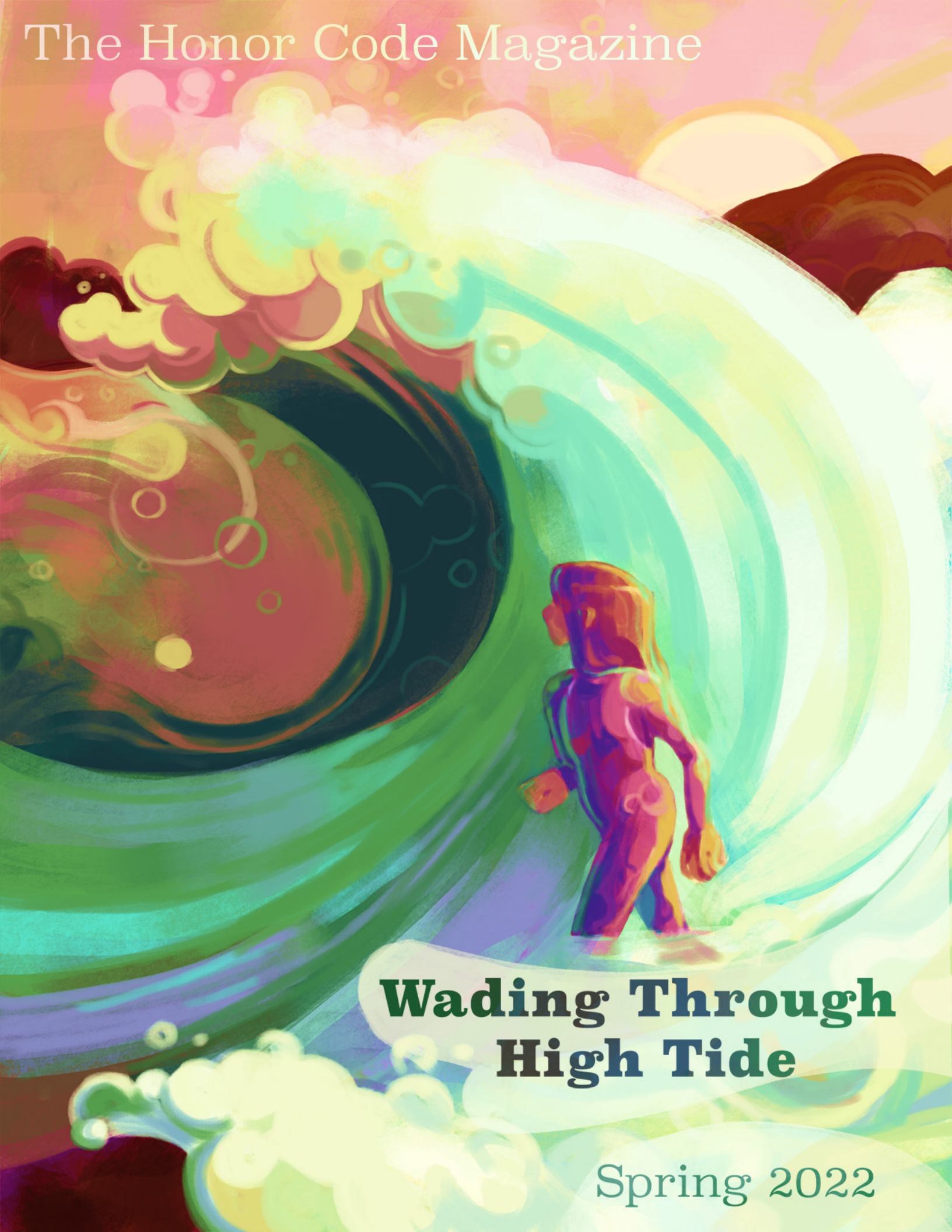


The Honor Code Magazine



**Wading Through
High Tide**

Spring 2022

“Your failure will teach you something new every single time. Keep going at it, keep going at it.”

Writer of All Things: the Wondrous Work of a Journalist & Poet
by Sumaiyah Hossain



letter from the editors

For many of us, this year brought us back to campus, forcing us to embrace change once again. Through the challenges we've met, we have proven ourselves dedicated and enthusiastic in pursuing our goals. For those of us graduating, we leave behind a footprint in the communities we built within and beyond the University Honors Program. Let us now welcome a future filled with the possibilities we've been working towards. As both of us finish off our undergraduate careers, we present to you an issue of *The Honor Code* that features extraordinary seniors and alumni, senior theses and creative projects, exciting adventures abroad, and triumphant accomplishments. Inspired by the excellent achievements of our Honors students amidst a collective feeling of uncertainty and newness, we convey our stories through our theme, "Wading Through High Tide." To those who accomplished their goals this semester, big or small, you did it! Continue to strive for excellence, and, above all else, always take care of yourself!

Good Luck and Farewell,
Sumaiyah and Berenice
Class of 2022



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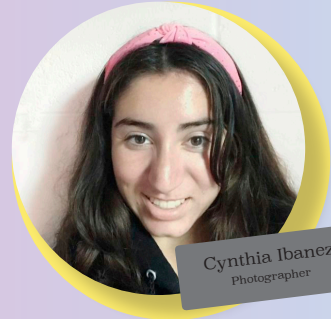
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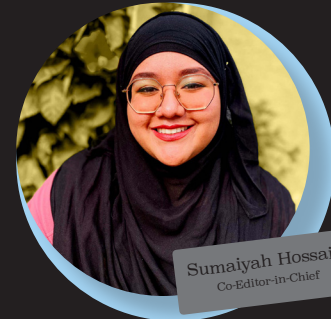


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meet the honor code team



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Senior Project...

but with a Dash of Color

by Camryn Yauchzee-Gonzalez

Emily Torres offers a unique perspective as she is spotlighted as an English major who is writing the first chapter of her original queer graphic novel for her senior project



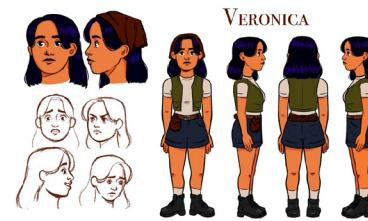
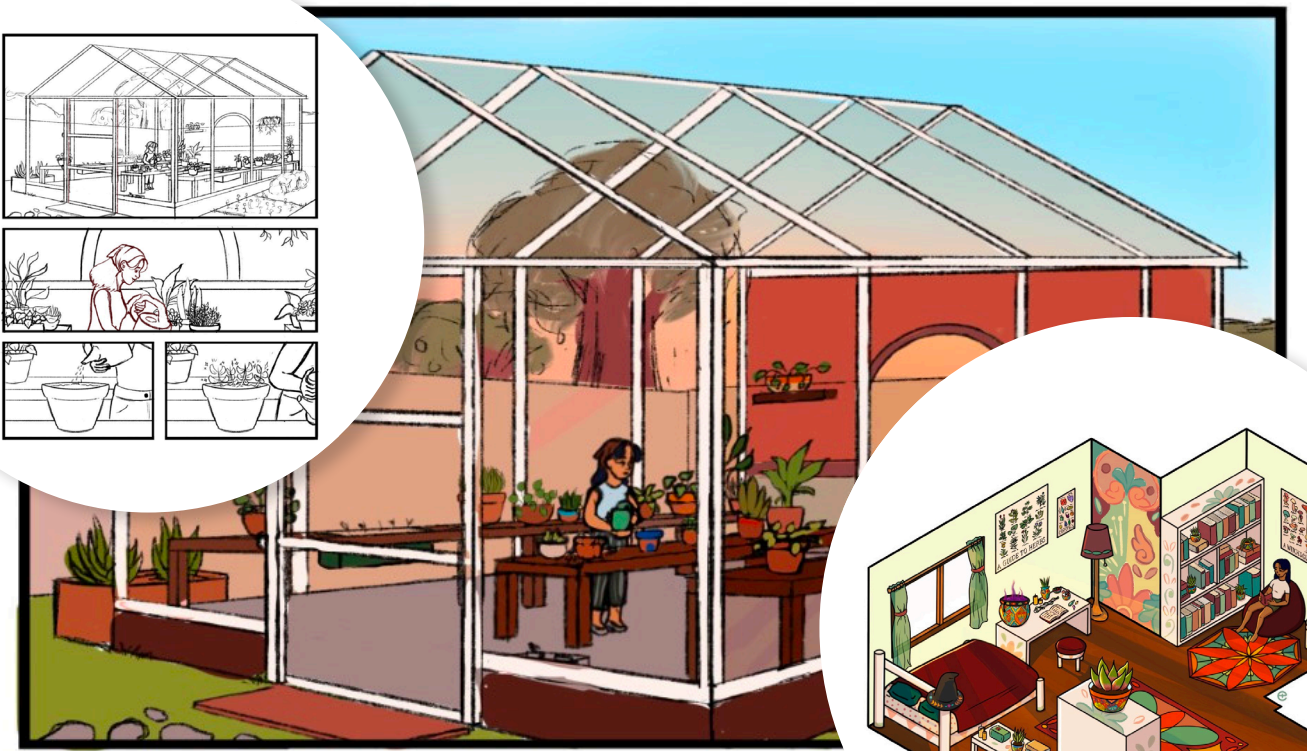
Emily Torres, a fourth year English major in the CSULB Honors Program is working on a senior project that is unique, insightful, and much different from what we are used to. Through a passion for literature and an eagerness to tell a complex queer story, Emily set out to base her project on her very own queer graphic novel. Her project will consist of the complete first chapter of her graphic novel titled "Give & Take." As Emily describes, the story is set in "a small Oaxacan town," where "young witch Vero sets off into the spirit forest to complete the generational tradition and earn her full-powers from the spirits if she proves herself worthy." Along the way, "she soon finds that the great spirits aren't as benevolent as they once were—something is twisting their magic and making them dangerous to all the creatures in the forest and beyond." Throughout the plot, Vero enlists "the help of her new fairy friend Olivia," and the two "set off to solve the mystery of the transformed spirits and find a new magic along the way: trust, friendship, and love."

With the help of her advisor, Kimberly Dwinell of CSULB's animation program, Emily underwent the daunting task of writing, drawing, and finishing the first chapter of her graphic novel. To begin the process, she experimented with how to focus on the way queer identity can be implemented into every aspect of the novel. To get an idea of how she could do this, Emily extensively researched existing queer graphic novels for inspiration. She used this research to craft a detailed literature review and zero in on the style

she wanted to pursue for her own graphic novel.

When deciding what to do for her project, Emily drew inspiration from what had not been done before in the Honors Program. She asked herself, "Can I do something novel and unique?" She realized that it was possible with the Honors Program's creative project option, but the journey to get there would not be easy. One of the challenges Emily faced when beginning her project was translating the typical thesis format into something that would fit her unique project. Once she found a format she could adjust to, Emily then faced the intense workload that accompanies a senior project. She mentioned that time management, juggling her other responsibilities alongside her novel, and the trials of producing art without formal training were all serious challenges that she has faced.

Despite the difficulties, Emily experienced many fun moments. For example, she stated, "I really like being able to decide what is important to write about," and "taking time to appreciate the art process



Emily's creative project includes the creation of scripts, thumbnails, and line art.

involved in graphic novels is also enjoyable." Emily also said she learned so much from her project overall, including the tedious creation of scripts, thumbnails, pencils, line art, and color ink versions of each page.

Once she has finished both her project and senior semester, Emily looks forward to submitting her completed work to publishers, hopefully working in the animation field, and continuing in the world of creative writing.

Restoring Muscular Tissue Through Muscular Regeneration Technology

by Abbas Abdulhasan

CSULB Honors undergraduate student, Drew Ramos, is working to develop a tissue regeneration implant for regrowing lost/deteriorated skeletal muscle in humans

Drew Ramos is a graduating senior majoring in Biomedical Engineering. He is also a President's Scholar and an NIH-BUILD Scholar at CSULB. For the past three years, he has been working in Dr. Peyla Ayala's tissue engineering lab at CSULB where he developed a passion for tissue engineering and conducting research within this field. He also helps Dr. Ayala in her BME 100 class as an instructional student assistant. In her lab, he has focused on the regeneration of skeletal muscle tissue using composite biomaterials; these are solutions made up of two or more constituent substances. He is passionate about advancing this field so that it can be used in biomedical applications.

Drew's Honors thesis is centered on regenerating skeletal muscle tissue using composite biomaterials and treating injured skeletal muscle tissue that has experienced biometric muscle loss, by using a bio-engineered implant. They can implant it into the patient and repair the skeletal muscle tissue so that it is fully functional, with no fibrosis or scarring even after a huge loss of skeletal muscle tissue due to surgery, injury, or disease.

Here at CSULB, his research mainly entails in vitro regenerative medicine and tissue engineering.

In Dr. Ayala's lab, he uses collagen type I and decellularized extracellular matrix (dECM) to create a solution that is then cast onto a PDMS scaffold, which has wells. This PDMS scaffold creates a flat sheet of the collagen-dECM solution. He is then able to seed myoblast cells onto these flat sheets and observe their growth and differentiation over time. These flat sheets have structured micro-groups at nanometer concentrations that can mimic the striations of muscle, which can greatly influence cell growth and proliferation. As Drew increased the dECM concentration from the early pure collagen type I solution, he was able to see the proliferation of myofibrils as well as myoblasts and higher protein expressions of β -actin, a critical muscle protein.

Drew at the Ayala tissue engineering lab.



Drew at Times Square during his UPenn internship.

The Ayala Lab hopes to scale this implant to be used in humans by incorporating stem cells.

Drew also participated in a 12-week internship over the summer at UPenn where he worked on a molecular imaging probe that can be used for fluorescence imaging of lung tumors, which can be applied to their identification and removals, and any excess tissue remaining after surgery.

Drew is excited to graduate this semester and has been accepted to the UPenn bioengineering Ph.D. program, along with the UCI bioengineering masters program. Drew is very optimistic about how the field of regenerative tissue engineering technology has been developing over the years and looks forward to contributing further to this compassionate field in his graduate school work.

An Academic Accomplishment

by Erin Larios

How one Honors student is driving academic progress in psychology and healthcare

Ana, a Psychology major and CSULB Honors student, crafted her thesis on an area of study severely neglected and embarked on a research journey that has been both transformational and revealing. Focusing on the transgender population, a group of people that have been historically “understudied in all academic fields,” Ana deemed this exploration critical in her field of psychology. Being severely understudied has detrimental impacts on the overall well-being of the transgender population, especially in healthcare and mental health, so examining an underexplored field was one of Ana’s major goals in her work.

To contextualize just how critical it was for Ana to focus on the transgender population, astounding statistics show that it is seven times more likely for transgender individuals to struggle with mental illness. Furthermore, there is a 50% rate of transgender individuals who experience sexual violence, anxiety, and/or depression, as well as a disproportionate increase in anxiety disorders and suicide rates that are six times more than the rest of the population. Consequently, Ana deemed it necessary to raise more awareness of the disparities in healthcare and mental health attention in her Honors Thesis.

Ana conducted her research to explore gender

The Relationship Between Minority Stress, Cognitive Distortions, and Gender Dysphoria

A THESIS

Presented to the University Honors Program
California State University, Long Beach

dysphoria.

Gender dysphoria is the idea of having a “discrepancy between one’s body, social role, identity, and the sex one was assigned with at birth.” Mediating the differences between how society treats an individual, as the sex they were assigned at birth, with their true identity and authentic self, results in some harrowing mental consequences and the disconnect between an individual and their identity.

In order to conduct her research, Ana reached out to the Los Angeles LGBT Center and was able to recruit an impressive number of participants. Although she wanted to get both transgender and cisgendered participants, a majority of the participants were transgender. This is especially impressive due to how hard it is to reach that amount of transgender individuals in one singular place, Ana emphasized. Once she cultivated a plan of action and recruited her participants, Ana was able to dive into her focus to figure out if



TRANS-LED MINORITY STRESS RESEARCH SURVEY

Fill out a short survey using the link below for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card!

Only 15 Minutes to Complete!



Ana’s research focuses on the relationship between gender dysphoria and minority stress.

“Rejection, invalidation, and not being treated how one identifies are instances of external events that can provoke higher levels of gender dysphoria and cause distress...”

“gender dysphoria is a part of minority stress” and to connect it to cognitive distortion. Using a standard honors timeline, Ana worked with an advisor who she already had a pre-existing relationship with as a research assistant. After getting approval for the research topic, Ana dove into the collection, analysis, and reporting of the data.

One of the biggest questions in her research stems from whether or not there exists a relationship between gender dysphoria and minority stress. Rejection, invalidation, and not being treated how one identifies are instances of external events that can provoke higher levels of gender dysphoria and cause distress, only heightening the discrepancy between how one identifies and how society treats them. Moreover, Ana wanted to explore how cognitive distortion factors into that equation as well. After conducting the research by utilizing about 80 volunteers, an anonymous survey took demographical data as well as a “psychological inventory” regarding the specific questions at hand about gender dysphoria, minority stress, and cognitive distortions. Once collected, the data was analyzed through a scale geared to investigate the study’s questions, and whether or not they supported Ana’s academic exploration. Her results reveal that “higher levels of gender dysphoria... are highly predicted by greater levels of minority stress. However, cognitive distortions were not found to be a significant mediator between minority stress and gender dysphoria.”

Ana’s work is incredibly important to healthcare and clinical treatment in conversations about transgender mental health. Wanting to “inspire curiosity” as well as contribute to the expansion of healthcare for a community that has been both historically marginalized and excluded from virtually all forms of clinical treatment, work like Ana’s thesis and dedication to clinical psychology can help to support the larger transgender community.

Oh! The Places You've Been: A Graduating Student's Academic Accomplishments

by Abbas Abdulhasan & Sumaiyah Hossain

Gina Ocegüera, tells us about her thesis and the fulfilling experiences she takes away from her undergraduate career

Completing her undergraduate degree in Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology with a Chemistry minor is Gina Ocegüera, a first-generation Honors student at CSULB. In addition to her work in Dr. Peter Ramirez's virology research lab, Gina has worked as a Resident Assistant (RA) for Housing's First-Gen House and as a part of the Counseling and Psychological Services's (CAPS) program, Project OCEAN.

During her time in Dr. Ramirez's lab, Gina has been able to work towards completing her thesis, which looks at the interactions between HIV surface proteins and human T cell surface proteins. Specifically, she looks for an interaction, and if found, she studies how they exist. She aims to figure out which transmembrane proteins are important. Thus far in her research, Gina has attended the November 2021 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS). The virtual conference gave her experience in composing and presenting a research poster. Gina is also set to attend the April 2022 Western Regional Honors Conference (WRHC). Since joining the lab in July 2021, Gina describes her time there as a really cool experience where she could work on her thesis.

After graduating this spring, Gina will finish up her work in the lab during the summer, spending

some time learning a few more techniques with Dr. Ramirez. Come August, Gina will attend the University of Utah to begin her PhD program in Microbiology and Immunology. Gina expressed this transition as a significant pivot since she spent her undergrad studying molecular cell biology and physiology. However, she looks forward to her time in Salt Lake City since the university offers a good academic package, receives abundant funding, and offers massive labs and a diverse faculty. She is currently set to begin her three rotations in antibiotic resistance, T cell biology, and virology.

Apart from the work Gina has done in her field of interest, she has worked for CSULB's Housing and Residential Life and Project OCEAN. As an RA, for the First-Gen House, Gina helped to support about 100 first-generation student residents with diverse backgrounds. Being a first-generation student herself, Gina describes her experiences as "walking into a dark room and not knowing where anything



Gina doing research in Dr. Ramirez's lab.



Gina at the University of Utah.



is but having to keep going." Gina hopes to leave a positive influence on her residents: "It's not as scary anymore [being a first gen student]," and she now shares the resources and information she has come across from her own experience.

On the other hand, being part of CSULB's Project Ocean during her junior year gave her experience in a team that worked in suicide prevention. In her role, Gina helped certify about 500 individuals, participated in several podcasts, and worked as a social media coordinator. From this experience, Gina learned about the importance of mental health and finding the best way to take care of yourself. She describes CAPS as a great way to start learning about your mental health.

As she reflects on her final semester at CSULB, Gina states, "This school has given me so much." She found a community in and outside her major and made many great academic, professional, and personal accomplishments. Her prosperous and fulfilling future surely awaits.

Activities of Daily Living

by Derek Madrid

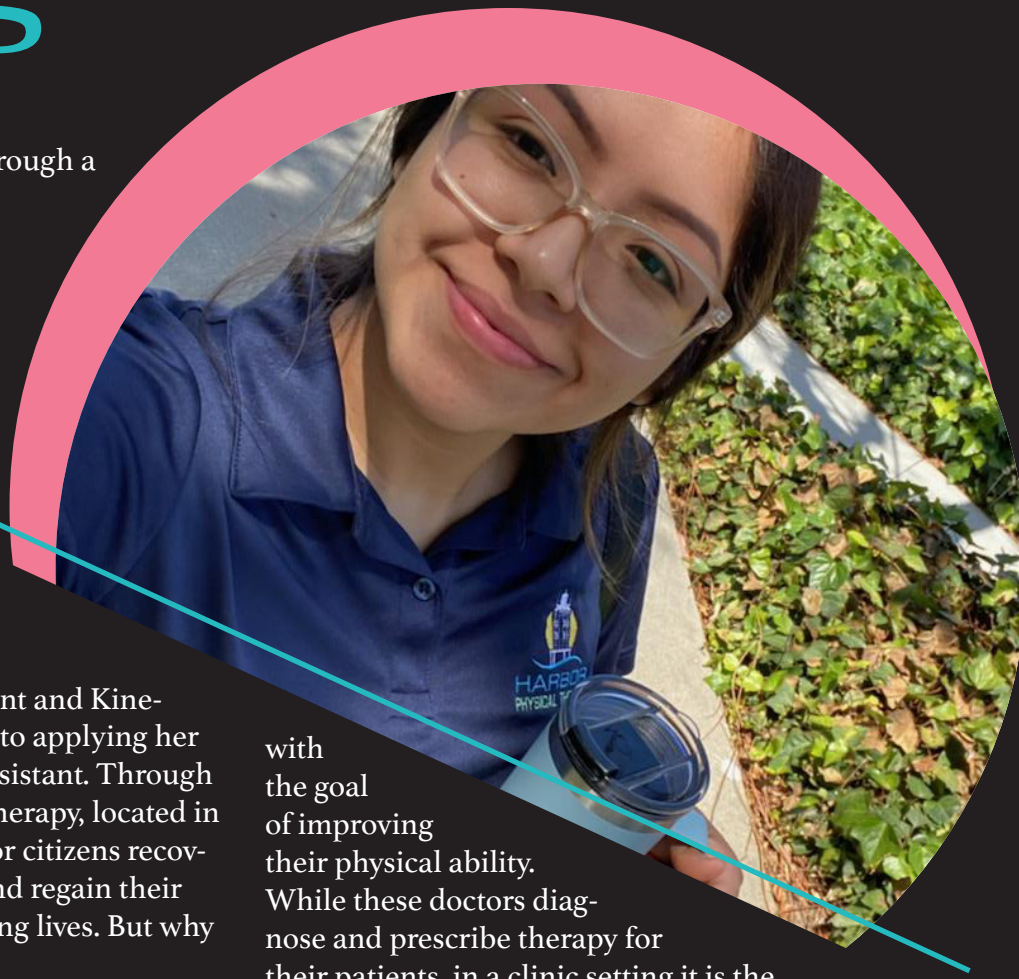
Connecting with the community through a physical therapy internship

“I think a lot of people are not aware of physical therapy... they do know about it but they don't know the specifics of it and ... how it can help you.”

Jullissa Gonzalez, an Honors student and Kinesiology major, has dedicated herself to applying her knowledge as a Physical Therapy Assistant. Through her internship at Harbor Physical Therapy, located in San Pedro, Ms. Gonzalez helps senior citizens recover from a weakened physical state and regain their strength so that they may live fulfilling lives. But why older adults?

As a person grows older, their physical health requires new forms of care to ensure their body is capable of performing Activities of Daily Living: the variety of necessary activities associated with a person's daily routine. Many older people must bolster their strength to keep up with the demands of the day. Others may have encountered injury and must recover their previous level of fitness. Naturally, senior citizens will engage with their physical health in new ways as they age, but the specific way in which they do this varies from person to person. According to Jullissa, many adults lack an education of how age affects the human body, and she goes on to say that just like anyone else confronted with an unfamiliar challenge, they need help to adapt.

Often, this help is in the form of Physical Therapy, where knowledgeable doctors, specializing in movement, plan exercise and therapy programs for patients



with the goal of improving their physical ability. While these doctors diagnose and prescribe therapy for their patients, in a clinic setting it is the Physical Therapy Assistants that directly oversee the patients' daily therapy.

Gonzalez explains that a Physical Therapy Assistant's schedule is both demanding and rewarding. Her daily tasks and responsibilities include greeting patients, checking them in, assessing their progress, teaching them how to perform exercises, and using specialized therapies such as Phono (a form of treatment using ultrasound waves combined with a medication gel), Blood-Flow Restriction (a form of treatment that helps patients make greater strength gains while lifting lighter loads), Ultrasound (a form of treatment in which vibration waves travel through the skin and into body tissue), H-Wave (a form of treatment using a proprietary electrotherapy device), and hot and cold packs. Although her formal duties are to oversee the physical therapy components of a patient's care, Gonzalez finds herself caring for the pa-



Gonzalez is an intern as a physical therapy assistant at Harbor Physical Therapy.

atient's emotional health as well. Many of her regular patients feel comfortable around Gonzalez, often talking cordially with her and sharing updates from their personal lives as if they were close friends.

While a day at Harbor Physical Therapy may be demanding, Gonzalez is content with her internship, exclaiming that her coworkers are friendly and helpful. She gives special credit to her coworkers Reid and Elsa for teaching her the many ins-and-outs of her new workplace when she first started volunteering in September of 2021.

At that time, she was engaged in online learning and felt her education was lacking a hands-on component. Gonzalez recounts that learning online was difficult; anatomy and physiology are complicated subjects which she had trouble concentrating on in her busy home. Missing this component in her education, she began to look toward internships as a way to engage with her school material in a deeper capacity. She found listings for internships in her field on the Beachboard for the CSULB Honors Program and

quickly took the initiative to apply. Although they were not hiring at the time, Gonzalez persevered to volunteer at Harbor Physical Therapy in the winter, which soon blossomed into an internship with a company full of kind friends and knowledgeable mentors.

While Gonzalez is happy with her current internship, and plans to continue it until she finishes her undergraduate degree, she looks to the future with eagerness for a career in Physical Therapy. Her plans involve attending Physical Therapy school to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). At the moment she is focusing on preparing for DPT programs during her remaining time at CSULB. Gonzalez is considering other short-term options as well: she expresses interest in learning more practical Physical Therapy techniques such as massage therapy, which she is considering getting her certificate in before continuing toward her DPT. Gonzalez's passion for patient care and education are commendable, but her commitment to learning and improving herself serve as an example for many Honors students.

When asked how to find an experience similar to hers, Gonzalez advised, “If you're interested in a certain... career, get an internship, get your feet wet... that will help you know if that's what you really want to do.”

For those who think an internship seems daunting, she replies, “In life you got to do things that you don't like, if you want to succeed you got to do it.”

Writer of All Things: the Wondrous Work of a Journalist & Poet

by Sumaiyah Hossain

A look into the professional and personal achievements of Jireh Deng as they break through the world of writing

Writing has always been known for the difficult skill that it is, and the reality is that writing can be more difficult for the writer than other people. It requires constancy, talent, and confidence, traits that students like Jireh Deng have acquired in their pursuit as a journalist. As a fourth year studying Economics and International Studies, Jireh is both a full-time student and journalist, having worked at the L.A. Times, L.A. Taco and currently interns at NPR's Diverse Sources Desk. On top of that, they're involved with community organizing spaces in Los Angeles and has participated in three art galleries in the past year.

Jireh's interest in writing began when they discovered it to be a space where they could "engage in self-expression without a lot of judgment." They received scholarships for classes to learn with different writers and often found themselves in spaces where people write with the same purpose. Jireh expressed that they now have "a better understanding of what it means to write with the perspective of someone who is and isn't part of the story," a valuable lesson for a journalist to learn because "it's important to recognize that your own lived experiences factor into how they see and report on different communities."

Most recently, Jireh began interning at NPR,

where they work with a great, talented set of people that are open to their ideas. Jireh reflected on their experience in other newsrooms that displayed passivity towards the diversity brought to each team; this had Jireh pondering the question, "How is this newsroom going to look at me because I walk into this space, and I bring a different experience?" At NPR, they experienced an environment where they could bring their whole self. The internship has provided Jireh a range of opportunities, such as finding diverse sources, writing on bell hooks and Harry Styles, and even designing a t-shirt for NPR Gaydio, an employee resource group. Overall, Jireh feels privileged to love what they're doing and to be working with the team they have.

In addition to their work as a journalist, Jireh continues to also pave their path as a poet. Though they don't actively market themselves as a performance poet, Jireh has participated in sev-

Photo taken by
Grace Widyatmadja in 2021.



Photo taken by Dion Aghajani at Junior High Los Angeles.

eral readings, worked with the Human Rights Campaign, performed as the opening poet for CSULB's convocation, and is currently working with LACMA on their Chinese contemporary art gallery where they will be contributing a poem. American poet and author Ada Limón also featured one of Jireh's poems on her podcast, *The Slowdown*. Jireh has recently self-published her own cheaper book, *The Purpose of All Things*, a debut of their poetry, photography and media produced during the 2020-21 pandemic years.

As Jireh looks ahead into their future, they are unsure of their immediate plans. Regardless, Jireh aspires to break into the screenwriting industry. "Journalism," they note, "gives a boost into that because it sharpens your writing skills." And while Jireh loves journalism, they explain how it can be exhausting; though they see it as "the vehicle to storytelling about different communi-

ties," they only see themselves as a journalist as long as it's "useful and important to the people" they want to write about.

When asked what they would want people to know about the work they've done so far, Jireh states, "With my work, it's a product of being in community with people, and it's a product of developing organic connections. If you want to achieve these things, you have to put yourself out there. If you have a talent for writing, people will recognize it. And you have to take initiative. You have to be willing to be someone who's a little bit gutsy and have a little bit of a fire under you." Jireh's work as a journalist, poet, and writer of all things has been a fruitful one, and she continues to break new ground with each new step. They adamantly believe that drive is what it takes to accomplish your goals: Jireh concludes that "the difference between you who wants something and someone who's already doing it is that you just need to take the step and do the action. If you've been wanting to get into poetry, there are free classes. If you want to get into writing, join the school newspaper. Apply as many times as it takes. Your failure will teach you something new every single time. Keep going at it, keep going at it."

Broadening One's Horizons

by Erin Larios

The life-altering study abroad experience of Aleksandra Brajonovska

In the middle of December, as the majority of the CSULB community was returning home, taking a break, or preparing and celebrating the holidays of the season, Honors junior Aleksandra Brajonovska, was about to embark on a life changing study abroad experience. As a third year biology student, one of her longtime goals was to participate in an international learning experience. Consequently, the winter session, a three week course, centered around a "Child Development and Family Structure" class was her perfect fit.

Aleksandra's experience in Europe takes place in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Slovenia. Having always wanted to visit her Eastern European family, the opportunity to visit this region was "[her] calling." Although Aleksandra encountered some difficulties traveling to Europe, like a flight switch, lost luggage, and the surge of the Covid variant Omicron, she and her classmates were able to find their way to Zagreb, Croatia. In Zagreb, the first night welcomed the group to the culture, the food, and the local nightlife of Croatia. During the group's experience in Zagreb, a day trip to Zadar, Croatia, one of the oldest inhabited coastal cities, held an excursion to a sea organ and Venetian ruins, which were a crowd favorite amongst the students.

Traveling next to Ljubljana, Slovenia, Aleksandra recalls this city as the most "Europeanic." New to

Europe and to the visiting students, was the fact that "nothing is open" on Sundays. While in Ljubljana, the group also visited Bled, Slovenia, a town on Lake Bled in a region of Northwest Slovenia. Returning back to Croatia, the students spent a few days in Split. Aleksandra recalls the "really amazing" tour guides who were like friends to the visitors in their journey abroad. Moving through Croatia even further, the group visited Dubrovnik, the warmest place Aleksandra and her classmates visited, with "LA-like weather" that also housed some eye-opening experiences. Meeting with a survivor of the Yugoslavian war, the group got to converse with a man who saw the first attack and the first seige in Croatia, deeming Dubrovnik and the meeting with a war survivor a "really cool experience."

Finally, the group ventured into Bosnia and Herzegovina. First stopping in the country's city of Mostar, the old city is known for a bridge built

Aleksandra strolling through Diocletian's Palace in Split, Croatia.



Four Honors students (Amanda Truelove, Dean Payne, Aleksandra Brajanovska, and Emmanuel Evans) on Mt. Bjelasnica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was the mountain used during the Sarajevo Olympics of the 1980's.

during the Ottoman Empire which was destroyed during the homeland war. Due to how impactful the war had been on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the lasting remnants were engulfed in the life of the locals and the historical sites Aleksandra got to see first hand. Aleksandra emphasizes the partisan gravesites of a group of Yugoslavian soldiers that fought against Nazis and were honored with their names, birthdays, and death years. Although memorialized, sentiments of the conflict remain traversed in the turmoil of the country, and the lasting effects of the war speak to how formative it has been to this region in Europe. Visiting next Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina's capital, more history of the war is illuminated in the strategy of transporting goods through a one way pass, called the "Tunnel of Hope," as well as the Sarajevo Roses, which were explosion marked within the cement that were shaped like roses and left intentionally to "show people the atrocities that occurred there." Furthermore, the group visited a museum showcasing what happened to the

children of the war and the generational impacts, adding another layer of perspective to the trip.

Lastly, a day trip to Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the Bosnian genocide happened, revealed more of the harrowing history of this country. However, one notable and more optimistic experience in Srebrenica revolves around the group visiting a local school. Hosted by the principal, the visitors were assigned a child to sponsor, and were able to buy the child some gifts off of their wishlist. Although it was heartwarming, the "humble" wishlist underscored a more compelling narrative of gratitude that was touching to Aleksandra and her classmates.

Returning home from the incredible experience, Aleksandra confirms she would take another opportunity to travel, learn, and experience another country in a heartbeat. As "educational and eye-opening" as the experience was for Aleksandra, this "perfect hands on experience" was also the "most enriching experience one could ever have." The revealing history of Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina speaks to how we can honor the past by being present and living in the moment. Enjoying time and being present is often neglected in the hustle and bustle that is life, but it is critical. Alongside broadening one's worldview, experiencing life in other cultures can result in not only enriched learning but life changing opportunities to truly experience life.

Carrying Cobblestones: the Journey of Creating a Path

by Sumaiyah Hossain

CSULB alum, Berenice Contreras, describes her academic and professional journey as a first-generation Latina student

Luisa of Disney's recent film, *Encanto*, captures the overwhelming pressure felt by someone in a position of paving a path where one didn't exist. "Pressure like a drip, drip, drip that'll never stop," she expresses, and while she hangs onto "all the heavy things" others can't shoulder, a constant question remains: "Who am I if I can't carry it all?"

The pressure and expectations Luisa experiences is one that echoes in the lives of many first-generation students like Berenice Contreras.

As a first-generation Latina student from the Central Valley, Berenice came to CSULB and completed her bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies. Through different programs, like the Educational Opportunity Program and the University Honors Program, Berenice learned about student affairs and fell in love with higher education. In August 2021, she completed her master's degree in post-secondary education in student affairs.

During her undergraduate years, Berenice explains feeling lost and struggling when she completed her first semester at CSULB with a low GPA. Despite feeling defeated, Berenice made the most of her access to resources and advisors, who helped her through her undergrad. She found a community that supported her as she established her identity and gained confidence as a student.

When Berenice went on to apply to CSULB's Student Development in Higher Education program, she

was optimistic and sure of the path she was choosing. However, when she didn't get in, she felt "crushed," especially because she had high expectations and faced a lot of pressure in academia. Instead, Berenice chose to take a break from education and work full-time as an advisor.

Within two years, she began reapplying to graduate programs and fell in love with a program at USC, where she was accepted and completed her master's degree. While there, Berenice encountered possibilities she previously considered "bigger than anything possible." Seeing the diverse campus, she felt unexpectedly seen, and, as she navigated her way through graduate school, Berenice found support in both new resources and those she cultivated in CSULB's Honors Program. "Those connections," she states, "were a good reminder of why I wanted to go into this field, to help students like I was helped, and to get uncomfortable and go to USC."

With the weight of her academic career and future aspirations, Berenice describes the struggles she

CSULB and UHP alum, Berenice, is graduating from USC with her Master's in Higher Education.



she faced while working and going to school full-time amidst a pandemic and historical election season. She reflects on a particular assignment in a class on race and identity that asked students to consider a time in their lives when they experienced marginalization. Berenice struggled with this one-page essay but came to realize how far back her experiences of marginalization go. As early as kindergarten, Berenice remembers feeling less intelligent because English wasn't her first language: "I felt like I really needed to prove myself from kindergarten on, which is a crazy pressure to put on yourself as a child ... I realized from then on how I suppressed my identity in order to feel more intelligent. I had this misconceived experience where I thought education was being away from my culture. I didn't realize that until I took that class ... it was empowering to work through it all." Berenice applied herself to her coursework to learn how "we can try to break these systems" that cause the marginalization students face.

For those aiming to pursue higher education,

Berenice highly encourages networking. "People are a lot more willing to help than you know." When she found herself in certain situations that asked her to make an important decision, Berenice communicated with people she knew and didn't, and "everyone was so willing to send a Zoom link, to sit down and talk." These connections are extremely important because, as Berenice explains, many first-generation students can't go to their parents for questions on academics or financial aid, however "there is somebody on campus who does know and is willing to help."

Berenice recently accepted a position at USC as an academic advisor. She deeply appreciates the advisors she's met along her academic career for helping her achieve her goal, and now she hopes to help students like herself. Though she'll be at USC for quite a bit, Berenice loves the diversity of CSULB and hopes to return one day.

Congratulations on your success, Berenice. And thank you for laying down each cobblestone you have thus far in spite of all the pressure, the cracks, and the breaks.

Senior Spotlight: Sumaiyah Hossain

by Morgan Barragan

From teaming with the most prominent groups on campus to nurturing new programs, Sumaiyah Hossain does it all

First generation students know it best: finding a sense of community in university is a battle. Sumaiyah Hossain, a first generation Bangladeshi and Guatemalan student, struggled at first to find where she belonged. Over her four years at CSULB, Hossain has made her mark on campus.

Hossain previously worked as a Senator-At-Large, and later Vice Chair, for Student Government and as the Director of Operations and Logistics for TEDx. She was a peer mentor for the Honors Peer Mentoring Program, and is currently a “guinea pig” in the Honors Fellows program, a founding member in the promotion and success of IDEAS by Students, and, best for last, the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Honor Code* magazine.

Reminiscing back on her first Honors class, Hossain remembers the reason she was first driven to become more involved on campus: peer pressure—but not in a negative way. Another student in her class, a freshman like Hossain, was already involved in multiple ways on campus. Hossain was stunned, thinking she would have more time to ease into involvement. She felt motivated to jump into the deep end and involve herself anywhere and everywhere on campus.

“You know, the thing about me is I take a lot of bets on people; so, I took a bet on her actually being true to her word in saying that [getting involved] was worth it.” It was so worth it.

The first steps are always the most treacherous part

of the battle. Hossain recalls feeling like “a fish learning to climb a tree”—a funny phrase to say that she felt displaced. Once you find a sense of grounding, though, you unlock a new world of possibilities and accomplishments.

Throughout her years at CSULB, Hossain is proud of the ripples she leaves behind. Her most impactful experience was her time working with TEDx. In this role, Hossain planned for the conference day and ensured the day of the event was properly executed. Hossain was inspired by her team and gratified by their achievements. “There was something in the air that made it really great ... it was so worthwhile.”

Now, Hossain looks into the future with both uncertainty and excitement. Graduating this spring semester with a B.A. in English Literature, Hossain hopes to venture down numerous paths, including: studying abroad, teaching abroad, teaching at a collegiate level, working in editing and publishing, working in event planning, and working within nonprofit



Sumaiyah while at a local, abandoned asylum.



Sumaiyah and CSULB leadership group posed before the inside of the Israeli separation wall while visiting Palestine.

organizations. Hossain’s biggest, yet most intimidating dream, is becoming a writer.

Her involvement on campus has taught her to welcome that feeling of uncertainty, for the most difficult obstacles and the most intimidating aspirations can be the most worthwhile accomplishments.

Hossain’s advice to other students hoping to immerse themselves more on campus is to “start wherever is most comfortable,” and “check those emails!” More than anything, “make sure these are things you are willing to set aside time in your schedule to do.” Involvement on campus is what you make of it! Sumaiyah Hossain is a shining example of the value of involvement.

An End of an Era

by Derek Madrid

The success and legacy of the Moot Court Program

Early in the spring semester, California State University Long Beach's (CSULB) Political Science Department triumphed in the American Moot Court Association's National Championship (AMCA) for appellate advocacy. A team of two long-time and fearsome partners, Vaishalee Chaudary and Marco Romero battled to the top and claimed the champion spot for CSULB for the first time in 9 years. Vaishalee and Marco make an incredible duo of sharp, well-spoken, legal professionals in the making; rather than the exception, they are the standard for the CSULB Moot Court Team. The CSULB program boasts over a dozen participants, each a tough competitor in the Moot world. This group is selected, taught, and coached by Dr. Lewis Ringel, who acts as both Director of the Moot Court program and a professor within the Political Science Department.

Moot (as it is affectionately called by the team) is considered a prestigious program in the eyes of Dr. Ringel and its participants. To join Moot, a candidate must submit an application consisting of several questions, short responses, transcripts, and two letters of recommendation. If a candidate makes it through this portion, they will interview with Dr. Ringel before hearing back on their admission. For those interested, this process can seem daunting. It is designed to filter out those who are not intensely dedicated. But for those with confidence to brave the interview process and with skill to earn a spot on the team, the experience can be life changing. Many Mooters extol the academic and professional benefits of the program, but that's not the only boon granted

to long-time Mooters. As Vaishalee remarks, "I didn't know anything about it going into [Moot]. I ... wanted to have this team environment and [I've made] long standing friendships; [Marco and Aleece are my best friends], we're inseparable now."

The core of CSULB's current Moot team is made up of 5 seasoned Mooters, many of which are Honors Students: partners Vaishalee and Marco, partners Aleece Hanson and Celeste Sanchez, and Kelton Munch, who is partners with a student from The College of Wooster in an experimental hybrid team. Between these teams CSULB Moot has earned over a dozen regional Championships in the last 4 years. While Vaishalee and Marco are standouts on the Moot team for their repeated regional victories and recent National victory, they are not the only Mooters with substantial success. Aleece and Celeste, who have had various partners throughout their time in the program, came together in their final year to secure several regional victories and a top eight placing in the national competition. Kelton and Georgina have been partners for 2 years in Moot, taking several regional championships and placing in the national



Marco Romero (Left) and Vaishalee Chaudary (Right)



Kelton Munch (Left) and Dr. Ringel (Right)
Photo Credit: Debbie Hildreth Pisarcik - College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office

competition during their time together.

Each member has their own unique story and relationship with Moot: Aleece is double majoring in Political Science and Spanish, joining Moot in preparation for a career related to high-level political policy. Her partner, Celeste, is double majoring in Political Science and Business and chose to participate in Moot for its heavy emphasis on verbal debate skill. Kelton studies political science; he is a part of Moot to practice using hard, legal skills, which is great preparation for a career in criminal law.

Each member trains with their partner, writing legal briefs, practicing arguments, and holding mock competition rounds to help prepare for their verbal arguments in front of judges. In the CSULB program, there are assistant coaches that play the role of the judge; they range from former CSULB alumni to retired or practicing lawyers and judges. They serve as an experienced and knowledgeable resource for the Moot team, pushing members to sharpen their argu-



Celeste Sanchez (Left) and Aleece Hanson (Right)

ments and become confident in their position.

This environment acts as an incubator for skilled Moot competitors, and it would not exist without Dr. Ringel. According to Kelton, the quality of the Moot program is a product of Dr. Ringel's steadfast dedication to the sport. This attitude may cause distress to students that first encounter Dr. Ringel, but Celeste assures that he cares deeply for the success of Moot Court members, not just in the sport but in their personal, academic, and professional lives as well. The core Moot team agrees: Dr. Ringel's presence in their lives encourages them to strive for greater results in Moot and all aspects of life.

For the Moot family, a combination of a close-knit team and a National Championship in tow would mean year-long celebration, but the emotions are bittersweet as all five members of CSULB's core will be graduating. Vaishalee and Marco have been accepted to UCLA Law; Aleece will also pursue a degree in law and has received acceptance letters from many schools including USC, but is still deciding where she will attend. Celeste will be working toward a joint degree of a PhD in political economy and a degree in law, and she is currently deciding between many excellent schools. Kelton will be working toward his law degree in Waco, Texas at Baylor Law. As these aspiring and talented students move on to the next stage of their career, it is important to remember their legacy of hard-work, dedication, and academic excellence within the program.

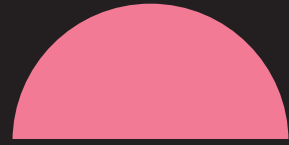
“What is the future of Moot?”



It seems that success is not limited to the graduating members, but is inherited through the program. Future members are already being trained for the next competition year. Dr. Ringel's skill and expertise remains with the program, ensuring its bright and successful future.

The Moot Court Family, including guests California Representative Alan Lowenthal (Center) and CSULB College of Liberal Arts Dean David Wallace (Top Right)

Photo Credit: Debbie Hildreth Pisarcik - College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office



Honors Theses & Creative Projects

*President Scholarship Recipients

Fall 2021

Gina Bentley

Dr. Kimberly Walters
*International Studies, B.A.,
Political Science B.A.*
Persistence of the Kafala System
in Qatar

Alara Blofield

Dr. Ga Young Suh
Biomedical Engineering B.S.
Design and Simulation of a
Novel Series Left Ventricular
Assist Device (LVAD)

Emma Burton

Dr. Deborah Fraser
*Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology B.S.*
C1q Modulation of Adhesion
Molecules in Human
Monocytes in Atherosclerosis

Noelle Chin

Dr. Jayne Howell
Anthropology B.A.
Narrative Analysis of 2020
Pandemic Experiences within
Locally Owned U.S. Restaurants

Darren Cobian

Dr. Hossein Sayadi
Computer Science B.S.
Comprehensive Efficiency
Analysis of Machine Learning
Algorithms for Developing
Hardware-Based Cybersecurity
Countermeasures

Katerina Coronado*

Dr. Soyeon Kim
Animation, BFA
The Art of Crafting Imaginary
Worlds: How Worlds Are Built
for Animated Feature Films

Brianna DeGuzman

Dr. Pia Gupta
*Business Administration,
Accountancy B.S.*
Impact of Covid-19 on Labor
Practices (CSR)

Jonah Deocariza*

Dr. Patricia Loughrey
Theatre Arts B.A.
OURSELF: An Analysis of
Creative Identity Through
Playwriting

Paul Didham

Dr. Jonathan Phan
*Business Administration,
Information Systems B.S.*
An Exploration of Personali-
ty, Subjective Well-being, and
Behaviors in the Nomological
Network of Trait Boredom: A
Meta-Analysis

Maria Galarza-Rojas*

Dr. Jean Lee-Lin
Health Care Administration B.S.
5 Key Considerations for a
Healthcare Facility in Response
to a Pandemic

Melissa Guttormsen

Dr. Sarah Taylor
*Family and Consumer Sciences,
Family Life Education Option B.A.*
A Preliminary Study on Dif-
ferent-Sex Friendships and
Romantic Relationships in a
College Sample

Ivan Herrera

Dr. Daniel Whisler
Mechanical Engineering B.S.
The Design, Construction, and
Analysis of an Open Circuit
Wind Tunnel

Victor Jung

Dr. Emel Demircan
Mechanical Engineering B.S.
Performance and Kinematic
Analysis of Fine Human Hand
Movements Using Motion Cap-
ture Software

Joanne Kasem

Allison Butler J.D.
*Business Human Resource
Management B.S.*
California Healthcare
Whistleblowers During a
Pandemic

Kevin Katz

Dr. Sara Moghtadernejad
Chemical Engineering B.S.
Nuclear Power and Its Imple-
mentation: From Atoms to
Waste

Kim Hor Keu

Dr. Perla Ayala
Business Economics B.A.
Cadiac Fibrosis Model

Hannah Kotoff

Dr. Joe Kalman
Mechanical Engineering B.S.
Milling condition influence on
boron-polytetrafluoroethylene
composites

John Krallman

Dr. A. Chassiakos
Electrical Engineering B.S.
Traffic flow improvement by
modeling delay at traffic city
intersections.

Aileen Lai

Dr. Michelle Barrack
Nutrition and Dietetics B.S.
GDF-8 Concentration in Labo-
ratory Selected Mice and its Ef-
fect on Muscular Hypertrophy

Cameron Larios

Dr. Bryan Rourke
Health Science B.S.
GDF-8 Concentration in Labo-
ratory Selected Mice and its Ef-
fect on Muscular Hypertrophy

Allison Lloyd

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Political Science B.A.
Environmental Law and The
Roberts Court's Evolving
Judicial Ideology

Kristi Maeda

Dr. Miriam Henan-Watts, MSG
Biology B.S.
The Effects of Dextrose
Prolotherapy on the
Musculoskeletal Disorders:
Osteoarthritis, Tendinopathy
and Low Back Pain

Ryan Mardon

Dr. Jane Dabel and
Dr. Ali Igmen
History B.A.
Lincoln and McClellan: The
Forgotten Efforts of an Impact-
ful General

Taydem Marshall

Dr. Joan Fisher
Psychology B.A.
How Personal Control Affects
Stress and Sleep in College
Students

Cassidy McCoy

Dr. Maricela Correa
Psychology B.A.
Gender and Cultural Patterns in
Latinx Children's Collaboration
Styles

Amber McCready

Dr. Karissa Miller
Psychology B.A.
Disability, Resilience, and Sib-
linghood

Saira Monay*

Terrence Giannone J.D.
*Business Administration,
Accountancy B.S.*
Human Rights Implications in
the Fast Fashion Industry: A
Qualitative Analysis

Nathaniel Pereira

Dr. Debra Satterfield
Design B.A.
Implicit Bias in UX Research
Methodologies

Jennifer Rauda

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Marine Biology B.S.
Larval Survivability of
Reef-Building Tubeworms
Ficopomatus Enigmaticus and
Hydroides Gracillis at Variable
Salinity

Angelica Sacor

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Psychology B.A.
Measuring Levels of Family
Shame, Family Perfectionism in
Latinx Americans

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Mechanical Engineering B.S.
COE News: Improving Student
Engagement

Brooke Sasse*

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Liberal Studies B.A.
How Lifestyle of College Stu-
dents Impacts Their Perceived
Amount of Stress

Mariana Silva

Armando Mejia
Sociology B.A.
Reaching The Stars: News Me-
dia Framing of DREAMers in
the U.S.

Dakota Strahl*

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Kinesiology, Exercise Science B.S.
 Multiple Sclerosis: The Various Effects of Pharmaceuticals, Diet, and Exercise as Forms of Therapy

Georgie Suico

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Political Science B.A.
 ARMYs & Activism: K-Pop as Political Engagement and Transnational Advocacy

Jaiden Swigart

Dr. Joe Kalman
Aerospace Engineering B.S. (Aeronautics)
 Development of a Two Color Pyrometer

Leah Tan

Dr. Ming Chen
Business Administration, Management, Supply Chain Management B.S.
 How Covid-19 Impacted the Supply Chain of American Honda Motors

Jessica Valencia*

Dr. Alfredo Carlos and Dr. Caitlin Fouratt
Mathematics B.S.
 Predatory Lending in Low-Income Latinx Neighborhoods

Ann Vandegrift

Dr. Chris Warren
Psychology B.A.
 The Relationship Between Gender Dysphoria, Cognition, and Minority Stress

Josselyn Vivar

Dr. Jose Villalobos
Math Applied-Finance B.S.
 Black Scholes Model and Options

Nhan Vo

Dr. Oscar Morales Ponce
Computer Science B.S.
 Quantum Cryptography and Quantum Key Distribution

Meghan Winzler

Dr. Jesse Dillon
Microbiology B.S.
 Physicochemical characterization of an extreme haloarchael virus, GNphiz

Spring 2022**Abbas Abdulhasan**

Dr. Vasanthy Narayanaswami
Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology B.S.
 Structural and Functional Consequences of Apolipoprotein E Modification by 4-Hydroxynonenal, a Product of Environmental Pollution and Cellular Lipid Peroxidation

Jalyssa Alejos

Dr. Daniel Whisler
Aerospace Engineering B.S. (Aeronautics)
 Investigation of the Opening Shock Forces of a 24 Inch Diameter Drogue Parachute

Maricarmen Amador

Dr. Yada Treesukosol
Biochemistry B.S.
 Health Disparities Among Hispanic Low Socioeconomic Communities

Aris Ammons

Dr. Daniel Whisler
Aerospace Engineering B.S. (Aeronautics)
 An Analysis of Crack Formation and Metal Degradation

Jacob Azevedo

Dr. Ju Cheol Moon
Computer Science B.S.
 Application of Graph Neural Networks with Folded Bipartite Network Embedding to Occupation Recommendation

Alexa Banos

Dr. Will Wu
Kinesiology, Exercise Science B.S.
 Open and Closed Loop Motor Control within a Single Action

Romer Keanu Banquiles

Dr. Barbara Mello/Dr. Paul Scotton
English Literature B.A.
 The Dionysian and Apollonian: Identifying Similarities and Patterns and How Social Sentiments are Revealed Through the Concept

Daniel Barfield*

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Mechanical Engineering B.S.
 A Comparison of Tensile Strengths between Injection Molding and Fused Deposition Modeling

Breanne Barnes

Dr. James Kisiel
Liberal Studies B.A.
 Preservice Teachers and Their Attitudes Towards Teaching Science

Elizabeth Baumann

Dr. Min Gu
Liberal Studies B.A.
 Able Arts Work Accessible Arts Workshops: How Community-Based Programs Inform Teaching and Learning in Public Schools

Araceli Berry

Dr. Shira Tarrant
Psychology B.A.
 Social Factors Presented Through Evolutionary Theories of Sexual Attraction

Manya Bhutani

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Business Administration Finance B.S.
 The Dynamism and Influence of Quality Securities

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Psychology B.A.
 In Pursuit of the Ideal Career: A look at Clinical Psychology

Emilly Ceballos*

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International Studies, Political Science B.A.
 The Bidirectionality of Reform: A Comparative Case Study Analysis on Support of Capital Punishment in the U.S. and Japan

Simon Chau

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Biology, Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology Option, B.S.
 Intraovarian mRNA expression of hypoxia related genes are differentially expressed during photoperiod mediated regression and recrudescence

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Political Science B.A.
 Postcolonial Development of Jury Trials: The Spread of Common Law Across the Globe

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 The Effects of Sports Participation on Aggression in College Students

Morisa Cheng

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Business Administration, Accountancy B.S.
 Section 280E: The High Cost Faced by Cannabis Businesses

Sophealena Chhom

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Physics B.A.
 Simulating the Theoretical Structure of a Neutron Star using Python

Audrey Chung

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Business Administration, Accountancy B.S.
 An Analysis of Obesity Rates in the United States and South Korea

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Mechanical Engineering B.S.
 Thermal Analysis of Boron/PVDF and Boron Carbide/PVDF Mixtures

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Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology B.S.
 The Role of C1q in Endothelial Adhesion

Daisy Diaz

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Performance B.M.
 The Marginalization of Women in Music

Zabehi Doukrou

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Pure Mathematics B.S.
 An Analysis of K-12 Mathematics Achievements in the United States

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 A Look Into Women in STEM: What Moves Women Towards or Away from a STEM Major.

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 An Analysis of Automobile Traffic and Air Quality Data

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 Instagram's effect on consumer buying behavior

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 A Kinetic Study of Phthalates Radiolytic Degradation In Aqueous Solutions

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Biology B.S.
 Coastal Wetlands: Using sediment augmentation to sea level rise at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge

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 After School Programs: The Effectiveness on Higher Education

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 Children with Special Healthcare Needs and Access to a Medical Home

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 Los Angeles' Architectural Relationship to Climate

Mikayla Freitas

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 A Survey on Gait Recognition Using Wearable Sensors

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Biology, Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology Option, B.S.
 The Role of WRKY45 in Arabidopsis thaliana leaf senescence

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Kinesiology, Exercise Science B.S.
 The Impact of Social Characteristics on Perceptions Towards Physical Therapy Utilization

Mario Garcia

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 Macrophage gene expression is modulated by endogenous innate immune protein C1q

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 How do Food Levels Affect Time to Metamorphic Competence of Larvae of the Annelid *Ficopomatus enigmaticus*?

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 Experiences if Resettlement and Acculturation of Baha'i Childhood Arrivals through the Lens of Family Dynamics

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 Evaluating a Series of Protein Biomarkers in Unraveling the Source of Injury, Poisoning, or Death

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 The Association Between Cancer and Lifestyle and Health Related Factors.

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 Nursing School: The Next Step

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Aleece Hanson*

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 The Rainbow or the Cross? The Aftermath of Two Landmark LGBTQIA+ Civil Rights Supreme Court Decisions

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 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

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Computer Science B.S.
 Development of a Human-Computer Interface for Hands-Free Musical Accompaniment

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 The Case For Exercise: A Systematic Study Reviewing the Optimal Exercises for Combating Lower Back Pain as an Alternative to Ergonomic Products

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 "Her More Tender Inclinations": An Analysis of Female Sexuality in Katherine Philips's *The Matchless Orinda*, Aphra Behn's *Sir Patient Fancy*, and Eliza Haywood's *Fantomina*

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 The Influence of TikTok: Promotion Trends in Mainstream Pop Music

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 The Association between Emotional Expression and Psychological Wellbeing in the Field of Speech-Language Pathology

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 The Effect of Recyclable Materials on Procurement Decision and the Ultimate Supplier Selection

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 Electrochemical Stress Analysis of Water Splitting in Solutions

Katherine Khiev

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 Cambodian History and Culture Lesson Plan

Allison Kim

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 Experienced Educator's Reflection on Mathematics Teaching and Learning

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 Impact Response Analysis on an Off-Road Vehicle Chassis

Megan Lauder

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Biomedical Engineering B.S.
 Bioengineered Scaffold Promotes Human Skeletal Muscle Alignment In-Vitro

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 The Evolution of Defensive Spines and Warning Coloration in Porcupines and Spiny Rats

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Business Administration, Finance B.S.
 Emergency Measures: an analysis of the federal government's fiscal and monetary policy during crises

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 An Evaluation of Different Farming Methods on the Nutritional Content of Fruits and Vegetables

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Kinesiology, Exercise Science B.S.
 Center of Pressure as a Possible Indicator of Physical Function in Older Adults

Elias Magana Urbano*

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Mechanical Engineering B.S.
 Head Form Vehicle Impact Behavior

Jayden Maree

Dr. Navdeep Dhillon
Aerospace Engineering B.S. (Aeronautics)
 Laser Focusing Mechanism for Artificial Bubble Generation

Nicolas Mijarez*

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Health Science B.S.
 The impact of Nutrition Interventions on Latino Children

Hannah Miller

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Psychology B.A.
 Ally in Name Only: The Effects of Signaling Allyship without Supportive Behaviors

Elaina Miskiel*

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Child Development B.A.
 A Systematic Research Synthesis on Transracial Adoption and Racial Identity Development in the United States

Kyle Bryant Briones

Monte
 Dr. Vesna Terzic
Civil Engineering B.S.
 The Benefit of Systems with Dampers and Base-isolators on Post-earthquake Functional Recovery

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Sharri Hefner
Film and Electronic Arts B.A.
 Producing Insecurities: A Short Film

Kelton Munch

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Criminology and Criminal Justice, B.S.
 The Causes and Consequences of Officer-Involved Shootings: A Literature Review and Data Analysis

Geselle Munoz*

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Psychology B.A.
 Predictors of Subjective Well-being Among Latinx/Mexican American Groups

Cyna Nguyen

Dr. Jen-Mei Chang
Pure Mathematics B.S.
An Analysis of Eligibility Index in Relation to Successful Completion of Pre-Calculus Mathematics at CSULB

Timothy Nguyen

Dr. Seiji Steimetz
Mathematical Economics & Economic Theory B.A.
Port and Terminal Automation; an In-Depth Study for the Future

Thomas Nguyen

Dr. Ehsan Madadi
Aerospace Engineering B.S. (Aeronautics)
The Effects of Different RANS Closures on Modeling Swirling Flow in a Macro-Scale Multi-Inlet Vortex Reactor

Georgina Oceguera

Dr. Peter Ramirez
Biology, Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology Option, B.S.
Determining the role of Thioredoxin in HIV-1 Nef mediated infectivity

Jessica Olan Pena

Dr. Craig D. Macaulay
Business Administration, Management B.S.
Fast Food Corporate Social Responsibility Effects on Consumer Preferences

Lillian On

Dr. Elena Grintsevich
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Quantitative Analysis of Actin Oxidation Rates by Mical Family Enzymes with Mical Inhibitor Epicatechin Gallate

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Anastasiia Reipolska

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Dr. Yoojin Lee
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Dr. Paul Buonora
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Solvent Effects on Photochemical Hydroacylation Reactions



Creative Contributions: Collected Works by Madeleine Aub



Within the Gift

The original painting was created for a competition hosted by the Long Beach Airport to showcase uplifting works by local artists during the time of the pandemic. The piece derived from this original poem: "Life is most pleasant when lived in the present, so let the sun make way for this brand new day"

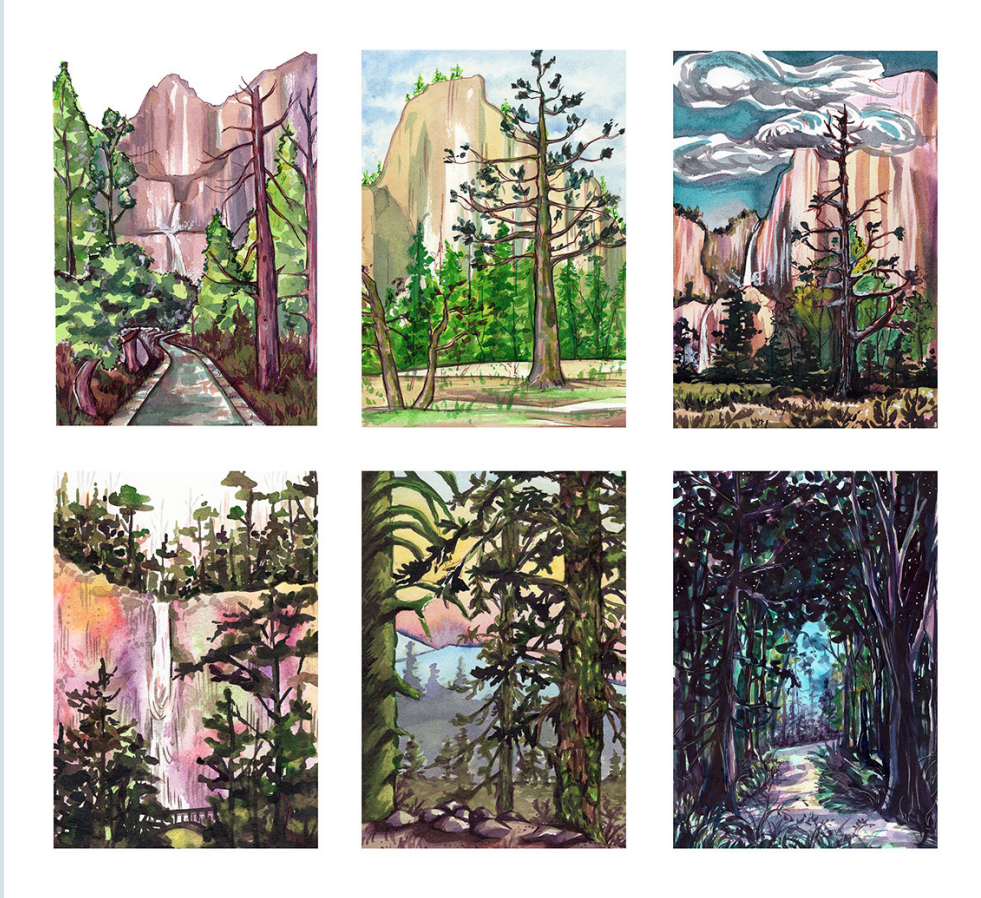
The original painting measures 24in x 24in and was painted on canvas with acrylics. The mural in the Long Beach Airport measures approximately 7ft x 7ft and is printed on vinyl.



Traveling Plein Air Painting Series

Each of these pieces was created onsite from life in different cities all around Italy and the United States. The inspiration came from the landscapes in which the paintings were created with the decisions about colors and composition being made based on my subjective feelings about the place.

Each painting in both series measures 8in x 10in and was painted on watercolor paper with watercolors (first series) or India inks (second series).



Poetry

by Madeleine Aub

These poems were all created during the pandemic in response to the various emotional experiences I faced. Many of the subjects were inspired by meditations while others were inspired by experiences in my relationships with others, travel, and nature.

Each poem is relatively short and incorporates a rhyming pattern. These poems along with others are being compiled into a book for publishing in the next year.

This Nomadic Heart

Our hearts were built to be homes,
but what happens when a heart roams?
This nomadic heart has everywhere to be,
but it hurts so many in its effort to be free.
Is the only solution to remain alone,
and hide this light I've always shown?
I rest at the still bottom of my ocean,
glad to be vaster than the surface commotion.
It feels so good, my reckless sweet release,
but who do I abandon in my escape to peace?

Plans

We carefully weave our plans together,
deciding everything we want to do.
We spend so much time perfecting them,
that we forget they might fall through.
Then when they fall through, we sigh,
and plan to never again make plans.
But eventually that plan falls through too,
and we give planning another chance.

Anything to Become Me

I am lighting the world on fire
and no one will get in my way,
for transformation must transpire
and my anger won't be held at bay.
I am tired of not having a voice -
of people telling me what to want -
it's my turn to make a choice
and from now on I will be blunt.
I am going to say how I feel
and stand up for what I need—
it's time for me to start being real
and live the life I want to lead.

Fake Love

I drowned myself with fake lovers
Who drowned their sorrow with me.
They saw my light but not my poison,
I was only trying to be free.
And it is true that with freedom comes choices, In
fact there are an endless number to make. And the
simple one I made wrong,
Was thinking real love is scarier than fake.

Why Dreams Don't Come True

A dream once came true and fell into an abyss,
it lost its form and ceased to exist.
That's when we started protecting dreams from coming true; we decided
that without holes in our lives there is nothing to do. So now as our dreams
approach our realities,
we welcome self-sabotage into our mentalities.
And if we ever do let a dream come to fruition,
there are plenty more around us ready with ammunition.

Freedom

No path that I've chosen has been uniquely chosen, For all paths will
be traversed as long as time can't be frozen. I'm just one iteration of me
in one of infinite universes, A human life is short and that's the best of
all curses. Besides, freedom isn't necessarily getting to decide our
destination, It can simply be accepting and growing from every
situation. I am free because I can choose where my attention is placed,
At the end maybe it doesn't matter what dream I've chased.

Just Right

The night is peaceful
And I loved this day.
My joy is plentiful
And I hope it will stay.
I hear the crickets
And I hear the birds.
They make me smile
And steal my words.
Nature knows me well
And it hears my song.
All I do is think of love
And nature sings along.
I listen to the wind's
hum
And bathe in moon-
light.
I absorb the moment
And all feels just right.

Done

Take your heart back, I'm done breaking it.
I've given you all my love, I'm done making it.
You made me go insane, I'm done faking it.
Stop trying to change me, I'm done taking it.

My Muse

You are my crush, you are my muse,
I'm dazzled and confused.
You're the friend I secretly love,
but I've gotten word from above
that right now it's not meant to be.
Right now you're not the one for me.
So I'll just stay away and make art,
write poems to spare my heart
from the pain of imploding
as our next chapter is still loading.
It's taking so long
that I keep questioning if it's wrong.
I hate the feeling of lukewarm,
but I despise it when there's no storm.
So here I sit, feeling inspired,
by all the chaos that's transpired.
I allow my obsession with you to thrive,
because I prefer to love than survive.

The Little Bird

She was a little bird
Who fell in love with walking
And no matter where she went,
About walking she'd be talking.
She remembered the sky existed,
But forgot just how it looked
And she had no time to remember,
With walking her days were booked.
After especially walk-filled days,
Deep and soundly she slept,
Until in a dream an angel came
And said there was a secret the sky
kept.
The morning after the dream,
Earlier than usual the sun shined
To wake up the little bird
And tell her the sky's secret she must
find.
Not knowing where the sky lived
She was at a loss for what to do
So she whistled out to the world, "I
at least need a clue!"
At once, a gust of wind
Blew her up off solid ground,
It carried her to above the ocean
And she feared she would be
drowned.
As quickly as it grabbed her
The wind suddenly let her go,
And in her descent towards the
water
She recalled something she used to
know.

She was a bird and birds could fly!
She hauled two wings around all
day! They were of no use to her,
If she didn't use them now to fly
away.
The breeze whispered to her
As she flapped her wings and flew
high, "The sky's secret is in you,
A bird meant not to walk, but to fly."

Le Sorelle

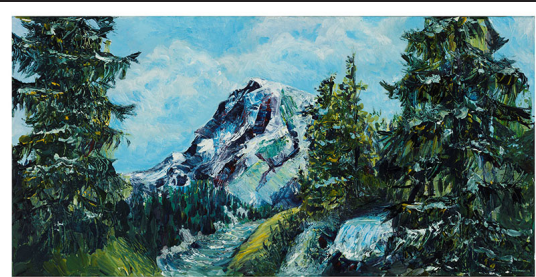
This was my first attempt at marble sculpture during my study abroad in Italy. The subject was inspired by photos of me and my sister as children. However, the two smiling female faces are meant to allude not just to sisterhood, but also motherhood and daughterhood. Taking part in all of these familial roles has shaped the way I love, so this piece is meant to convey that unconditional love visually.

The piece measures approximately 13in x 17in x 7in and was sculpted from a block of white marble from Carrara, Italy. The piece is still a work in progress.



From Sea to Shining Sea

These pieces were created during my cross-country travels on the northeast and northwest coasts, signifying the start and end of my journey. They each use a different experimental painting technique that creates different surface textures and unique impressions of the landscapes based on the feeling it brought out as the painting was being made.



The "Ocean Point, Maine" painting measures 11in x 14in and was painted on a wood panel with acrylics and a palette knife. Each of the three paintings in the "Northwest Painting Series" measures 12in x 24in and was painted on canvas with acrylics.



Awakening to Life

These are both abstracted impressions of places I saw during my cross-country travels of 2021. "The Cabin of Boothbay" captures my feelings and experiences in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, while "The Things Imagination Sees" was created in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, where I asked visitors of the park what images they saw in the rocks that I could add to my painting.

Both paintings measure 30in x 40in and were painted on canvas with acrylics. Both were painted with the intention of becoming posters and puzzle designs.



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