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Coyote Chronicle

Dear all,

Time flies. The end of the semester and the Chronicle's last newsletter for Fall 2020 have arrived! It has been particularly challenging to produce original reporting during the virtual semester and social distancing, but we all did it!

Enormous thanks to our readers, writers, interviewees, as well as our community of supporters for continuing to support student journalism and staying updated with us in our weekly newsletters. We appreciate you!

Due to the pandemic, we have not received news of our funding for the Spring semester. We are hoping to continue shedding light on local news and sharing them with you!

We wish you a smooth end of the semester and an enjoyable break!

Stay safe, everyone!



Take this survey to support local journalism in the IE

The three-minute survey about news and information needs in the Inland Empire conducted by the [Listening Post Collective](#), a project of the [Internews](#), an international nonprofit organization that works to support journalism.

Your feedback will help direct funds for local news projects in San Bernardino and Riverside. Your individual responses will remain anonymous, only the collective survey results will be shared. To read more about this survey, please [click here](#).

Take survey. Support local journalism.



Restaurants and bars in Coachella Valley adjust to COVID-19 protocols

By Emma Curtis | Contributing Writer |

Throughout the Coachella Valley area, restaurant managers and employees are struggling to adjust to maintain structure at work, as COVID-19 continuously spreads.

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Small businesses struggle to survive in pandemic-oriented film industry

By Aidan Vilchis | Contributing Writer |

Jennie Cook wipes the sweat off her brow. She has had to let almost half of her staff go, and she's been working long days and even longer weeks in order to compensate for it. Though she's had to power through exhaustion, she considers herself lucky. Her business is surviving, which is more than can be said for many of her peers.

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Inland Empire residents voice concerns over smog growth

By Desiree Del Valle | Contributing Writer |

Increased online shopping during the pandemic has intensified local air quality concerns. More space for retail warehouses is in demand, and Inland Empire hosts many of them with more to come.

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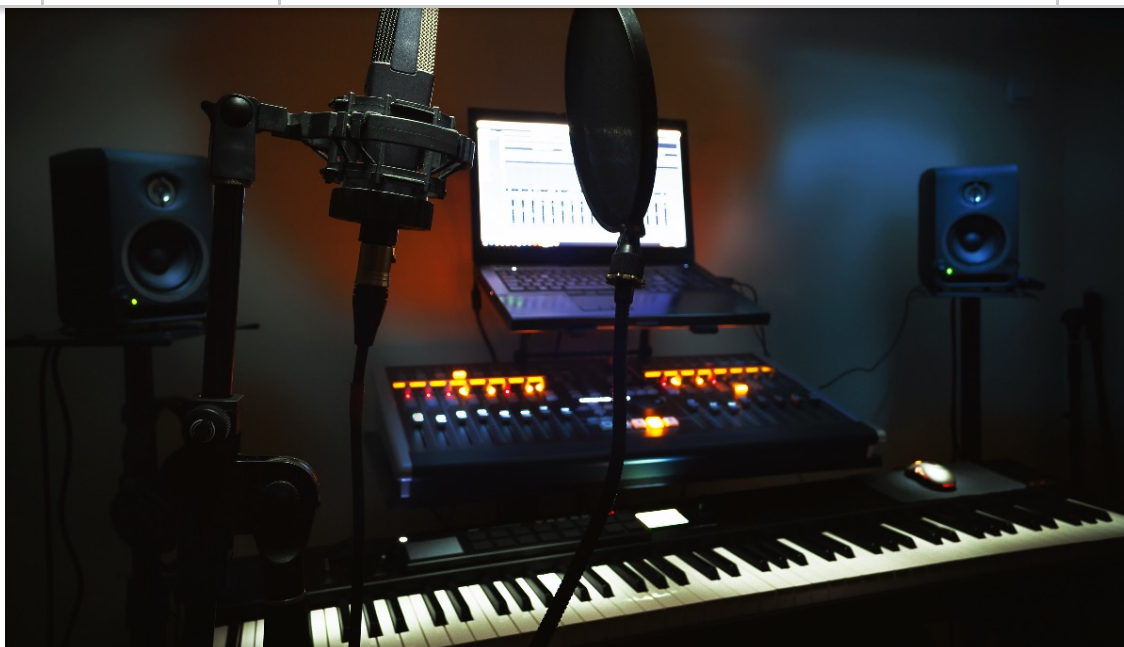


Opinion: Reflecting on 2020 as a year of change

By Aidee Avila Lambaren | Contributing Writer |

2020 has been one strange year. We are currently in a pandemic, the United States has elected a new president and we have seen people in America fight alongside the Black Lives Matter movement.

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Student shares experience with electronic music production project

By Matt Santos | Managing Editor |

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By Alyssa Beck | Staff Writer |

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By Jamiana Gateb | Staff Writer |

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Local streamer and business owner talks Twitch

By Ryan Fabian | Staff Writer |

Twitch streaming is a way to share our experiences online. Local Palm Desert business owner, Dajana Menjivar, co-founder of Conflux Gaming, dives into her thoughts on Twitch streaming, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), and her popular gaming tournament held in Rancho Mirage.

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How the Multicultural Greek Council functions during the pandemic

Members of the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) discusses ways students can virtually stay engaged with CSUSB and the community.

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Advice: How to combat virtual spring semester fatigue

By The Marquis de Fontlee | Staff Writer |

Some students at CSUSB are new to online schooling and therefore still adapting to this difficult transition. How can we make the most of it you may ask? Think about it this way: if you have made it this far in online schooling, you will get through it next semester, too.

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Restaurants and bars in Coachella Valley adjust to COVID-19 protocols

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **EMMA CURTIS** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Throughout the Coachella Valley area, restaurant managers and employees are struggling to maintain structure at work, as COVID-19 continuously spreads.

The coronavirus has affected nearly the entire country with 13 million Americans infected and 265 thousand lives lost since its initial outbreak in February. The virus also proven to be the silent killer of most essential businesses, causing local restaurants significant financial decline and loss of employees.

According to the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**, more than 150,000 businesses have indicated that they have closed due to COVID-19, 20,000 of which are restaurants in California. Many of these restaurants are large corporation chains and small, family-owned businesses.

A Red Robin burger chain in Coachella Valley, run by general manager Vanessa Cruz, is still reeling from five separate mandatory lockdowns since March, including the most recent closure as of three weeks ago. Even with a decade's worth of experience, Cruz is still finding it difficult to adjust to the changing procedures amidst a global pandemic.



Red Robin employee wearing mask and gloves sanitizes a table. Photo by Emma Curtis.

"Everyone was under the impression that we would be closed for a month or two," said Cruz, a mother of two. "Being closed again was a shock, but it's nothing we can't handle. Our priority is keeping our guests safe by making sure we are following all the correct steps and keeping our restaurant up to date with the county's expectations."

California's Governor, Gavin Newsom, recently announced that Riverside County's classification status had returned to purple, meaning many non-essential indoor business operations were closed once again. Cruz's restaurant has now suffered three lockdowns, where nearly all forms of dining closed completely, leaving Red Robin's main profit source in the hands of take-out orders.

21-year-old Angel Aispuro started working as a to-go host at Red Robin a little over a year ago. He was promoted to server merely months after the first closure where there weren't even any tables or guests to tend to.

"It was easy to understand how confused and annoyed people got, us included, when we first closed down," Aispuro said. "I remember the second time we went down to outdoor-dining and it almost become routine for us to set up the tables and suddenly pack it all up for when the county became restricted again. Now, we are just doing everything we can to avoid another shutdown and keep our doors open as long as possible."

After having been closed for weeks and still holding onto hope, restaurants throughout the Coachella Valley area returned to 'lockdown' status and are facing even more restrictions than before.

"Newsom announcing another lockdown came with a whole new set of procedures and guidelines for us to follow," said Cruz. "We can no longer sit more than six people at a table outside, we've expanded our outdoor seating area to nearly half of our parking lot, and our seating protocol has changed drastically. We are doing everything we can to keep our environment feeling as safe and normal as possible."

Outdoor patio seating set up at Red Robin. Photo by Emma Curtis.

The weight of responsibility on managers and business owners has grown tremendously as their day-to-day work went from monitoring food and staff, to potentially saving lives. Managers are now having to enforce strict hygiene regulations and protocols to ensure the safety of all staff and guests.

These protocols were not enough and a majority of the restaurants throughout the desert area that were closed temporarily in March will not be returning. Soup Plantation, a popular buffet-style restaurant, is one of the 44 restaurants to have permanently shut down in California due to the coronavirus.

Ashley Shipman, the former shift supervisor of a Soup Plantation located in Palm Desert, was not prepared for the events following her businesses' initial closure mid-March. Restaurants are not aware of how to handle buffet-style dining, and most businesses operating in this fashion have been closed permanently.

"It's crazy to think about how fast everything happened and how quickly restaurants all around us were closing their doors," said Shipman, who has not yet heard any news

regarding her restaurant. "It's hard watching a whole business pretty much shut down, especially when you know yours wasn't the only one. Financially, there was no possible way we could keep a buffet up and running during a pandemic."

With thousands of restaurants permanently closed or now only open for takeout and outdoor-seating, California's unemployment numbers peaked in April reaching nearly 3.1 million; however, according to the ***Department of Numbers***, that number has since dropped 5.4 percentage points after the economy added 120,000 new jobs.

Sebastian Perez, a 20-year-old busser who started working at Soup Plantation five months before they shut down in March, says that his first job was nothing like he expected. He has since started a new job in a different field but says that he is constantly worried about losing work again.

Abandoned patio area at Soup Plantation in Old Town, LQ. Photo by Emma Curtis.

"Bussing tables was my first job ever at Soup Plantation – it was so fun," said Perez, who has since started a new job in hotel management. "After all of the masks, gloves, face-

shields and sanitizing, we thought everything would be okay. We were angry, and still are angry, that our work relied more on people eating than keeping them safe."

With most restaurants in the Coachella Valley area out of business, it is important for those with their doors still open to be as safe as possible. Both managers agree that the best thing to do, regardless of on unemployment or not, it to make everything as normal as possible for your employees while sticking to the hygiene protocols.

"As managers, we work really hard to try and make our restaurant as comfortable and safe as possible, especially now," Cruz said. "We still celebrate birthdays and hold little competitions between employees. We all want the same thing – for the threat to be gone and everything go back to normal."

There is no definite status outcome of Coachella's restaurant industry; however, with an average of 110 new cases a day in Riverside County, according to **USAFacts**, now more than ever, business owners need to be vigilant.

"I'm not sure I'm in any position to provide advice given my workplace got shut down, but I would just tell people to keep in mind that the future is so unpredictable," Shipman said, still unsure of her path in the restaurant industry. "Now is definitely not the time to be 'lax' about procedures by letting people act like nothing has even happened. For all the active managers out there, I encourage you to act as though you are managing a room full of your own children."

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Small businesses struggle to survive in pandemic-oriented film industry

NOVEMBER 24, 2020 BY **AIDAN VILCHIS** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Film set. Photo by Citlaly Carlos

Jennie Cook wipes the sweat off her brow. She has had to let almost half of her staff go, and she's been working long days and even longer weeks in order to compensate for it. Though she's had to power through exhaustion, she considers herself lucky. Her business is surviving, which is more than can be said for many of her peers.

Cook owns Jennie Cook's Catering, a Los Angeles-based company that derives almost all of its business from Hollywood productions. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in all film productions stopping, causing Jennie Cook's, and thousands of businesses like them, to struggle to survive.

"It's been devastating," said Cook. "Our business has taken such a hit. I'm in a lot of catering networks and I can tell you everybody in the events business is scrambling."

The Economic Impact of Film

In March, when the pandemic hit, filming was completely shut down. It wasn't until the end of June that it was allowed to start again, and at a much slower pace than before.

According to Dan Taylor, President of the Inland Empire Film Services, film brought in \$50 million to the Inland Empire last year.

This year, Taylor is uncertain that the same number could be reached again.

"If you've taken three or four months of the prime filming time, it's going to be a major hit," said Taylor. "I doubt we'll be able to hit what happened last year."

This impact extends not only to individual businesses, but entire communities as well.

"Like the town of Lucerne Valley for example. Small little town, but that small little town gets a lot of filming. There's a lot of dollars spent in that town for supplies or food," Taylor said.

Lucerne Valley is a small, isolated town, and it's full of businesses that rely on film productions. When filming stopped, so did the community's revenue stream.

"They got hit big, and they're struggling," said Taylor. "Some of them survived and some of them didn't, so it's one of those things where hopefully they had enough reserved to maybe survive and be able to pick back up again, but we'll see."

Struggling to Survive Without Film

The lack of film productions meant that many people had to do whatever they could to support their business.

Alex Hamilton, commercial producer and owner of Big Bear Locations, had to take unemployment in order to support herself. Even now, she estimates that she only has "about ten percent" of the workload she used to.

"Well commercials came back first, and they came back around August. The TV shows are just finally starting to try and come back," said Hamilton.

With television and film not having fully returned, less people are going to Big Bear to film which, in turn, means less work for Hamilton.

Cook estimates that she's getting about 35 percent of the orders she used to get, but she was getting none when filming was closed.

Without getting any revenue, she had to take a step back and weigh her options.

"I had one chef that was absolutely convinced we should close, and I said the minute we close we lose our relevance," Cook said. "Isn't it better to keep in front of the mind of the client so that people know we're still open and relevant?"

As a solution, she decided to reinvigorate an old take-out business that she ran years ago. It was this reinvention that gave Jennie Cook's the push it needed to stay in business.

"It worked, but it was a huge gamble," Cook explained. "I mean we're all doing things that we never thought we'd do. You take what you can get."

Though Jennie Cook's has survived, others have not been as fortunate. Businesses like New York Food Company and Contemporary Catering have announced that they are shutting their doors for good.

Staying Safe in a Dangerous Landscape

With the COVID-19 pandemic still raging on, vendors are having to decide which jobs are safe enough to take.

"Me personally, I have no desire to go on a soundstage right now," said Hamilton. "The only reason I took my last production managing job is because it was all outdoors."

This caution extends to communities as well. Beverly Hills, for instance, is still not issuing new permits nearly four months after restrictions were lifted.

Though most places are able to open for filming, Hamilton explains that a lot of people simply aren't willing to allow filming to occur at their homes.

"Neighborhoods don't want filming because they don't want people coming in that could potentially have COVID," Hamilton said. "It's a rough time to work in the industry right now."

Legally, film productions have to follow a wide range of safety protocols in order to be allowed to film, but the threat of infection is still there.

"They make everyone get a COVID test as soon as they show up, and they never leave their car," said Taylor. "They're doing everything they can to protect the talent, because without the talent there is no show."

These regulations mean that catering businesses are unable to provide the full service that they would under normal circumstances.

"We used to have a server stay and set up a pretty buffet and then break it down after an hour, and now basically they take the food from us when we arrive," said Cook.

"Sometimes we don't even get out of our car."

While there is a general sense of optimism that things could return to normal soon, businesses are preparing for this to continue for quite some time.

"From my estimations, just what I've heard people say and the stats of it, I think this'll end this time next year, maybe 2022," said Cook.

Hamilton encourages her clients to get their film permits as soon as possible, as they are unlikely to get one if filming shuts down again.

While people have different ideas as to when this may end, Taylor sees the future as uncertain.

"It's a different year, and it's really hard to predict," said Taylor.

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Inland Empire residents voice concerns over smog growth

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **DESIREE DEL VALLE** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Increased online shopping during the pandemic has intensified local air quality concerns. More space for retail warehouses is in demand, and the Inland Empire hosts many of them with more to come.

"There is a boom in online shopping due to the pandemic," said Faraz Rizvi, a community coordinator from the **Center of Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)**. "We have been working on several projects in the field, that we are focusing more on Environmental Justice...which covers a lot of things such as air quality, environmental racism and hazards."

The Inland Empire is a population area of middle class families who do not have the time "nor voice" to fight for health hazards such as atmospheric noise and smog.

More than half of the population in the Inland Empire hosts ethnic groups of African-American, Latinos and Native Americans. A recent study at USC stated these groups make up 58% of the population, with many more people of color not counted on the census.

The Inland Empire is known as the fastest developing and growing area in the nation. Populated by over 4.2 million people, this part of California is also known to have some of the nation's worst Air Quality Index and some of the worst traffic within the U.S.



In one sitting at a red light on Riverside Ave there are a total of 10 diesels at a red light stop. Photo by Desiree Del Valle.

The main culprits of the high air pollution have been attributed by the blooming local logistic businesses throughout the Inland Empire, with diesel trucks being the number one emission source, then shipping/logistics centers, and commuting.

"Diesel death zone" is what local media and environmental organizations often call the Inland Empire when describing dangers of air pollution. Diesels emit more than 40 toxic air contaminants that go directly to lungs in these areas that are near in this zone.

Joshua Harvey, first year CSUSB graduate student says there is a "strong connection with shipping industries and low poor air quality" which disproportionately affects elderly and young children. The population it targets is the young children and the elderly.

This summer, amongst the airborne COVID-19, the air quality has increased asthma rates that have triggered underlying respiratory issues here in Southern California this summer.

"In the beginning of COVID-19, when all was shut down, there was a notable difference here in Southern California and other places with high AQI. However, once the economy started getting back on track, the levels started to rise again, and as we see, this fire season is rough," said Fizvi.

All the activity in the Inland Empire and growth has led to a number of reasons why fires start in surrounding areas, with red and purple flag conditions to stay indoors and minimal activity outside.

The core of the poor air quality is due to the warehouses and its logistics, shipping and commuting.

"It's hard to not miss the warehouses," stated Alyssa Garcia, Bloomington resident of 22 years. "Old homes and old farms are being torn down."

Garcia has noticed over the past few years the dramatic change in her hometown where warehouses started popping up in every open field, near residential areas, and school zones.

Photo of warehouses taken in residential and school zones in Bloomington, California. Residents in this area are the most prone to higher respiratory issues.

Photo by Desiree Del Valle.

"Certain areas in the Inland Empire are underfunded by local authorities and underrepresented in decision making," Harvey said, making references to the number of expanding logistic centers being developed throughout the Inland Empire.

"There is so much land usage in the Inland Empire that there are a variety of factors that lead to negative affects on the environment around us," added Rizvi.

Given the lack of representation in many cities in the Inland Empire, CCAEJ made efforts on intersectional local projects such as the "Good Neighbor Guidelines." Its policies within local city planning commissions to hold developers to certain standards when developing.

These standards are to prevent such emissions that are near local schools and homes.



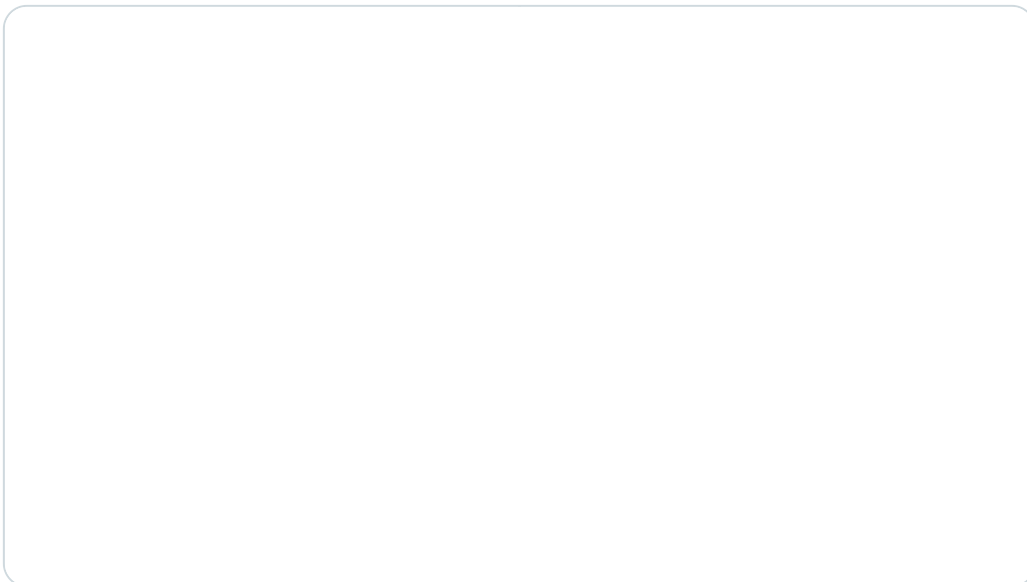
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tomorrow at 9AM the riverside planning commission will decide on a series of regulations to hold warehouse developers accountable! Submit comments via the short link in this graphic to urge planning commissioners to support these policies



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San Jacinto Peak visible after the El Dorado and Apple Fires. Photo by Desiree Del Valle.

"There is a connection with poverty and environmental issues," stated Harvey. His study focuses on international relations, environmental issues, and environmental refugees. Part of the Inland Empire is San Bernardino County which is a low poverty county.

"There is no better time than now to educate the public that habits and that the choices we make can affect us with a great deal of consequences," Harvey said.

Harvey makes this statement due to fact online shopping may not come from the same manufacturer. This leads to multiple procedures through shipping or business. Each time when purchasing or shopping, we the consumer should be aware of the manufacturing process.

Harvey suggests that it is up to us to be mindful on our part on reducing the carbon footprint

"It is also important to be cautious, conscious and aware when purchasing nowadays and the manufacturer process," stated Harvey. "Now is the time to educate people on how we can help future generations."

"The San Bernardino airport has five flights a week for local shipping and logistics centers," said Rivzi.

With all these new warehouses and logistics uprising, and COVID-19 online shopping, this number will now increase to five-hundred shipments a week. That is one-hundred times more than current shipments come in the San Bernardino airport.

"We are working to combat air quality, reduce emission in our community and at the same time uplift voices of our community," said Rizvi.

Picture taken from Banning, CA when red flag warning were mandated throughout California after fire season where climate change is on the rise. Photo by Desiree Del Valle.

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Opinion: Reflecting on 2020 as a year of change

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **AIDEE AVILA LAMBAREN** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



"Black Lives Matter Protest, Seattle WA" by Kelly Kline. Taken on May 30, 2020. Flickr.com, used under its Creative Commons License

2020 has been one strange year. We are currently in a pandemic, the United States has elected a new president, and we witnessed people in America fight alongside the Black Lives Matter movement.

Black Live Matter has become a global movement against racism and police brutality. Thousands of people from multiple different countries gathered to protest racism and police brutality after the killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police.

The Black Lives Matter movement began to rise in July of 2013, 17 months after the death of Trayvon Martin.

However, the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter did not become nationally recognized until 2014, when Michael Brown died by police hands. This caused Blacks and allies to head out to social media and speak up about police brutality in America.

According to the **Black Live Matter website**, "The Black Lives Matter Global Network would not be recognized worldwide if it weren't for the folks in St. Louis and Ferguson

who put their bodies on the line day in and day out, and who continue to show up for Black lives”.

Now, I am pretty sure many of you are well aware of what the Black Live Matter movement is about. With very recent protests, and demonstration happening, it is not uncommon for everyone to be aware of this movement.

This movement not only gained recognition overnight nationwide, but it also caught the attention of the world. How did it though?

The assemblage theory, from an **article** by Stephen B. Croft Tabita Moreno Becerra and Daniel M. Sutko, identifies why so many countries ended up in the same social space of a movement that was formed in the United States back in 2013.

The **article** aims to discover the forms of social space without assuming to know them and identify the connections and relationships that are significant for the given subject (2011). What this means is that they do not want to jump and make conclusions as to why individuals and groups are drawn into the social spaces.

For example, the Black Lives Matter demonstration and protest could be considered an assemblage because it connects the subject – a human individual or collective – to networks and activities that gathers large groups.

The media that helped the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter get known and recognized throughout the country, can be considered a network that connects the subject to the assemblage. Social media, in this case, has been the networks of technical media – the infrastructure, technology, and media that has surrounded everyone to focus their attention to the #BlackLivesMatter movement (2011).

Social media has allowed #BlackLivesMatter to have a voice and make its message be known throughout the world. These Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and many more media platforms, have allowed #BlackLivesMatter to be known worldwide and has connected this movement to subjects who are or who have been affected by racism and police brutality in some way.

As **Wired** has put it, “Social media could summon people to the streets and coordinate their movements in real time. And it could swiftly push back against spurious media

narratives with the force of a few thousand retweets." Social media can help clarify what the movement is about. It stops a false narrative that could be surrounding, in this case, the Black Lives Matter movement.

If it were not for social media, these demonstrations and protests would not have gotten the recognition they deserve, as fast as they did.

However, social media is not the only network that has been in place of connecting subjects to the Black Lives Matter assemblage. Social networks have also played a big part in connecting individuals to the Black Live Matter protests, and demonstrations.

Social networks are the populations that surrounds us, and one we are connected to in some ways. Like Croft and colleagues state, "Social networks are the population through which we move and with which we are potentially connected to."

For example, I became involved with the Black Lives Matter movement not because of social media, itself, but as well as my social network. In recent years, I had become involved in some activist groups, and began to see new environments and new people.

Because I began to meet new people and learn more about issues going on in the Black community, I became aware of the assemblages being produced by activist and those connected to the Black Lives Matter movement. This interaction helped me see a different social network (assemblage) than the one I previously had.

However, none of this would have been possible if not for the subject. The specific elements of subjectivity that are relevant for conceptualizing a subject lived experience of space, according to Croft and colleagues.

Because the subject is exposed to difference senses of place, territory, and space, they are able to give a meaning to everything they experience in those senses. Then the subject puts a value on them, and they are able to categorize what is important to them, and what is fit of their attention.

Because Black Lives Matter has gained so many supporters, it is not a surprise that Cori Bush, one of the Black Lives Matter movement founders, won a house seat in Missouri. According to CNN projections, she is now the state's first Black woman to represent the state in Congress.

The Black Lives Matter demonstration across the globe happened because of our connection to one another. We have friends who are being directly affected by police brutality and racism. These injustices do not only happen in America, but they also occur around the world. Whether we are using social media, our social networks, or our environment to participate in Black Lives Matter, it is important that we also demonstrate solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters. United we can make a difference in our community and our country.

As 2020 is coming to an end and 2021 is just around the corner, it is important to remember that a new year does not mean a restart. We need to continue what we started in 2020 and remember that the fight is not over.

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Student shares experience with electronic music production project

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **MATT SANTOS** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



"Small Bedroom Recording Studio" by Dejan Krsmanovic, Flickr.com, used under its Creative Commons License

Students of MUS 2660 are set to create tracks for a joint class music album for their final project. Ryan Adams, a senior entrepreneurship major and a DJ, shares his experiences from making music.

Adams is one of Dr. Kevin Zhang's students. Dr. Zhang plans to release a student-created album by the end of the semester which will contain a range of vocals to instrumentals.

Q: What are you working on for this project?

A: The genre I'm doing for this project is a mix between UK hardcore and hardcore. Hard dance is a unique genre. It starts at 150 bpm and goes from there, so it's a little more aggressive than most genres. In between, there's usually some beautiful trance-y moments as well, so you'll kinda hear, in my track, that it's kind of uplifting, but then it drops to aggressive and back to uplifting again. The project is super open-ended, so we have some people playing guitar, some people singing, and it's really creative.

Q: What was the process of creating your music like?

A: Every song starts in a different way. I started this one with a melody that's very uplifting. Times are a bit crazy right now, so I wanted people to have three minutes of just forgetting about the BS of the world. I'm always nervous sharing my music to people. I think that's kind of the reason I've never really released. I've been making music for two years and DJ'ing for eight years, and I have lots and lots of songs. The hardest thing is putting yourself out there. Music is very intimate in a way, what you'll hear from my music is kinda what's going on in my head at the moment and it's nerve racking to show that to people.

Q: What was your inspiration for this music? Was there a specific moment?

A: For this track, it's a bit different having a class project in front of you. Other times, when I'm working on music for myself, 100% I might be watching TV or listening to a song and something inspires me. This track really gets going after a sample from an old Dave Chappelle, which you'll hear in the music. I was fumbling about, not knowing what to do and I found that snippet. After putting it in, it kinda changed the direction of the song the music just goes from there.

Q: Why do you choose to play mostly hard style music?

A: I went to my first rave, EDC, in 2010 and completely got hooked in rave culture. I ended up finding hard style because back in the day, there was a hard style remix to almost every song I looked up in Limewire. That's how I discovered hard style and it caught my intention right off the bat. Flash forward to 2010, after going to EDC, I got back into that electronic music and rediscovered my love for hard style. To this day, I listen to it daily. What's interesting to me about hard style is that it's always reinventing itself. So, there might be a popular sound one year and three months later, someone remixes it and it's always evolving. It's never just the same song. I was actually able to play EDC in 2018 and 2019 and that experience was pretty surreal for me.

Q: How has your music making process changed with the virtual environment?

A: I'd say one of the biggest disappointments is being online this semester for this class. Music is something that should be enjoyed between people and it's so difficult to try to connect to a person with song online or not in person. There's so many unspoken things that happen between people when listening to music and you can't really relate as well on Zoom or sending a link to a Soundcloud.

Q: What are your goals when creating music?

A: One of the things about hard dance is that it's not very popular in America, but it's huge in Europe. It's one of the most listened to genres in Europe, especially in the Netherlands. It's also popular in Australia and other countries, but it hasn't really caught on here. When we were given this project, I knew that I wanted to do something in the hard style realm because I really think that if more people listen to this genre, the more people will fall in love with it. It may seem a bit aggressive and outlandish at first, but once you discover the beauty below everything, there's really no other genre that compares to it, in my opinion.

Q: What are some challenges you faced while creating your music?

A: Writer's block. All the time. But one of the most intricate things for this song, and genre in general, is the kick. Every kick is unique, but it takes so long to get to that point. There's only three different kicks in my song, but each kick took me between 20 minutes to a couple of hours just tuning the little things and adding and layering things. The difficult thing is getting the right kick, but once you get it, you know you have a good song

Q: What is your advice for others who want to make and share music like you?

A: Just do it. I know that's what everyone says and it sounds cliché, but there really is no way to learn production other than doing it. Before I started making music, I always knew what I wanted in my head, but had such a hard time translating that into my DAW or creating a song. The only way I got to where I am now is by just sitting down, studying, watching tutorials, and playing with buttons.

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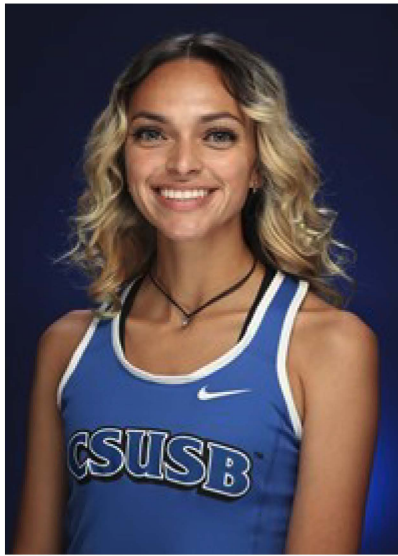
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Vox pop: How are CSUSB athletes staying in shape during the pandemic?

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **ALYSSA BECK** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

CSUSB student athletes tell us whether or not the pandemic has made it difficult for them to stay in shape.

Photos of the student athletes were provided by the CSUSB Athletics department.



Justine Ziranda – Cross Country; Senior, Art Education Major

"Being on both the cross country and track and field team have been very different and difficult during this time. Having your teammates next to you every practice motivates you to do better, and we don't have that right now. Running on our own can only do so much for us. We like competing and seeing our progress over time. Running on our own doesn't give us the push that most of us need. But to stay positive, I've made one of my siblings my running and workout buddy to stay in shape during this time. I also stay in contact with my teammates so we can compare what we are doing to stay on track together even though we are apart."



Jackson Gilmore – Baseball; Masters in Business Administration

"It's been borderline impossible to get a good workout in. It's difficult to prepare my body for competition without the necessary tools to do so. Without a weight room, the majority of a workout is body weight movements. This has forced me to rely on throwing and running to stay in shape. Although I do what I can, it definitely feels like something is missing in my preparation."



Alexis Cardoza – Volleyball; Senior, Psychology Major

"I think it's absolutely been more difficult to stay in shape during this pandemic. Not only has there been a lack of access to equipment, but my daily schedule also lacks structure. This lack of structure means that working out is now completely on me. I don't have a coach or stretch coach there to ensure I'm staying in shape. The self accountability aspect of exercising has been more challenging to me than anything."

Diego Womack – Men's Basketball; Redshirt Senior, Communications Major

"It's been more difficult to stay in shape during the pandemic, especially since our arena and things like that are all closed down. Those were pretty much our main resources. I feel like it all depends on where I am. Living on campus makes it extremely difficult because there's no mandatory workouts or access to use the gym whenever we want. When I'm home in Tennessee, like during the holidays, it's not as difficult because I have access to way more stuff, so staying in shape is way easier when I'm home. The laws in Tennessee are different than California and our zone isn't as hot, so our gyms are still open with a required mask. I've taken a lot of steps to make workouts easier at home. Working out isn't the hard part for me, but doing it from inside your home is difficult because there's less tools to use and nobody is pushing me to do it like they would normally."

Maame Banahene – Track and Field, Sophomore, Criminal Justice Major

"It's been a lot harder to stay in shape during the pandemic than it was before, especially without having equipment available or having a coach watch over and help us stay motivated. I've been doing home workouts, staying healthy, and doing the best I can to keep up with training on my own."

Mark Williams – Golf, Redshirt Senior, Sociology Major

"At first, it was difficult because we went from being in a routine to being stuck at home. After a while, I figured out how to keep myself occupied and took up mountain biking, which really helps me stay in shape and is COVID friendly. Luckily, with golf, you never

have to get too close to other people so I've been able to continue practicing during the very extended break."

Kaylee Williamson – Softball, Senior, Health Science Major

"It's been really difficult for me to stay in shape for softball during this pandemic. I've had little motivation to do anything and it's been really hard for me to stay active. Since we still hope to have a season this year, I needed to find ways to make practicing and working out easier. I took small steps at first to build back that motivation. I'm starting to walk a couple miles every few days, then I'll run and try to lift weights. Since the gyms are closed again, it's been really hard for me to workout at home. I know I need to keep going and push myself as much as I can during this time."

Frank Daroma – Men's Soccer, Sophomore, Kinesiology Major

"COVID-19 has made staying in shape really hard because, for soccer, I actually need to go out and train. With the current situation we are in right now, I've been trying to listen to lots of podcasts and motivational videos just to keep me focused and make it easier before I start working out again."

Valerie Warren – Women's Soccer, Junior, Liberal Studies Major

"The pandemic has made it pretty difficult to stay in shape and train on my own. I'm used to having teammates to train with and coaches to hold me accountable. Overall, I feel like

I have been doing a pretty good job using what I have at home to workout. The most important step I've been taking is just staying consistent."

Nina Wallace – Women's Basketball, Sophomore, Kinesiology Major

"It's been pretty difficult staying in shape due to the pandemic. I haven't played in an indoor basketball gym since March. So, to make my working out easier, I've practiced at a park and I've done different body workouts at home with what I have available. Even though I only have a few weights, I've been very resourceful at home."

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Opinion: Looking back on CSUSB's transition to semesters

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **JAMIANA GATEB** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Students become informed about the Quarter to Semester conversion and the benefits the change will bring to students at the Engagement Expo on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Photo by Citlaly Carlos

CSUSB's transition to the semester system in the midst of a pandemic has brought upon mixed feelings. As the fall semester comes to an end, a professor and a few students share how they endured the transitions.

Brandon Johns, a full-time lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, sees semesters as something he will have to get used to. Johns says, "I like quarters because I like the quicker pace of a 10-week term."

Because of the added five weeks, Professor Johns has found himself having to assign more homework, causing him to be swamped with grading. Along with the added weeks, the transition to online has been a challenge for him to keep students engaged and interested in the course material. However, the semester system is allowing him the time/flexibility to offer courses asynchronously because he understands that students have families, work, and the possibility of having to care for relatives.

Asynchronous meetings allow students to complete their course requirements on their own time, and it also allows me to record and post lectures at my convenience. I'm a night owl, so this suits me well!

— Johns

Students also had the opportunity to reflect back on the transition to semester and the challenges it brought.

Steven Herschler, a junior mathematics major, says, "I never had a chance to try quarters because this is my first semester at CSUSB. I transferred from Crafton Hills College, but I think I would have still preferred the semester system. I like being in a class for enough time to build relationships with teachers and my peers, and the quarter system seems like it chops all that away."

This semester, in particular, Herschler found himself having to self-teach because lectures had changed dramatically. However, once he adjusted to the workload, he figured out how to work effectively and efficiently.

"I will be able to apply this whether I am online learning or not from here on out," Herschler said.

Kelia Paragas, a junior kinesiology major, found herself becoming more independent and really focused on time management. The biggest challenge she faced with the semester transition was making sure her previous courses and progress weren't affected by the change.

As for semester system preferences, Paragas says, "Personally I would prefer quarters as we get classes done quicker and I like the fast paced style more."

For more information on the semester conversion, visit the **Q2S website**.

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Local streamer and business owner talks Twitch

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **RYAN FABIAN** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Dajana Menjivar's Twitch channel. Snapshot taken by Ryan Fabian.

Twitch streaming is a way to share our experiences online. Local Palm Desert business owner, Dajana Menjivar, co-founder of Conflux Gaming, dives into her thoughts on Twitch

streaming, the **Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)**, and her popular gaming tournament held in Rancho Mirage.

Conflux Gaming is visited by many Palm Desert CSUSB students and locals alike. It's a weekly held in-person tournament where players compete for first place by playing many popular fighting games.

Q: What made you want to Twitch stream?

A: It was something I wanted to do for a while, due to past experiences. Back then, I couldn't stream because I lacked the time to do so and I did not have the adequate equipment amongst other things, but now I'm excited to say I'm glad to be doing it, and I am enjoying it fully.

Q: What are some challenges towards streaming?

A: Currently, while streaming on my own and on my company's **Twitch channel, "Conflux Gaming,"** I would say the common challenges include keeping the energy up, reading chats, and I would also add trying to get hit with a DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act). With the current situation on Twitch, sadly any audio from the game or from my soundboard and background music can get me banned. Thankfully, an artist like **Harris Heller** has an amazing copyright free playlist called "Stream Beats" to use, since even Twitch's own music can still get DMCA'ed.



Dajana Menjivar. Photo courtesy of Dajana Menjivar.

Q: How is the business running with the pandemic over our heads and its relation to Twitch?

A: While the abrupt and sudden change of the global market has shifted away from public events to online events, Conflux Gaming adapted with it. Initially, we saw great success in Twitch with fast-growing numbers on an established platform. However, in recent weeks, our faith in Twitch's platform has diminished greatly. From constant DMCA

changes to the admitted incompetence of Twitch's staff, Conflux Gaming will soon be looking for stronger streaming platforms.

Q: Do you have any future plans?

A: I'm currently focusing on how I can stream on my own channel, first trying out how Twitch will do. If not, I might even try YouTube and Facebook, seeing that they have more protections for the streamer/content creator, and seeing that I will soon be a v-tuber (virtual YouTuber – people with a virtual character), I'll be more comfortable streaming cause I personally don't like showing my face due to having anxiety of what people will think of my appearances.

Q: Thoughts on the current climate of Twitch streaming?

A: Well, to be blunt, it's very upsetting that the Twitch staff feels as if they don't really care about anyone, even though they showed it with the other top streamers with gifts and such, but everyone else is dropping out like flies due to their ignorance of having a public server that hardly anyone knows about until a Twitch streamer/ Youtuber, "Devin Nash," brought it up to light, showing that current and banned streamers are on that server with the supposedly "deleted clips/videos" that I believe are scanning all public servers. So, in short, even if you deleted your videos and clips, you will get a strike no matter what. They failed in protecting their content creators/streamers from the time they started and let everyone abuse the copyright content until now; they are just going to up and ban streamers from their streaming service. It does not feel right at all.

Q: Closing and final thoughts?

A: I feel like streaming is the most amazing hobby to get into and not to have high expectations for, unless you are working your butt off to try to make it, but I would suggest looking into Twitch, but don't get on to be an affiliate status just yet. I would say compare your experiences from other streaming services to see where you want to build your content/community from highly recommend platforms such as Facebook or YouTube to see where it leads to, which I'm soon gonna go try out.

Conflux Gaming Season 2 Trailer



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How the Multicultural Greek Council functions during the pandemic

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY [ANA VALENZUELA](#) — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Members of the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) at the Blend of Cultures event hosted by MGC and SAAB. Photo courtesy of Jacklyn Chanocua.

Members of the **Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)** discusses ways students can virtually stay engaged with CSUSB and the community.

Jacklyn Chanocua, President-Representative of MGC and a third year student majoring in biological psychology, stated, "The purpose of the MGC is to foster unity and create an environment where organizations can collaborate, communicate, and support each other. With respect, diversity, and equality, we strive to achieve our organizations' common goals of academic excellence, service to the community, and building strong leaders for tomorrow."

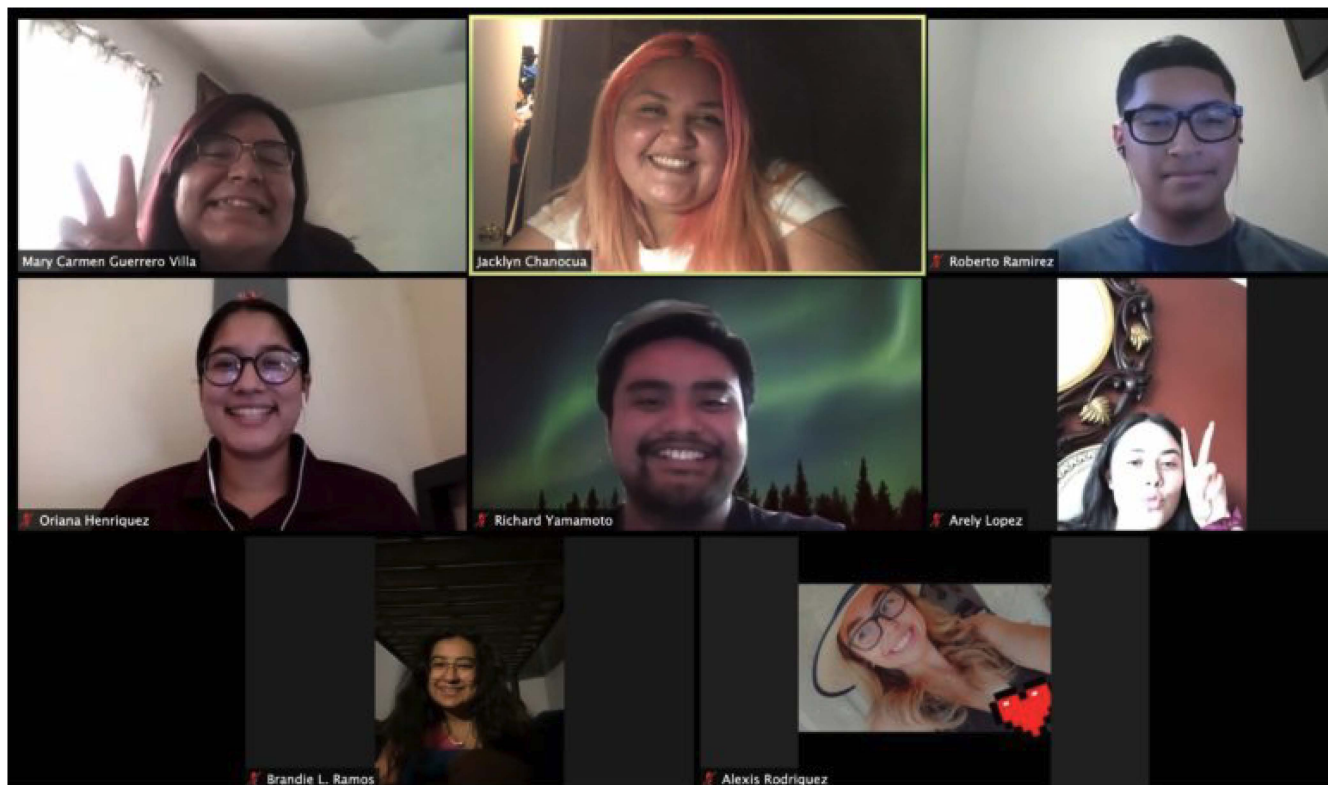
According to Gina Chanocua, Vice President of Finance for MGC and a fifth year student majoring in accounting, the MGC represents eight individual organizations to ensure they remain progressive in their activities while they operate virtually. "We are doing our best to ensure the stability of our organizations for the long run," stated Gina.

The eight organizations are the following:

- 1) Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.
- 2) Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.
- 3) Sigma Pi Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- 4) Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc.
- 5) Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.
- 6) Gamma Zeta Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- 7) Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc.
- 8) Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc.

The organization provides a unique Greek experience with their networking, brother and sisterhood, as well as community according to Richard Yamamoto, Vice President of Programming for MGC and third year student majoring in physics, with a minor in math. Due to distanced learning, the MGC has had to rely on social media to engage with their members.

"Although we are not able to represent our organizations on campus during this time, the virtual experiences has significantly taught us how to adapt during a pandemic in promoting our council and organizations," said Yamamoto.



First council delegates meeting via Zoom. Screenshot courtesy of President Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Jacklyn Chanocua.

Events such as MGC Informational, Greek Organization Takeover, and MGC Live were hosted via Instagram. Their most recent events during the pandemic have been a pumpkin carving social, Why We Vote campaign, and Pie-a-Penguin fundraiser.

Upcoming events include the Blend of Cultures on February 18, 2021. This event, in collaboration with LatinX, Pan African Center, and the Cross Cultural Center, is a discussion on the Afro-LatinX community in the United States.

According to Gina, being part of a sorority/fraternity can impact an individual's perspective in different ways. "For some, joining will be a professional move to expand their directory of possible professionals as they progress in their individual career. Once in, it's an automatic affiliation by association. For others, it is a social move to gain long-lasting friendships," stated Gina.

Students should consider joining a fraternity/sorority after doing some research on the benefits that would come with the affiliation.

— Gina

For Mary Carmen Guerrero Villa, fourth year student majoring in Biology and Vice President of Accountability and Communications, joining the MGC was beneficial to her campus experience.

"I personally was able to open up to more people around me. Having a sisterhood where I'm not scared of being able to ask others for help has definitely helped me out not only personal but academic life as well," said Villa.

The organizations within the MGC support one another during these difficult times. According to Jacklyn, they share ideas, collaborate, have socials together and promote each other's events through their social media platform.

For upcoming events being planned by MGC VP of Programming, check their Instagram @MGC_CSUSB.

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Advice: How to combat virtual spring semester

DECEMBER 1, 2020 BY **THE MARQUIS DE FONTLEE** — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



"Woman doing lunges with dumbbells in a gym" by Nenad Stojkovic, Flickr.com, used under its Creative Commons License

Some students at CSUSB are new to online schooling and therefore still adapting to this difficult transition. How can we make the most of it, you may ask? Think about it this way: if you have made it this far in online schooling, you will get through it next semester, too.

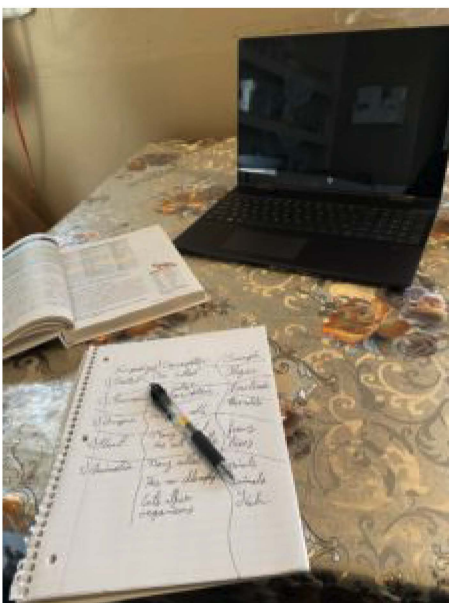


Photo by the Marquis de Fontlee

2020 has been a very weird year. I confess I did not expect it to be as bad and strange as it currently is. It is difficult to stay attentive in a virtual school, especially with all of the available and easily-accessible distractions in a house. Some of the best pieces of advice I can give is to stay disciplined and motivated. One way to do this is to take about four or five hours a day and dedicate it to just schooling. If you must, go to your rooms and lock yourself in. Give yourself a 10 to 15-minute break in between each hour.

If your class runs a little short and you have extra time, get a good workout in. You will find that if you work out or get some sort of exercise in between classes, you'll

be more alert and focused on your studies. If your class is normally an hour and a half, and it ended up being only an hour that day, use that time and go for a run, do some push-ups or some burpees.

A good day of doing this workout would be a two-mile run, followed by:

Eight rounds of push-ups, squats, and sit-ups

20 seconds work

10 seconds rest

Another good hobby you can get during this online schooling would be to read. Granted, we read a lot of material for our classes but, if you get tired of the same old stuff, take up 20 or 30 minutes of reading something different during the day. Find something that really interests you and read up on it. You will find that not only will you learn something different, but you'll become a better reader and learn how to retain information better. This will greatly benefit you for your classes when you have a test and need to remember details from the textbook.

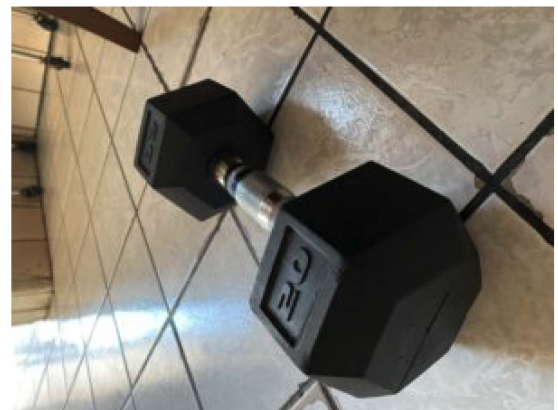


Photo by the Marquis de Fontlee

This situation has been hard on all of us, and some of us are still trying to adapt. It can be hard to go outside and not do the things we loved to do. Things like going to church, going to the movies, and eating out with friends are all things we greatly miss, but eventually, things will be back to normal, and will be able to have our most basic freedoms back. Not the "new normal" but the normal we all know and love.

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