

# THE COUGAR CHRONICLE

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS, INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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## NEWS



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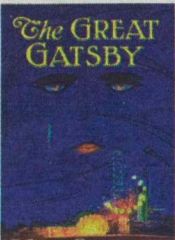


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## New SHCS building breaks ground this summer Student Health and Counseling Services to be housed on campus 2015

BY MELISSA MARTINEZ  
News Editor

This summer, construction will begin for a new Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) building to be completed by September 2014 and opened by January 2015.

When completed, the 20,000-square-foot facility will reside on-campus across the street from student housing to provide easier access to residential students. Currently, CSUSM is leasing an off-campus space for SHCS, which is located at the PPH

building across Twin Oaks Valley road.

The building is estimated to cost a total of \$10 million, which is being paid for by Student Facility Fees. The building was first presented to the Board of Trustees and approved in November 2012.

SHCS currently offers students basic medical services to students for colds, headache, flu, breast exams, HIV testing, immunizations, pregnancy testing, biopsy, cryotherapy, physical exams, etc. Students also have access to counselors to help them cope with academic

and medical concerns, provided by a pre-paid fee of \$67 per semester, included in tuition and fees. SHCS also provides Family PACT, a program aimed in offering family planning services and information regarding reproductive health to low-income students with or without their own private medical insurance.

"We look forward to the SHCS Building being in the heart of the campus, with the new location being across the street from student housing, the Clarke and the new University Student Union,"

Cathy Baur, Associate Vice President for Communications, said. "This will give easier service access for our residential students, easier opportunities for collaborations with campus units, and will allow for more visible outreach activities."

The proposed plans show interesting and creative architectural designs.

"An interesting design feature will be the labyrinth garden, which will be on the north side of the building. This will be an awesome, contemplative area for the campus community. There

will also be a Zen garden near the outside elevator," said Baur.

The building will hold examination rooms, medical offices and counseling spaces, along with a Health and Wellness program. With an accessible location (located near Parking Structure one) students are able to utilize health programs offered by the SHCS as well as keep their personal health updated.

For more information, please visit [csusm.edu/shcs/index.html](http://csusm.edu/shcs/index.html).

## Student Success Fee changes again

BY ANNE HALL  
Photographer

When attending the second round of the Student Success Fee Open Forums in April, the representatives for the proposal re-emphasized the need for the fee and addressed the student concerns that were heard by legislation through polls, comments, and Internet surveys.

Again, the issue of state funds dropping from \$18 million since 2008 was on graphs to imply the need for more cash flow. The fee proposes that students must make up for expenses. The office responsible for determining funds is located at a central office in Long Beach, Calif. No lobbying action has taken place to the state or federal governments about how CSU's should be



supported by state funds.

According to the presentation, Prop. 30 was successful even though it was not expected to be. Prop. 30 gave the school \$5.4 million to avoiding cuts, \$4.1 million was given back to the students as refunds, and \$1.3 million was observed as net gain from the proposition's success. That difference is not sufficient for the amount

of funds needed to just maintain what CSUSM offers to currently enrolled students and the rapidly growing population of attendees, according to the presentation.

Risks to not implementing this Student Success Fee include the loss of student research and learning programs, supplemental instruction pro-

## USU building aims to spice up campus

Campus pride promoted by new facilities

BY MELISSA MARTINEZ  
News Editor

As the building of the University Student Union advances, plans for hours of operation, who will occupy the building and the many features of the building are being released. Students will have much to look forward to at the "heartbeat" of campus such as sustainability, new food and hangout areas.

The USU is scheduled to be open and used for spring semester 2014 following a soft-opening. The grand-opening of the building is scheduled for April 2014.

According to the project goals, USU should "be the

'heartbeat' of campus, [and] make all students feel welcome." The building is intended to develop campus life, foster campus loyalty and to build a sense of community.

The process of planning the building of the USU was created by a selection committee, consisting of people from campus, students and the chancellor's office. They selected the architect company that would build and design the building and provide a fun, vibrant space for students with various formal and informal gathering spaces.

The design vision stated, "The Cal State San Marcos USU CONTINUED ON 3

## Commentary

### Brownie Tuesday with Reyna B: The story of an AB540 student

BY BOBBY RIVERA  
Staff Writer

For being one of the top six colleges that support first-generation college students, CSU San Marcos has focused on building communities within the campus, as seen in Greek life and various campus clubs and organizations. However, a new, invisible club on campus consists of students attending CSU San Marcos that are not legally citizens of the U.S.

Resources for those students include the program S.T.A.N.D. (Standing Together As One Dream). Student Flor Barraza said, "[S.T.A.N.D.] is a student organization that supports all

undocumented students here on campus and in the community. This organization has been reaching out to different departments for support. Their goal is to make them aware of the presence of undocumented students on this campus and of all the obstacles they have to face." College gives all people the opportunity to educate themselves in order to become successful members of society.

"Most AB540 students share the same dream: contributing to this country as professionals," Barraza said. "However, there are a so many people with so much talent who do not go on to college because they do not have the financial means

to complete their degree. Studying full-time and holding two jobs is a common reality for many undocumented students."

Barraza believes the passing of the CA Dream Act in 2011 will help undocumented students qualify to receive financial aid, which will help them obtain these goals.

As I spoke with Barraza, it reminded me of one student I knew who I had met on campus.

In the spring of 2012, I met a student name Reyna. She sat towards the front of the class and was always polite. She dressed casually and rarely spoke out in class. She was more outspoken before class began as we would wait for our professor to enter. I

was surprised because she was articulate and had what I would call a "street-smart" sense of life. We immediately hit it off and would share information about our families, life experiences, and our values. She is incredibly ambitious and wears her heart on her sleeve.

One day Reyna came to class in tears and told me she was leaving school. She was having personal troubles and the stress was becoming difficult to manage. I convinced her to talk to me over coffee at our campus Starbucks. Once we got there, we both realized we're not really coffee drinkers so we loaded up on brownies instead. Between the two of us we must have eaten about 8 brownies.

After we spoke she promised to continue going to school for a few more weeks and we agreed to meet before our class on Tuesdays. We called our meetings, "Brownie Tuesday" and for the following Tuesdays over the remaining course of the semester, I entered the world of life as an AB540 student.

AB540 is a California state law that allows qualified undocumented students to pay in-state tuition, versus out-of-state tuition.

Reyna is one of four sisters to attend CSU San Marcos. One has graduated and two others still have two years remaining. The sisters have an incredible bond that is unmatched. She lived in Mex- AB540 CONTINUED ON 3



#### FEE FROM ON I

grams, library resources, and depleted degree value. Expectancy to graduation may take longer due to lack of course availability as unit caps will continue. When implementing the fee, the state will have no say in what the money is spent on and how much of it can be used in specific areas. The money will be managed entirely at a local level. Students will have more control of the use of the funds and those funds cannot be taken away. As students have stated that the fee is too high, legislation has chosen to consider that opinion and reduced the fee by \$100. Now, the fee will be spread out over a longer period of time, which is four years rather than two.

Considering fiscal changes in economic cost and spending, after the fee has been approved and implemented, the fee will likely go up in future years, but not without legislation going through this process of informing students again and re-electing how the issue will be managed. Based on student election, the money from the Student Success Fee will go towards more courses, support of the academia, student life, and expanding the library.

When asked if the legislation will have final say in how the money is used if the fee is implemented, Dr. Graham Oberem, Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs said, "There is a strong likelihood that the presidential decision will not go drastically against the commit-

tees favor." The CSUSM president will remain in control of final decisions.

Student recommendations will be processed through proposals and considered by a Student Fee Advisory Committee.

This committee comprised of four students, three administration/faculty and staff will represent future allocations across the categories that will be recommended annually. Associated accountability for the funds cannot be taken away. There will be an annual report of how the funds are used which will be made available for public information.

The main consideration of the need for the fee is the return on investment (ROI). These funds would help to strengthen the future value of the degrees earned, secure the post-college future of the students here, and preserve the quality of the education offered at CSUSM. Also, improving and expanding the quality of education offered on campus since budget cuts and changes over the last decade alone have drastically altered the opportunities and privileges that were once offered to students and teachers alike.

The advisory committee will continue to relay the information that has been collected from the open forums and polls.

President Haynes will have the final decision as to what to pass on to the Chancellor of the CSU, who has the final say on the Student Success Fee implementation. That is where the final decision lies.

## Graduate Honor: Student leader Audrey Juarez

By MELISSA MARTINEZ  
News Editor

Audrey Juarez is a 2013 graduating senior double majoring in political science and women's studies and describes herself as "a proud brown, lady-loving individual."

For her commitment to this campus, social justice and in creating a haven in her presence by being inclusive and accepting at CSUSM, Juarez is receiving the Cougar Chronicle's first Graduate Honor.

When she arrived to CSUSM, Juarez promised herself that she would get involved and since then, her involvement on campus has extended to make a difference. Juarez describes her experience on campus as having not always been safe, stating "identifying as a lesbian and looking androgynous play a huge part in that. But I have found solidarity, community and friendship here and those factors have made being a student on this campus a pleasure."

Juarez's involvement on campus began her freshman year when she began spending time in the LGBTQA Pride Center. By spending her free time in the center, Juarez found a place to be comfortable on campus.

"The Pride Center gave me a home away from home early on in my career at CSUSM," Juarez said.

"I met a lot of incredible people who I shared all kinds of experiences with. We all pushed each other to get involved, and the way that that manifested itself in me was running to be president for the LGBTQA Club.

Juarez won and held the position of president for two years and chose to use her power to influence change when the controversial newspaper, "The Koala" was on campus. It also

gave her the courage to run for ASI's Board of Directors.

"When the Koala came out, I wondered why a larger student voice hadn't condemned it. I went to an ASI Board of Directors meeting and just thought to myself 'Why doesn't anybody sitting around this table look like me?' As a lesbian, I'm used to not feeling represented in the greater government, but to not even have lesbian students present in that room made me uneasy," Juarez said.

Juarez currently is, and has been, serving on the Board of Directors for two years and was first the Representative for the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and is now Vice President of Operations which has given her several opportunities on-and-off campus that have lead to bigger things.

"I had the opportunity to go to the Panetta Institute Leadership Seminar and a meeting for the California State Student Association. That was the first time I heard about the Speaker position for the Multicultural Caucus, and decided that I would run. I've been in that position for almost a year now, and I've had the opportunity to author resolutions that are leading to some important changes," Juarez said.

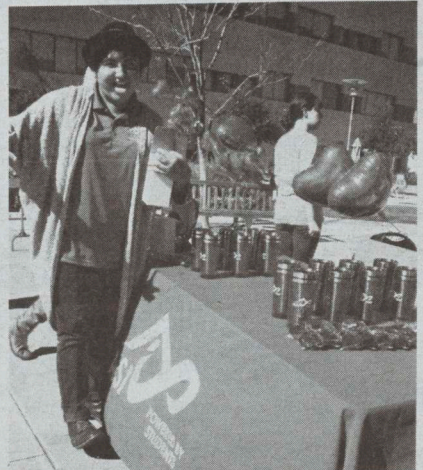
Juarez's experience while working with ASI has allowed her to enjoy college while also allowing her to express her voice to make changes on the CSUSM campus.

"ASI has shaped many facets of my college experience. I have had the opportunity to meet students, learn their stories, and enact policies that can improve their experiences on our campus. What could be better than that?"

Juarez has received several recognitions for her work, with nominations for the 2013 Cou-



ABOVE: Audrey Juarez (left) with Mrs. Sylvia Panetta, receiving her certificate of completion of the Panetta Institute of Public Policy Leadership Seminar in summer 2012.



LEFT: Juarez at the ASI Extravaganza, in Spring 2012.

Photos provided by Audrey Juarez.

gar Wall of Fame, 2012 Junior of the Year at the Tukwut Leadership Awards Night and the 2013 Dean's Award.

"It has been an honor to be nominated for all of these awards, but the satisfaction of knowing that the resolutions I've passed this year through our Board of Directors, and the CSSA Board of Directors, concerning gender inclusion and sexual assault prevention and advocacy can improve the lives of students are better than any award I could ever be nominated for, or receive," Juarez said.

Not many students can say they are leaving behind a massive impact on our CSUSM community but for Juarez, she hopes to be remembered for giving back and creating more for the university.

"Legacy. Sometimes I wonder what that really means or what it really looks like. But if I had to say what I want to be remembered for, I

want to be remembered as someone who built bridges for groups that would not otherwise work together. I want to be remembered as someone who saw that our institution could better serve all students," said Juarez.

"I want to be remembered as a woman who loved her campus enough to call it to a higher standard. I sincerely hope that people who also prioritize these principles will serve in leadership positions at CSUSM. CSUSM has given me much more than I could ever give back."

After graduation, Juarez plans to move to Washington D.C. and search for an internship or job where she can put her knowledge on education and social justice to good use. In the fall, she plans to apply for law school with even bigger plans for her future.

"My future dream is to serve my country as President of the United States of America. I know that sounds a little silly, but it's true. CSUSM has given me the desire to serve the public. I would say that CSUSM has shaped who I am as a young woman, and who I intend on being moving forward in my life."

Congratulations to Audrey Juarez, a true leader of CSU San Marcos. Not many students on campus can say they have made the impact and impression to student community the way Audrey has and for this, she deserves this award.

### THE COUGAR CHRONICLE Layout designer needed!

The Cougar Chronicle student newspaper is looking for a layout designer for the 2013/14 academic year. The layout designer would be in charge of working with the various section editors to place content while essentially designing the entire newspaper.

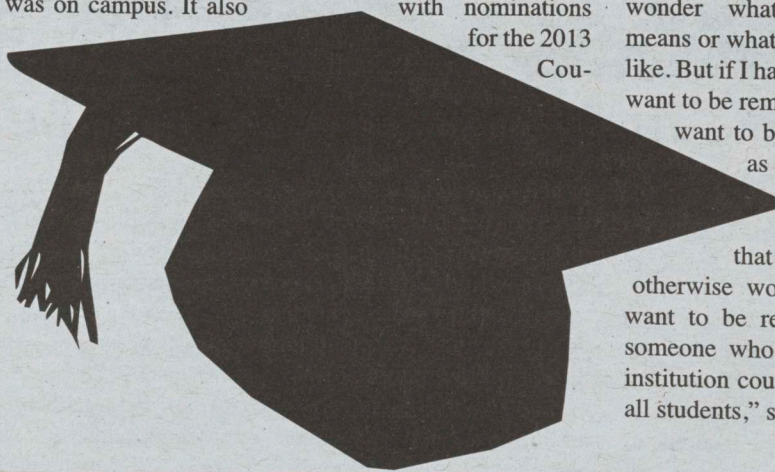
#### Benefits:

This is a great opportunity meet new people, learn a new skill, and actually be able to have printed work to build or add to a portfolio. The layout designer will receive a paid scholarship each semester, be provided with a Mac-Book Pro laptop, and an on campus office.

#### Requirements:

- Must be able to work select weekends
- Enroll in the VPA495 newspaper course that meets T/Th 10:30 -11:45 a.m.
- Must have basic knowledge of Adobe InDesign and Photoshop.
- Must be in good academic standing

For more information email:  
[csusm.cougarchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:csusm.cougarchronicle@gmail.com)



HATS OFF TO THE  
CLASS OF 2013





Members of Standing Together as One Dream (STAND) challenging stereotypes. Photo courtesy of STAND.

#### AB540 FROM I

ico until her mother became ill and passed away. Reyna was nine at the time of her mother's death. The four sisters have had to take care of each other since then, and the word sister has taken on a stronger meaning.

Reyna prefers to be speaking English, she sees it as her primary language.

"I just want to be accepted and feel like everyone else. I see myself as being independent and more Americanized with U.S. culture. I'm more familiar with U.S. history than I am Mexican history," Reyna said. "Yet I don't understand why there is the celebration of Cinco de Mayo here in the U.S., with the exception of selling and drinking beer. I guess I'm caught up in the middle of who I am Mexican or American."

Due to the poverty level of her family she has no baby pictures. She has had to maintain at least two jobs for the past six years to pay for college. She sees herself as Mexican-American.

Life for Reyna before AB540 was cautious and quiet. Her not speaking out in class was a means of not standing out. "Undocumented means I have a label. The color of green on the side of a Border Patrol car meant I avoided driving and avoided different streets. I didn't have to read the logo on the side of the Border Patrol vehicle, it was understood what it meant to me and my family. Life was a prison for me and I was very secretive with whom I shared my legal status with."

"The DREAM Act is common-sense legislation drafted by both Republicans and Democrats that would give students who grew up in the United States a chance to

contribute to our country's well-being by serving in the U.S. armed forces or pursuing a higher education. It's good for our economy, our security, and our nation," said White House Representative Luis Miranda, on the White House blog. "That's why the DREAM Act has long enjoyed bipartisan support. It's limited, targeted legislation that will allow only the best and brightest young people to earn their legal status after a rigorous and lengthy process, and applies to those brought to the United States as minors through no fault of their own by their parents, and who know no other home."

Reyna shared a high school story of how a male student had embarrassed her friend by writing about her chest size in a yearbook. Reyna was upset and decided to take her friend to the principal's office and find recourse in the lack of a thought by the male student. The principal asked Reyna, what she felt was just for what the male had done. Reyna told him he should publicly apologize for what he did and purchase a year book for her friend. The principal agreed and an Avid teacher who witnessed Reyna's actions took Reyna aside, and told her how impressed he was in her coming forward for a fellow student. He also told her how she could do anything in her life and she should consider law school in college. This planted a seed.

Reyna was caught off guard, it was the first time she remembers being given a compliment and encouragement for going college. Once in college, she later questioned, "If I earned a degree, could I do anything with it? After AB540 I have a choice

and can go places. I see a future where I can fight injustice and help people. I have a lot of gratitude towards the United States and want to give back to the community. I felt as if people would look at me as being less than them. That's not true, legal status doesn't define who I am. Even when I may have barriers in place, I see immigration as an obstacle that I can overcome."

Financial Aid and Scholarship Director, Vonda Garcia said, "The University had approximately 90 applicants this semester, for which 56 students were awarded a max of \$2736 all of which goes towards tuition fees for this spring."

In talking to students on campus affected by AB540, they shared with me the challenges from bias they've experienced with students in the classroom, as well as challenges met with the university.

"A small group of AB540 students, who applied for the CA Dream Act, were not able to attend school this semester as they thought they were going to receive some sort of financial aid, but didn't meet the qualifications," Barraza said.

Barraza holds hope that the process to access higher education will get easier for undocumented students.

"This was a difficult process for many of us. We had to make ourselves be known to the campus administration to explain all the financial barriers we face because of our undocumented status and had to keep persisting to obtain support," Barraza said.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated on the White House Blog that passing the DREAM Act "will allow these young people to

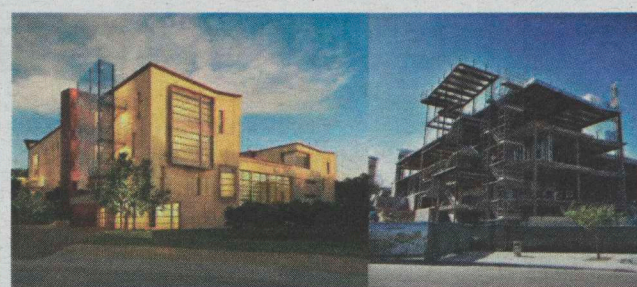
live up to their fullest potential and contribute to the economic growth of our country. In particular, the DREAM Act will play an important part in the nation's efforts to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020, something vital for America to remain competitive in today's global economy."

Life has changed dramatically for Reyna with the implementation of AB540. She told me about her goals of possibly being an attorney, or maybe working in a non-profit with youth.

As students go through AB540 they get their social security card, can obtain a California Driver's License, and work permit. Once they complete the process, a path is set for citizenship and they go through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) as defined under Homeland Security. As the legislation becomes a reality, I can't help but go back to our shared meets at the Starbucks on campus.

I remember Reyna calling me after she was first able to get her driver's license last September, she has also called me after every meeting with her attorney in reference to her AB540 status. I've met someone I consider to be a lifelong friend. In the Latino community as well as many other cultures, breaking bread with someone is symbolic of respect. It ties ourselves to earth, which we may share with a complete stranger, or with family and friends. In our case it's a simple brownie once a week that bound us in friendship.

For more information reference the DREAM ACT and AB540 you can go to [whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/12/01/get-facts-dream-act](http://whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/12/01/get-facts-dream-act)



#### USU FROM I

University Student Union shall be an open and welcoming center of activity for the campus now and in the future. The University needs a 'living room' and the USU will be the campus community center for socialization, casual interaction and scheduled meetings, food and beverage service, programmed activities, student organizations and social justice centers."

The USU will also be the home of four food components. Sodexo recently signed a 20-year contract with the university to take over camps catering as well as the Starbucks, located in Kellogg Library. In the union, there will be a Jazzman's Cafe & Bakery with a coffee-house style atmosphere located in the east pavilion, a large convenient store and a Jamba Juice smoothie station.

Along with a Panda Express located in the USU, there will be three Sodexo-brand food distributions, each of different taste. The first is World of Wings Cafe, an American-grill type, a SubConnections, much like Subway, and Wholly Habaneros which is similar to Chipotle and Baja Fresh. Sodexo plans to provide optional meal-plans for students that can be used at each food vendor.

The school values sustainability and ensuring a economically healthy aspect of building activity for the USU. One such feature is the green roof that will sit on the second-floor of the 90,000-square-foot ballroom. The green roof will provide shade and prevent the ballroom from getting too hot in the summer and avoid running the air conditioner. Since half of the roof is green, the other half will provide seating and dining places for students to hang out, eat, study or watch a program from afar. There will also be photovoltaic panels on the roof to capture energy from the sun and reduce the cost of operating the

building. The building will be a LEED Gold Building, said Sara Quinn, Director of The Clarke and University Student Union, which is the second-highest level of sustainability for a building.

Along with sustainability, the USU has many features that aren't found on most campuses; one of which is gender-neutral bathrooms.

The bathrooms "are for gender-neutral folks so they don't have to trek all the way across campus to go to the one bathroom in which they feel safe and comfortable. That is a feature that we said is non-negotiable for us," Quinn said.

The gender-neutral bathrooms will be throughout the building, on the first and fourth floor as well as next to the social justice centers.

"There is also an additional single-stall, gender-neutral restroom with a foot-wash in it for our Muslim students, right next to our spiritual lounge. We tried to make it as multi-purpose as possible," said Quinn.

Since The Clarke currently serves as the University Student Union for programming, the USU Advisory Board/Clarke Activities Team will transition from The Clarke to the USU to utilize features of the building such as the amphitheater and pavilion. However, programming at The Clarke will continue, focusing on fitness and recreation.

Student positions will also be available once the USU opens. Along with positions in the social justice centers and food distributions, the USU will hire around 100-150 students assistants to work. The hours of operation are tentative but will most likely be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with plans to close earlier on Friday and be open on Saturday and closed on Sunday.

For more information regarding the USU or to watch a 3-D video of the building, please visit [csusm.edu/pdc/Projects\\_Construction/25\\_USU.html](http://csusm.edu/pdc/Projects_Construction/25_USU.html)



The USU hopes to be the new hot spot on campus. Photo by CSUSM staff member Criselda Yee.



See you in fall of 2013  
Have a great summer!





# Students discuss racism incident on campus in wake of photographs

BY MELISSA MARTINEZ  
NEWS EDITOR

Photos of members of the sorority Alpha Chi Omega (AXO) have surfaced portraying the women as "cholas," and Latina gang members, upsetting many students on campus. The photos, taken during a spring break retreat, were posted on the popular smartphone app, Instagram as well as Facebook.

Since then, the photos went viral through students at CSUSM, sorority members and the rest of Greek life has received scrutiny for displaying racism and sexism at CSUSM. Currently, 33 percent of students at CSUSM are Hispanic or Latino/a.

Student Julia Barnes feels that students should converse and discuss the issue, instead of raising scrutiny to Greek life. "I'm not sure when the conversation stopped and the mudslinging began," Barnes said.

Co-chair of Standing Together As One Dream (STAND), a student immigrant-rights organization, Rodrigo Gonzalez said, "The photos taken by members of Alpha Chi Omega are offensive because they are found-

ed in acting like, in this case, a community of people who really exist, that is stereotyped due to prejudice. When a culture is misunderstood and invisible, or only visible in negative portrayals, it is deemed harmless to dress up like them. The photos are offensive because members of Alpha Chi Omega thought it would be funny to perform or play a part which is reinforcing of objectifying and dehumanizing a peoples culture just because it is not/does not adhere to mainstream or normalized standards of beauty, dress, or overall appearance."

Megan Koellin, President of Alpha Chi Omega, issued an apology at a meeting held April 30 organized by Latino students.

"We apologize from the bottom of our hearts," Koellin said. "It was a mistake and a lack of education on our part."

Though the Greek community has been advised not to comment, debate between multiple students and groups of how offensive the photos are has begun. Student Kharina Miramontes, who identifies as half-Mexican, doesn't find the photos offensive.

"I guess it's expected that

I take this whole thing really offensively or whatever, but I don't. To me, it's just another stereotype that people use. Nobody complains when people use a 'nerd' theme; the only difference is this is a racial issue and people are easily riled by it," Miramontes said.

Debate has been surfacing of whether this incident could have been avoided.

"At the same time, though, I think it was stupid of them, the sorority, to do this theme. They should have known better. They're representing not just a sorority, but our school, which is predominantly Latino," Miramontes said. "While it may not offend everyone and may have been all in good fun, they should know that it's going to rub a lot of people the wrong way, and considering that they have to remain somewhat reputable, I'm pretty shocked they didn't have the forethought to think this one through."

The photos also contained "hashtags" supporting racial stereotypes, such as "#TheStruggleIsReal."

"Not only are they dismissing the struggle gang members go through as an unaccepted and demon-

ized subculture but also the struggle its community goes through on a day to day basis," Gonzalez said.

Resident Advisor and graduating senior Eric Green said, "CSUSM is a campus that prides itself on civility and social justice. Disappointingly, I am seeing the maintenance of these ideals lacking in its Greek community, which has a huge and pervasive influence on campus."

Green recognizes the step that student Alma Martinez and the other who reported the photos initially.

"I applaud the person who had the courage to step up and call out the organization who allows its members to wear other people's identity as a costume. Had Alma Martinez not done so, then no one else would have," Green said. "Things like this matter and it should not be brushed off like it's trivial. In today's climate, many oppressed minorities are feeling empowered and will not take a blatant display of ignorance and disrespect to their culture and identity go by without raising awareness."

At the meeting held last week, Latino/a student rep-

resentatives suggested that AXO should go unrecognized for a year to reflect on their actions some of the members made to empower their chapter as a whole to prevent further incidents like this from reoccurring. "Otherwise, these types of offenses will keep happening as they have on this campus in the past," Gonzalez said.

Latino/a students collectively agreed stating, "We have learned that we cannot prevent these incidents from happening, but what we can do is come together and make sure that there are policies in place, disciplinary policies are in place, necessary cultural diversity requirements for GE are begun, mandatory social justice trainings are held for departments, student organizations, and Greek life. If we are a campus that prides itself on social justice in our mission and vision, we need to start acting like it, creating effective changes, not just having discussions about it."

"Moving forward, even though CSUSM promotes civility and promotes a broad range of diversity, things like this are still able to happen," Green said. "It seems that there is a lack of appreciation

among the students which really puts CSUSM's efforts in vain. This was a learning experience for all parties involved."

Interim Associate Dean for Student Life and Leadership, Gregory Toya Ed.D. states, "Students, staff, faculty, and administration will continue to collaborate to institutionalize educational programs and bias response systems to decrease and respond to future bias-related incidents. Prior to the incident, Student Life & Leadership partnered with the Cross-Cultural and LGBTQA Pride Centers to offer diversity educational workshops for fraternity and sorority members. Student Life & Leadership will continue to partner with the Cross-Cultural Center, LGBTQA Pride Center, Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Educational Equity and other campus entities to implement educational programs that increase campus community member awareness, knowledge, and skills regarding diversity, inclusion, educational equity, and social justice issues."

**What are your thoughts? Share them on our website [csusmchronicle.com](http://csusmchronicle.com)**

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Does CSUSM have a color line?

BY BOBBY RIVERA  
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: Staff writer Bobby Rivera spoke to 21 people while gathering information for this special report, including current students, staff, faculty, former employees and a few community groups.*

Knock knock. Who's there? No one of color. The knock-knock jokes are rhymes we say as children. Yet in culture, children's rhymes can have undertones of bias and racism.

In recent weeks, there have been heated discussions about racism within organizations on campus. Latino students have expressed outrage over two incidents involving photographs --- one last month and one five years ago --- where students and administrators were dressed in clothing that some students felt represent negative Latino stereotypes.

In April, photographs of members of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority (some white and some Latina) dressed as "chollas," the phrase for women who dress in the attire often associated with Latino gang members, showed up on the organization's Facebook page. Around the same time, a 2008 photo resurfaced showing universi-

ty President Karen Haynes wearing a sombrero and poncho to a campus "fiesta" party. Both the students and Haynes issued apologies for what they described as cultural insensitivity.

While these may be isolated incidents, there are concerns among some students and faculty on campus that Latino and black students need to be better represented and reflected in the university's faculty. Is there a color line on campus? It's a phrase used by civil rights leaders Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois to refer to racial divide that prevents blacks from improving on their economic conditions.

Three percent of the students on campus are black, which is equal to the number of professors on campus who are black. But 28 percent of CSUSM students are Latino, compared to 13 percent of faculty, according to the 2012 - 2014 catalog profiles and university information.

On her university welcome statement, Haynes said that among the five strategic goals for the university's third decade is to improve "education equity."

"These principles are central to who we are, where we have been, and what we want to be," she said.

CSU Board of Trustees

student trustee, Cipriano Vargas, said that the plans made for education equity and diversity under former associate vice president of diversity and educational equity Derrick Crawford need to be accomplished.

"One of the things we value here at Cal State San Marcos is diversity and while it is a work in progress, we have a long way to go. Not only do we need to broaden the diversity among the faculty but also among the curriculum," Vargas said.

In a speech May 1 at CSU Channel Islands, new CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White said that universities should be diverse and inclusive of people of different backgrounds.

"Often when you come to a place and you ... don't look like (the) majority, it doesn't feel as welcoming," White said, adding that Channel Islands has been "purposeful" in reaching out to underrepresented groups.

When CSUSM was founded in 1989, there was only one black professor on the faculty, Dr. Charlotte Bell, who was part of the Founder's Circle. Today, the campus still has just one black female tenured faculty member, Dr. Sharon Elise.

Professor John Halcon, in the CSUSM college of ed-

ucation, said some departments on campus are better than others at implementing diversity.

"It has to do with how committed they are to handling diversity," Halcon said. "A gap with African-American faculty, Native American faculty, and Hispanic faculty exists. The solution must come from our leadership, I see no follow through and people held accountable."

Many organizations on campus are geared toward civility and diversity. The Office of Community Service Learning, for example, has been forging meaningful and productive community partnerships for the past 20 years. The department serves nonprofits that represent the poor and victims of crime (many of whom are minorities). However, in June, the Service Learning department will be restructured and department director, Dr. Darci Strother, is changing positions. Strother said that the university goals and actual actions conflict and are causing a shift in university policy.

"Apparently the university wants to project a different 'face' to the community, one of which polished white people in suits are what the public sees rather than students, many of color, who are strug-



**This 2008 photo has resurfaced showing President Karen Haynes wearing a sombrero and poncho to a campus "fiesta" party. It has sparked recent discussions on racism.**

gling under the ever-growing burdens of high tuition, and all its ramifications," Strother said.

Theater professor Marcos Martinez sees a connection between the incidents involving culturally insensitive photos and a possible university shift in service learning policy.

In regards to diversity playing out on campus, "It is a very personal style of leadership...which doesn't seem to have direction. I sense and hear of an environment of fear," Martinez said.

"What a curious coincidence that we receive an apology from the President after a letter asserting offense take over the sombrero picture, which has now received attention in the U-T San Diego (newspaper)," Martinez said.

Denise Hollis, a former CSU San Marcos employee who worked in the Affirmative Action Office from 1993-1996, which that focused on

diversity, and former adviser to a black student group, said that in her years on campus there was a commitment to hiring a multiracial faculty.

"The Affirmative Action Office when I worked was focused on making sure there was diversity in the hiring of faculty, and thus there was a very diverse faculty. The founding faculty had been diverse and the Office of Affirmative Action's charge was to make sure that diversity continued to be reflected," Hollis said.

She said that she dealt with many race-related controversies like the photographs that surfaced last month.

"It really amazes me that the issue of race has not been adequately addressed at CSUSM and to hear that the diversity of the faculty has decreased really saddens me given the focus of my work during my tenure," Hollis said.



# A year in review: Amazing graduating senior standouts

By ALEX FRANCO  
SPORTS EDITOR

**Kyle Secciani, Center Fielder, Baseball-** Kyle has been a starting outfielder for the CSUSM baseball all four years he has been on the team and is the program's all-time leader in runs, triples, walks and stolen bases, and also is in the top 10 of batting average, games played, doubles, hits, RBIs, total bases and fielding percentage. Throughout his career he was able to bat .300 in all four of his seasons, and this year is hitting .306, with a homerun, 32 RBIs, 30 runs, 6 doubles, and has stolen a staggering 17 of 20 bases. He helped the cougars to a top 25 ranking every week this season and also a second A.I.I. Conference title this weekend and was named the tournament's most outstanding player. Kyle was also announced to the Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-District 8 Team capping off an amazing career at CSUSM.

**Cortney Allen, Pitcher, Softball-** Cortney has made the most of her two years at CSUSM since transferring from Sacramento City College in 2011. In her first year with the program, Cortney

went 24-6 with a 1.07 ERA and 17 complete games, which was enough to earn A.I.I. Conference Pitcher of the Year. This year Cortney has done much of the same for the team going 31-4 with 4 saves with a 0.90 ERA and 18 complete games with 13 shutouts and 157 strikeouts. She is first in the NAIA in wins, fourth in total innings pitched and seventh in ERA, which was enough for Cortney to be named A.I.I. Pitcher of the Year once again when the team was announced last weekend.

**Jose Rivera, Guard, Basketball-** Jose had a season to remember in his final one as a Cougar, he helped lead a CSUSM basketball team qualify for their first-ever NAIA National Championship Tournament appearance and to a 23 win season in the programs second year. The senior shooting guard was named to 2012-13

NAIA Honorable Mention All-American team to become the second cougar to do so and was also selected the A.I.I. All-Conference First Team. Jose averaged 11.2 points per game, and shot 42% from the field and a

on the season. The 84 steals she accumulated was enough to rank 13th in the nation and 16th with 2.8 per game. Her game high in points in a game this season was 16 against William-Jessup, she also dished out five or more

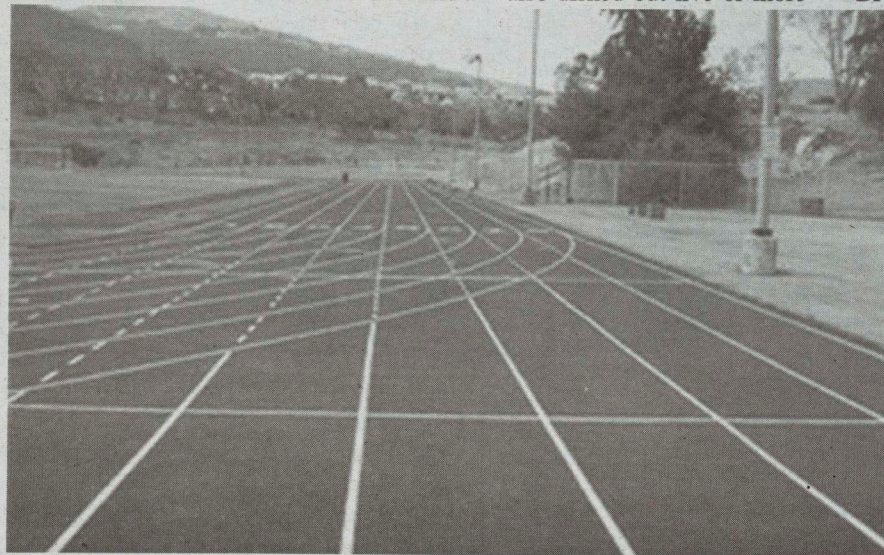
She led the Cougars with 14 points this season with five goals and four assists, good enough to make both the A.I.I. conference first team and NAIA All-American Honorable Mention Team.

**Brittany Thompson, Outside Hitter- Volleyball-** Brittany began the season as one of head coach Andrea Leonard's Co-Captains and team leaders to take the second year volleyball program to the top of the NAIA. Brittany did just that and helped the lady cougars volleyball team to a second A.I.I. Conference Title and performed well enough to be named the tournament's All-Tournament Honorable Mention Team. Brittany appeared in the team's 45 games and led the team in solo blocks, total blocks, and serving percentage; she also finished second in hitting percentage and third in kills with 223. She recorded six blocks two different times this season, and with that she graduates as the program's career leader in blocks with 139.

**Kelly Thompson, Cross**

**Country-** Kelly led the CSUSM to another spectacular season this year entering the season ranked number 1 in the NAIA after three straight NAIA National Championships. Kelly placed third overall in the A.I.I. All-Conference team, and finished with 224 points in the NAIA National Championships to lead the Cougars to a fourth place finish to help the Cougars' streak of five straight podium finishes in the NAIA Championships. She added her third NAIA All-American award with a fifth place overall finish and was named a Daktronics-NAIA scholar Athlete.

**Daniel Lyon, Cross Country-** Daniel contributed greatly to the 2012 Cross Country season, helping the Cougars win a fifth consecutive A.I.I. Conference Championship and a third place finish in the NAIA Championships. Daniel also smashed the school record for the 8k by 30 seconds with a time of 23:44, and also won his second consecutive conference individual championship with a 24:18 time. Daniel added his third NAIA All-American award with his performance in the national championships.



league leading 43% from behind the 3-point line and also led the team in total points with 335 and made 3-pointers with 92.

**Sarah Jackson, Guard, Basketball-** Sarah had a great season as she and the rest of the lady cougars attempted to repeat as conference champions but just came up short, however Jackson led the team in assists and steals

assists 10 times this season.

**Shelby Bush, Forward, Soccer-** Shelby will depart from CSUSM with her name amongst some of the best soccer players to play in a Cougar uniform. She is second place on the programs all-time list of goals with 23, total points with 55, and 8 game-winning goals. Shelby also places fourth on the assists list with nine.

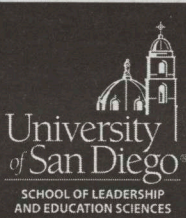
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## THE HEART BEAT: College degrees are healthy

By CURTIS BOVEE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Most people consider the main incentive of a college degree to be monetary; however, a college degree is worth more than the financial benefits.

In a campus poll of students, 7 out of 10 students at CSUSM indicated that the number one reason they are striving for a college degree is to obtain a better career.

Education pays, and is also directly correlated with better health, greater longevity, greater community involvement, greater happiness, and better quality of life.

According to a study done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people with a bachelor's degree or higher live nine years longer than those who don't graduate high school.

Furthermore, studies reveal that better educated people have lower morbidity rates from the most common acute and chronic diseases, independent of basic demographic and labor market factors. While life expectancy is increasing for all demographics, the differences in life expectancy have grown between those with and without an education.

While attaining a college degree is nothing short of a challenge, it is unquestion-

ably worth the stress that comes with obtaining a diploma.

Many factors contribute to better health, and more educated individuals tend to have healthier behaviors and have greater access to medical care when it is needed. A significant amount of jobs that require college degrees offer medical insurance and retirement benefits, whereas those jobs without this requirement very seldom offer them.

Civic learning outcomes are arguably the hardest benefits to quantify, yet the most important from obtaining a college degree. In 2004, 36 percent of people age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher reported having volunteered for some type of community service, compared to 21 percent of people whose highest level of education was a high school diploma.

Volunteer opportunities, and basic understandings of ways to contribute and better a society are presented in college, especially at CSUSM.

It is indisputable that those with higher education are more prepared to address current major issues in society. Social understanding, an understanding current events and issues in society locally, nationally and globally. Studies prove that the major-

ity of individuals involved in current societal issues are educated beyond high school.

Communication and listening are imperative skills needed to serve others and have active involvement in community issues.

Understanding the importance of and having a sense of appreciation for diversity is needed. Utilizing skills to effectively work with others in a diverse environment. At CSUSM, this is prevalent in most classes given the abundance of diversity on campus.

Taking personal action with a realistic view that the action will produce the desired change. College education promotes not only a sense of independence, but confidence to promote change at all levels.

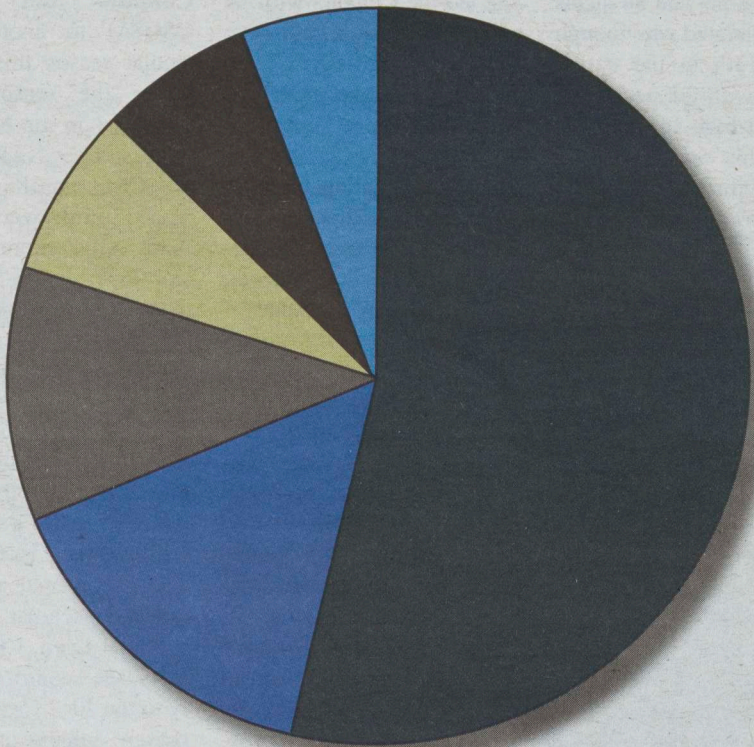
More subjective, harder to quantify benefits of a college degree should be far more important than the financial benefits associated with higher education.

Yes, you might be worried about your future post-graduation, just remember that your life will be that much better had you decided against obtaining a diploma.

**Thank you to graduating senior, Curtis Bovee, for your amazing column and we will certainly miss all of your hard work and dedication.**



## What sport do you want to see at CSUSM?



- Football - 53
- Hockey - 8
- Swimming/waterpolo - 17
- Beach Volleyball - 6
- Wrestling - 11
- Rowing - 5

Out of 100 students polled. Information compiled by Alex Franco

## Athlete spotlight: Adam Loran

By JESSIE GAMBRELL  
OPINION EDITOR

The CSUSM Men's golf team has a star on their team. The team captain, Adam Loran has been on the team for his entire career at CSUSM and has been the captain for the past two years. His team, which just won their regional championships, and last year Loran himself won the individual tournament in the regionals.

**Question: How long have you been playing golf?**

**Answer:** I have been playing golf since I was 7-years-old, but didn't start playing competitively until I was 12-years-old.

**Q: What is your handicap?**

**A:** I have a +2.5.

**Q: How do you like playing for CSUSM?**

**A:** Well it's nice, it's a good area to be in, I can't complain. I get to wake up and play golf every day and its great being that it is a smaller school.

**Q: How do you like your teammates?**

**A:** They're all cool, I live with two of them actually.



Photo courtesy of Matt Bierson SID CSUSM Athletics

The freshmen are really good and our coach is a good guy, we all get along fine. We like to hang out together after practice.

**Q: What is your major at CSUSM?**

**A:** I am a business finance major.

**Q: Do you do anything outside of playing on the golf team?**

**A:** Nope, just a full-time student. I did play in some USGA tournaments, for amateurs, on the side though.

**Q: What are your plans after you graduate?**

**A:** Well I am hoping to become a professional golfer,

I'm hoping to get into some professional tournaments.

**Q: Who is your favorite professional golfer?**

**A:** Phil Mickelson

**Q: How do you see the Men's Golf Team doing in the future?**

**A:** We were actually one of the original team sports for CSUSM, and I definitely see our team moving up from here. Eventually we'll be part of the NCAA, but as of now we are 3rd in the nation in the A.I.I. (Association for Independent Institutions). We are going to a championship in Oregon next week.

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## CSUSM offers science program to nearby elementary schools

By RYAN DOWNS  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Hands-on science education is something that younger kids are excited by, and anyone who was once a kid understands why. The CSUSM STEM program aims to inspire that excitement.

It's fair to say that to some degree, all of us are fascinated by science. However, children are often very interested participants in courses that involve science. Fortunately, a collection of students and teachers have come together to form STEM, a program that offers hands-on science education to kids in schools who cannot make time for it during regular class hours. The STEM Program operates several times a week at San Marcos Elementary and Twin Oaks Elementary shortly after classes end.

The program has around 200 undergraduate students volunteering in total.

Dr. Bianca Mothe and the Office of Community Service Learning (OCSL) founded the program two years ago in response to complaints by parents that children were not learning enough science in elementary school classrooms. This was a result of the math and language-oriented legislation put forth by No Child Left Behind in



Photo courtesy of the CSUSM STEM website.

2002. Mothe initially implemented the program at Twin Oaks Elementary, with most of the workforce consisting of volunteers from CSUSM that were primarily majoring in science and teaching.

Colleen Lopez, one of the program coordinators, is incredibly enthusiastic about its effects, which she notes goes far beyond just education.

"We're not looking for them to suddenly ace all their tests. We're just trying to inspire them to want to enjoy it and realize that science isn't so scary," Lopez said. "Down the road, we may have the next Einstein

because in class they had an explosion. It's mainly just to inspire these kids to view science in a positive manner."

Lopez's efforts seem to be successful; one classroom in particular was crowded with young students marveling at the smoke coming off of dry ice, while another classroom saw its students staring at a model of the human heart.

But the people who truly make the program work are the students who become involved in it and volunteer their time. Mothe has been able to recruit over 100 students from STEM Programs at CSUSM. These undergrads then worked together

to form 54 different lesson plans to be presented in six weeks. During this time, they will teach over 780 students at the two schools many scientific topics including biology, crystallography and physics.

For the future, the people at the program are ambitious. In the short term, the hope is that, with the assistance of grants from philanthropic organizations, the program can expand to other schools, and hopefully branch out to other subjects. In the meantime, continued assistance from students on campus interested in science and teaching is always welcome.

## Students, staff and faculty gather to celebrate Civility on campus

By KATLIN SWEENEY  
FEATURES EDITOR

Avid campus members dedicated to CSUSM's Civility Campaign were honored this past week at their annual end-of-the-year dinner.

The Civility & Exchange Celebration, which took place on April 30, presented awards to the students, staff and faculty members that embody the Campaign's founding principles of care, respect and empathy.

The ceremony opened with a welcome by Civility and Exchange Outreach Specialist Sammi Carr, followed by student-made films about Civility's purpose and presentations by key members of, and partners with, the Campaign.

Carr highlighted the fact that the National Conflict Resolution Center has been a crucial contributor to the success of Civility on campus, excitement radiating from both parties on the partnership that has emerged from their work on campus this year.

"It's nothing short of remarkable how you're changing this campus. We're facing challenges in all aspects of our lives, and we've enjoyed working with you to address issues of incivility," President of the National Conflict Resolution Center, Steve Dinkin, said.

Following presentations by Dinkin and Interim Vice President Lorena Meza, awards were presented by Marley Small, University Student Union Advisory Board Representative, and Floyd Lai, Associate Director of Multicultural Programs, to outstanding members of Civility.

"These actions occur every day, we just don't always have the time to recognize

them. That's why it's so important that we take the time to keep nominating and recognizing these people. We need to continue pursuing and promoting Civility on campus," Lai said.

Throughout the year, students, staff and faculty nominated outstanding community members, or Civility Champions, for the possibility of being named Civility ICONS (Initiating Civil Opportunities Now) by the group's review board. Out of more than 50 nominees, Civility selected 26 people to recognize at the Civility & Exchange Celebration as Civility Champions, and named eight people the Civility ICONS for 2012-2013.

The Civility Champions recognized on Tuesday night were Kyle Azcuna, Katelyn Campbell, Thomas Hagos, Andres Rodriguez, Sherri Soto, Maggie Uribe, Peter Vu, Jennie Goldman, Cheryl Long, Tim Sabatini, Sandra Sabatini, Kyle Duran, Dr. Annette Daoud and Dr. Pamela Kohlbry.

The 2012-2013 Civility ICONS were Emli Capili, Curtis Bovee, Maya Alvarez, Silverio Haro, Dr. Xuan Santos, Dr. Stephen Tsui and Dr. Karen McGurk.

The Civility & Exchange Celebration also honored pivotal Civility members like Dr. Laura de Ghetaldi, Marley Small, Matt Walsh, Robert Aiello-Hauser, Lisa Dickinson, Judy Sandmann and Tama Harper.

Greg Toya, Interim Associate Dean of Student Life and Leadership, closed the night, expressing optimism and excitement for the upcoming year.

Those interested in joining Civility in the fall or nominating someone for the Champion/ICON title can go to [csusm.edu/civility/](http://csusm.edu/civility/).

## ASI's finals detox event: Students to get free study materials

By RYAN DOWNS  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It is 9 a.m. on Monday, there is a paper due, then an online test at noon, then another paper due at 2:30 p.m., than two papers due tomorrow.

Yes, one of the most stressful times of the year is upon us once again, and ASI has come to help relieve some of the nerves.

In this time of anxiety and

tension over the quickly approaching finals, ASI is holding a "Finals Detox" event at the beginning of May.

The purpose is to ease tensions students may feel about the end of the semester by providing them with everything they may need for finals, including scantrons, booklets and pencils. The event is intended to give students a sense of relaxation by making them feel prepared, and it comes at the right

time. At the end of the last week before finals, students have enough on their mind. Since they are already worrying about the content of their tests and their grades, they are too busy to worry about the basic necessities they need to simply take the test.

"It's a super easy going and straightforward event," Britany Arnold, Finals Detox Coordinator, said.

The hope is that with the

tools they need to effectively take their tests, combined with other students wishing them good luck, students will feel a little more prepared to end their year on a good note.

ASI hopes that by providing these materials, finals week will be as stress-free as possible.

**Finals Detox will be during U-Hour on Thursday, May 9, in front of Kellogg Library.**

## Finishing the academic year with style: Popular Campus Pride Walk and Rainbow Recognition events in review

By KEANDRE WILLIAMS-CHAMBERS  
COPY EDITOR

It can be expected that after a month of Gaypril festivities and as the school year draws to a close, the LGBTQA Pride Center will close in a way worth remembering.

During U-hour on April 30, the campus was ablaze with color and voices as the 2nd Annual Pride Walk took place. Supporters, staff, friends, family and even spectators took part in the march across campus to close out the Gaypril festivities. With strong messages such as "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Homophobia has got to go!" and "We're here, we're queer! We're fabulous so

don't f\*\*\* with us," it would be surprising if students on campus weren't aware of what was going on. With the march culminating to an empowerment circle in the library plaza, students and staff alike celebrated their voice with words of encouragement and peer recognition.

Taking place on the very last day of Gaypril, the students and staff made the message clear that there are people against homophobia in CSUSM and on any campus or public setting.

On the evening of May 3, an exclusive event called "The Rainbow Recognition Awards" was hosted at the McMahan House in honor of

graduating students that have made positive strides for the LGBTQA community on campus. Alongside the honors bestowed upon the graduates, students and staff were presented with awards for their selfless contributions toward making the school a safer place for all students. Emotions ran high for hosts and recipients alike as all reflected on the work they had done in the past year and further back.

Graduates remembered the good times with tear-filled eyes and looked towards the future as advocates for change and transcending tolerance to a level of acceptance for all.

A special mention is in or-

der for the Relay for Life taking place on the track by the McMahan House. Though scheduling seemed to be a conflict, it is hoped that there were not feelings of competition to be heard.

Remember, students and staff, change starts with us. In the words of Harvey Milk, openly gay political activist in the late 60s and throughout the 70s until his untimely assassination, "All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential." College is a place in which we can realize that potential. And let's face it: we're all still young, aren't we?

## JOIN OUR STAFF NEXT YEAR

Want to be published? Want to be more active on campus? Want to build a portfolio? Want to learn a new skill? If so, join the student newspaper.

The Cougar Chronicle is looking for students to work together to create a new and improved student newspaper for the 2013 - 2014 academic year.

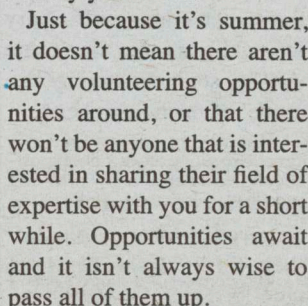
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### 1. Go outside/travel

Sometimes the best thing to do is simply get out of the dwelling place and see the world outside of the door. As fun as it is to be tied to the computer, you could always take the technology outside. It's a start. Go somewhere, gather a few friends, and head to the beach or theme parks. Maybe even a summer shopping spree could be fun. If money is an issue, that is no problem either. Have a homemade picnic in the park, go window-shopping, or troll with friends in public places. It doesn't take that much to have fun while daylight is abound. If the night is your preference, there are



Tina's features an extensive menu with a variety of classic and specialty sandwiches to choose from. They have classic staples like BLT with avocado, tuna salad and roast

You can visit Tina's Deli yourself and grab your own delicious sandwich at its quaint location down the street at 760 N Twin Oaks Valley Rd, but get there early because they are only open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, until 3 p.m. on Saturdays and closed on Sundays.



## Much needed cramming sessions

### Students can use on-campus facilities for studying

By KATLIN SWEENEY  
FEATURES EDITOR

For the next two weeks, students can use either the Gender Equity Center or Kellogg Library to focus on preparing for their upcoming finals.

While both facilities are used by students throughout the year for studying, the Gender Equity Center and Kellogg Library will be extending their welcome hours to accommodate stressed students and last-minute crammers.

For a few days during finals week, the Gender Equity Center will be open for

24 hours to all students interested in using their study room, couches, or desks while studying. The Center will also have free food, coffee and green books for anyone that needs a friendly atmosphere and an occasional pick-me-up. These extended hours, also known as Study-eat-cram-athon: Finals Extravaganza, will be from 6 a.m. on May 13 until 10 p.m. on May 15.

As many students remember, Kellogg Library also extends its hours during the weeks leading up to finals. For those interested in utilizing one of the study rooms or quiet areas, the study area

on the second floor has extended its hours to 6 a.m. to midnight, Mondays through Thursdays and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. The entire library is also open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and the media library on the second floor is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays. These extended hours will be available to all students through May 17.

Regardless of where students choose to study, being prepared is one of the biggest contributors to academic success, and utilizing either the Gender Equity Center or Kellogg Library can help.

## Introducing the new Cougar List

### Sell your textbooks through CSUSM's own 'Craigslist'

By ANNE HALL  
PHOTOGRAPHER

Students always need ways to network, make money, and get rid of those textbooks they've used. Now there is an alternative with CSUSM's Cougar List.

Cougar Alumni Mario Clay, Brendan Bass and Brandon Baker have created a new website called "Cougar List." Much like Craigslist, this web site is intended to serve the CSUSM community in selling personal items, but it comes with a twist. It also allows users to network with customers and communicate through personal profiles, establishing music playlists that remain on your personal profile and many other fun details that are not often found on sales websites.

"It allows students to be able to get access to more affordable textbooks, do exchanging, and share information," Mario Clay, web manager and designer, said. "Every semester students are trying so hard to buy or sell textbooks that are sometimes difficult to get from the student book store because they're limited or the bookstore hasn't received them yet. Sometimes the items are just way too expensive. Forums, blogs, chat, etc. allows

the students to work together within a community platform."

The idea for the website started out as an E-commerce class project. Clay and his colleagues had posed the question of what a good student service would be? From there, they established

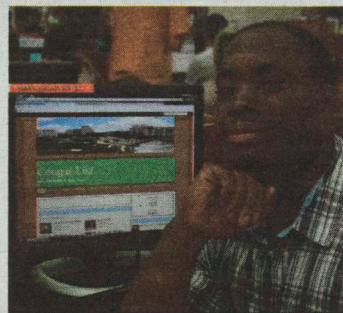


Photo by Anne Hall

Cougar List to help organize advertisements for students as they create profiles to host their own listings and be incorporated into a community profile for networking.

All of North County has the potential of benefiting from this web site. Businesses outside of the school that focus sales towards student demographics can advertise and promote their companies. The main focus from the creators of Cougar List is to remain open to promoting student endeavors and providing a pleasant user experience.

Currently there are 11 members with user accounts. The marketing and devel-

opment of the web page is continuing, and the creators are constantly updating and modernizing the page. The 3.0 version that will eventually be released will feature an updated, sleek appearance and will function more elaborately with social media interaction (Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, etc.), and will continue to grow with shown interest from users. All that is needed to continue the service is more members creating a profile and providing feedback.

When joining the website, the creators have requested that participants contribute \$2.00 towards establishing their profile as a means of satisfying startup costs. This small fee is a one-time charge that will only temporarily exist for enrollment. Once the site has established enough attention and can function independently there will no longer be a startup fee.

As a promotional consideration, there will be a contest for various prizes in the fall 2013 semester. More information will be provided regarding the contest at a later date. In the meantime, log onto [www.cougarlist.ning.com](http://www.cougarlist.ning.com), to create an account and start creating your profile. Share your advertisements and sell your old textbooks from this semester to people you know will need them.

### Oats 'N Spice Cookies



It's the last few weeks of school, but baking these homemade cookies will send you to a different world, a different dimension even. Cookies so warm, so sweet, so soothing that even your mama will say, "what's up?" There is a neat story behind these cookies actually; this recipe comes from my mom who would bake them for a friend every time she went in for chemotherapy treatment. Her friend said that the cookies were so wonderful and flavorful that she forgot the metallic taste in her mouth that usually occurred because of the chemo. Now don't you want to make them?

#### What you'll need:

- ¾ cup of softened butter - 1 cup of brown sugar - ½ cup of sugar - 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon of baking soda - ½ teaspoon of ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon of ground cloves - 2 eggs - 1 teaspoon of vanilla - 1 ¾ cup of all-purpose flour
- 2 cups of rolled-in oats - ½ cup of chocolate chip morsels - ½ cup of butterscotch morsels - A mixing bowl and mixer
- Spatula - Mini ice cream server (or a spoon to scoop dough with)
- Cookie sheets with Pam or parchment on it

#### Directions:

Set oven to 375 degrees. Mix butter in mixing bowl with mixer to soften. Then add brown sugar, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg and cloves with the butter. Once mixed for about 30 seconds, add eggs and vanilla and beat thoroughly (but not too much, you don't want to make them tough). Slowly add in flour as you mix. Once all the flour has been added, put away the mixer and pour in oats and morsels. Stir thoroughly with spatula until all is mixed together. Line cookie sheet with cooking oil or parchment and drop dollops of dough no bigger than the size of a golf ball onto the sheet, spacing them about an inch apart from each other. Cook in oven for about 10 - 12 minutes and set on a cool counter to rest. Now you can serve them to your friends in need of loving comfort and support during this trying week of finals. Enjoy!

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## Model Arab League: Working together with other organizations

By KARLA REYES  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The growth of a new, nationwide association coming to our campus can be attributed to the support and help of various campus organization and professors.

The Model Arab League (MAL) is a nationwide organization that shares similarities with the Model United Nations. However, it focuses on the Middle East and Arab League. It provides the opportunity for students to think through a different cultural lens. MAL hosts conferences throughout the United States, with the purpose of educating and gaining research and leadership experience. Christina Bastianon, a CSUSM student, attended one of the Southern California conference in Santa Barbara.

MAL hosts conferences with an academic purpose. According to their website, MAL wants "students [to] learn about the politics and history of the Arab world and the arts of diplomacy and public speech."

The overall goal is to prepare students to be knowl-

edgeable, civic, public affairs leaders and to hone their skills. Bastianon believes the club will be important because, "it teaches you to think as someone else. Because you have to separate your American thoughts apart from what the country would really want. So it makes you think differently." Bastianon's committee did research on Morocco, and the other was Palestine. They talked about political topics, border disputes, effects of Arab springs and the response on certain changes. The Palestine team won for most honorable delegation. Bastianon feels that it taught her to "create resolutions and make agreements with other delegates."

All student organizations that want to be recognized by CSUSM must go through the process of being registered with Student Life & Leadership. Due to focusing on preparation for the conference, MAL missed the deadline to apply as a recognized organization by two days. Since they could not fundraise on campus, they had to seek outside support. According to Bastianon, one

of the biggest challenges that she and fellow MAL members encountered while trying to plan the trip to Santa Barbara to present their research was finding this necessary funding for the conference.

Bastianon is thankful for the time and guidance of Professor Samir and Anita Billing, as well as the support of organizations on campus that donated what they could to help fund the Santa Barbara trip.

Bastianon would also like to acknowledge the support of the Dean of Chaps, Global Studies Club, Modern Languages, History club, Arab American Association (AAA) and PoliSci club, who "all graciously helped us out with what they could."

Although the Model Arab League is not a recognized CSUSM club yet, they are still looking forward to the end of the spring semester and the beginning of fall.

Students interested in joining MAL can contact Christina Bastianon at [basti003@cougars.csusm.edu](mailto:basti003@cougars.csusm.edu) or through the AAA club.



## Dealing with faith and college

By MATTHEW ROSSIO  
CONTRIBUTOR

Whether you're just going to college, graduating from college, or are buried with work in the middle of your college career, most likely at some point in your education, you've been presented a belief system that is different than the one you were raised with.

This happens a lot in college. Sometimes it's blatant and obvious, but sometimes it can be traced to a particular professor's bias that he or she might not even be aware of. I'd even go further and suggest that in a public school system, nearly every time you walk into a classroom, you'll be presented with a different belief system than your own, especially if you're a person of faith. This is not a problem though, but an opportunity.

In my experience, this potentially challenging experience needs not to be negative for people of faith and can even be a blessing in disguise. I have found that being challenged on what you



believe in is not a bad thing if what you believe in is true. The problem that many people of faith experience, is an ignorance of their chosen religion which leaves one unable to answer questions raised by their peers or professors. I'd say there are two simple answers to this. The first is to seek truth wherever it lies and trust that God is truth and will take care of you, if you trust in Him. The second is to never be afraid to ask why.

It has been my experience that faith in God and going to college do not have to contradict one another and that faith and God make sense. I

am a Catholic Christian and I've been challenged more than once on my beliefs, either directly or subtly, in class, at U-hour and throughout my daily life in today's world. I have found however, that my faith in God is true. I've had to re-analyze some things and even change my own understanding of God, but ultimately the faith I was raised with, had the answers I was looking for all along.

So from an incoming freshman to a college graduate, I'd say that faith and education go hand in hand, as long as you give them an equal chance, and I encourage you to keep the faith.

## Editors' Topics: The craziest thing you have ever done or would like to do over summer break

"In general, my summers are pretty lazy. But I think this year, I really want to just go to a bunch of amusement parks: Disneyland, SeaWorld, etc. I think it would be fun to just spend a week or so going to different parks with my friends and enjoying the fact that I do not have homework!"

— Features Editor  
Katlin Sweeney

"My crazy 'summer' vacation was when I took a trip to Ireland with my sister in the second week of the past fall semester, it wasn't technically a summer vacation, but it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I could not resist. I felt like I grew so much in those 10 days and the fact that back home in the States my fellow Cougars were going to class, somehow made it even more fun for me. I hope to have more crazy adventures like that in the future. Everyone should go abroad sometime."

— Opinion Editor  
Jessie Gambrell

"The craziest thing I would want to do over the course of a summer isn't really anything crazy, at least not to me. I would really just want to drive around all summer and attend a Major League Baseball game at all 30 major league team stadiums in one summer with my brothers and some of my closest friends, that is my dream summer."

— Sports Editor  
Alex Franco

"My ideal spring break would be to spend it in San Francisco. I traveled there last December and it was beautiful. Unfortunately, we didn't get to spend much time there since I was there to conduct an interview at LucasFilms, but we got to see a lot of the city and I fell in love. The atmosphere, the architecture and culture of San Francisco provide a sense of belonging. You feel so small in this huge city, yet you feel as if this is the place where all your dreams might come true and more than anything, you want to try.

I'd love to spend more time there; I feel as if the adventures are endless."

— News Editor  
Melissa Martinez

"Me and my friends went swimming in our high school pool at midnight and had a little potluck together. It was right before we all went back to school so it was really fun."

— A & E Editor  
Juliana Stumpp

"I really want to hit the club scene, mostly because it seems to be something that's so out of what I'm used to. I don't really mean just go crazy and go clubbing every night, but a few nights here and there seems like it would be a lot of fun. It would be nice to just let loose with friends who have been trying to get me to go for a long time. Might as well take the opportunities that would be available."

— Copy Editor  
Keandre Williams-Chambers

## A senior says good bye to CSUSM

By ANDREW REED  
CONTRIBUTOR

Thank you CSUSM. We really have something special here. I joined the Catholic Club my freshman year and met the most wonderful people that ended up being my best friends that stuck with me throughout college. From there I decided to branch out and found myself working for the marketing department

at The Clarke. I learned so much there, from the professional staff and my student co-workers alike, that I got to see what tremendous ideas and efforts executed by my peers when given the opportunities. My best chances to learn have been those conversations with professors in the hallways, discussions with my USUAB and ASI friends on the part we get to play in the future legacy

and growth of the school, and those 2 a.m. chats with friends about the memories we share and about where the heck we're going with our futures. I can't begin to say how amazing an experience I've had at CSU San Marcos. We are a small close-knit community that is growing and I was glad to be a small part of it.

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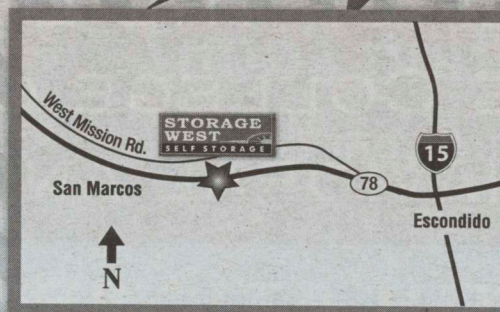
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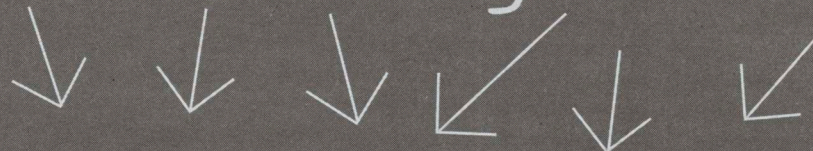
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Letters to the Editor should include a first and last name and should be under 300 words, submitted via email. It is the policy of The Cougar Chronicle not to print anonymous letters. The Cougar Chronicle reserves the right to reject any Letter to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



## Blossom, bloom and glow

A student's perspective on how to be the best you

By JESSIE GAMBRELL  
OPINION EDITOR

Ever wonder why we seem to think that flowers are so pretty? Well, I have a theory and it is very simple.

When flowers are blooming at the peak of spring and are shining forth their best, most healthiest, happiest and fullest selves, that is when we notice how beautiful they are, no matter what kind of flower they are. Same goes for us.

In our society, we get caught up on other people's "blossoms," we are focusing so much on their beauty, that we wither under their shadow through the blindness to our own blossom. Now, I'm not just talking about beauty as in appearance, I am talking about being your best, most happiest and fullest self.

How can we do this, you might ask? It really varies with each personality, given that we are all diverse and unique individuals. But there are some things that ring true in every human being and that is a sense of purpose, belonging and hope. Everyone wants to know that they are loved and belong somewhere and are

needed. We have to discover what that thing is that God (or whoever or whatever you may think those passions derive from) has inspired and designed for us. We each have a calling and a purpose and it's those people who have found it or at least are pursuing it, that really shine forth.

Confidence in oneself is another thing that makes you glow. Whenever I see someone who is truly happy and at peace with themselves, I am inspired and admire their radiance. People who have a passion, and skills in that passion, are always going to be an inspiration and sometimes a magnet to the good people around them. Confidence is sometimes hard to come by these days, or at least the right kind of confidence. I mean the type of



confidence that allows your real personality to come out and to not be molded into the various shapes of our society.

We can also glow when we are our healthiest and our bodies like it when we take care of ourselves. Eating the right foods that are healthy, working out or exercising to some level is a natural medicine to whatever anxieties we may be having and it is a good way to detoxify the ugly "dirt" from our bodies. Think of working out as the cleaning off the dirt and eating the right foods as the fertilizer. The "dirt" can sometimes cloud our glow and the more we take care of ourselves the more we will shine forth our truest, most healthiest selves.

Well, there you have it. For those of you graduating this year or even those just entering our school this year, these are the things that make us the beautiful people that we are. Through the confidence in our truest beings, the care and dedication toward our well being and the passion and purpose designed for us, we can excel and be the best, most healthiest, happiest and fullest people we can be.

## Cougar Asks: What's your strategy for finals week?

By ALISON SEAGLE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Alexa Watkins,  
communications,  
"Every night I just study;  
starting now, for a few  
hours."

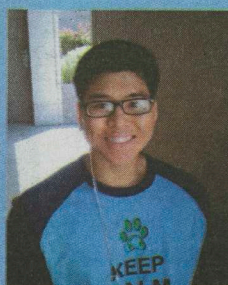


Cambria Mackey,  
communications,  
"Going over material ahead  
of time and looking over  
the study guides."



Trish Redondo,  
psychology,  
"I use a planner."

Kyle Ditangco,  
kinesiology,  
"Review notes and  
read the book and  
look over study guides  
and possibly ask the  
teachers what else I  
can do."



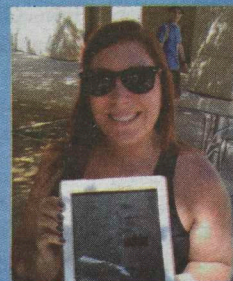
Omar Barcia,  
business,  
"I stay well rested,  
do study groups  
and practice time  
management."



Taylor Rapp,  
psychology,  
"I take breaks and try not  
to cram at the last minute."



Alex Rivera,  
accounting,  
"Definitely know what day  
your finals are, and get a  
good night's sleep."



Julia Barnes,  
kinesiology,  
"I try not to stress and  
take mimosa breaks."

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# Who, what, when, where and why: Let the 'Star Wars' speculation begin!

By ALEX FRANCO  
SPORTS EDITOR

In the spirit of the summer movie conclave well underway with the recent release of Marvel's, "Iron Man 3" this past week, I feel it is now a suitable time to begin the talk about what would arguably be the biggest blockbuster release in 2015 and perhaps all time, when Disney and J.J. Abrams release "Star Wars: Episode VII."

Since Disney bought LucasFilm and the Star Wars Franchise in early 2012 and then announced that a 2015 "Episode VII" would be made and released, fanboys and girls everywhere have been clamoring about what story it would follow and where director Abrams would take the film. Given the franchises expansive universe past the six films in the saga and the hundreds of novels, comics, video games and fan-fiction, there is no telling where they could go.

With the film two years away and no official story, script or plot revealed, no cast confirmations, no movie title, no scenes shot, it could

be a little too early to begin speculation, but these are "Star Wars" people and it's never too early to talk about it.

There is one rumor circulating around the interweb that perhaps Emperor Palpatine, who died in "Return of the Jedi" at the hands of Darth Vader, could return to wreak havoc on the rebel alliance once again. Some fans are saying, according to a Yahoo! Movies, that they know the emperor has cloned himself and will go on living as a spirit. With all that said, I'll have to say this is not a possibility for them to go with because the emperor is dead, plain and simple, there's no way he could come back from that death, and creator George Lucas has gone on record saying that he is definitely dead after his fall at the hands of Darth Vader in "Episode VI: Return of the Jedi."

Another possible and more likely storyline is that the new films will take place 30 years after the events of "Jedi" and will chronicle the lives of Luke Skywalker's children, and Leia and Han Solo's children and their bat-



tle with a new sith presence. With this battle against the sith waging through the galaxy, the Skywalker/Solo kids will battle their own inner demons in classic Skywalker family fashion. This storyline also features another "fall from grace" character, and to prevent possible spoilers, I won't mention who.

Finally, there is the storyline and movie we all want to see, and that is the recently released idea from actor Patton Oswalt on a "Parks and Recreation" bit where in an attempt to filibuster a town meeting, he gave his input on an "Episode VII." If you haven't seen it already, his version features a crossover

of astronomical proportions, with the combined universes of "Star Wars," "Marvel," and the Greek gods from "Clash of the Titans." I would absolutely love to see this version, but realistically speaking, it is more unlikely than the first storyline I mentioned. But hey, a fanboy can dream.

Until 2015 comes, there will no doubt be a non-stop influx of new story ideas as well as character and plot details being made up until the day the first trailer or plot detail has been released. See you in 2015, and may the force be with you. Thoughts? Share them on our website.



## A call to bipartisanship: Immigration

By JOSE PARRA  
CONTRIBUTOR

Recent news coverage has centered much attention on D.C. and the continuing senatorial efforts from the so-called "Gang of Eight" (a group of Democrat and Republican senators) to bring forward an immigration reform overhaul. Yet, with much of the haunting memories still vibrant in much of the American public's mind, the fiscal cliff negotiations, continuing debate on gun control, etc., the simple question to ask is, will immigration reform take place or will it be subject to the stalemate that Washington is starting to be known for?

On June 11, 2012, Jim Rutenburg captured former Florida Governor, Jeb Bush's take on Washington, in a New York Times article titled "Jeb Bush Questions

G.O.P.'s Shift to Right." Governor Bush held the line firm by stating that his father, 41st President George H.W. Bush, and former 40th President Ronald Reagan would have had a difficult time being vetted into the current wave of GOP politics. With this noted, is Governor Bush incorrect? I'll let you be the judge of that.

It's time for partisanship to be put aside for the sake of reasonable and fair policy-making in our great nation. Sure, I may take an over-simplistic view of what many cynics cry, "dirty politics." However, immigration reform holds a high prospect for success. In fact, a recent study published in February by "Gallup" suggests that Americans would support an immigration reform package. When the subjects of the study were asked if they would support a law which

would "allow undocumented immigrants living in the United States the chance to become legal residents or citizens if they meet certain requirements," the respondents that voted in favor resulted in a 72 percent margin. Ultimately, the burden lies on these eight senators to bring forward the bipartisan support needed in congress to deliver a piece of legislation that can have a number of positive results, in particular, economic and social gains for our nation. Both parties are challenged to this task; no one is free from blame.

Let us not become a generation that becomes used to this stagnant, irreconcilable, and uncompromising political environment.

Soon, it will be our generation that will be judged by the pen strokes of history, so let's make sure we move forward.

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# Bumper stickers ‘Not Of This World’

By BEN CARLSON  
STAFF WRITER

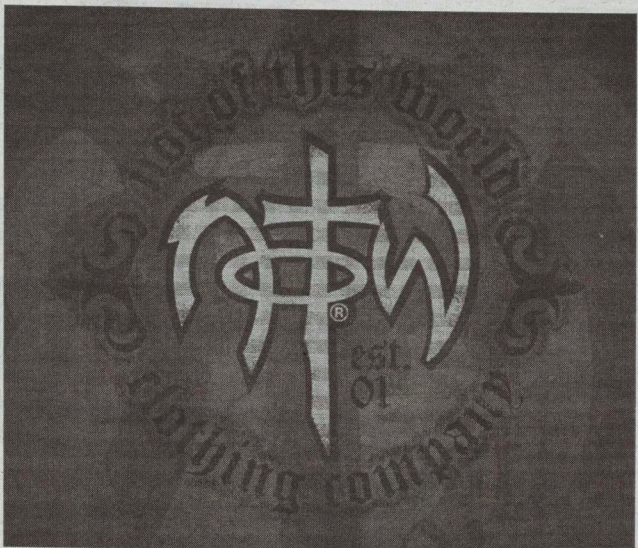
Comedian Demetri Martin once told a joke concerning bumper stickers, “A lot of people don’t like bumper stickers. I don’t mind bumper stickers. To me a bumper sticker is a shortcut. It’s like a little sign that says, ‘Hey, let’s never hang out.’”

Labels carry baggage, but bumper stickers carry irritating statements that are obviously unnecessary.

There are many bumper stickers I find annoying. First is the one that is normally blue and has a bunch of religious symbols that resemble the letters that spell out “Coexist”. Aren’t we already coexisting? Do they mean we should coexist and get along? Yes, and that’s why someone else thought up the sticker of the same religious symbols design that spells out “Tolerance.”

Other times I come upon an “SDSU Mom” or “USC Mom” and get a peculiar feeling like I pity those sad moms who live their lives through their children’s accomplishments. “My son or daughter is a honor student at this or that middle school” is another example.

Despite these, there is one that is winner of ultimate smugness. It is one that



dresses itself in humility, while insulting everyone else who doesn’t share that particular worldview. I’m writing of course of the ‘Not Of This World’ stickers.

Christians who put these stickers on their cars are reminding you, the sad creature stuck in traffic, that although you both inhabit this small planet and must tolerate each other, they are destined for another world, one much better than the one we both live in now. They believe, to borrow from the Bible, that they are “in the world but not of the world.” In their view, making the world better now is a fool’s errand and it doesn’t matter what happens to the earth because for them, it is only temporary. Needless to say,

there is a sinister aura surrounding these things that I find contemptuous.

In fact, I can actually smile now when I see a “Coexist” sticker. At least coexistence has a sort of unity or compromise in its definition. These NOTW stickers are not only annoying, but they show the level of pride and stupidity it takes to believe the whole world revolves around you, and that you are destined to greater things beyond this world. It shows a lack of humanity and is based in ultra egocentricity.

It is the ultimate statement of “I’m better than you.” So, to those who have these stickers on their cars, I will tolerate you but do me a favor and “let’s never hang out.”



# Your body’s talking louder than your mouth

## Preparation for summer does not mean just getting a tan

By KATLIN SWEENEY  
FEATURES EDITOR

Every year, the month of June arrives quicker than expected and so begins the continuous cycle of spontaneous pool parties, beach trips and weather that encourages baring a little more skin.

The pressure continues to build as women and men alike are forced to face the disheartening truth: summer is not a time of relaxation. In fact, it is the opposite. For many people, the word ‘summer’ has become synonymous with going to the gym and getting in shape at least a month in advance, preparing for these invites that rarely come with much warning.

It is an admittedly ridiculous concept, to be stressed during the few months of the year when students do not have a full course load and have more free time on their hands. But it is that lingering, silent fear of spontaneity

that leads people to spend more time on their appearance during the summer than they normally do the rest of the year.

It used to be relatively easy to match what we have been told the ideal ‘beach body’ should look like: tan and in-shape. But now, women face a more difficult challenge when trying to morph themselves into the of-the-moment body type.

For women that are thin, there is pressure to have bigger assets to complement their slenderness, and for a woman that is curvier, there is pressure to shed the excess weight on her body so that her curves are only defined in ‘desired’ places.

Obviously, it is nearly impossible for a woman, even one that works out frequently, to magically shed the so-called ‘extra’ pounds that linger on her stomach and on her legs. Getting in shape is not hard, but simultaneously

losing weight in certain areas and gaining it in others is difficult to attain.

While stress over looking good for the summer has traditionally been considered a woman-specific issue, men deal with the pressure of toning up as well. The perceived ‘need’ to develop a flat stomach, six-pack and muscular build is something that continues to force men into the gym as frequently as, if not more often, than women.

However, this pressure for both genders to become ‘better’ looking for one season out of the year is something that takes away from the purpose of being on break: not having to worry. We should not be worried about curving our diets or scheduling more time for the gym just to look more attractive when wearing a bathing suit. There are much better ways to spend our summer.

# One CSUSM student’s senior shout out

By ANTONIO JIMENEZ  
CONTRIBUTOR

I had a great college experience because of the wonderful people I met along the way. I have never met a more amazing group of people that I am grateful to call my friends.

Getting involved with a club has also changed my life. It had its challenges, but being involved in the Catholic Club was the best experience I could have ever imagined, I would not have traded it for the world. I feel so blessed to have served on a leadership position in

the club as well. The people there will always have a special place in my heart.

The wonderful memories we have shared together will never be forgotten. One such memory I will never forget was last summer when two friends and I went on a road trip up the California coast. The first night we spent in El Capitan. In the middle of the night we decided to take long exposure shots at the beach. On our way back to our campsite we kept

on running into skunks. What normally took 5 minutes ended up into a one-hour heart pumping, adrenaline filled adventure. We would walk around a corner and spot a skunk on its front legs ready to spray. We would run back and find a new way and again we would spot another skunk.

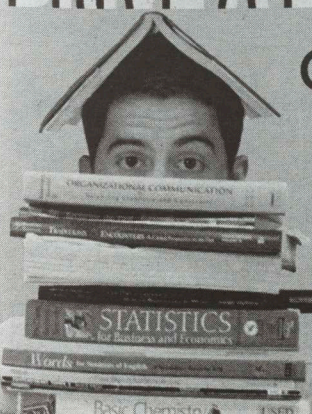
This experience and the countless other experiences that I’ve had during my years at Cal State San Marcos have been legendary! I can’t wait for it...dary!



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## Student A: "Paces" by Faith Orcino



## CSUSM student shares the basics of creating a web series

By JULIANA STUMPP  
A & E EDITOR

San Diego is filled with little-known restaurants, bars or hangouts that aren't mainstream...yet. It's always fun having a local place that you can bring your friends or family to. With summer approaching, finding places to eat and enjoy is a must. Kyle Miller, the creator of the YouTube web series "Backyard Adventures," goes around Southern California places and documents his experience for his viewers. Miller sat down with The Cougar Chronicle to explain his process and what it's really like having a web series.

**Question: What prompt-**

**ed you to start a web series?**

**Answer:** What prompted the idea for me to start a web series was my first class that I took here; Chicano Theatre. A lot of my classmates told me that I was really good and I should use my talent. Then I got the idea to do my own travel web series, "Backyard Adventures," and make comedy videos like the "Dating Tips with Kyle Miller."

**Q: For every webisode, how do you come up with ideas?**

**A:** For "Backyard Adventures," it's a bit of a challenge because you have to get per-

mission from the owner of the restaurant, bar, etc. to film. So far everyone has been nice about it because



they are small businesses. In a way I'm helping the community. As for the "Dating Tips," I found it humorous of

the advice people would give me. So I wanted to make a comedy about dating advice people have given me.

**Q: Is there a creative process you go through for every webisode?**

**A:** For "Backyard Adventures," I wanted to do something different than other travel series. There are elements of travel hosts I see within me like the dorkiness of Huell Howser. My main goal in "Backyard Adventures" is educate and entertain like in Chicano Theatre. As for the "Dating Tips," I pick an advice and start writing.

**Q: How do you balance the time to do a web series**

**on top of other responsibilities?**

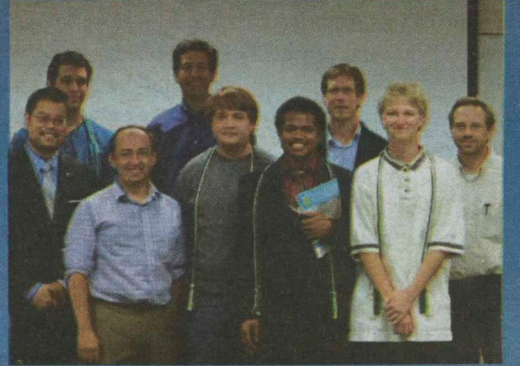
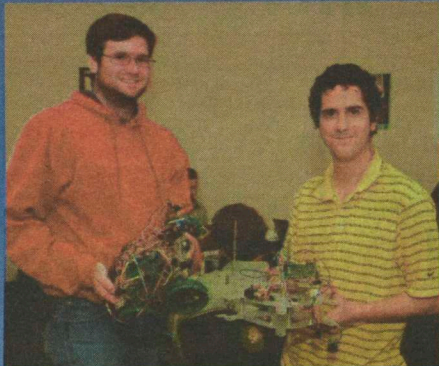
**A:** At first I thought I could balance it out. In the end, it was too much. School must be a priority as well as family and work. With summer vacation near, I can do more episodes for "Backyard Adventures," "Dating Tips," and hopefully write short skits like "Cholo Adventures." Hopefully, I'll be able to do a trip to Latin America which is where I want to expand "Backyard Adventures" after I'm done graduating since I'm going to teach English down there.

To check out "Backyard Adventures," visit <http://kylesbackyardadventures.blogspot.com/>



Hey, do you really enjoy spending your time watching movies and TV or reading amazing books?

Why not join our staff next year and write about the things you are watching and reading!



# CSM 2013

## Congratulations College of Science & Mathematics graduates

As graduates, you are about to enter a rapidly changing, complex world; a world that is driven by technology; and a world where we must all be globally engaged.

We are confident that you, the graduates of 2013, will achieve great things. We wish you success in all your future endeavors, and we congratulate you on this significant milestone in your life.



## Comic-Con to heat up the San Diego streets

By RYAN DOWNS  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Summer has always had special meaning to citizens of San Diego, especially those of us with geekier prejudice than most people.

It's almost that time of year when people from all over the country flock to the annual San Diego Comic-Con International convention. San Diego Comic-Con is not the only convention celebrating comics, films and geek culture in the country, but it is the largest of its kind in the world.

As always it will be held

at the San Diego Convention Center, on July 18-21. While tickets sold out in minutes months ago, there are ways to at least enjoy the free festivities and receive promotional items in the surrounding streets of the Gaslamp District, near the convention center.

Comic-Con started in 1970, with less than 200 attendees, as a one-day convention for comic books and those who read them, but since then it has grown considerably in the forty-odd years as a result of the rise of "geek" culture. It is now an enormous event, with over 130,000 attendees.

The focus has also shifted away from comic books and to other categories, such as panels for television and film, which have stolen the show year after year. It's fair to say that the event has become one of the biggest commercial publicity events in the world, but the fans don't seem to mind. They still come out in thousands, with lines of characters and costumes, usually stretching around the block.

Given that the advertised special guests are generally industry professionals such as Rob Liefeld and Michael Uslan, the convention

is tight-lipped on what films and celebrities will appear at panels until a few weeks before the event. However in

years past, the casts of "Twilight," "The Avengers," "Lost," and many more have all arrived to speak to fans.

Showtime and HBO have expressed interest in holding panels for popular shows such as Dexter and Game of Thrones. It has been hinted that bestselling fantasy author Neil Gaiman will make an appearance as part of his final book tour in America. Everything else remains to be revealed. Everything else remains to be revealed.

## THE SHUFFLE

By KEANDRE WILLIAMS-CHAMBERS  
COPY EDITOR

Well, summer is coming up! I don't think I need to be any more forward in saying that opportunities may arise within the next few months to either have fun, move on up in the world, or just get through it. Regardless of what those options are, here are a few songs to get through the soon-to-be hotter months ahead without losing your head.

### "Dance Anthem of the '80s" By Regina Spektor

Not exactly the danciest song to start off the summer, but with Regina's energy, it's sure to give a bit of reason to not start the summer off so hard. With talk about sweet little attractions and a not-so-subtle mention of sleep, it's a perfect mid-energy song to add a little smile to those off days that are bound to happen sooner or later.

### "Vacation" By the Go-Go's

Yes, it had to come to this. Everyone has some sort of vacation plan in mind, whether it is the entire break until August, or just for a week or two here and there. It may be simple or extravagant, but come one. It's all we've ever wanted, huh? Sometimes, we just have to get away. And bring a few friends, because it doesn't exactly mean it's meant to be spent alone.

### "Tom's Diner" (DNA Remix) By DNA feat. Suzanne Vega

Take a seat and relax with this '90s remix of the popular song, which has become the more popular iteration among modern times. Though summer might end up being as hectic as the school year, it doesn't mean there can't be opportunities to take a break and let the unnecessary stress flow away with this calming up-beat song and soothing vocals.

### "White Nights" By Oh Land

Let's all be completely honest with ourselves. If we aren't planning to do school or work this summer, I can almost guarantee that a good majority of us aren't planning for very much sleep, or at least in regular time slots. For those late nights, let the imagination run wild with this creative song of those crazy dreams we might have for summer and during those summer nights.

### "Surfin' U.S.A." By The Beach Boys

Couldn't conclude this playlist without including the infamous boys that are synonymous with summertime at the beach. After all, many of us are hopefully in California right now, and San Marcos isn't that far from the beach. Whether or not you're spending your time in the state, you can't exactly cross beach time off your list for this summer.

## Book Review: 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald

By BEN CARLSON  
STAFF WRITER

Many aspiring intellectuals, especially those attending this university, love to use the cliché phrase "the book was way better than the movie," when referring to the film version of a popular novel.

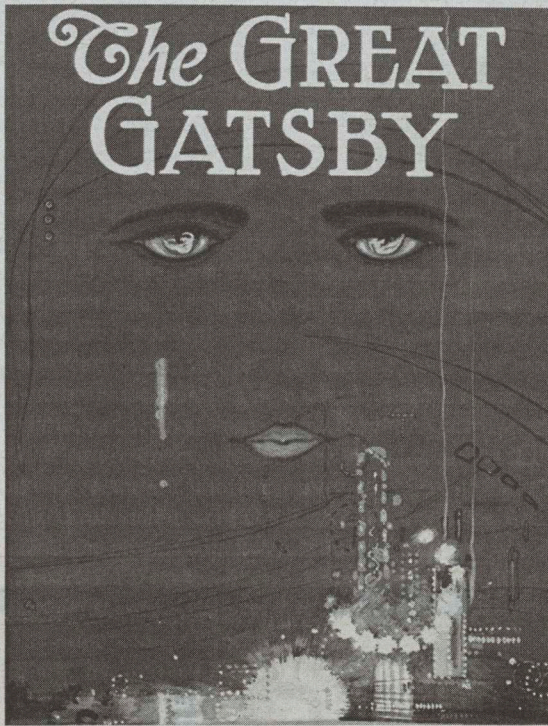
With the film version of "The Great Gatsby," hitting theaters May 10, this is a preemptive review to save you, the reader, from making the mistake of using that annoying phrase in front of your friends or colleagues and also to remind you that no film version of this American classic will ever do it justice. It's been tried before.

Most of us will see the film for its own sake, but one should not outsource a reading of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel entirely to a few hours in a dark, air-conditioned room. Bookstores everywhere have the paperback edition for cheap (less

than a movie ticket) and I insist you pick it up and revisit Fitzgerald's tale of young elites obsessed with their idea of the American dream. It is a novel that will speak to those graduating this spring in that its themes explore the relationship between the pursuit of wealth and the dream of happiness and individualism.

In leaving academia behind, graduates have the opportunity to remind themselves what he or she intends to accomplish in their professional lives.

Fitzgerald challenges the reader to examine his or her own American dream. Many graduates have noble goals in mind, which should be protected against the influence or pursuits of pleasure and greed, however tempting. As Fitzgerald put it, "it was what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams." Gatsby's own downfall was his obsession with the past.



But the future is both daring and exciting. The exploration of unknown territory and the plans we students intend on pursuing in that territory that lies ahead. As the narrator exclaims at the end of the novel, "tomorrow we

will run faster, stretch out our arms farther."

So, to the class of 2013, I recommend revisiting this landmark in American literature before you charge bravely into the world.

## For Your Entertainment 'Revenge' and 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun'

By KATLIN SWEENEY  
FEATURES EDITOR

### "Revenge"

★★★★★/5

#### Must-Watch Episode:

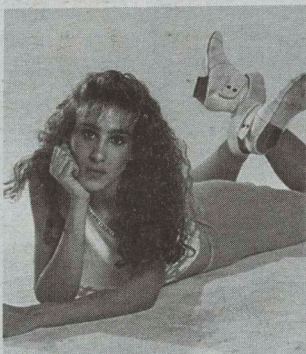
#### "Chaos" Season 1, Episode 15

Revenge is one of ABC's most captivating shows, with protagonist Emily Thorne moving

back to her childhood home in order to wreak havoc on the people who caused her father's

untimely death. Having spent years in juvenile hall and away from her home in the Hamptons,

Thorne uses the fact that no one recognizes her to her advantage. From seducing her enemies' son to faking her identity to blowing up an office, "Revenge" will create an air of mystery and suspense that is hard to ignore.



And with season two still airing on ABC, viewers that get addicted to the show on Netflix will not have to wait for the next season to be added online to finish watching the latest episodes.

#### "Girls Just Want to Have"

★★★★★/5

Contrary to the obnoxious 1979 Cyndi Lauper hit with the same name, "Girls Just Want to

Have Fun" will tug at your heartstrings and make you

laugh at the right moments. A young Sarah Jessica Parker and Helen Hunt star in this campy romantic comedy about two girls trying to find who they are. When Janey (Parker) moves to town, she meets Lynne (Hunt), who instantly becomes her best friend. Janey realizes that Lynne has the same favorite television show as her, "Dance TV," and they begin to bond over their mutual desire to one day be performers on it. However, opportunity comes knocking sooner rather than later when auditions are being held in town. Torn between wanting to abide by her military father's strict rules and wanting to follow her biggest dream, Janey decides to take a risk and see what happens. This classic '80s teen dance movie is sure to make you smile within the first half hour.

## Concerts heating up the summer season Local San Diego venues to host big name singers and bands

By NICOLE IGNELL  
STAFF WRITER

Summer is almost here, and with the fun in the sun comes concerts.

Where the sun is shining, no homework is due (for those who aren't dying in summer school) and no rules apply. Whether you enjoy the relaxing peaceful music of Marilyn Manson, or the head banging mixes of Justin Bieber, this summer promises to have the glorious musical talents of artists.

Two music festivals have already kicked off the concert series, Stagecoach and Coachella...and having attended one of those and experiencing the classiness of culture rich environments, I can say, without a doubt that this summer is going to be awesome.

Why not go out of your music comfort zone this summer? There are so many concerts to choose from and with the endless funds that



all of us college students have (especially me), you should try and see as many as you can. Concerts are also a fun way to hang out with friends, sing like you would in the shower, and of course see artists that you love or meet a few new ones.

Locally, the Del Mar Fair will host the musical stylings of Switchfoot on June 14, Martina McBride on June 20, Big Time Rush on

June 22, Train on June 27 and Adam Lambert on July 2. Tickets are currently on sale for these events and more information can be found at <http://www.sdfair.com/index.php?fuseaction=concerts.grandstand>.

Chula Vista's Sleep Train Amphitheatre will host Tim McGraw on June 7, Pitbull and Ke\$ha on June 16, and the Vans Warped

Tour on June 19. One luxury about this Amphitheatre is that there are cheap lawn seats for as low as \$23.

Valley View Casino center will also host Bruno Mars on July 30.

Make sure to check online and get tickets fast, because can sell out pretty fast. Have a nice summer, be safe, and more importantly, go to a lot of concerts. I'll see you there.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OUTSTANDING GRADUATES!

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Shinji Watanabe

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Kaixin Zhang

Chang Zhao

Laura Shannon

Yirong Yang

Yunxi Lin

Sina Nejati

Germalaine Arenas

Bayan Awwad

Chelsea Cates-Gatto

Jennifer Cunningham

Ashley Ginbey

Eric Gudorf

Amythist Natabla Tacos

Lynda Nguyen Truong

Krystal Anne Vitug

Julie Wright

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Vivienne Dorothy Hoskins

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