

The Sundial

A young man with short dark hair and a patterned shirt stands outdoors in front of a stone pillar and greenery. The background is slightly blurred, showing a building with green shutters and a grassy area.

Issue 7 | Spring 2023

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around ChatGPT

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his way

Finding
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community

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Technology Resources for Students



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CONTENTS

Yesterday's News 02

Beating the Summer Melt 04

The New Building on the Block 05

Back to School Menu 06

Paving His Way 08

Finding Comfort in Community 12

All the Chatter Around ChatGPT 14

Media Querencia 16

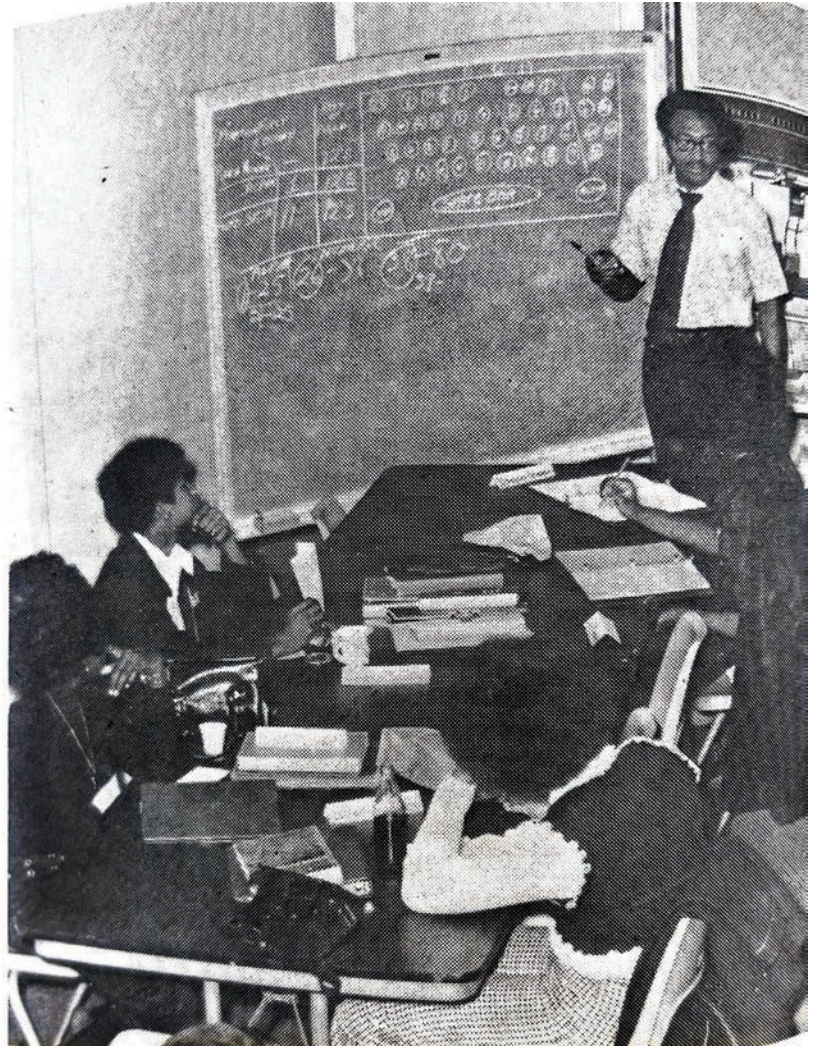
Dreams 19

What I Wish I Knew As A Senior 20

Cover photo by Rodrigo Hernandez

From SFVC to CSUN:

The Daily Sundial's 1972 archives, the year the university changed from the San Fernando Valley College to California State University, Northridge.



Daily Sundial archive photo of Pan African studies department from fall 1972.

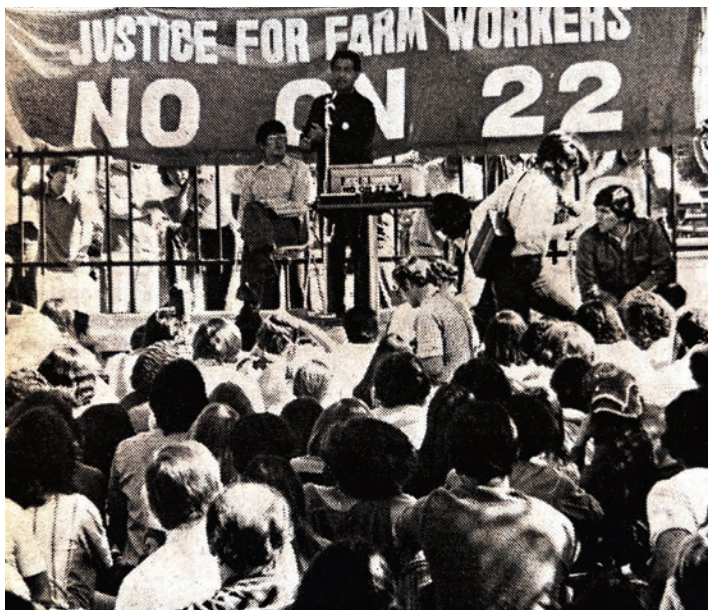
Original caption:
Line action. Photo
from Daily Sundial
archives of fall
1972.





Original Caption: Leaping Landers Hubbard (40) tips in a shot by forward George Robnett in Saturday's loss to the California State College Roadrunners. Hubbard was the leading scorer and rebounder in the game. Daily Sundial archive photo by Bob Chamberlin, 1972.

Cover of Vol. 17, No. 1 for the Daily Sundial on September 18, 1972. Photo by Bob Chamberlin.



Cesar Chavez speaks to students about opposing Proposition 22. Daily Sundial archive photo from 1972 by Reed Saxon, who would later go on to win the Pulitzer Prize.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY SANCHEZ

Beating the Summer Melt

WRITTEN BY ASHLEY SANCHEZ

Over a thousand prospective students came to California State University, Northridge Thursday night to explore the nine colleges the university offers.

Student Outreach and Recruitment hosted the Matador Summer Celebration event to welcome an estimated 1,300 students and to answer questions while they connected with the CSUN community.

CSUN Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Meera Komarraju said that if students build connections with others on campus early, that can go a long way in convincing them to attend.

CSUN experiences a phenomenon called the “summer melt” between May and August where Dufault-Hunter said 18-20% of students who made an initial commitment do not attend CSUN in the fall.

According to the National College Attainment Network, a nonprofit organization that helps students prepare and apply for college, the rate of the summer melt ranges from 10-40% nationally.

One of the reasons the summer melt is almost 20% at CSUN is because the university doesn’t require potential students to make a deposit when filing their intent to register, while many other CSUs require prospective students to pay upwards of \$100 for the university to hold their spot.

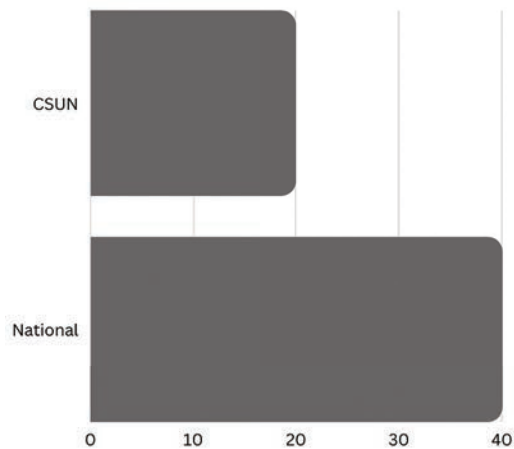
“Because the intent to register is free, students can go to multiple places and make decisions to go elsewhere,” Dufault-Hunter said.

Dufault-Hunter said that to address the summer melt percentages, current students were chosen to lead tours so that incoming students could hear firsthand experiences.



PHOTO BY SOLOMON O. SMITH

CSUN summer melt compared to national average, according to National College Attainment Network.



GRAPH BY MAYA MORALES

The new building on the block

Maple Hall is the newest university building

WRITTEN BY GRIFFIN O'ROURKE

California State University, Northridge's new Maple Hall, a \$43.4 million academic building equipped with technological advancements, is set to complete construction Nov. 1.

Formerly known as the Sierra Annex, Maple Hall is a 62,000-square foot academic building, and the sister building of Sierra Hall, along Etiwanda Avenue on the south end of campus.



PHOTO BY GRIFFIN O'ROURKE

Constructed by Gilbane Building Company and the architecture firm Gensler, Maple Hall is a classroom-only building with no faculty offices. The complex will feature 38 classrooms ranging from 20-seat seminar rooms to a 130-seat lecture hall. CSUN filled these classrooms with technology, including HyFlex and smart screens, that improves the academic experience for students and teachers alike. A large, open atrium features seating areas for students to form study groups or socialize under natural light.

"Sierra Annex is built to a modern university's degree," said Ken Rosenthal, associate vice president of facilities development and operations. "The new classrooms promote active learning among students."

With a focus on flexibility and com-

fort, the classrooms allow students to reorganize furniture to facilitate breakout sessions. The lecture halls utilize curved, tiered seating rows so students have a clear view of the entire room.

The rooms are not only tailored for student learning, but also for teachers' comfort.

Classrooms will feature a presentation screen in the back of the room so the professor can easily teach facing their students rather than having to look back and forth.

"Three lecture halls and two seminar rooms will all be HyFlex, Hybrid-Flexible, technology, which means that you can have cameras and sound for both the students and faculty in the room," said Diane Stephens, associate vice president of academic resources and planning.

"You can have someone teach in

HyFlex mode, where you have a cohort of students who are in attendance online at the same time as you have class going on in person."

HyFlex teaching started back in 2006, but was quickly popularized due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced most schools to consider alternatives to in-person classes.

Security features of the building include gunshot detection systems, security cameras, lockable classrooms and emergency duress systems.

The original launch date of the building was the beginning of the 2023 fall semester, but the project



PHOTO BY SOLOMON O. SMITH

was delayed by three months, according to Rosenthal.

"We've had delays due to two primary things: supply line issues from COVID-19 and the recent rain," said Rosenthal.

The construction will now be finished Nov. 1, with its doors likely opening for students and teachers in spring 2024.

This academic building will be CSUN's first new complex since 2009. The project was announced in 2021 by the university, though designs for the building were started on Dec. 21, 2020, by Gilbane and Gensler. The two companies also built the Associated Students Sustainability Center in 2017, which won awards for its numerous amenities.

When the new complex completes construction, around 557 classes from Sierra Hall will be moved to Maple Hall to make way for the older building's renovations in 2025.



PHOTO FROM CSUNSHINETODAY.CSUN.EDU

The Back-to-

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY QUINN ALEXANDER

Grocery shopping can be expensive, and finding the right ingredients to maintain a healthy diet might make a home cooked meal an overwhelming task. To help reduce shopping stressors, the CSUN Food Pantry has been providing basic necessities to students, staff and faculty since the fall of 2016.

By showing a current CSUN ID, students can visit Laurel Hall once a week to receive a bag of groceries. In the past, items included canned chicken, beans, fettuccine noodles and other products with a long shelf life.

This quick and confidential resource is open four days a week, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays, and 1-5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Alongside regular shelf-stable items, once every two weeks the “Pop-Up Pantry” offers an assortment of locally grown fruits and vegetables. The fresh produce is grown on campus from the Sustainable Food Garden, the USU and other gardens.

More resources and information can be found on the @csunfoodpantry Instagram account. They post content such as “Food Pantry Friday Recipe” and “This or That,” which is a series weighing the pros and cons of different ingredients.

Along with their regular operating hours, the program is planning to host two large events this fall. The annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week will take place in mid-November and will highlight lifesaving resources in Los Angeles County. Their second event, a bi-yearly CalFresh Outreach Week, can be expected in October. This event provides the most current information regarding access to healthy and nutritious food.



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA BRAVO



Spam and rice

Ingredients:

- 1 cup white rice
- 1/2 can Spam
- 1/2 cup teriyaki sauce
- 1 1/2 cups water

On medium heat, add 1 1/2 cups of water to a small pot and bring to a boil.

Rinse 1 cup of rice with cold water until the water is clear.

Add washed rice to the pot and place the lid on top. Cook on low for 15-17 minutes.

Chop half a can of Spam into small pieces and fry in a pan on medium heat for six minutes.

Stir in 1/4 cup of teriyaki sauce and cook for four more minutes.

Combine the Spam and rice into a bowl and serve.

School Menu

Cheeseburger

Makes 4 burgers

Ingredients:

1 pound ground beef
1 bag hamburger buns
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 slices of cheddar cheese

Recommended seasoning:

1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper
1 clove garlic or 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic

Add salt and pepper to the ground beef, then mix with your hands until seasoning is evenly distributed. Separate beef into four patties that are 1 inch thick. In a pan, cook the patties on medium heat for five minutes. Flip patties over and add a slice of cheese on each patty. Cook for another five minutes. Place cooked patties on paper towels to remove excess grease. Serve on toasted buns, and add your favorite toppings.



Fettuccine chicken alfredo

Ingredients:

1 pound boneless chicken breasts
1 box fettuccine noodles
1 bottle alfredo sauce
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Recommended seasoning

1 clove garlic or 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
1 teaspoon onion powder

In a large pot, bring water to a boil. Once boiling, add fettuccine and cook for 9-11 minutes.

Mix seasoning in a small bowl, then coat both sides of the chicken breasts.

In a pan, cook chicken on medium heat. Cook one side for 5-7 minutes or until the bottom is golden brown. Flip over and cook for another 5-7 minutes.

Place fully cooked chicken on a paper towel to remove excess grease. Cut into bite sized pieces.

In a small pan, simmer alfredo sauce on medium low heat for 3-4 minutes. Add chicken and stir for an additional 2 minutes.

Strain fettuccine noodles, then combine with sauce into a serving bowl.

Enjoy!



Paving his way

A CSUN student's resilience, finding passion and creating a path to becoming a journalist during a pandemic

WRITTEN BY JASMINE CUZA

PHOTOS BY RODRIGO HERNANDEZ

Josh Ancheta began his academic journey at CSUN in 2017 majoring in political science. Little did he know, reaching the finish line of graduation would be a test of resilience and determination.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Ancheta moved to the United States in 2012 in search of better opportunities. His parents instilled the value of education in him in hopes it would guide him to a fruitful career.

"As an immigrant from the Philippines, college became a priority," Ancheta said. "Education has been engraved in me, and I want to finish in higher education and make my parents proud."

Ancheta took eight classes his first year at CSUN and maintained good grades. His friends were a significant part of his college experience and always supported him emotionally and

academically.

"There were instances where I felt confused, being a new student in a big college," Ancheta said. "I had a lot of friends and related to them, because I was

not the only one going through this new experience."

In 2018, Ancheta's education was

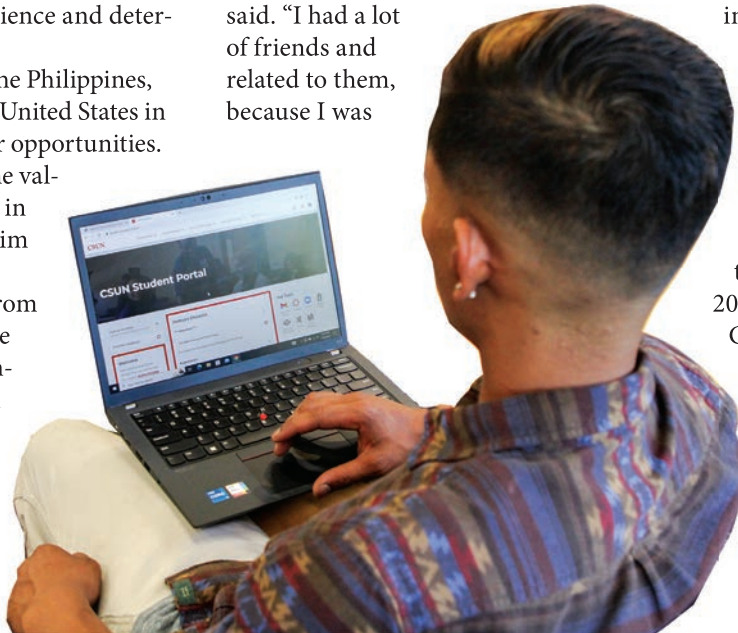
abruptly halted by a tragic car accident involving two of his friends. The accident claimed the life of one of his friends. Ancheta sustained serious injuries, including a bowel obstruction and nerve damage in his left arm. As a result of his critical condition, he was placed on bed rest and advised to prioritize his health, which led him to drop his classes.

After a year on bed rest, Ancheta returned to CSUN in the fall of 2019. But by the spring semester, the COVID-19 pandemic had started.

As a result, CSUN, along with other schools, was forced to halt in-person learning, opting instead for online instruction.

Facing a new environment, Ancheta found the transition to online classes challenging, which resulted in low grades.

"The online environment made my grades drop for a temporary period of time. Then I got the hang of everything, and my grades actually soared and were the highest they've ever been," Ancheta said.



During online school, Ancheta discovered his hidden passions and talents. While taking Journalism 372, Media and Diversity, his love for writing blossomed. This led him to minor in journalism alongside his political science studies.

“I minored in journalism because of the topics I wanted to talk about. I grew very passionate as a political science major,” Ancheta said. “I wanted my voice out there. I have yet to develop my own personal writing voice, but I have a strong passion for writing about politics and our world leaders.”

Being home during the pandemic helped him excel in his academics and learn new things about himself. Writing was an outlet for him to talk more about the things he was concerned about, including problems in the Asian community.

With a strong head on his shoulders and a newfound interest, Ancheta returned to in-person learning at CSUN during the fall. Though the campus was not how it was before, he was happy to be in an in-person social learning



environment. He became excited to start a new school year surrounded by his friends and create new relationships with his professors. One of his biggest accomplishments was learning he would be graduating in fall 2023. After college, he hopes to work in a newsroom writing about politics and community news.

“I feel my hard work is paying off, especially with school, to get a better

education, to get a better career as a writer,” Ancheta said. “I want to go into the workforce as a writer. I wanted to go to law school at first, but I have a calling to be a writer.”

He has proved that even in the darkest moments, there’s still a chance to find a way to shine. His academic career has been a story of perseverance and carving new paths amidst hardships.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF HERMANAS UNIDAS DE CSUN

Finding comfort within community:

A look at some of the oldest and newest clubs around



PHOTO BY TRISHA ANAS

WRITTEN BY JOSÉ C. DELGADO

As CSUN students return to campus for the fall semester, many will turn to clubs to find peers with similar interests or cultural backgrounds.

Hermanas Unidas de CSUN has been a mainstay on campus for 20 years, reaching that mark at the beginning of this school year.

Founded in 2003, the club aims to create a safe space for first-generation Latina students and encourage both undergraduate and graduate students to join.



Currently led by co-chair Natalia Rodriguez, the club prides itself on making all students feel welcome on campus, offering help on everything from schoolwork to filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, and offering students a place where they can connect with people that understand the situations they are in.

“I can really feel the community circle back again, it feels like it’s healing,”

Natalia Rodriguez

co-chair, Hermanas Unidas de CSUN

Rodriguez is in her fourth year as a member of the club. During this time, she has seen the club go through a difficult time online, but saw the club flourish as they came back in person last year.

“I can really feel the community circle back again, it feels like it’s healing,”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERMANAS UNIDAS DE CSUN

Rodriguez said. Rodriguez refers to board members as steering members. “You’ve got a group of 5-10 people joining us on Zoom, with most of us being steering members, to having 20-30 people coming into our campus meetings. I really feel connected to my people now.”

The community around the club is something that has kept people coming back, leading them to make meetings accommodating for commuters and include ASL interpreters.

“School is lonely, it is depressing sometimes,” said club member Katherine Sierras. “So having someone cheer you on, having this support group, it’s just so amazing for me.”



Hermanas Unidas de CSUN will be holding their meetings this semester at the Flintridge Room in the East Conference Center, located in the University Student Union. They can be found on Instagram @haudecsun.

But Hermanas Unidas de CSUN is not the only club holding space for their community.

Continued on Page 18



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERMANAS UNIDAS DE CSUN

All the chatter around ChatGPT

Q&A about ChatGPT

INTERVIEWED BY JAZ MENDEZ

PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS CHAN

Q

Q1 - There has been a lot of talk about ChatGPT in academia, particularly among professors hesitant to engage with this new technology. I found it interesting that you felt differently. Why is that?

TC: "Yeah, especially in higher education. A lot of people were hesitant to engage with technology, as we saw in the pandemic. I used that time to really dive into it.

"I don't blame them for being reluctant to use AI technologies. It's like their balance is being disrupted. I'm a little biased to the benefits because I work with AI. However, some people are like, 'Oh wow, this is Terminator, you know, Sky-net kind of thing.'

"It's not the end of the world and it's not going to replace everybody's job."

Q2 - A major argument against AI is driven by its potential to replace people, which perpetuates some level of fear. Can you speak more on this?

TC: "Yeah, especially when you think about copywriting or editorial writing.

"You could tell ChatGPT to write you an article with five paragraphs and it will do it. However, there is no human flair, which in my opinion, can never be replaced.

"So, in terms of replacing people, you have remedial stuff like transcribers. Back in the day, we would record transcripts of people and send it for edits. That one process would cost a lot. So those jobs are going to be replaced.

"It becomes more about evolving the self."



Thomas Chan holds little envy for his son of 2 months. His world will be different from ours due to technological advancements currently developing. Chan is an assistant professor of psychology at CSUN working to improve cognitive function of older adults through artificial intelligence.

Teaching since 2006, Chan welcomes AI in all its glory, particularly ChatGPT. OpenAI released the chat box service for public use on Nov. 30, 2022. It has since gained over 100 million users, as reported by Reuters.

ChatGPT is a tool for task simplification, a function appealing to college students. Those who abuse it make plagiarism almost indistinguishable. At the extreme, AI perpetuates fears about human replicability.

I spoke with Chan about the role of ChatGPT and AI in higher education. As he puts it, "They're our greatest partners yet."

Q3 - So, would you agree that more students should engage with AI technologies, with the intention to simplify a task?

TC: "Yeah, a thousand percent. AI can provide wrong information. It's up to the individual to avoid the propagation of wrong information.

"ChatGPT is just a tool. A tool is anything a human uses to get something accomplished, but when you partner with something such as artificial intelligence, it's like combining their information and our information to come up with the decision.

"That is where the future is moving to. So, training students that way is essential."

Q4 - Can you speak more about the negative effects of ChatGPT on students?

TC: "I have seen ChatGPT reinforce lazy students to be more lazy. For example, they can ask ChatGPT to write them a whole paper on Alzheimer's, right?

"Moreover, it reinforces professors to stick in their ways. Instead of changing their assignments, they punish students for using technology. Fostering laziness is harmful to the learning process in higher education.

Q5 - How do you think plagiarism affects professors who have no expertise on ChatGPT?

TC: "Yeah, it's a great question because it's hard.

"When I see a student cheat in a way that I'm like, 'Oh, that's pretty smart.'

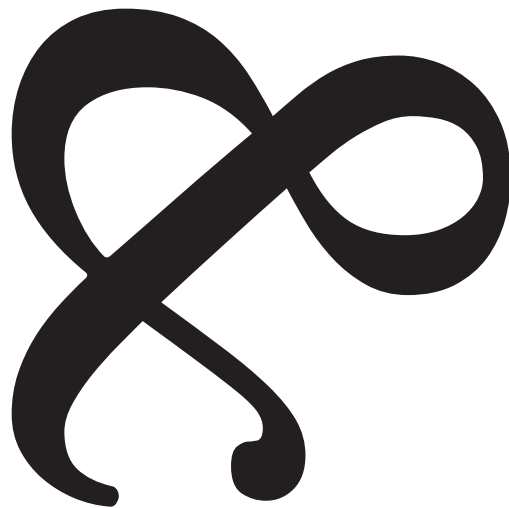
"I love getting challenged. Being at CSUN is all about inviting challenges, but this is hard for many professors.

"I have been able to figure out when a student plagiarized. A really great answer is a red flag. Especially if it's too technical. I know how students answer, and if I see something really inconsistent, something is up."

Q6 - As you mentioned, ChatGPT is changing the game. How do you think AI will affect the future of academia?

TC: "Interacting with this technology is undoubtedly the future and the future is now. If you don't know how to use ChatGPT or other AI-infused technologies, then you're already behind.

"Knowing the building blocks, such as the languages it scraped and processed, is the first step. We have to know the training data that goes with it and ask how we interact with that. Then, ask if the answers I am getting are biased. I have to understand the biases that come from it."



Q7: Would you say that, in the upcoming years, the data used in ChatGPT will be more diverse?

TC: "Yeah, it has to be. When newer things are being incorporated, the model is going to change and become more diverse. ChatGPT draws on information from 2021 and below. Just think about research, right?

"A lot of research is done with more rich and white affluent populations by white researchers. The data is a little biased because that's what science is right now. It's only in recent years that it has really changed and diversified."

Q8: Any final thoughts?

TC: "Yeah, I think we have to just be aggressive for CSUN. To really find a way, perhaps through a course, to train our students to interact with AI. We don't have to train students how to use a computer, right? They grew up with it. Now, AI is starting to develop, and we have to train our students or they'll lag behind once they enter the workforce."



Media Querencia

Querencia: Where bulls go in the ring

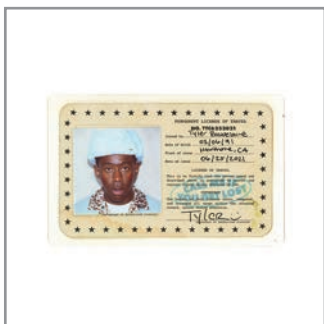
Cantando

WRITTEN BY PAMELA GARCIA



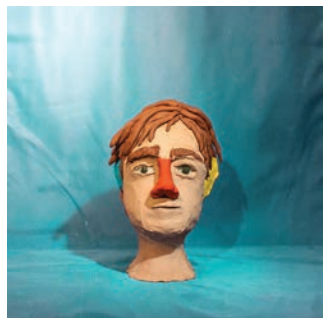
“Rocket Science” - Meet Me @ The Altar

This song acts as a loud reminder to not overcomplicate things or hold yourself back from your goals because they may seem daunting. As the title suggests, it isn't rocket science. Everything is possible as long as you're willing to believe in yourself and take risks.



“RUNITUP” - Tyler, the Creator (feat. Teezo Touchdown)

For a boost of confidence, “RUNITUP” is the anthem to feel like you are on top of the world. Tyler, the Creator speaks on the rewards of his hard work paying off in the track, despite all the doubters, who only made him want to work harder.



“Junior Varsity” - Dayglow

Toning it down, this soft track by Dayglow serves as a reminder to welcome the change that comes with starting a new chapter. It is the ideal song for mindfully reflecting on your college journey, and getting rid of those pre-semester nerves.



“Gold Steps” - Neck Deep

To wrap things up, it is important to acknowledge that there will be obstacles throughout the semester. “Gold Steps” is a great track to listen to whenever you're feeling down—the lyrics give a strong sense of encouragement to make it out on the other side and be proud of what you are achieving given the circumstances.

Matador Marquee

WRITTEN BY SASHA ALIKHANOV



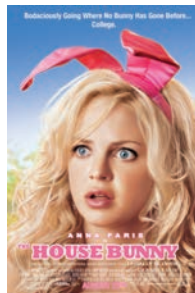
“Clueless” is a stylized time capsule of Southern California high schools in the '90s with quintessential fashion, music and references. From skating to fresh nose jobs, the film has something for everyone.



“20th Century Girl” is a look into a Korean girl's high school tribulations, ranging from spying on a classmate for her friend who has heart problems to accidentally falling into a love triangle.



“Legally Blonde” is a comedic film documenting a woman's willpower to learn, get what she wants and wear pink throughout. The main character studies law at Harvard while balancing her love life and helping her nail tech in hers.



“House Bunny” is a subversive comedy with topics ranging from sororities to societal expectations of women to ironic scantily clad car washes. While the main character is not in college, she becomes the “house mother” of an unpopular sorority. She teaches the members of the sorority how to throw a good party and they teach her how to accept herself.

Book Club

WRITTEN BY JAZ MENDEZ

Imagination has no limits, especially in literature. Debbie Ma has constructed her life as a mother and educator, never once hiding her love for reading. Ma is a psychology professor at CSUN in constant engagement with high-achieving students in the General Education Honors program.

As an undergraduate, Ma studied English. She received her graduate degree in literature from the University at Buffalo in 2004. Ma expressed the difficult transition from English to psychology.

"I decided to switch because psychology offered more solutions to problems I was interested in," Ma said.

Her fixation was always on marginalized voices, countering the numerous reading requirements of Western white writers. Nevertheless, she found solace in the unorthodox. From literary classics to Robert Sapolsky, Ma encourages students to give the following reads a try.



"Frankenstein"

by Mary Shelley

This fiction novel introduces the character of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist consumed by a desire to piece a monster together, blurring the ethical line.

"I like Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' a lot," Ma said. "That was one of the first books that I really fell in love with reading."

For Ma, the nameless monster represents marginalized voices like her own. Like the monster, Ma felt like an outsider and often lonesome throughout her time at college.

"I identify with this character because my parents immigrated here from China, but we grew up in a predominantly Latino neighborhood," Ma said. "Then I went to a very, very white college, so I just kind of remember always being a little bit on the outside."



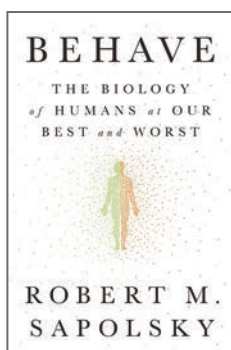
"Pride and Prejudice"

by Jane Austen

"My favorite novel is 'Pride and Prejudice' by Austen," said Ma.

This fiction novel is driven by the character of Elizabeth Bennet. Bennet's free spirit is faced with a societal expectation of marriage, her socioeconomic familial standing, and romantic perplexity towards Fitzwilliam Darcy Esquire, referred to as Mr. Darcy.

Ma expressed that having a female protagonist who sought experiences different from what her sisters were being prescribed was ahead of its time.



"Behave"

by Robert Sapolsky

"For nonfiction, I really love to teach 'Behave' by Sapolsky in my G.E. Honors Psychology 150 course," explained Ma.

From cellular to developmental, "Behave" breaks down a single behavior into multiple perspectives. The end goal is to identify what factors, such as social situations or personalities, lead to particular behaviors.

The technicality of neurons and brain structure has little to do with Ma's appreciation of this book.

"I just think it's so cool to take one thing and look at it from lots of different levels of analysis, and lots of different perspectives and disciplines," explained Ma. This book leads her class to a final discussion on free will, allowing students to take in different perspectives.

As a final note, Ma advises students to join a book club. The anxiety of college socialization can be overbearing, but Ma encourages healthy doses.

"There are so many books that have united people, like 'Harry Potter' and 'Twilight.' If you can, find people who are interested in the same things," said Ma.

Pilipino Youth Kollektive, one of the newer clubs, is entering their second year on campus. They aim to create change in the San Fernando Valley and raise awareness about Filipino issues.

Founding member Edel Evangelista recalls starting the club during a time when hate crimes against Filipinos were on the rise.



“At the time, there were a lot of Filipino hate crimes happening in the valley,” Evangelista stated. “We felt the need to create an organization that really helped out victims of that nature.”

The club educates members through a variety of ways, offering teaching in events, holding rallies, fundraising for victims of hate crimes, and creating infographics for their members.

Evangelista is the leader of the club’s education committee, overseeing how people educate themselves and planning what issues the club should focus on.

The club hopes to create a space for people with similar struggles and interests to meet and connect.

“The answer is really in educating ourselves and coming together to fight back against these things, through our campaigns, through our education and committees,” Evangelista stated. “It’s really all in this type of fight, emphasizing you’re not alone in this struggle.”



Pilipino Youth Kollektive holds their meetings at the Glenn Omatsu House on campus, a place Evangelista thinks offers the club a great space to interact with all members of the community. The club can be found @pyk.818 on Instagram.

Hermanas Unidas de CSUN and Pilipino Youth Kollektive will be present at Meet The Clubs, which is scheduled for Sep. 5-6 in the Sierra Quad.

Pilipino Youth Kollektive speak to protestors



PHOTO BY TRISHA ANAS



Migrants of the Nation are now fighting back

PHOTO BY TRISHA ANAS

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Dreams

Lizzy Maisons

It's not my first time being surrounded by so many dreams,

But I think this time it's different,
Because some of us are holding generational aspirations,
And that amount of dreams clustered together creates pressure,

Not only am I dreaming for me,
But for generations before me that dealt with oppression,
The kind that takes joy out of dreams,

So I dream big,
So I dream loud,
I create space for someone like me in these halls,
And when I feel like giving up,

I remember I only have to take it one day at a time.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN SILVA

What I Wish I Knew As A Senior

WRITTEN BY OUANESSA NANA

When senior year in college approaches you start to think about how you spent your last three years in school. Did you just go to classes or did you take every opportunity to do all the activities that college has to offer?

Some students feel the pressure of it, the twisting wave of nerves and uncertainty that rips around in your stomach like a cyclone, reminding you that you are at the end of your educational career. As a college senior, there are new challenges you might not expect or consider possible.

Finishing all your required courses so you're able to graduate, securing a job after graduation, networking, finding a mentor, building your resumes, and so much more. College is no easy feat, so I ask California State University, Northridge senior Leann Hamilton questions about her upcoming final academic year.

We sat in her car, tired and hot after a workout and I asked her some questions about being a senior.



1 “What is something you wish you knew before starting at CSUN?”

“I wish I knew how the campus life was before I started at CSUN, I didn’t realize it being a commuter school, it would not have that aesthetic campus life,”

“What do you mean? Could you elaborate?”

“Because it is a commuter school, a lot of people don’t stick around on campus and hang out.” Hamilton described a lack of everyday events that would keep students on campus. While events are not held every day, the University Student Union has a calendar of weekly and monthly events.

2 “What is the most helpful advice you received while at CSUN?”

“Utilize all the resources given to you for academics like tutoring [and] study groups.”

3 “Do you have a unique tip you would give a new student?”

“In college, professors have so many students, so if you miss an assignment, you still have a chance to make it up if you just tell them what is going on. Don’t give up when you make a mistake because it’s never over. And go to office hours so then they have a good idea of who you are.”

4 “What is something you think should be talked about more?”

“...global warming should be talked about more...especially in college because students tend to be oblivious of what is going on in the world, it’s going to be a team effort to fix what is happening [and] I think it should be a curriculum course that is necessary for students to take for graduation.” CSUN has a sustainability center that’s main focus is aiding the sustainable culture on campus that can later transcend to student’s everyday lives.

Being a college student is an accomplishment of perseverance. From the hours spent studying in the library to trying new foods on campus to spending late nights with your friends. So take a deep breath, work hard, and enjoy this time in your life.

You deserve it.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEANN HAMILTON



WE GIVE YOU
THE SKILLS.
YOU DECIDE
WHERE THEY
TAKE YOU.

Make the most of your potential with training,
tools, and mentorship. Develop your skill set
while pushing your abilities to the next level.

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FEATURED EVENTS



Oasis: Insight Timer

Free guided meditations available online

📍 insig.ht/4B9Wipxwinb



Pride Center Coffee Nights

Tuesday, Aug. 29: 5 – 7 p.m.

📍 Pride Center



Matafest

Thursday, Aug. 31: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

📍 Plaza del Sol



Matador Nights

Friday, Sept. 8: 7 p.m. – Midnight

📍 University Student Union



Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIIDA) Part 1

Wednesday, Sept. 13: 4 – 5:30 p.m.

📍 Northridge Center



Native American Welcome

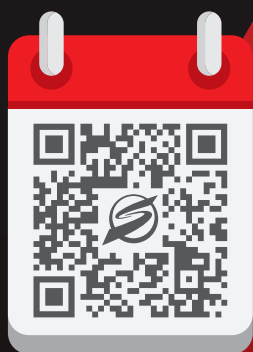
Thursday, Sept. 21: 3 – 5 p.m.

📍 La Casita (CAS/AIS Cultural Center)

THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION INCLUDES

- ▶ Computer Lab
- ▶ DREAM Center
- ▶ East Conference Center
- ▶ Games Room
- ▶ HEAL Project
- ▶ Northridge Center
- ▶ Oasis Wellness Center
- ▶ Pride Center
- ▶ Reservations & Event Services
- ▶ Student Recreation Center
- ▶ USU Board of Directors
- ▶ USU Programs
- ▶ Veterans Resource Center

AND YOU!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events subject to change



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