

# THE COUGAR CHRONICLE

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS, INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

## CSUSM gears up for semester with primarily virtual instruction

By ANNELIESE ESPARZA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For the first time in its 30 year history, CSUSM will begin the academic year as a majority-online institution.

More than 90 percent of courses are occurring virtually this fall, with the in-person courses being certain labs in the biology and nursing departments.

The other CSU campuses are also keeping most classes online, in keeping with a decision made by CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White back on May 12.

The colleges in the 23-campus system were among the first to commit to virtual instruction for fall 2020, but many U.S. colleges and universities are also steering students away from their campuses due to coronavirus concerns.

According to The College Crisis Initiative, a Davidson College initiative that tracks colleges' response to the coronavirus pandemic, 1,302 (44 percent) of the 2,958 institutions in the database plan to remain "fully online" or "primarily online" for fall 2020. Another 622 (21 percent) plan to offer hybrid instruction.

While universities across the country feared that



Photo by Anneliese Esparza

Over 90 percent of CSUSM courses will be offered online for fall 2020.

COVID-19 would cause current students to drop out of college or newly admitted students to defer their admission to a later semester, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Services Scott Hagg said CSUSM has not seen evidence of any such trend.

"There was an anticipation that we would see reduced numbers this year because of COVID-19, being in a virtual environment, some question of maybe [students] taking some time off from school. But that just hasn't

happened from what we see," said Hagg.

In fact, with 14,764 current students, Hagg said that enrollment is actually higher than it was last year by about 250 students.

Due to the pandemic, the university offered newly admitted students the option to defer their enrollment to Spring 2021. However, Hagg said that only about 30 students chose that option.

In addition, Hagg added that a majority of students (about 95 percent) had logged onto Cougar Courses

by the second day of classes.

"It's very encouraging. We're excited to see that students seem to be very engaged, and I can't wait to see what happens this semester," said Hagg.

One number that did drop significantly was the number of students living in residential housing. Associate Vice President for Communications Margaret Chantung said in an email that there are only 253 students in campus

Virtual Semester, continued on page 2



Screenshot by Anneliese Esparza

On an official CSUSM Instagram post, a user tagged the Instagram account of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in a comment to an undocumented CSUSM student.

## CSUSM to leave up controversial comment on Instagram

By ANNELIESE ESPARZA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A comment on a CSUSM Instagram post sparked differing opinions on whether the university should censor speech deemed contrary to its values or allow such speech because of First Amendment rights.

A user with the handle @fear\_no\_evil responded to a comment by a CSUSM student who identified themselves as undocumented in a separate comment by tagging the Instagram account of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Neither individual wished to be publicly identified for this story.

The university recently decided that it will not

remove @fear\_no\_evil's comment, saying that a government institution's social media is a public forum and that the comment did not qualify for one of the narrow exceptions to the First Amendment.

The exchange between the two appeared under a June 11 CSUSM post about the then-upcoming Supreme Court decision on the legal status of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA, an immigration policy that protects undocumented individuals brought to the U.S. as minors from deportation and offers them work permit

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## Virtual instruction to continue into spring 2021

By ADRIANNA ADAME  
MANAGING EDITOR

All 23 California State University campuses will continue with predominantly virtual instruction for the spring 2021 semester, according to the CSU chancellor -- a decision that may disappoint some.

After considering the ongoing severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and consulting with all CSU presidents, Chancellor Timothy P. White said beginning next semester with online instruction and reduced campus housing would be best for the health and safety of students, faculty and staff.

"I am announcing that the CSU will continue with this primarily virtual instructional approach for the academic term that begins in January 2021, and also will continue with reduced populations in



Photo by Anneliese Esparza

Due to the ongoing pandemic, CSU campuses will continue with online learning into the spring semester.

campus housing," said White in an email to the CSU community on Sept. 10.

The chancellor said this decision is necessary now because of the need to finalize plans for the spring term. Each CSU campus must de-

termine how many and what type of courses to offer for students prior to registration for the next semester. Spring registration at CSUSM begins Nov. 16.

"Starting in a few weeks, campuses publish course of-

ferings for the new year, students make their course selections and campuses make appropriate adjustments to their course inventories to meet student demand," White said.

With the return of students

going back to school, there are increasing concerns about the spread of COVID-19 on college campuses across the country.

White acknowledged that it isn't safe for the approximately 484,300 students

within the CSU system to attend in person classes on campus without a vaccine.

"Another important aspect of the rationale for this decision comes from analyzing the facts about the pandemic itself," wrote White. "We know far more about it now than we did back in May. The virus continues to spread. There is no vaccine and there likely will not be one widely available any time soon."

Some CSU campuses have seen an increased number of infected students.

San Diego State University, one of the 23 CSU campuses, has reported more than 500 cases since the beginning of the fall semester.

CSUSM has reported seven confirmed active cases of COVID-19 as of Sept. 11.

Spring 2021, continued on page 2



# Kellogg Library offers a variety of online services for fall 2020

By ARIANA L. KITTS  
STAFF WRITER

Although Kellogg Library is closed for all in-person services this semester, CSUSM students can still access vital library resources virtually.

Kellogg Library currently offers services such as 24/7 live chatting with a librarian, virtual course reserves and access to millions of other articles, films, books and more.

For general library questions, a CSUSM librarian can be reached by chat, email or phone Monday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 12 a.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

For research help, a CSUSM librarian is available to assist by chat Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. All other times, a non-CSUSM librarian will be available to



Photo by Anneliese Esparza

Despite being closed for in-person services, Kellogg Library will still be serving students virtually during the fall 2020 semester.

assist with general research questions.

Students can access the chat option by clicking the “Ask Us” button on the CSUSM University Library website.

The library offers a variety of resources for students, but if a student finds that a desired item is not available, they can submit a request for that item. A “Request Online

Access” button can be found below the chosen item title in the catalog, and students can specify whether or not they would prefer digital access or for the material to be mailed to their home.

Char Booth, the Associate Dean of Library, urges CSUSM students to opt for online access.

“Our priority is to get the

item digitally, because the highest number of people would have access to it that way,” said Booth.

Starting on Oct. 1, the library will be offering a contactless locker pickup system where CSUSM students can request to pick up various materials on campus.

Lockers have been installed on the second floor of the li-

brary entrance and User Services is working diligently on perfecting the pickup system, said Yvonne Meulemans, the Head of Teaching and Learning Department.

In addition to the anticipated campus feature, CSUSM has implemented a temporary socially distanced computer lab in the USU to equip students with high-speed wifi, computers, desks with power for laptop users and free printing on a first-come, first-serve basis Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The IT Help Desk is also open to students seeking technology support Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.

Although the library aims to reduce costs of course readings for students by providing ample resources, the University Bookstore remains open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Before you buy it from the

bookstore, just check library reserves to see if we’ve got it in stock. All of it is digital,” said Booth.

Students who have physical items checked out can return them to the two blue book drops in Craven Circle, or at the drop box outside the third floor library entrance.

Due dates have been extended and anyone who has InterLibrary Loan or CSU+ materials checked out can expect an email notice if materials need to be returned sooner.

Kellogg Library hopes to welcome students back as soon as it is safe, but there is not yet an expected reopening date. The library is further awaiting guidance from the CSU system on what to anticipate for next semester.

For more information, check out [biblio.csusm.edu/content/fall-library-virtual-hours-and-services](http://biblio.csusm.edu/content/fall-library-virtual-hours-and-services).



## Virtual Semester: continued from page 1

housing, although the capacity is 1,547.

The school intentionally limited the number of students it accepted into housing to allow for adequate social distancing. Students living in dorms will not have a roommate, while those in apartment housing are asked to social distance even from their roommates.

While on-campus retail dining is closed, residents may purchase a meal pickup plan, and campus vending machines are open.

Per the Resident Handbook, additional safety protocols related to housing include a no-visitor policy, no intentional sneezing or coughing for the purpose of causing COVID-19 fear and preventing residents from being in their room when staff come for maintenance.

To keep the number of residents low, the university has also waived the normal requirement for first-year students out of the local service area to live on campus.

Besides for those living on campus, students are asked to stay away from campus unless they are attending an in-person class, utilizing health services or accessing technology.

In addition to the Instructional & Information Technology Services (IITS) program to loan out technological equipment, there is now a computer lab set up in the USU Ballroom. There are 30 computer stations and an additional 20 desks with power hookups if students prefer to bring their own laptops.

Stations are spaced out from each other and sanitized after each use, and a face covering is required to enter.

The computer lab is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday-Friday and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. To check if there is an available station, students can go to the “On Campus” button on the CSUSM app.



## Spring 2021: continued from page 1

All seven of the active cases, six students and one employee, are on campus.

The chancellor is concerned about a second wave of the virus.

“A larger wave continues to be forecast for the period between October and December, coupled with seasonal influenza; this will undoubtedly be a daunting challenge for us,” said White. “This decision is the only responsible one available to us at this time.”

Not all students are happy about the announcement.

“I am not a fan of classes being online. It is a hard struggle for me. In class, I struggled but being there helped me focus more than a computer screen,” said Roxanne Alamir, a senior communication major, “although, not having to commute is a nice change.”

You can read the chancellor’s entire statement here: <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/CSU-Campuses-to-Continue-with-Predominantly-Virtual-Instruction-for-Academic-Terms-Beginning-in-January-2021.aspx>



## Instagram: continued from page 1

eligibility, was upheld by the court.

“At CSUSM, we believe everyone has the right to pursue their academic interests, complete their education and find their passion regardless of immigration status or national origin,” read the CSUSM post in part.

A student with the handle @iloveebabykittens\_ who revealed their undocumented status in a separate comment, wrote, “If you as an institution truly value [DACA]/undocumented students you will provide full financial aid for them to be able to [continue] their studies and help them with safe and affordable housing and keeping [ICE], border patrol off campus. Anything less than that, y’all don’t really care.”

In response, @\_fear\_no\_evil said, “[F]ull financial aid for people who are in our country illegally? Wow and people say white [privilege] is a thing.”

@iloveebabykittens\_ replied by tagging the Instagram accounts of the DREAMer Resource Office, the Office of Inclusive Excellence and the CSUSM Alumni Association.

@\_fear\_no\_evil responded by tagging ICE.

In a message to The Cougar Chronicle, @\_fear\_no\_evil said he intended no threat.

“... [T]he student at the time did not mention [their] documented status and [t]agging [ICE] was not a threat to anyone in any way. It was simply a [retaliation] after the student tagged organizations

on campus to back their discussion and confront me rather than the person themselves discussing one on one with me,” he wrote.

@iloveebabykittens\_ who declined to give their name or gender, said in a message to The Cougar Chronicle that @\_fear\_no\_evil’s comment made them feel “[really] unsafe and uncomfortable.”

@iloveebabykittens\_ complained to the Office of Communications, the Office of Inclusive Excellence and the Dean of Students but was told that the comment would not be removed.

“... I really wish that whoever makes these rules for public institutions recognizes that we need to move forward and make changes in institutions if we are truly serious about dismantling systemic racism and oppression. As a campus we also cannot advocate for diversity if there are no efforts to make sure that students from marginalized populations feel safe,” wrote @iloveebabykittens\_.

Chief Communications Officer Margaret Chantung said that the university reviewed the comment but

will keep it up.

“As a university, a public university particularly, we have to be viewpoint neutral in providing platforms to anybody who wants to speak their diverse perspectives ... We can certainly as a campus community denounce them and say that that does not align with our values, but unfortunately, we’re not able to take away that right for that individual to express those opinions that are theirs,” said Chantung.

While some individuals commented under the CSUSM post that @\_fear\_no\_evil’s comment should be removed on the grounds of hate speech, Chantung said that hate speech is not a federally recognized exemption from protected speech, nor does hate speech even have a legal definition.

Chantung said that on a public forum like official CSUSM social media accounts, the university would only censor federally recognized exemptions to free speech such as true threats or an incitement of imminent lawless action. @\_fear\_no\_evil’s comment did not meet the definition of such exemptions.

“I think when there’s speech that we don’t agree with, the best thing we can do is call it out and engage in conversations, and that’s how we ultimately as a society move forward,” Chantung said.

Fina Espino, the Office Coordinator for the DREAMer Resource Office, condemned the comment because she said it may make undocumented students feel unsafe at school.

“We definitely don’t agree with this behavior, and it’s unfortunate that it wasn’t able to be removed,” she said.

“I just want our students to know that although with this incident the DREAMer Resource Office couldn’t really do much, we’re still trying to push for change, and we still have resources here at the office so please reach out to us, we are here for you,” Espino said.

To learn about resources for undocumented students, visit [csusm.edu/dreamer/index.html](http://csusm.edu/dreamer/index.html).

For information on free speech at CSUSM, visit [csusm.edu/freespeech/](http://csusm.edu/freespeech/).



EVENT CALENDAR		
9/16	ASI Cougar Pantry Distributions: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Campus Way Circle
9/17	Latinx Heritage Month Kickoff: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Zoom Meeting
9/17	Fall 2020 Student Organization Fair: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.	Virtual Location
9/17	Speaking of Democracy: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.	Zoom Meeting
9/21	Healthy Digital Relationships: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.	Zoom Meeting



# Theater department to offer virtual performances

By BAILEY HEFFERNAN  
STAFF WRITER

Art studios, performance centers and even movie theaters have closed their doors amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, with no exception for the arts at CSUSM.

The art, music and theater departments attempt to find a way for students and staff to maintain normalcy given these changes.

This online-only instruction includes the theater department, which originally planned to host three in-person shows for the fall semester.

Rather than cancelling these shows, the theater department has taken a different approach to how these performances will play out.

Online video forums, such as Zoom, allow theater to continue to perform. Although the format of online performance is different, theater majors still have the ability to display their showmanship this semester.

Third-year theater major Alyssa Tivadar discussed how this acting format will work, and how actors are feeling about this sudden change.

"All of us were very con-

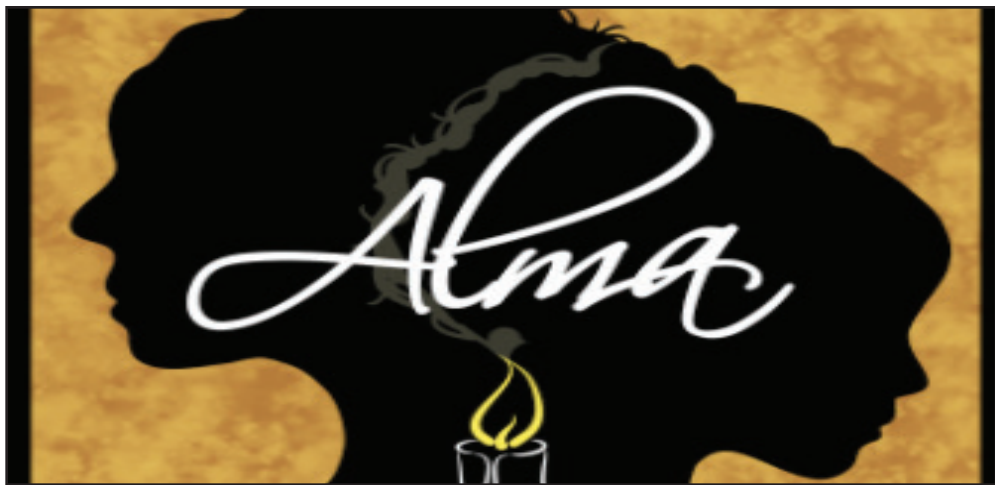


Photo courtesy of the School of Arts

The first virtual play to be performed this fall, "Alma" will premiere on Sept. 24.

fused at first about what to do. We didn't have all that much information before the semester ended, and we only auditioned in July [as opposed to May]," said Tivadar.

Tivadar said the online acting experience has been challenging. "It is definitely not ideal, but at least we are able to continue with our performances," she said.

Tivadar also said that the staff continues to be supportive and encourages participation during these trying times. Many theater classes require their students to be at these shows in order to keep attendance close to the norm.

Audience members will be able to attend via livestream.

Acknowledging that online theater is not what audience members are familiar with, Tivadar said, "I still hope members of the community will choose to view our shows."

The three shows that will go on this semester are diverse and incorporate new concepts when it comes to format.

The first show is a play about an immigrant mother and her daughter entitled "Alma," premiering on Sept. 24.

The other two shows will take a less traditional theatrical approach. One is about historical women and will take the form of a presenta-

tion rather than a play. The other is about masculinity and centers around student-written monologues.

Even though her acting experience looks very different this semester, Tivadar is optimistic that students and staff will enjoy the opportunities they do have given the online learning environment.

The shows are being publicized in the hopes of a normal audience turnout. Although these shows will look different, the theater department is not giving up on its students and their art.

For information on the upcoming performances, visit [csusm.edu/sofa/theatre-arts/index.html](https://csusm.edu/sofa/theatre-arts/index.html).

## Black Panther actor leaves legacy of Black excellence

By DESTINEE TAYLOR  
STAFF WRITER

On Aug. 28, the world said goodbye to the king of Wakanda, Chadwick Boseman.

The news of the actor's death devastated millions of fans who were inspired by seeing him on screen. Boseman's family did not reveal until after his death that he had been battling stage three colon cancer since 2016.

During the four years between his diagnosis and his death, Boseman starred in several box-office hits such as *42*, *Black Panther* and *Get on Up*.

However, his most notable role portraying King T'Challa of Wakanda in Marvel's *Black Panther* enforces the importance of representation in Hollywood. As the world mourned his untimely passing, fans shared what Bose-

man and his work meant to them on social media platforms, using #WakandaForever.

When Marvel introduced the Black Panther into the Cinematic Universe, Boseman became one of the few Black superheroes to be featured in the *Avengers* films, reigniting a conversation about the importance of diversity and representation of Black characters in film.

Boseman became one of Hollywood's largest symbols of Black excellence in the 2010s, portraying other Black historical figures.

For his first major film, Boseman portrayed Jackie Robinson, the first Black Major League Baseball player, in the biopic *42* (2013). Following this role, Boseman played the "Godfather of Soul," James Brown, in *Get on Up* (2014).



Photo by Gage Skidmore on Wikimedia Commons

Actor Chadwick Boseman dominated the film industry and the red carpet of Hollywood.

The actor later starred in the film *Marshall* (2017). This film tells the story of Thurgood Marshall, a prominent civil rights lawyer and the United States' first Black Supreme Court Justice.

The Black Panther actor most recently starred in the 2020 film *Da 5 Bloods*, directed by Spike Lee.

Boseman played the role of Stormin' Norman, an African-American veteran of the Vietnam war who, along with his squad members, hides gold in a Vietnamese forest.

The nature of Boseman's

Legacy, continued on  
page 4

### The Cougar Corner

#### English Anguish

By Alya Burnard

Take time to try a tongue twister  
A total tonal tango  
Through rules that are almost sinister  
Spelling doesn't guarantee rhyme, though

Attempt an awesome alliteration  
Or concoct a complicated consonance  
English eagerly awaits to enter  
Creative chaos caused by incoherent communication

Want some good examples?

Let's take the time.  
Throw and though rhyme  
But not through and cough  
Have you just about had enough?  
Where a flurry of F sounds come flying out  
In place of a harried H, causing doubt

I before E except after C  
A foreign concept, the weight of which is inconsequential  
Because, albeit the ancient rule, it's hardly scientific  
A society in which their exceptions are more numerous than followers

The English language not even its own  
Stealing from so many others  
And constantly making sure it's grown  
Confusing our foreign brothers

Something borrowed, something blue  
But did you know the origins of "guru"?  
Safari, cigar, cartoon and cookie  
Lemon, metropolis, ketchup, karaoke

Havoc to begin with, then comes human nature  
Inventing new words, a chaotic creator  
Forget Shakespeare, bring in the internet!  
"Most of those terms won't stick" - Wanna bet?

Added to the dictionary are shiny new words  
Including some you may or may not have heard  
Selfie, unlike, phablet, and derp  
Woot, FOMO, sext, and twerk  
Oxford has officially recognized these chimeras  
One of the most quickly expanding eras

Philologists of the future will be in disarray  
Attempting to figure out what we were trying to say  
Because not only are new words being crammed  
Context is crucial in order to understand

English Anguish, continued on  
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## COUGAR CHRONICLE STAFF

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Letters to the Editor should include a first and last name and should be under 300 words, submitted via email. It is the policy of The Cougar Chronicle not to print anonymous letters. The Cougar Chronicle reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason.



# THE CHRONICLE ENTERTAINMENT RUNDOWN

By Christopher King, Tania Ortiz, David Faketty, Kat Parra | Staff Writer, Opinion Editor, Staff Writer, Staff Writer

## Podcast: "Dissect"



Courtesy of Llaanneey on Wikimedia Commons

Season 7 of "Dissect" will unpack Childish Gambino's album *Because the Internet*.

Named best podcast of 2018 by the New York Times, "Dissect" is a serialized look into the hidden stories behind today's most popular albums. Each season covers an album by artists like Frank Ocean, Kanye West and more. The podcast dives into the lyrics, musical composition and historical background of the album in order to weave together a narrative that often goes unrecognized. This season, which premiered Sept. 7 on Spotify, introduces Childish Gambino's album *Because the Internet*. Episode rollouts will continue over the next few months, and prove to be the captivating, insightful experience that "Dissect" is known for.

## Book: Great Tales of Horror



Photo from Wikimedia Commons  
Author H.P. Lovecraft was an early influence on the horror genre.

*Great Tales of Horror* is a collection of short stories written by H.P. Lovecraft in the 1920s and 30s. These short stories redefined the genres of sci-fi, fantasy and horror. Lovecraft's influence on the horror genre is timely, given that his themes are explored in modern media. Lovecraft explores themes such as the fear of the unknown, existential dread and incomprehensible knowledge; all of which serve as the basis for cosmic horror today. Lovecraft's writing inspires a multitude of films, board games and video games based on his fictional Cthulhu Mythos universe.

## Movie: Palm Springs



Photo from Wikipedia, property of Neon Productions

Andy Samberg will star in new comedy *Palm Springs*, which is available on Hulu.

*Palm Springs* tells the story of two strangers, Sarah and Nyles, who meet at a wedding in Palm Springs and get stuck living in a time loop together. The film stars Andy Samberg and Cristin Milioti, both widely known for their comedic roles. Things quickly get complicated for the pair, as Sarah attempts to find a way to escape the time loop, while the two simultaneously develop feelings for each other. *Palm Springs* brings a fresh take on the well-known themes of sci-fi and romantic comedy, blending the genres together seamlessly. The film is available to stream on Hulu.

## Album: Smile



Photo by Glenn Francis on Wikimedia Commons

Katy Perry's new album *Smile* was released on Aug. 28.

Pop star Katy Perry released her sixth album, *Smile*, on Aug. 28. The new album is bubbly and adventurous, the cover of the album featuring the new mother as a frowning red-nosed clown. The album also includes a series of cartoonish music videos that correspond with each of the 12 tracks. Each track conveys the journey through one of Katy Perry's darkest periods in her life, to finding love and becoming a new mother. The pop star's new album encourages listeners to create light in their lives and celebrate the small things.

### Legacy: continued from page 3

death also generates a conversation about the issue of disability discrimination.

News of the actor actively filming movies for years while also secretly battling cancer shocked fans.

Critics of Boseman joked about his appearance, which were revealed to be from his battle against colon cancer. The announcement of his diagnosis highlights the struggles that people with disabilities live with, often forced to suffer in silence and jeopardize their health in fear of being denied job opportunities.

Soon after Boseman's death, a fan by the name of DeAndre Weaver started a petition for the city of Anderson, South Carolina, Boseman's home town, to replace a monument of a Confederate soldier with a memorial of the actor.

Weaver, a resident of Anderson, is fighting to repeal South Carolina legislation which prohibits Civil War

monuments from being removed from public state property.

Weaver states in his petition that Boseman "is worthy of the spot that is currently occupied in the town square."

In the hours after the announcement of his death, celebrities who knew Boseman turned to social media to pay tribute to his life and legacy.

*Black Panther* co-star Michael B. Jordan shared, "I'm dedicating the rest of my days to live the way you did. With grace, courage and no regrets."

Boseman's family and friends gathered in Malibu to attend a private memorial service for the 43-year-old actor. *Black Panther* cast Lupita Nyong'o, Michael B. Jordan and Winston Duke were also in attendance.

Though Boseman passed away at an early age, his legacy will persevere in the hearts of those he touched.



# Complex thriller *Tenet* bends time

## REVIEW

By Angelica Cervantes  
Staff Writer

*Tenet*, a highly-anticipated original film by Christopher Nolan, redefines the genre of traditional espionage movies.

Nolan can be credited for his swift, complex films that inspire a new form of moviemaking. This visual masterpiece does not depend on CGI to carry the intense effects of the film, bringing a sense of reality to its audience.

Similar to many of Nolan's previous films, *Tenet* is based around the theme of time manipulation. The manipulation of physics and time is referred to as "inversion" in the film. The manipulation of physics brought to life by Nolan's artistic direction is a new take on the concept of time travel.

The best display of the concept of inversion can be seen in the movie trailers when "The Protagonist," played by John David Washington, aims a gun, but rather than shooting, he catches a bullet back into the gun's barrel.

By naming a character "The Protagonist," the audience can focus on the character's purpose, rather than their human connection to him. After passing an arduous test for his loyalty to the CIA, "The Protagonist"



Photo from Wikipedia, property of Warner Bros. Studios.  
Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* premiered Sept. 3, 2020 in theaters and on-demand.

is assigned to prevent mass genocide and war that could be sparked by people in the future who use inversion.

Proving to be a strong lead, Washington delivers with his masterful fighting sequences and genuine performance.

The film's antagonist is Andrei Sator, a Russian arms dealer played by Kenneth Branagh.

Another notable performance is Robert Pattinson, playing the ally spy Neil, who transcends from his Twilight days into an eager action star. The film also stars Elizabeth Debicki, who portrays the character Kat, a fierce mother caught in the middle of inversion.

Though this film brings a unique concept to cinema, its

fast-paced nature makes it a complex film. The dialogue clashes with the film score's electronic waves, creating a distracting imbalance. This impedes on its audience's ability to comprehend the film's story.

Fortunately, the film's composer, Ludwig Goransson, creates a memorable score that elevates the urgency of the characters' journey.

This film forces its audience to look past the usual themes based around human emotions and instead find value in futuristic concepts such as time inversion. The advancing world brings awareness to how technology can be beneficial or destructive for society.

Similar to this idea, *Ten-*

*et* shows how inversion can either save or end the world.

Nolan's futuristic themes raise questions about his audience's own relationship with technology. He highlights this theme by utilizing the amount of power inversion has.

Christopher Nolan fans can expect to watch an intricate film similar to *Inception* or *Interstellar*, but *Tenet* far exceeds the complexity of its predecessors. With the concept of time being the more threatening opponent, *Tenet*'s audience may be left with more questions than answers after watching this film, making it a window into the future of cinema.



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# Community Spotlight: Nathan & Jessie

By JAELYN DECENA  
A&E EDITOR

Musical duo Nathan & Jessie create a unique listening experience with trilingual lyrics and a blend of blues, folk and jazz.

Consisting of Nathan Rivera and Jessie Andra Smith, Nathan & Jessie’s upbeat music makes listeners want to dance.

The duo is based in Temecula, CA and is accompanied by bassist Trevor Mulvey and drummer Blake Armstrong.

Smith, a CSUSM alumni, often makes time to perform for music courses when not touring.

The duo embarked on their career beginning in 2014, with their first album release being *If I Could I Would* in 2015. Nathan & Jessie’s music creates an eccentric, fun and free-spirited listening experience for their audience.

Nathan & Jessie embrace their individuality through their music.

One of their most popular albums, *That’ll Never Be Me*, stands at an average of 3,000 listens on Spotify. Released in 2018, the album en-



Photo courtesy of Nathan & Jessie.

Musical duo Nathan & Jessie recently released a new upbeat folk-jazz album called *Rarities and Oddities*.

compasses Nathan & Jessie’s distinctive upbeat music. The album beautifully blends jazz, folk and blues together, while displaying their talent for singing in French, Spanish and English.

The two also recently introduced their newest album *Rarities and Oddities* on Sept. 4. The album features six unreleased songs, including “Everyday’s a Blessing.” The album, appropriately released in the world’s current state, focuses on a theme of gratitude and celebration for the small wins in life.

Given that Nathan & Jessie perform solely with instruments without the help of technology, each performance is unique, yet just as upbeat. Nathan & Jessie’s one-of-a-kind music focuses on radiating positive energy to its audience. Their energetic and engaging performances are unlike any other, allowing their audience to feel bonded through a love for music.

However, with live performances at a halt, the two often engage on social media by releasing behind-the-

scenes fun. From skating to the music-making process, the two ensure to stay engaged with their audience, just as they would in person.

Nathan & Jessie often perform around California, Mexico, Canada, France and New Orleans.

For future updates, please visit their website and follow them on social media. Nathan & Jessie’s music can be found on Bandcamp as well as Spotify.



**English Anguish:** continued  
from page 3

We’ve become hieroglyphic with the creation of memes

Which evolve and devolve so you can’t know what it means

So I’m sure future studies of this time will get hairy

To the point that they’ll research using urban dictionary

...

**Writer Bio:** My name is Alya Burnand, and I am a senior at CSUSM majoring in Literature and Writing. I’ve been writing for as long as I can remember and I have a knack for language. I love to write because with mere words one can create entire realities, beautiful worlds, immerse others in emotion and the subconscious. Another reason why I love writing is because of its malleability. With the internet, communication in my generation is becoming more about concepts and emotional association rather than the literal meaning of words, which broadens the capabilities of language. When creative writing engages with our other senses through film and screenwriting, a whole new kind of language comes alive.

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# Student Spotlight: Student makes earrings to support Black Lives Matter

By ARIANA L. KITTS  
STAFF WRITER

CSUSM junior Val Battle Haddock’s passion for social justice ignited her to begin making earrings in support for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.

Battle Haddock, a Women’s and Gender Sexualities Studies major and Criminology minor, became more aware of widespread injustice in college.

Battle Haddock created “ValPalEarrings4BLM” on Instagram after attending BLM protests, signing petitions, donating and being inspired by jewelry accounts on Instagram raising money for Black organizations.

Seeing local BLM protests die down pushed her to take initiative to raise money for the BLM movement on her own. “This was something I could do personally to continue the momentum of the movement, continue the conversation and raise some money,” she said. Battle Haddock started the Instagram page on June 20 and has raised over \$545 so far.

Battle Haddock started creating bread tie earrings because they are easy to find and eco-friendly. She got creative by adding beads to the bread tie earrings, later making new earrings with film slides of photos taken by her parents in the 80s. Her earrings range from \$3 to \$7.



Photos courtesy of Val Battle Haddock

Val Battle Haddock combined her passion for jewelry-making and dedication to the Black Lives Matter movement to raise money for Black organizations in need.

Battle Haddock only expected to raise \$100, and she was surprised with the growth. “There have been several times where I’ll make a batch of earrings, and they will all be gone within twenty-four hours, it’s crazy!” she said.

Battle Haddock takes suggestions on organizations to donate to from customers and tries to prioritize smaller organizations that might not have as many supporters. She has donated to many organizations so far, including the Homeless Black Trans Wom-

en Fund, San Diego Black Queer Housing Initiative, House of Resilience, Portland Bail Fund and Rosehip Medics. She will be donating to the Lysistrata Mutual Care Collective next.

To remain eco-friendly, Battle Haddock has not purchased any packaging materials and continues to reuse packages and envelopes at home. “I’m happy to say I haven’t spent much money on the packaging process besides just the actual shipment,” she said.

Battle Haddock also hosts

fun raffles, selling tickets at \$2 per entry. Entry names were written on a piece of paper and winners were randomly selected.

Previously, Battle Haddock’s passion for social justice had led her to the organization Feminists Unite where she has served as both president and vice president at different times.

Battle Haddock advocates in the realm of gender and sexuality, specifically in reproductive justice.

Being a lesbian, she is especially passionate about

spreading awareness on gay rights and the cis-heterosexual patriarchy. She takes account of her identity being a cis-white woman, and is cautious to avoid taking up too much space.

Battle Haddock said she wants the BLM movement to keep going strong until everyone has equal justice and respect.

“Keep the conversation on BLM going. Bring it to your classroom or virtual classroom. Keep educating yourself... this movement is not a moment, but will continue.

We need to keep fighting for everyone until they have their proper rights, protections and respect,” said Battle Haddock.

You can support Battle Haddock’s mission at [instagram.com/valpalearrings4blm/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/valpalearrings4blm/?hl=en).





# Healthy snacks to keep your body motivated

By SASHA ANAND  
FEATURES EDITOR

Time is something that many people do not have enough of these days, and because of this, many important things get pushed aside. One of the most common things that often gets forgotten about is nutrition.

Most people get so caught up in their schoolwork and jobs that they do not have time to prepare a proper meal. Here are two quick and easy recipes you can make on the go or in between classes.

### Smoothie

Smoothies are very versatile and you can add whatever you want to them. For this particular smoothie recipe you need: a banana, about two tablespoons of peanut butter (or any nut butter of your choosing), half a cup of oat milk (or another plant-based or dairy milk) and an apple.

The measurements vary, it's mostly up to your taste buds. Add more or less of each ingredient if you want. Cut the apple and banana



Courtesy of John Finklestein via Pexels

Make sure to remember to get in a nutritious meal. With these quick and easy recipes, you can get in a healthy bite in between Zoom meetings.

into chunks and add them to a blender. Then add in the milk and the peanut butter. Blend until it becomes a liquid, and you're done!

### Apple Crisps

For this particular recipe, you will need: two large apples, brown sugar and cinnamon.

First, preheat your oven to 225 degrees Fahrenheit. In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar and cinnamon.

Then, line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Next, take the core and the seeds out of the apple. Cut the ap-

ples into thin slices. Place the slices onto the baking sheet about an inch apart. Sprinkle the cinnamon and brown sugar mixture all over the apples.

Bake in the oven for about 70 to 90 minutes. The longer they stay in the oven, the crispier they will be. However, keep an eye on them as you don't want them to burn.

Once you take the tray out of the oven, leave it to cool for about 20 minutes. If you take them out of the oven on the earlier side, they may look a bit softer. They may crisp up as they sit to cool.

This snack ultimately does take a while to bake but the initial prep time is quick so you can do it when you have a spare moment. Also, it doesn't take that many ingredients.

These apple crisps make a healthy snack to crunch on while you study.

Regardless of what you choose to make, keep in mind that a good way to ensure success is to take care of your body too.



# Student organizations navigate COVID limitations, adapt to virtual engagements

By KRISTIE CASTILLO  
STAFF WRITER

Student organizations and clubs previously hosted all of their meetings, events and workshops in-person, but now they're looking at a year of staying virtual.

At one of the first virtual engagements this year, the Sept. 3 "Meet the Greeks" event held on Microsoft Teams, Greek Life leaders met with prospective student members and introduced their organization, philanthropy and recruitment weeks.

Crystal Zamora, Vice President of Recruitment for the Multicultural Greek Council and Alpha Pi Sigma sister, explained that in the past, Greek Life recruited members through in-person tabling where they were able to showcase their histories and perform dances and plays.

Through Microsoft Teams, however, the organizations presented older performances, community service events or other representations of their organizations. And with the event online, "Meet the Greeks" noticed lower participation numbers.

However, Zamora found that this version of recruitment facilitated intimate, one-to-one interaction between the organizations and prospective members.

"They would actually be

able to give more time to each person...they can actually get to know who they're trying to give a bid to in a more in-person way, even if they're keeping the social distance through Zoom or whichever way they choose to do it virtually," she said. The increased engagement, in her opinion, has been the benefit of the shift to the virtual setting.

Other student leaders will get a taste of these upcoming virtual conferences with the Student Leadership & Involvement Center's Student Organization Fair via Zoom. During this event, student leaders will meet with their prospective student members and have the opportunity to recruit them through the virtual platform.

Many organizations have already implemented measures to ensure their student members will remain in the loop on their semester's events.

For the Environmental Stewards Association, an organization that has primarily relied on in-person and outdoor opportunities, Co-Presidents Melissa Reyes and Daniela Loera are doing their best to engage and support their students despite these new guidelines. The organization is working to shift their events to the online setting, such as educational Zoom lectures, collabora-

tions with other orgs through social media and encouraging students to clean up the environment around them (if and when it is safe to do so).

The Co-Presidents emphasized the concept of engagement on the student's own time, where students can adhere to safety guidelines while learning new things and keeping their environment clean.

"It's engagement but on their own time instead of being together. We're going to have meetings, you know, where we're all together on the screen but also having people do things when they can as well," she said.

To Reyes, the virtual setting does have its benefits. It provides an opportunity for students to feel more encouraged to engage with the Environmental Stewards Association. The virtual platform allows students to choose between speaking or typing their questions or concerns during these events which, to Reyes, means students can feel more comfortable interacting with them.

"From what I've noticed, even in classes, a lot of people are more encouraged to participate when there's chat because they don't have to say anything, they can just type it out. If they're a bit shy, they can just type it in the chat," she said.

Furthermore, in previous

years, student organizations have collected membership dues as a means to afford event transportation, T-shirts and graduation regalia. But with everything online, students who join this semester may have one less investment to worry about.

According to Zamora, the Multicultural Greek Council will be reducing their membership dues by half and many other organizations have also cancelled or reduced their membership dues for the fall semester due to the lack of in-person activities.

Despite the circumstances, CSUSM's student leaders are proving to be resilient in the face of these challenges, working diligently to support their community through the virtual setting. There is a consensus among Zamora, Reyes and Loera that these changes afford students the opportunity to learn, engage and benefit from student organizations on their own time, as well as remain socially connected while physically distanced.

Whether the university and student org modifications will deliver the same level of engagement for their members as their in-person meetings or not, students can rest assured that their student leaders are working hard to adjust and excel within the new normal.

# Ways you can successfully manage online learning

By SASHA ANAND  
FEATURES EDITOR

show you enjoy.

**Make sure to get proper nutrition:** Getting proper nutrition makes your body feel better and your brain feel sharper to get you through your stressful days and late night cram sessions.

**Get proper sleep:** This one can be easier said than done but it is very important. Having a good night's rest gives your body the chance to recharge so you can tackle the day ahead. If you have to pull the occasional all-nighter, you can allow yourself a short nap to catch up on some sleep.

**Write out a daily schedule:** Make note of everything you need to do and include time slots for each thing. Include your classwork as well as chores and things to be done around the house. Keeping track of things that you need to do and giving them assigned time slots can give you the motivation to stick to your schedule and get things done in a timely manner.

**Check things off your to do list:** Give yourself a little reward by checking off the tasks as you complete them.

**Take time to relax:** Make time to focus on your self-care. Try to give yourself a few minutes each day to do something you enjoy, whether that is going for a walk or watching an episode of a TV show you enjoy.

# Laugh a little with these jokes

By SASHA ANAND  
FEATURES EDITOR

If you're tired of your schoolwork, job or just need a laugh, take a look at these jokes:

**Q:** Why did the sun skip college?  
**A:** It already has a million degrees.

**Q:** What did the buffalo say to his son when he left for college?  
**A:** Bi-son.

**Q:** Why did the music note drop out of college?  
**A:** Because it couldn't pick a major.

**Q:** What do cats major in in college?  
**A:** String theory!

**Q:** What did the music thief do in college?  
**A:** Take notes.

**Q:** What do you call a hotdog in college?  
**A:** A FRAT-wurst.

Source: <https://www.scarymommy.com/college-jokes/>



# Cougar of the Week: Women in Engineering Q&A with Sarahi Alvarez

## Q&A

By DIANA BEAS SOTO  
STAFF WRITER

*Sarahi Alvarez is a third year student majoring in software engineering at CSUSM. Alvarez started a club here at campus named Women in Engineering that aims to expand STEM opportunities to female students and to create an environment where women can support one another.*

### What inspired you to start Women in Engineering here at campus?

This club was inspired by some of our Engineering and Computer Science majors here at CSUSM. We were looking for a club where we could network with each other, find opportunities specific to women and help support other women in technology.

### How are you able to balance school responsibilities and club responsibilities?

We have an incredible support group in our current CSUSM engineering community. Our advisor Jeffrey Morales and professors like Dr. Fan, Dr. Zheng and Professor Mosleh do an amazing job of making themselves



Photo courtesy of Sarahi Alvarez

Sarahi Alvarez created the Women In Engineering club to help join together others that share her passions.

available to help us with our club projects. It's all a team effort!

### Has the recent pandemic changed how you are going to run WIE?

I think many of us would agree that the collaborative work we do within our engineering community is such an essential part of our CSUSM experience, but not

having the ability to meet up and see each other has definitely had an impact on us as students.

However, I'm hoping that we will still be able to communicate and collaborate through online programs like Discord and Zoom this semester for WIE.

### What are some goals you hope WIE can achieve this

year?

I hope that WIE can help provide a platform to give our CSUSM women a voice, to help us network, build a community and support each other in finding opportunities.

I'd also like for us to recognize each other's achievements and have fun while empowering each other to succeed and grow!

# Take time to unwind with playdough craft

By SASHA ANAND  
FEATURES EDITOR

Stress relief is an important part of self care and these days especially, it can be hard to stop and relax. Things such as stress balls or fidget spinners are popular toys that people use to de-stress. If you're looking for something fun to do while you take a break from Zoom classes, here is a craft you can do that can help relieve some tension.

### "Edible" PlayDough

For this recipe you will need: 1 1/4 cups of flour, 1 1/2 teaspoons of cream of tartar, 1/4 cup of salt, 1 1/2 tablespoons of vegetable oil, 1 cup of boiling water and one packet of Kool Aid mix. First, combine the flour, cream of tartar, salt and Kool Aid mix in a bowl. Stir it together. Then, add in the vegetable oil. Lastly, pour in the hot water.

Stir it all together again then take it out of the bowl and knead it (like you knead bread) for about eight minutes or until it comes together to form a dough. You may need to add more flour as you go if it is too sticky.

Once it forms a dough, you're done. This is a good



Photo courtesy by Miesha Moriniere via Pexels

Take some time to unwind with a fun craft, or a nice snack.

tool to have around while you're on a Zoom call, watching TV or when you just need something to keep your hands busy.

Note: While this PlayDough is edible, it does not make for a good snack. It is only really edible in the sense that if your child were to get some in their mouth, they would be okay.

### (Actual) Edible Play-Dough

Unlike the first recipe, this one actually tastes good and makes a good snack as well as a stress relieving tool.

For this recipe, you will need: 1/2 cup dried milk, 1/4 cup of honey, 1 cup of creamy peanut butter and 1 cup of powdered sugar. First, put the peanut butter, powdered sugar and the dried milk in a bowl. Mix them together. Then, add in the honey. You might need to add more honey if it gets dry and

crumbly.

Once it forms a dough, you can play with it immediately or put it in the fridge. To keep fresh, either store it in an air-tight plastic container or seal it in plastic wrap.

These recipes provide a good distraction from life's everyday stresses and make a good activity to do with family.



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## Learn from last semester's mistakes to succeed

By TANIA ORTIZ  
OPINION EDITOR

As we embark on this new virtual semester, I can't help but look back to last semester to reflect on what went wrong and what worked for me.

Last semester felt foreign when logging onto Zoom instead of being on campus. Being at home for the latter half of the academic school year at first felt like a luxury to me because I didn't have

to get out of bed to attend class. Plus, professors were lenient with deadlines, as they were converting their courses to an online format. Even though this felt like a luxury, it also meant that bad habits could develop during this time.

Being at home caused me to develop bad studying habits, very lazy ones at that.

**Learn:** continued from page 8



# What COVID-19 means to me

## Column

By ARIEL LOPEZ  
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

When COVID-19 hit, our lives drastically changed, making 2020 the worst year ever for many of us.

Now that we are six months into the pandemic, it does not seem as bad as it was when everything first shut down. This has become a way of life that I know is temporary, but does not bother me as much as it used to.

I was in my last year at community college when the pandemic hit, making my transfer to CSUSM untraditional compared to other transfer students from previous years. Of course, it bothered me because I was excited to meet new people at CSUSM, but everything had been compromised to Zoom meetings, which is another alternative to interacting with new people.

On top of that, my first semester at CSUSM is fully online, but I think things worked out well this semester because it was an easier transition.

It was difficult for me, among other students, to stop attending class during the middle of spring semester to do everything online because of social distancing rules that were placed.

Nonetheless, community colleges, universities and other schools did their best to ensure that students were able to learn while everything was online.

Unfortunately, there are students that do not have access to a laptop or WiFi, which I feel guilty for having both assets at the palm of my hand.

COVID-19 has not affected my personal life too much. With my parents home, I was fortunate enough to spend more time with them.

For example, my dad and I were able to help my mom apply for her citizenship. She thought it was time since she was not working and because she has been living as a permanent resident for 25 years.

I, on the other hand, have been fortunate enough to continue my normal work day as an essential worker. It became nearly impossible to hire new staff because we were afraid of catching the virus when social distancing and wearing masks became mandatory. Nonetheless, I got used to this surreal lifestyle because it became a part of my life.

I am fortunate enough for the opportunities and resources that I had when the pandemic hit, but this is far from over. Life before the pandemic was not easy, but I can say that we long for that reality to be back.

Things after COVID-19 won't be the same, but our experiences can leave us to be more appreciative of what we have.



# New graduation requirement will impact students

By TANIA ORTIZ  
OPINION EDITOR

With the nation mobilizing and becoming aware of the social injustices occurring to minority communities, there is a growing demand for schools to require an ethnic studies/social justice class for their students.

The need to learn about systemic inequalities has become a priority, inspiring many to educate themselves and start conversations concerning these issues.

In late July, the CSU Board of Trustees approved to add a new amendment to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. The new amendment would have required undergraduate students starting the 2023-24 academic year to take a three-unit course in either ethnic studies or social justice to graduate. This amendment to Title 5 was the first major change to the CSU general education requirements in 40 years.

Almost a month later, Governor Newsom signed bill AB 1460, overruling the CSU Board of Trustees amendment. The legislation will require all CSU undergraduates to take at least one three-unit ethnic studies course. Under this bill, ethnic studies courses are defined as those having a focus on African American, Asian American, Latino/a American or Native American studies.

This requirement is more niche than the one passed by the CSU Trustees, where students could have chosen from not only ethnic studies but also social justice courses, like women's studies. Another difference with this



Courtesy of Pixabay on Pexels

Students will be required to take ethnic studies courses starting in 2023.

bill compared to the Board of Trustees' amendment is the requirement will not be enacted until the 2024-25 academic year.

The question stands: why implement this change just now?

Times are changing and as a society, we are noticing these injustices occurring to minority communities, such as the African American community. The passing of this legislation comes amid the ever-growing push for ethnic studies to be required in educational institutions following the Black Lives Matter protests and push for dismantling systemic and unconscious racism in the education system.

The CSU system is considered the birthplace of the ethnic studies, as San Francisco State became the first school in the nation to create an ethnic studies. It is no surprise that this requirement

is being implemented, yet it feels like this should have been a requirement long ago. It shouldn't have had to take this long to recognize the importance of ethnic studies courses.

Students who take ethnic studies courses will benefit greatly from them. Students will be exposed to the histories of different communities and learn the stories they didn't learn growing up because they weren't written in the textbooks.

Ethnic studies courses will teach students how to view society through other cultural perspectives. Additionally, it will enrich them to appreciate the cultural "salad" that is the United States.

Furthermore, ethnic studies courses also benefit students who want to learn more about the communities they belong to. A few semesters back, I took a Chicano/a Studies course to learn more

about the community I identify with.

When taking this class, I had to reflect on everything I thought I knew about the history of the United States. At the end of the course, I became aware of issues concerning my community that I hadn't known and was able to give labels to things I experienced on my own.

Requiring students to take courses in this subject will empower the next generation to support and lend their voices to social movements like Black Lives Matter. Students might even become encouraged to continue taking more courses throughout their undergraduate career or maybe even major or minor in this area of study.

This ethnic studies requirement will be integral to creating change within our community and moving towards inclusivity and equality.

# Returning to campus in the future can change students' experiences

By TANIA ORTIZ  
OPINION EDITOR

Campus life is on hold for the time being and now that we know classes will unfortunately remain online through the spring, the question remains if we will feel comfortable returning in fall 2021.

With campus being closed, students are not receiving the same amount of socialization with peers as they would before the pandemic hit.

Along with state mandates coming and going, the discussion of how to approach reopening of college campuses (and schools in general) has been on constant rotation in the news. Every day there is new information on how to prevent the pandemic from spreading in public places.

In the news, we are witnessing trial and error from universities across the nation, some that are close to

home that are allowing students back on their campuses with restrictions.

With the slightest move, there can be another outbreak and thousands of students would have to quarantine themselves. The decision to keep virtual classes will (hopefully) help prevent the number of cases from increasing and serve as a reality check to those who are not taking the pandemic seriously. Once everything winds down, there are going to be limits to the way we are used to experiencing campus life.

CSUSM would have to make sure there is a sufficient amount of scientific research indicating the pros and cons of returning to campus as the number of cases are still increasing.

We all know that life after the pandemic is going to alter the way we go about life, and might as well get used to how things are now. I would not necessarily feel

uncomfortable when we get the chance to return to campus next fall, but I would feel less anxious if there were safety protocols. Having a protocol in place will make students feel safe to return to campus and not fear future outbreaks.

In public places, like grocery stores and restaurants, there is constant sanitation when someone has used the self-checkout or finished their dinner. How would this same method of maintaining a clean space be applied to our campus?

CSUSM is home to thousands of students who occupy the space to its fullest extent, there would be difficulties in making sure all of the spaces utilized by students and faculty are sanitized each time being used.

One of two things can occur in this situation: 1) the custodial employees will become overworked having to sanitize each time some-

one leaves or 2) there would have to be less furniture and students will have to hold themselves accountable for ensuring clean spaces.

With the second option, buildings would need to have occupancy limits, and classes are scheduled strategically, where there's not a cut in courses available but still prevent outbreaks from happening.

The decision of staying virtual does not really surprise me with the way things are going. It sucks to say it because I want to return to campus as much as the next person. We would all have to be on our toes to ensure that our return to campus next fall will be comfortable for everyone.

Since we will not be returning to campus until the next academic year, all we can do right now is hope the situation does not get worse than this.



**Learn:** continued from page 7

I view last semester as a trial and error period because we all went through the motions of online learning, and in the end you either succeed or fail. This applies to faculty as much as it does to students as we all went through big changes in our lives during this pandemic.

I feel more prepared to take online classes this time around because I learned how to manage my time a lot better. One of the reasons why I needed to learn how to manage my time is because last semester I constantly found myself scrolling through social media or watching *Criminal Minds*. As we all know, distractions like these do not help with finishing assignments on time.

Another lesson I learned that I will apply this semester is to make sure to not overwork myself by trying to complete assignments in one sitting. This connects with managing time but

incorporates the idea that not everything needs to be rushed and to give yourself time. Giving yourself time prevents stress from building up.

As for my classes this semester, there is an all-around preparedness from professors who have designed their courses to be flexible for their students. What I mean by flexibility is that professors who have synchronous classes do not always meet at the scheduled time.

Additionally, professors have made it possible for students to interact even on a virtual platform by placing them in groups where they can interact with each other similar to in-person classes.

The trial and error of last semester taught me how to prepare for my classes and ensure I don't fall back into bad habits again. Hopefully, you all have gone through your trial and error, learned from it and applied the necessary changes to ensure your semester is smooth and successful.