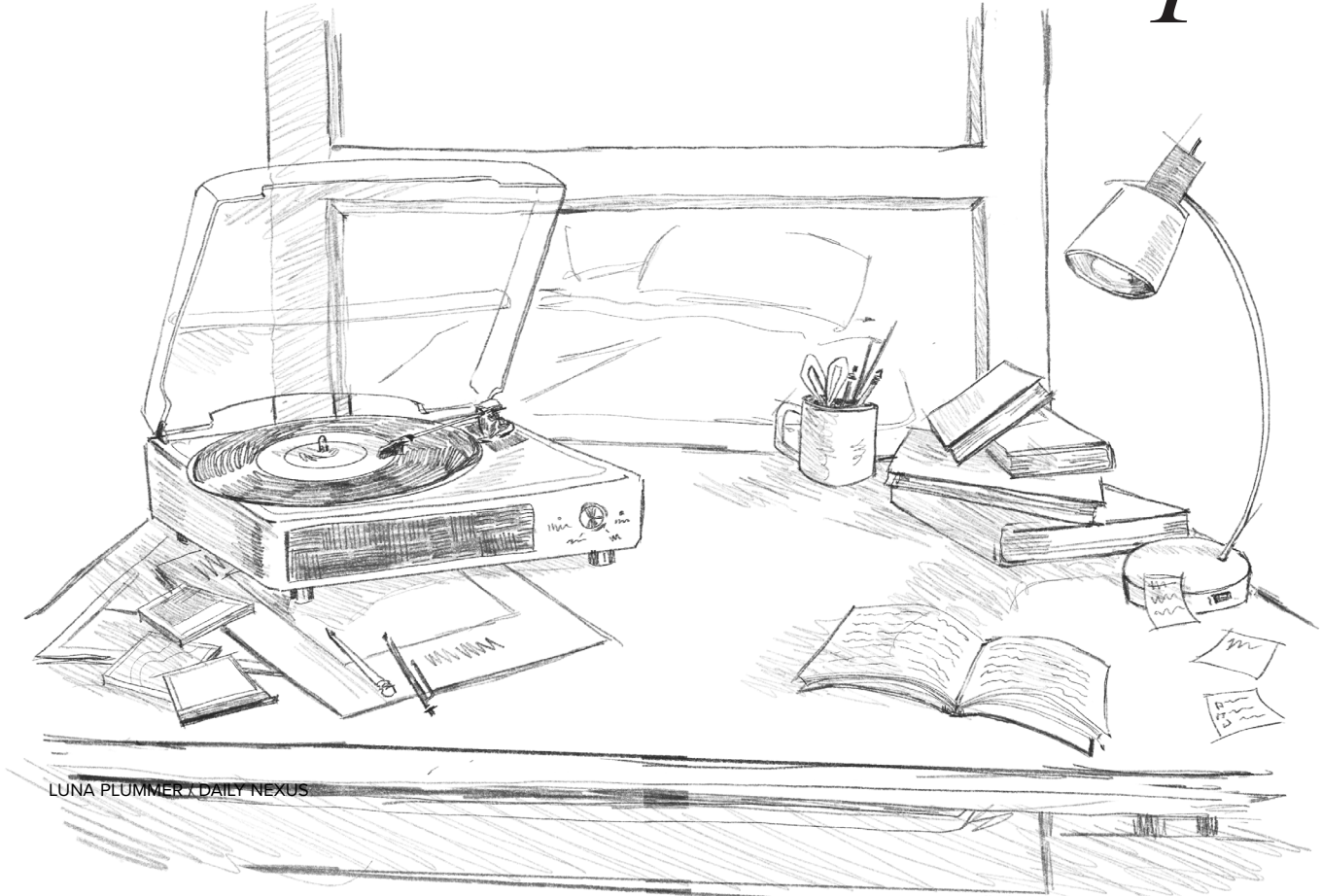
in order to host extravagant dinner parties with whimsical themes and imaginative menus.

Don’t get me wrong, I.V. is home to more social gatherings than most places I’ve been, but we often go hopping from place to place, house to house, rarely even knowing who lives there. The dinner party allows us to slow down. College can be filled with many fleeting social interactions that rarely stick, but a dinner party gives you a reason to slow down for a couple hours. Even if your meal itself is a total disaster, at the very least, you will have gotten to cook with your friends, meet the people they brought along and spend a couple of hours doing something memorable with good company.

OPINION



I’m not a sentimental person



LUNA PLUMMER / DAILY NEXUS

Dylan Hunter
Opinion Editor

It was the middle of fall quarter, but Santa Barbara was convinced that it was summer. The sun’s rays broiled the tar beneath the sand, leading to soft, thick waves of carbon being washed up on campus, transported by the breeze. The weather was so perfect that it seemed people were looking for excuses to be outside, as if they’d ever need a reason.

Both my roommates were gone after finding their excuse, leaving me a quiet opportunity to play the records I’d long neglected since moving into my dorm. They sat abandoned in a dusty milk crate under my desk, locked away for times when nobody else was around to hear them. I picked out a Childish Gambino record, wiping the dust off with the inside of my grandfather’s hand-me-down shirt. It has holes all over the chest and backsides, but I keep it because it fits me well and reminds me of him. I put the record on.

I was reminded about a story my uncle Nick used to tell me, about how he and his brother would rummage through my grandfather’s record collection, searching for those he’d miss the least. They’d throw them out of the window like frisbees, creating a grand welcome of disc-shaped stepping stones for when their father came home from work. This was never my favorite story. It felt like he was using their youth as an excuse to burn away my grandfather’s age. Those records could have been sitting in my milk crate, a storage unit or anywhere else where they could be kept safe from the weathering of time.

I’m a sentimental person. I keep old clothes, read old books and rewatch the same old shows. I grew up spending lots of my time in my grandfather’s room, putting on his “Looney Tunes” figurines that he had kept for decades. Over time, I picked up on this habit, keeping any item that has any sort of sentimental value attached to it, whether it be old essays I’ve written or Pokémon cards that were freshly traded from an elementary school playground. Keeping items like this felt like a layer of protection. The memories could not fade if I had a physical reminder of them, an anchor to a time that I wanted to remember. Love is the day you can’t forget, and I could always feel it if I held my possessions close.

But, this habit has a byproduct: the slow amassing of piles and piles of keepsakes that I no longer could take care of, or pay the respect that the sentiment in my heart thinks they deserve. It made me feel guilty — I kept all these things because I believed that their memories were important to me, but I failed to take care of their image. It made me question if I cared that much in the first place, like I was an imposter in upholding my own sentimental values. What does it say about me that I can’t take care of simple things that I value the most?

When I moved into my dorm freshman year, I knew that I could not bring everything with me. I wanted to use my new space as an opportunity to change course, to remove the nostalgic comforts that sit in my room at home collecting dust. The only things I decided to bring with me that year as decor were about a dozen

books off my bookshelf, my records and my record player.

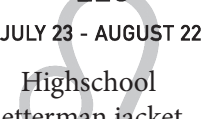
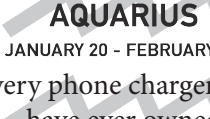
The seasons changed, and the foggy breath of the springtime descended over Santa Barbara. I had made space for myself at this point in the year, a small collection of friends from my building and some from across the lagoon. I wanted them to know who I was and what I liked, and I felt the best way to do that was to go against my nature and give my items away. My desk became a library, and my closet a makeshift dressing room. I learned the satisfaction you could have in sharing a piece of a memory with someone else, even if they were never there to experience it. They might not know the full history of my grandfather’s leather jacket, but they carry it with them on their back during a night out. I learned these pieces of time can be shared, as long as I become comfortable in allowing it.

When I moved out of my dorm that year, I carried less than I did before, with pieces of my life scattered outside of my reach. This time, though, it no longer felt like I was downsizing. My books may be collecting dust, but they were now on someone else’s shelf. There may come a time where I will miss having certain items and momentos, like comforts that can no longer be afforded to me. But, there is now a chance for someone new to turn the page, and allow a bottled memory to be opened, its contents evaporating into the air. Love is the day you can’t forget, but so too is allowing yourself to be seen by others, even if it’s in the most abstract ways.

I’m not a sentimental person. At least, I try not to be.
Dylan Hunter needs to do some summer cleaning

HOROSCOPES

The signs as keepsakes they collect

 ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 19 Their favorite T-shirt from middle school	 LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22 Vinyl records
 TAURUS APRIL 20 - MAY 20 Birthday cards	 SCORPIO OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21 Photos of their ex
 GEMINI MAY 21 - JUNE 20 Phone cases	 SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21 Postcards from every city they visit
 CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22 Sonny Angels	 CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19 Heirloom jewelry
 LEO JULY 23 - AUGUST 22 Highschool letterman jacket	 AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18 Every phone charger they have ever owned
 VRGO AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22 Planners they never finished	 PISCES FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20 Pressed flowers

Wolfe & Associates

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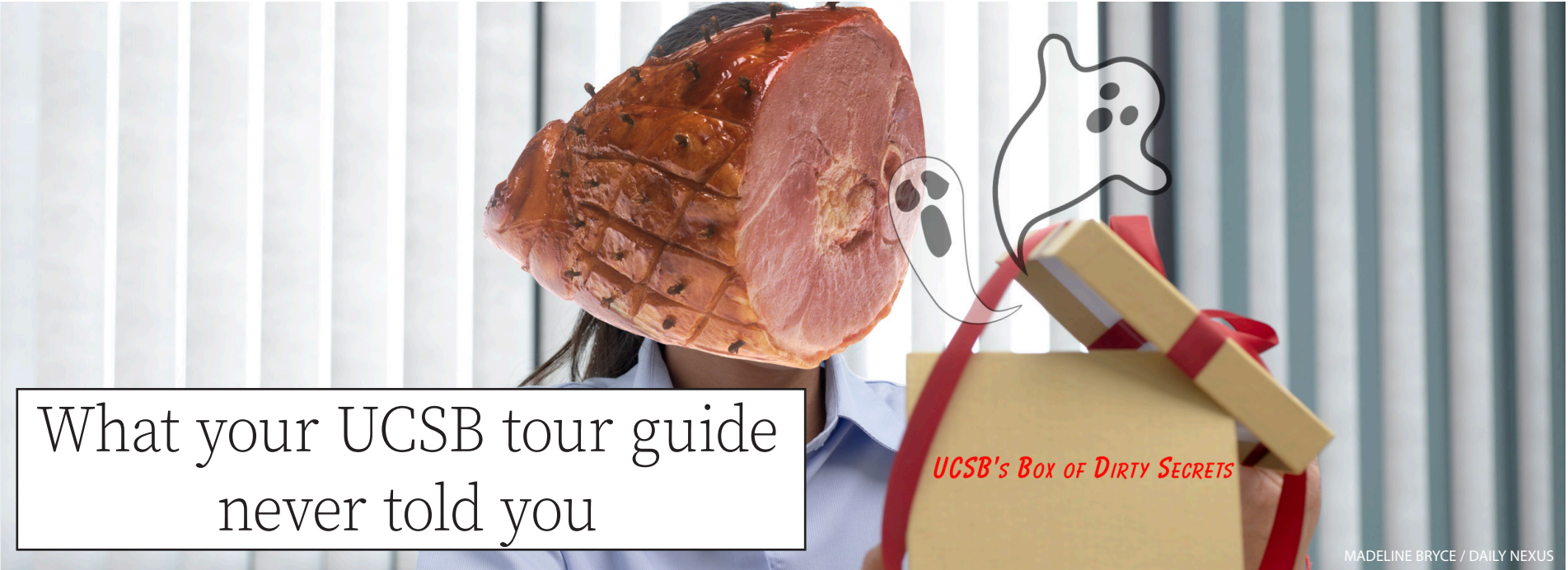


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NEXUSTENTIALISM

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What your UCSB tour guide never told you

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Serrano Ham Whistle Blower

The month before the start of the academic year at UC Santa Barbara always finds incoming freshmen in varying states of preparedness. However, whether you have tirelessly researched the clubs the school offers, or not even set up your school email, no freshman is truly prepared for their time at UCSB because they haven't been given all the information.

There is a trove of secrets that UCSB administrators, professors and current students alike keep from the public, either out of shame or because they want the newest year of students to suffer as well. But the Daily Nexus has decided enough is enough and it's finally time to pop open the lid of Pandora's box.

Here is the real UCSB that no one wants to talk about.

Beach accesses are managed by Greek organizations

The beaches are UCSB's No. 1 claim to fame (yes, the beaches rank higher than academics) and yet the school doesn't want incoming students to know that this commodity is under the monopolized control of the fraternities and sororities. With their members living in houses located right next to beach access points, the natural next step was for these chapters to start collecting tolls. As long as you always have \$20 on you (cash, to stay under the radar ...), this doesn't prove too much of a problem for most students — which is why it doesn't warrant mention on tours.

Guitars are banned items

Music is generally pretty accepted on campus (you have to get written permission to play music outside

of dorm rooms), but UCSB draws a strict line when it comes to bringing musical instruments to campus, especially guitars. Incoming students always seem to want to bring these items, but Resident Assistants (RAs) are instructed to confiscate them if they are seen in dorm rooms. No reason for this ban has ever been made clear, but tour guides don't talk about it because it would discourage a lot of prospective students from committing to the school.

Dorm assignments are determined by attractiveness

There's a reason why dorm buildings have certain reputations amongst the UCSB student body, which is something tour guides like to gloss over. It's no coincidence that the dorm life is the best in Anacapa or Santa Cruz, and that's because Residential & Community Living takes I.D. photo submissions and uses them to assign dorm placements to incoming students. If you're ugly, you're banished to Santa Catalina, far away from the attractive students who can be found closest to the beach (which is under the control of one of the frats, naturally). A social hierarchy based solely on appearance has been created by this system, and it remains largely unacknowledged to this day.

Some clubs have a year-long wait list

Whatever nonsense tour guides spout about being in five different clubs and organizations is just that: nonsense. Clubs such as Arts & Crafts Club and Juggling Club have highly competitive waitlists that have hardly any turnover. Once students are in a club, they are very unlikely to leave the club, even after graduation. Making it into a club at UCSB, no matter

the focus area, is an achievement in itself, and is a lot more difficult than getting into the actual school. Any ambitions to pad the resume should be limited now, before disappointment takes too much of a toll.

Parties operate on a referral system; someone you know within a frat or sorority has to nominate you

This is one of the best kept secrets here at UCSB: Despite being a notorious party school, not everyone can party. There is a complex system of referrals and internal recommendations which lead to a vetting process, and that's still before the rating panel. Incoming freshmen who think they'll be able to party every weekend are in for an extremely rude awakening. If you don't know anyone in a fraternity or sorority, you may as well kiss your anticipated social life goodbye now.

Some dorms are notorious for adding a fourth roommate without prior notice

This is knowledge that passes through word of mouth. UCSB has never acknowledged this policy and refuses to comment when asked about it. But, it's not uncommon to hear of a floormate or friend from another building who knows someone — or was that someone — that came back to their dorm after winter or spring break and found a fourth bed added to their triple dorm room. There's never any warning or explanation, and you're just supposed to suck it up and deal with it. If you ask to be relocated, you risk being assigned to a quad as well.

RAs enforce a strict curfew

Due to UCSB being deemed the

"No. 1 party school in the country," RAs work overtime to make sure freshmen stay in line. Even if you have to pee at 2 a.m., the RA who monitors the floor has to escort you to the bathroom and wait until you finish your business. If you violate curfew three times, your housing contract gets canceled and you have to find other housing accommodations. On weeknights, curfew starts at 8 p.m. with room checks happening at 10 p.m., and on weekends curfew starts at 10 p.m. with room checks at 12 a.m.

There is a very active dating culture and it's not uncommon for marriage proposals to take place in the middle of campus

UCSB has a very attractive student body, and students love to take advantage of the premium dating pool. Girls go on several dates a week with several different guys and vice versa. The dating culture is incredibly casual, and UCSB's unofficial title is the "BYU of the west." Just this past academic year, there were 57 marriage proposals in front of the Interactive Learning Pavilion steps alone! Tour guides are instructed not to mention this over fears this puts undue pressure on incoming students to maintain their own packed roster.

Office hours with professors are by invitation only

This is information that would have changed lots of students' college choices, hence why tour guides are forbidden from telling the truth. Professors each have their own criteria for handpicking students for this "bespoke" experience. Whether it be for actual merit or visual appeal, students that are extended an invitation to office hours are the ones that have access to the best opportunities.

These are the only students able to get recommendation letters, tailored career advice and guaranteed As, all because of their intimate relationship with the professor. There is really nothing incoming freshmen can do to get invited, it all comes down to professor preference.

Getting past the pre-major stage of degrees is very challenging and is meant to weed out underachievers

UCSB employs an interesting system where students in a major are given "pre-major" status while they complete their major prerequisites. However, what tour guides fail to mention is that the process for becoming a full major is extremely competitive, not at all guaranteed and is used to cull the weakest students from the bunch. Grades, personality and projected future success are all weighed by the different departments and factored into the final decision. At least a quarter of each class drops out after the second year because they are denied full major status. On the bright side, it makes getting classes as an upperclassman a lot easier.

The reality of UCSB is a lot different than the sun-soaked idyllic picture that is painted online. Tour guides, alongside the school, work tirelessly to convey the most sugar-coated version of UCSB's culture and offerings. Students who arrive here in September find a much different experience, and by then it's too late to change their minds.

Welcome, class of 2030!

Serrano Ham believes in always telling the truth!

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



Local drunkards host fundraiser to rebuild Deja Vu

Joseph R. Biden Already Seen

Beloved Isla Vista late-night establishment Deja Vu Cafe burned on Aug. 18, scaring high-functioning alcoholics for miles. The Isla Vista community consequently started a GoFundMe, planned multiple fundraising events and called upon local elected officials to take action to rebuild the restaurant.

Deja Vu Cafe's late hours, below-mediocre food and deafeningly loud Travis Scott

soundtrack gained it a loyal following throughout the years. On any given Thursday through Saturday night, it could be found bustling with black tube tops, chicken tenders and soon-to-fail situationships.

After a kitchen fire threatened the continuation of the restaurant's service, IV's heaviest drinkers rose to the occasion.

"There was no way I was going to let such a pillar of community close," fourth-year communication major and Alpha Sigma Sigma Vice President of

Recruitment Hannah Feins said. "I have so many special memories there, like ..."

Organizers of the movement based their activism on their professional expertise.

"Hannah is great at recruiting because of her sorority experience, Kevin has insane connections because he's Sig Alpha's coke dealer and I'm excellent at harassing the fuck out of people to give money because I'm CALPIRG's secretary," second-year environmental studies major and CALPIRG Secretary Ian Yoon

said.

In just three days following the fire, the alcoholic coalition organized and held a "Pie a Crunk" event, a phone banking session and a "Pray for Deja Marathon Twerkoff" at the lagoon lawn.

"I had a lot of fun at the twerkoff, but it was hard to keep twerking because I was so drunk. They kept shoving alcohol down people's throats," second-year global studies major Jane Ericson said. "After, I just wanted some greasy food and red lighting to sober me up. But there was

nowhere to go."

In total, the events raised over \$8,000, which was donated to Deja Vu Cafe in its entirety.

"Thank you, alcoholics. After giving us business for 40 years, you have saved Deja Vu once again. We hope to see you again soon," Deja Vu Cafe owner and James Beard Award winner Jean-Claude Michel said.

Joseph R. Biden alone raised \$7,000 by participating in the twerkoff.

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MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

LA VISTA



Mutualismo bajo la lupa: cooperación, dependencia y manipulación

Sofia Benitez
Editor para La Vista

En mi clase de ecología aprendí sobre las relaciones simbióticas en la naturaleza, las relaciones simbióticas se refieren a cualquier tipo de asociación entre dos o más especies biológicas, existen distintos tipos de relaciones, en algunas un organismo (el comensal) se beneficia mientras que el otro no es afectado ni beneficiado, esta es conocida como una relación comensalista, en otras, como lo es el parasitismo un organismo (el huésped) es afectado negativamente mientras que el otro (el parásito) se beneficia. Sin embargo, hay una relación bastante interesante la cual se trata del mutualismo, el cual se refiere a una relación en la que ambos organismos se benefician. A simple vista, una relación mutualista podría parecer una de las relaciones más justas en la naturaleza, sin embargo varios ejemplos de esta relación podrían demostrar lo contrario. Empezando por uno de mis ejemplos favoritos del mutualismo que se da en África, esta relación es entre humano y una ave silvestre conocida como “el gran guía de la miel” la cual es conocida por guiar a los humanos a través del paisaje hacia un panal de abejas, estas aves nunca han sido

entrenadas para este propósito sino que este comportamiento surgió naturalmente.

Las grandes guías de la miel han aprendido a responder a un llamado de los humanos muy específico. Dr. Claire Spottiswoode de la Universidad de Cambridge se preguntaba si el inusual llamado de los recolectores de miel significaban algo en especial para las aves, para lo cual hizo un estudio en el que comparó la respuesta de las aves a distintos sonidos, ya sea humanos o no humanos. El estudio indicó que los sonidos cualquiera no causaban interés en las aves, quienes solo guiaron a los humanos una de cada tres veces, pero cuando escuchaban el llamado especial guiaban a los recolectores de miel dos de cada tres veces. Una vez que la atención de la ave se ha conseguido esta toma el rol de guía y empieza a dirigir al recolector de poco a poco, para esto revolotean, trinan y vuelan de árbol en árbol. Aunque este proceso pueda parecer un poco irreal, esta relación beneficia tanto a los humanos que con agilidad han aprendido a desmontar un panal usando humo para ahuyentar a las abejas. para después abrir el árbol hueco y recolectar la miel, dejando atrás la cera de abejas de la cual se alimentan los guías de la miel.

El antropólogo biológico Richard Wrangham de la Universidad de Harvard sugiere que esta relación inició hace poco más de un millón de años, lo que significa que los pájaros como resultado de la evolución desarrollaron un deseo innato de guiar a las personas a la miel. Aunque esto se trate de una relación mutualista en ocasiones a lo largo de los años, algunos humanos activamente reducen el “pago” de las aves, por lo que esta relación puede ser definida a grandes rasgos como mutualista pero también incluye elementos de manipulación. Prevalece la pregunta de cómo estas aves llegan a aprender ese comportamiento, ya que los guías de la miel ponen sus huevos en los nidos de otras especies. Por lo tanto, no son criados por sus progenitores que pudieran enseñarles a interactuar con los humanos, por lo que se tiene la hipótesis de que las aves jóvenes aprenden a poner atención al llamado es al observar a las aves adultas.

Otro ejemplo de una relación mutualista, se trata de los árboles de Acacia y las hormigas en Centroamérica, en esta relación mutualista las hormigas actúan como “guardaespaldas” de los árboles, atacando a cualquier animal que intente alimentarse

de él e incluso protegen al árbol de patógenos. A cambio, el árbol provee a las hormigas con refugio y alimento. Para ello, el árbol produce unas espinas huecas y agrandadas que son habitadas por las hormigas. Además, desarrolla nectarios, que son estructuras que secretan néctar y en las puntas de sus folíolos (las pequeñas hojas que forman una hoja compuesta) produce cuerpos de Belt, estructuras ricas en nutrientes que sirven de alimento para las hormigas.

En 2005 Martin Heil de la Cinvestav Unidad Irapuato en México descubrió que esta dulce secreción del árbol contiene una enzima que impide que la hormiga se alimenten de otras fuentes de azúcar. La explicación es la siguiente, la mayoría de alimentos dulces que consumen las hormigas como la savia de las plantas son ricos en sacarosa. Usualmente, las hormigas digieren este azúcar gracias a una enzima llamada invertasa, que descompone la sacarosa en compuestos más pequeños. Sin embargo, Heil descubrió que las hormigas asociadas con las acacias carecen de esta enzima, lo cual impide su capacidad de digerir sacarosa de otras fuentes. Otros estudios dirigidos por Heil revelaron que el propio árbol de Acacia es

responsable de esta ausencia de la enzima invertasa en las hormigas, ya que el néctar del Acacia contiene enzimas quitinasas, las cuales inhiben la actividad de la enzima invertasa. Una vez que las hormigas emergen como adultas y consumen por primera vez el néctar de este árbol su invertasa es desactivada. Como consecuencia, las hormigas se vuelven dependientes del árbol de Acacia, ya que esta se convierte en su única fuente de alimento comestible. Esta dependencia fortalece el mutualismo, pues aumenta la necesidad de las hormigas de defender al árbol que les proporciona alimento y refugio.

Estos dos ejemplos de una relación mutualista nos exponen un lado más complejo e incluso manipulador de este tipo de relación. En el primer caso, siendo los humanos quienes deciden reducir “la recompensa” que ofrecen al gran guía de la miel con el propósito de que este se quede con hambre y siga guiando a los recolectores a más árboles. Mientras que en el segundo caso, el árbol de Acacia, que si bien, proporciona alimento y hogar a las hormigas, también las vuelve esclavas de este, convirtiendo su propia supervivencia en un elemento crucial para la supervivencia de las hormigas.



Hormigas en las espinas hinchadas del árbol de acacia.



Pájaro guía de la miel posando en la rama de un árbol.

La Michoacana: sus raíces y universalidad

Janise L. Fernández
Escritora para La Vista

De Michoacán a Dubái, la familiar tienda de helados, tostielotes y dulces extiende su alcance internacional. La actual disputa sobre el número exacto de puntos de venta y su historia no tan bien conocida lleva a diversas especulaciones sobre su origen. Desde la participación de otros grupos del mercado mexicano hasta el lavado de dinero, muchas teorías surgen alrededor de lo que bien podría ser un imperio del emprendimiento. Por lo tanto, la verdad resulta ser mucho más sencilla y se atribuye a un simple error de patentabilidad y a la versatilidad del negocio.

El origen especulado de La Michoacana se remonta a los años 30, en el pueblo de Tocuambo, Michoacán, con Rafael Malfavón. El michoacano original revolucionó su pueblo natal al crear su propio negocio de paletas artesanales, bien recibidas durante las olas de calor. Cargando su mercancía en cajas, montadas sobre burros, la imagen y calidad

del negocio pronto florecieron y llamaron la atención de futuros emprendedores de la región.

Esto impulsó a Malfavón a compartir la esencia de su trabajo e instruir a los jóvenes de Tocuambo en cómo confeccionar paletas, siempre con su sello personal — trocitos de fruta naturales. Fue esto lo que ocasionó una ola de locales nuevos a través del estado, brindando una pequeña burbuja a Tocuambo durante la fuerte crisis económica que enfrentó México a finales de la Gran Depresión.

Mientras que existen otras narrativas del desarrollo de la marca, un hilo que las une a todas es el de su evolución mediante los aportes de cada punto de venta nuevo. Aunque se conserva la imagen singular de paredes rosas y blancas, la calidad de los ingredientes en las paletas y el interior de las tiendas desplegadas al aire libre, cada uno de los locales ha impulsado la constante transformación de La Michoacana.

Los experimentos e innovaciones en cada paletería han ampliado los productos, la forma en que se venden y han

llevado a la creación de otros negocios que emulan la marca (como La Nueva Michoacana, La Michoacana Tradicional, La Michoacana Artesanal, entre otras). Es por esta razón que hoy en día es fácil entrar a una tienda y ver más que sólo paletas — nachos, gomitas enchiladas, sabores únicos en cada local y, más recientemente, la introducción de fresas Dubái.

No obstante, este brote de compañías del mismo nombre también es interpretado como piratería que se deriva de la carencia de una marca registrada a través de los años. Es así como lo describe el actual director general de La Michoacana, Alejandro Andrade, quien ha llevado una larga lucha por registrar la propiedad intelectual de sus antecesores.

En términos legales, existen solamente 35 tiendas bajo el nombre oficial de La Michoacana que también mantiene negocios en el extranjero en forma de venta de equipo y servicios. Revelando la importancia de la implementación (tanto regional como internacional) de marcas



Una sucursal de La Michoacana, conocida por sus paletas, helados y dulces mexicanos.

registradas y leyes que las protejan. Asimismo, ilustra el lento progreso de los derechos de autor en México.

A pesar de estos obstáculos, Andrade y su equipo han logrado salir adelante al proveer su propio logo de La Michoacana (una niña tarasca) junto a su célebre eslogan de “es natural”: enfatizando sus raíces artesanales.

La Michoacana persiste como un patrimonio cultural extraoficial que resguarda un lugar especial en la memoria de

cada mexicano, sobre todo la niñez y aquellos lejos en el extranjero. Es una pequeña apertura a los aspectos más reconocidos de la cultura paisana — la comunidad y originalidad con muchos colores y sabores. También reconoce el valor fundamental del desarrollo legal de emprendimientos y sirve como un ejemplo a seguir en bajones económicos. A veces lo simple y dulce, enfocado en las necesidades de los clientes, vende más que cualquier producto complejo.

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PHOTO

Summer at Santa Barbara



Students who enjoy to surf can often be found catching a wave during the summertime.



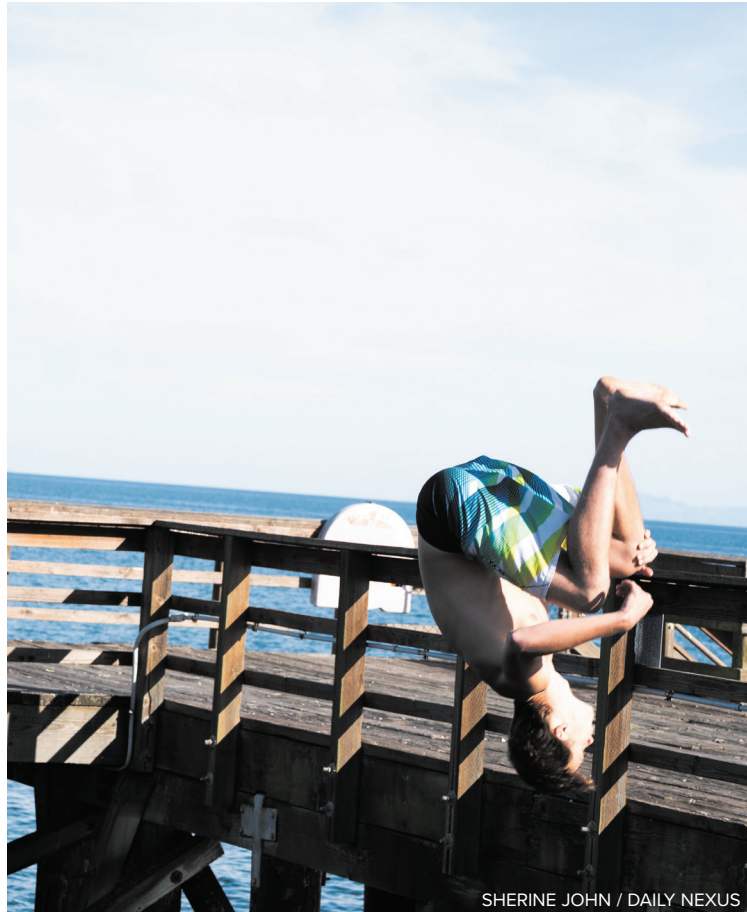
Concerts are often hosted at local venues, bringing artists to Santa Barbara for community members and students alike to enjoy.



Campus Point is an ideal location for kayakers, and UCSB's Department of Recreation frequently hosts kayak tours there.



The oceanside of Del Playa Drive is a picturesque location to watch the sunset.



A student jumps off the Goleta Pier, located just a short distance away from Henley Gate.



Summer at Santa Barbara is one of the most peaceful times of the year: Campus is much more quiet, the weather is perfect all day and there are plenty of spots to camp out on the beach.

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