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**LUMBERJACK**  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 | VOL. 123 NO. 6



by Cheyenne Wise and Morgan Hancock

Faculty are just as frustrated as students when it comes to adapting to the new HyFlex reality. To put it plainly, some classes don't translate to Zoom formats. The format can leave professors worried that some students are left behind and students missing out on vital learning interactions.

Gina Tuzzi, a painting professor of eight years, has adapted her style to ensure all of her students receive the same quality of teaching. Tuzzi is trying to find equitable ways for students to interact with one another.

"I have this room of 4-foot by 5-foot paintings, and the students are not painting in a way that's visible to the camera because of the way we are distanced from one another," Tuzzi said.

There are also some challenges digitally communicating a visual medium. Tuzzi believes that it's something that should be taught and understood in person. The experience of a 20 foot painting doesn't translate through a little screen. That doesn't deter Tuzzi from creating a new adaptable learning experience.

Many professors are trying their own unique adaptations of HyFlex classrooms. Tuzzi found the best way around it has been to split time between



students in person and online. Trying to teach both at the same time is not viable for all classroom settings. Students in different learning settings communicate differently, and it takes planning to facilitate that communication gap.

"I'm really spread thin," Tuzzi said. "The thing I worry about is the experience the students are having. I stress about being face to face in a pandemic and worried about exposure."

The pandemic has challenged students and instructors to learn in new ways. Tuzzi was grateful for the support she found within her department to adapt.

HyFlex has its glitches, but there are new paths of access and learning on HSU campus. Tuzzi has found that her students use many different modalities to learn. For some students, HyFlex is really working. It allows accessibility

Yippee for  
the GWPE

*Explaining the  
GWPE, and how to  
prepare for it*

by Cheyenne Wise

The GWPE has been around since the late 1970s at HSU and all other CSU's to demonstrate writing proficiency at a higher level. GWPE was put in place as a solution to the lack of adequate writing skills.

Each campus has to come up with its own requirements to fulfill the GWPE standards. Currently, HSU is using an honor system for students that are taking the GWPE since it is online only. You have one week to complete the 100 minute exam with two mystery questions, one personal and one analytical.

To become eligible for the GWPE, you need to have completed at least 60 units and the General Education Area A requirements. It is strongly advised that you take the GWPE during your junior year. If the GWPE is not completed by your graduating semester, you cannot receive your degree until the end of the next semester that you pass the GWPE.

Online you can find sample essays and preparation workshops to help strategize and practice for the GWPE. GWPE coordinators stress to not worry about how much you write, to just focus on how well you can articulate your thoughts on the questions, and to try not to stray too far from the questions.

in ways that weren't accounted for in pre-pandemic classrooms. It can give a voice to students who otherwise would not feel confident in sharing.

Robert Yunker is the Labs and Classrooms Support Lead and hero of HyFlex. He's been here to help instructors troubleshoot since before the start of the semester. Yunker sees HyFlex as a new extension of learning that wasn't available before.

SEE HYFLEX • PAGE 3

All aboard the HSU express  
*Shopping shuttle makes way for affordable groceries*

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by Ruby Guilette

HSU now offers a free shopping shuttle for students. All you need is your student ID number, shopping destination, and a release of liability and you are set to ride. This free service, provided by HSU's Student Life Center, runs every first and third Saturday from 10am to 5pm with potential to expand based on student feedback. Students are picked up from The J or College Creek Marketplace and can ride to Target, Old Town Eureka, the Bayshore Mall, Winco, or Henderson Center. This service allows students to explore the greater Hum-

boldt area while reducing their carbon footprint.

Molly Kresl, Student Life Coordinator at the Office of Student Life, has helped spearhead this program and hopes the shuttle service will help students meet their shopping needs.

"It's our way of trying to help students explore new areas outside of Arcata proper and see all that Humboldt County has to offer, while also offering more accessible shopping for our students," Kresl said. "Also sustainably, we're encouraging our students to not bring cars up here in part because we

don't have a ton of parking but also because there's other ways to get around."

The student shopping service is actually a relaunch from an idea that spawned just before COVID-19 hit the brakes on much of student life in early 2020. The shuttle ran just once before COVID restrictions stifled the program's efforts. Presently, as pandemic restrictions loosen, the shuttle is running, employs student drivers, and is helping rebuild our student community.

SEE SHUTTLE • PAGE 3



THE  
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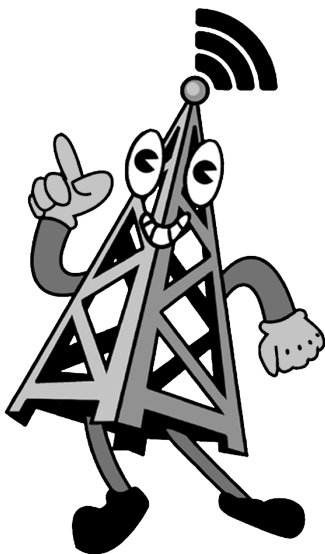
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» *El leñador* «

From the front cover:

Dominant: Painting professor Gina Tuzzi gives feedback to students in the face to face portion of her class on Thursday, Sept. 23. Inset: Robert Yunker fixes technical issues in a Hybrid classroom on Friday, Sept. 24. Bottom: A student paints in a face to face portion of an art class on Thursday, Sept. 23.

Photos by Morgan Hancock



HYFLEX

FROM PAGE 1

“Different instructors are adapting differently. Some are embracing it and some are a little more hesitant. Most realize what we gotta do and that we’re all trying,” Yunker said.

He noted that a lot of instructors are making it their own. Some teach from the Redwood Bowl, use creative camera angles to view art projects, or

SHUTTLE

FROM PAGE 1

As mandated by the CSU system, students must have vaccination information or a medical exemption in order to ride. When getting on board, students must sign a release of liability, which includes a wellness check, to make sure they are free of COVID-19 symptoms. The six foot social distancing guideline has been lifted for campus, as long as people are masked. The shuttle provides masks, hand sanitizers and wipes for students that need a ride.

For Kresl, the shuttle is a way to support and provide resources for students. Students can also request services through the Student Life Center if they see an unmet campus need.

“The only way we are able to make change is by knowing what change wants to be made.” Kresl said.

Sophia Bernardino, a senior from SoCal, rode the shuttle and was pleased with the opportunity.

“I don’t drive and using the shuttle service was very helpful,” Bernardino said. Bernardino went on to say she hopes the shuttle expands its services so other students can utilize the program.

Chase Markham, residential advisor for Cypress dorms and Student Affairs Vice President also tried the shuttle service on its inaugural run. For Markham, this service is practical and helpful for his success.

“I don’t have a vehicle so I’m either hoofin’ it or I’m on public transportation, and this shuttle program for students is absolutely fabulous,” Markham said.

Although there are other affordable transportation opportunities such as the student bus pass, the student shopping shuttle is helpful because it’s only for students.

“It gives us a great avenue to get out there and get the stuff that we need without having to go through more hassle or risk to COVID exposure,” Markham said.

even fix a camera under a fume hood to give a safe but clear view of chemical reactions.

Other professors find themselves in a virtual abyss talking only to blank squares on their screen. They are having a hard time with students who have their cameras turned off. Forming relationships with students has become a difficult task for professors. Engagement and interaction can be a vital part of learning, but engaging and forming relationships hasn’t yet adapted to the world of Zoom. Knowing what their students comprehend and what is falling through the cracks is more of a challenge.

Many assume a combination of classroom, online, and Zoom would prepare students and faculty for HyFlex, but HyFlex isn’t a combination of all of those methods. HyFlex is a new method of teaching. Today’s students find themselves the guinea pigs of a new era in education. Everyone is relearning how to learn.

This tool of learning has offered new avenues of accessibility for many

students. Using HyFlex can prevent colds from spreading in classrooms. It enables mobility restricted students to learn in the comfort of their own space or even allow student athletes to learn while on the road. No one enjoys being restricted, but HyFlex can be a tool of empathy and accessibility. So next time you’re waiting out a laggy screen or those awkward Zoom interruptions, stop to take a breath and practice patience. Next time you see your professor online or in person, say thanks.

If your bike looks two tired, fix it up at the BLC

The HSU bicycle learning center offers free bike repair for students

by Morgan Hancock

You’re an eco-friendly student avoiding the parking fees on campus by riding your bike to class. Suddenly it happens, that funky derailleur of yours throws the chain. Fear not, the Biking Learning Center is here for you. The BLC provides bike repair services to students who bike to school or for fun.

Senior Kate Mendoza-Jimenez brought their project bike in for a quick tune up and got their handlebars wrapped too.

“I found this bike in a free pile and I have been fixing it up for the past two weeks. I don’t want to use my car as much anymore, and I think a bike is a great way to start,” Mendoza-Jimenez said.

They were able to get hands-on with their bike project with helpful instruction from BLC staff.

“I got to learn more about how to maintain my bike,” Mendoza-Jimenez said. “It’s cool that they have this place for everyone to come, and it’s free.”

BLC staff Adam Wood was there to help Mendoza-Jimenez out. He got involved as a volunteer at the BLC two years ago. Wood is around the BLC on Tuesdays and Thursdays and welcomes everyone to come visit.

“The goal at the BLC is to teach students how to repair their own bike, while we provide the tools, some parts, and information,” Wood said.

The BLC is looking to help more people



as the location is a little bit hidden and has the potential to help more students than it currently does. The BLC is tucked away under the West Gymnasium stairwell located adjacent to Center Activities. Their hours are Monday 11am-1pm, Tuesday/Thursday 10am-2pm, Wednesday 11am-3pm, and by appointment at HSUblc@humboldt.edu.

The BLC aims to address one of the accessibility issues of commuting with a bike. Taking care of your bike can be intimidating and costly. They hope to see more students use bicycles as an affordable, healthy, and sustainable form of transportation and recreation. If you have the time, take your bike to get some TLC at the BLC.

Checking in with CHECK IT

A preview of upcoming CHECK IT events, and thoughts from CHECK IT staff on moving to in-person

by Nancy Garcia

Although they’ve gone virtual, CHECK IT is continuing its work to create a more consent-centered culture and empowering others to step in when they see potential moments of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

CHECK IT will be launching their Love Knows Boundaries campaign in October featuring some workshops and a photo campaign.

Giselle Salazar, a CHECK IT peer educator, said that the Love Knows Boundaries Campaign will focus on promoting healthy relationships and giving the campus community tools to create those relationships.

“We also go a little bit into discussing the intersections of unhealthy relationships as well as intimate partner violence and domestic violence,” Salazar said.

Also during the month of October, appropriately dubbed CHECKITOBBER, CHECK IT will be doing some Halloween-themed outreach and merch. They’ll have consent-related Halloween art prompts on their Instagram. Submissions can be shared with them or you can post them to your story and tag CHECK IT.

According to Salazar, they’re planning to have a Loteria night in November and December will be focused on self-care.

Like many other organizations and clubs, CHECK IT has moved online due to the pandemic but Sophia Effa, the students for violence prevention coordinator, believes that they’re now better adapted.

“The virtual world has been an interesting one to navigate, but since we did it all of last year, we have a pretty good handle on it,” Effa said.

CHECK IT is hoping to move their Friday volunteer meetings and other events to in-person once it’s safe to do so. Jazmin Borrayo, the graphics design coordinator, said that she’s looking forward to upcoming events and projects.

“I’m hoping that as things transition to become more in-person, we can get more of our stuff out there like stickers, buttons, t-shirts, posters, etc. as we had done before COVID,” Borrayo said.

If you’d like to get involved with CHECK IT, you can drop into their volunteer hours every Friday on Zoom at 2 pm. Depending on their interests, volunteers can help with a variety of things.

To stay updated on CHECKIT events and news, you can follow them on Instagram @checkithsu, and you can also contact a CHECK IT peer educator to be added to their email list.

“CHECK IT has offered me so many opportunities to learn, grow, and get involved, and I couldn’t be more grateful,” Effa said. “I encourage anyone who’s interested to get involved in whatever ways they can, whether that be applying to be a part of the team or volunteering with us.”



Photos by Morgan Hancock  
Top: Bicycle learning staff Adam Wood mans his station at the bicycle learning center on Thursday Sept. 23. Bottom: Adam Wood adjusts the spokes of Kate Mendoza-Jimenez’s bike.



# HSU’s printmaking classes return to in person

*Art studios on campus open for students following remote classes*

by Alana Hackman

Humboldt State students are back to filling up the art studios around campus for in-person art classes, an opportunity that hasn’t been possible since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning and advanced printmaking classes have been back in the studio etching, engraving, rolling, and carving their creative designs for their first in-class critiques in over a year.

Sarah Whorf has been the printmaking professor here at HSU since 2005 and taught printmaking classes online last year in the fall and spring semesters. Whorf mentioned how she struggled to bring her classroom curriculum to the online scene amidst the pandemic, and how many obstacles like delays in mailing supplies to students and being unable to give advice and critiques to the student’s projects until a final photo was submitted really put a strain on her teaching methods.

“Everything we’re doing [in-person] we couldn’t do online,” said Whorf. “We’re basically back to pretty much doing what I used to always do in terms of my curriculum.”

Jackson Hake, a second-year HSU student, took Whorf’s online beginning printmaking class in the fall of 2020. Hake explains that printmaking sparked his interest as an art class option but he struggled with setting up his own printmaking studio remotely in his single dorm room.

“I was doing it [the class] in a dorm room,” said Hake. “Especially with printmaking in particular I feel you really need a specific place to do it.”

Whorf is very excited to see students’ faces back in the studio weekly for in-person classes and plans to have more interactive critiques and technique-focused lessons for her beginning printmaking class, ART 107.

“I’m thrilled to be back face to face,” said Whorf. “I’m thrilled to see students in here and interested in learning.”

Whorf also teaches a weekly advanced printmaking class on campus as well, with open studio time for her more experienced students.

Logan Schuman, a senior studio art major, took her first printmaking class following her transfer to HSU during the 2019-2020 school year. Schuman has taken printmaking in person as well as online and is excited to be back in person for a more rewarding critique experience with fellow classmates.

“The critique process was very different and not as rewarding online,” said Schuman. “In the studio, everyone is looking at each other’s work and sharing their unedited thoughts, and that genuine nature of criticism is somewhat lost over the internet.”



Photo by Alana Hackman | Junior, Anitza Monarrez studying wildlife mixes paints for her linocut print, Wednesday Sept. 22



Photo by Alana Hackman | Second-year student Allison Hair showcases her first print during her ART 107 class Wednesday, Sept. 22

Schuman hopes to step out of her comfort zone this year in her in-person printmaking classes by trialing different methods of etching and hopes to make good enough prints to sell online or to send to family and friends. Schuman encourages everyone to take a try at a printmaking class as there are so many different methods you’re

bound to enjoy one of them.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be back in the studio,” said Schuman. “I love creating with other people, and learning about their artistic processes and creative thoughts.”

There is no current news on future art galleries on campus for printmaking students to exhibit their work, but

hopefully, the graduates this year have the opportunity to share their work in person.

“To look up and see a room full of people printing, my eyes were welling up,” said Whorf. “I keep thinking, this is what was missing, this is what we were missing.”

## Meet El Centro Académico

*As Latinx Heritage Month is underway, discover a community that you can celebrate with*

by Poppy Cartledge

El Centro Académico Cultural de HSU is a place where students on campus can come together and be a part of a community that is centered around Latinx cultural identity.

Darin Torres, Staff Lead of El Centro, is a senior studying Criminology and Journalism. He found the community during his Freshman year while living in La Comunidad- a dorm at the university specifically designed to create a space for students to feel connected and supported through shared experiences and heritage of Latinx students.

“When I came up to school freshman year, I noticed that it was a primarily white institution,” Torres said.

Having grown up in Los Angeles, he was used to living in diverse areas. Torres said that this led him to search for outlets of his culture and heritage.

After he joined La Comunidad, Torres got to know more about El Centro and found a place to keep speaking and practicing Spanish, as well as talk and share experiences with other people.

“We want it [El Centro] to feel like a second home,” Torres said. “We’re really striving to create that space.”

Torres started out as just a student in search of a place to feel a sense of belonging, but utilized the resources and connections that El Centro provided which led him to become a part of the staff. He said that there’s such a good work environment and everyone really understands each other.

Juan Geovanni Guerrero is a fifth year Environmental Science and Management major at HSU. He serves as El Centro’s Operations and Hospitality Specialist.

“I think our environment is very inclusive and we want everyone to feel comfortable in that space,” Guerrero said.

He said that before he transitioned to staff after just being a part of El Centro, there was a feeling that he lacked the skills and knowledge that it took to carry out the work. However, Guerrero said that he found mentorship that led to a newfound confidence in what he could contribute to build up El Centro’s mission.

This mentorship that Guerrero found was through Fernando Paz, El Centro’s coordinator.

“Students are welcome to come participate in any way that best fits their needs,” Paz said. “Whether that be attending one of the programs or as a staff member.”

He said that after being remote for over a year, it’s been good to come back and re-engage with the campus community of students. Paz said that El Centro has opportunities for volunteering and internships, so he encourages students to come by to see what’s right for them.

Over the next couple of weeks, El Centro will continue to host a number of virtual events via zoom and their instagram account for the remainder of Latinx Heritage month which ends on Oct. 15.

If students are interested in learning more about El Centro and what it has to offer, they can stop by Monday through Thursday at any time between 11am to 3pm and hang out in Nelson Hall East Room 205.



# CSU professors search for collaboration at STEM-NET

*In September, researchers from across the CSU system met to discuss their upcoming projects and find possible collaborations*

by Ian Vargas

In September, researchers from across the CSU system met to discuss their upcoming projects and find possible collaborations. The STEM-NET Virtual Cafe is a monthly event that brings together researchers from different CSU schools and helps them find the collaborations that will help them to progress in their work. This month the speakers included professor of chemical and material engineering Dr. Santosh KC from CSU San Jose, psychology professor Dr. Liz Kyonka from CSU East Bay, and experimental particle physicist from CSU Stanislaus Dr. Wing To.

The first presenters were Dr. KC and Dr. Kyonka. KC’s research focused on 2D material interactions and how they interact with technology, and how to change the way that they interact with one another. The method used was called Twistronics, and involves altering the angle of materials to change their molecular structure and change their interactions with other materials.

Research like this can have huge implications when it comes to technology, and Dr. KC was searching for collaboration with experimental and theoretical groups.

Dr. Kyonka’s research was focused on the experimental analysis of behavior, specifically in the field of gambling and technology interaction. Her main research utilized pigeons to test their reasoning around different reward systems with different near wins and near losses, similar to a slot machine. Her hopes were to see how the pigeons, and later mice and human psych students, made decisions when it came to gambling behavior.

This connects to her other research around human behavior with technology, specifically how to break people away from constant attention to technology.

“The other project i’m focusing on is modifying technology use, the plan was to do a direct observation and play nat-

uralist to build ethograms that study gaming and internet use,” Kyonka said. “With the idea that their answers would provide answers to change their behavior.”

The research that affects Humboldt the most however is Dr. To’s research into the effects of wildfires and using satellite imagery to predict where they may go. By following the atmospheric effects of wildfires and using satellite imagery to take constant pictures of places susceptible to them, To intends to plot out the locations of things like dry grass and dead foliage. At the present, Dr. To’s research team is plotting out the topography of wildfire zones themselves, but he hopes to work with AI and machine learning researchers to do it automatically.

Wildfires, of course, have become much more common in recent years, and Humboldt county is no different from the rest of California. According to California’s Fourth Climate Change

Assessment, wildfires are already increasing in quantity in the north coast region.

“A changing climate combined with anthropogenic factors have already contributed to more frequent and more severe forest fires in the western US as a whole. Westerling et al predicts that increases in area burned in northern California forests will exceed 100% in both lower and higher emissions scenarios,” To said.

While they can predict that wildfires will increase, Dr. To says the long term effects of what this means are still unknown.

“The wildfires burn down forests which are hundreds and some thousands of years old. So if they are left alone, it might return to normal after hundreds of years,” To said. “But due to climate change, these forests will have to evolve differently than before. So we actually don’t know what they will become in the future.”



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Photo by Kris Nagel | The Monument Fire left smoldering patches of forest that lit up as the sun set on August 24. These understory fires burn low, fueled by brush and help the forest clear debris as well as spread seed.



Photo by Kris Nagel | TThe Monument Fire left smoldering patches of forest that lit up as the sun set on August 24. These understory fires burn low, fueled by brush and help the forest clear debris as well as spread seed.



Photo by Kris Nagel | The paint-stipped remains of a lawn ornament sit infront of a Junction City home recently burned in the Monument Fire. The August fires burned hot, leaving behind only the unburnable features of a home.



# Lumberjack sports update

*Volleyball falls in straight sets, women’s soccer ties rivals and men’s soccer keeps winning streak*

by Patrick Maravelias

The women’s volleyball team lost 0-3 on Friday against Stanislaus State and then again on Saturday against Chico State 0-3. Their next match will be at home on Friday against San Francisco State University.

“Overall, we just looked out of sorts a little bit,” said Head Coach Kelly Wood. “I think I’m happy to get this first home weekend out of the way. I think we learned a lot.

Men’s soccer brought home another win Saturday 1-0 against Chico State. Their defense still has yet to give up a goal this season. They will face off against Cal State San Marcos at home on Friday.

“We’ve been playing them so long and it’s been like 10 years since we beat them, so it felt amazing,” said #10 forward Marco Silveira in a post-game press conference. “We knew we could do it and, you know, just needed to bring the energy.”

Women’s soccer tied 1-1 against Chico State after a double-overtime nail biter. They will face off against Cal State San Marcos at home on Friday.

# Men’s soccer keeps streak alive

*Nationally ranked Lumberjacks stay in win column with victory over Wildcats*

by Elliott Portillo

Marco Silveira scored what proved to be the game winning goal in the 56th minute of action, as the Lumberjacks clinched a crucial CCAA match over Northern California rival Chico State 1-0 at College Creek Field to remain unbeaten so far this early season.

The win breaks an 11 match losing streak to the Wildcats, which stretches back to 2009. For senior Silveira, the win reaffirmed the work the team has put into this season, and the lofty goals the team has for the future.

“Chico’s one of our biggest rivals,” Silveira said. “We’ve been playing them for so long, and it’s been like ten years since we beat them, so it felt amazing.”

Head coach Fred Jungemann reaffirmed the significance that came with beating one of the team’s toughest rivals.

“There’s a few teams in our conference that we’ve struggled with historically,” Jungemann said. “It always seems like something comes up in the end. There’s one more corner kick, one more set piece or something, and Chico always seems to find a way against us. We’ve come close so many times before, but it’s just great to finally get



Photo courtesy of Thomas Lal/HSU Athletics | Members of the Humboldt State men's soccer team celebrate around head coach Fred Jungemann after a 1-0 win over rival Chico State at College Creek Field on Saturday.

over that line.”

Freshman Marcus Abdel-Malek assisted on the Lumberjacks’ lone goal. The Spokane, WA native did not understate the physicality of the match.

“We had to grind it out here,” Abdel-Malek said. “There were no easy moments in that whole game.”

Abdel-Malek said that the satisfaction of beating their rivals at home was also sweet.

“To finally beat them at home,” Abdel-Malek said. “To watch us celebrate on our field instead of them means a lot.”

Goalkeeper Adrian Gallardo recorded another shutout for a staunch defense that has yet to give up a goal over six games.

“Adrian came up big to do it for us today a few times,” Jungemann said.

The surging squad so far remains unbeaten after six games, and just moved into the United Soccer Coaches/NCAA Division II national polls on Tuesday, Sept. 21 with a number 13 ranking.

Coach Jungemann said that the team’s resiliency has proven to be



Photo by Elliott Portillo | Goalkeeper Adrian Gallardo stops a shot during a match against Chico State at College Creek Field on Saturday, Sept. 25.

critical.

“One guy gets beat, somebody else comes across to make a play,” Jungemann. “They have each other’s backs. It’s like one more player has a little more fight, a little bit more drive, and when they see their teammate get beat, it just spurs that in the next guy.”

The Lumberjacks, and Silveira especially, feel up for the remaining challenges the conference season will bring.

“It’s amazing,” Silveira said. “This is the best team we’ve had here so far, and it’s amazing, feeling we can win every game.”

The no. 13 Lumberjacks (6-0-0) remain home this upcoming weekend, as the team faces off against visiting Cal State San Marcos on Friday and Cal State San Bernardino on Sunday.

Club Sports

Current active clubs on campus:

Archery, Baseball, Cheer, Crew, Cycling, Disc Golf, E-Sports, Fencing, Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse, Men’s Rugby, Men’s and Women’s Ultimate, Men’s Volleyball, the Marching Lumberjacks, and E-Sports

Drop-In Sports

Basketball- Mon./Tues. 7pm-9pm in the Forbes Gym

Soccer- Tues. 7pm-9pm in the SRC Fieldhouse

Dodgeball- Wed. 7pm-9pm in the West Gym

Volleyball- Thurs. 7pm-9pm in the West Gym

Outdoor and Aquatic Equipment Rentals

Kayaks, surfing equipment, camping equipment, paddle boards, and more.

On-campus pickup/drop off - Monday-Friday 12pm-5:30pm

HSU’s Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center - Friday 2pm-6pm, Saturday/Sunday 11am-4pm

# Student recreational activities available

*Looking to join the action? Here are some opportunities for students to get outside and active!*





# 93 Deaths and Counting: Why HSU Shouldn't Reopen

*HSU attempts to bring back in-person learning as COVID-19 positivity and death rates go up at a staggering degree*

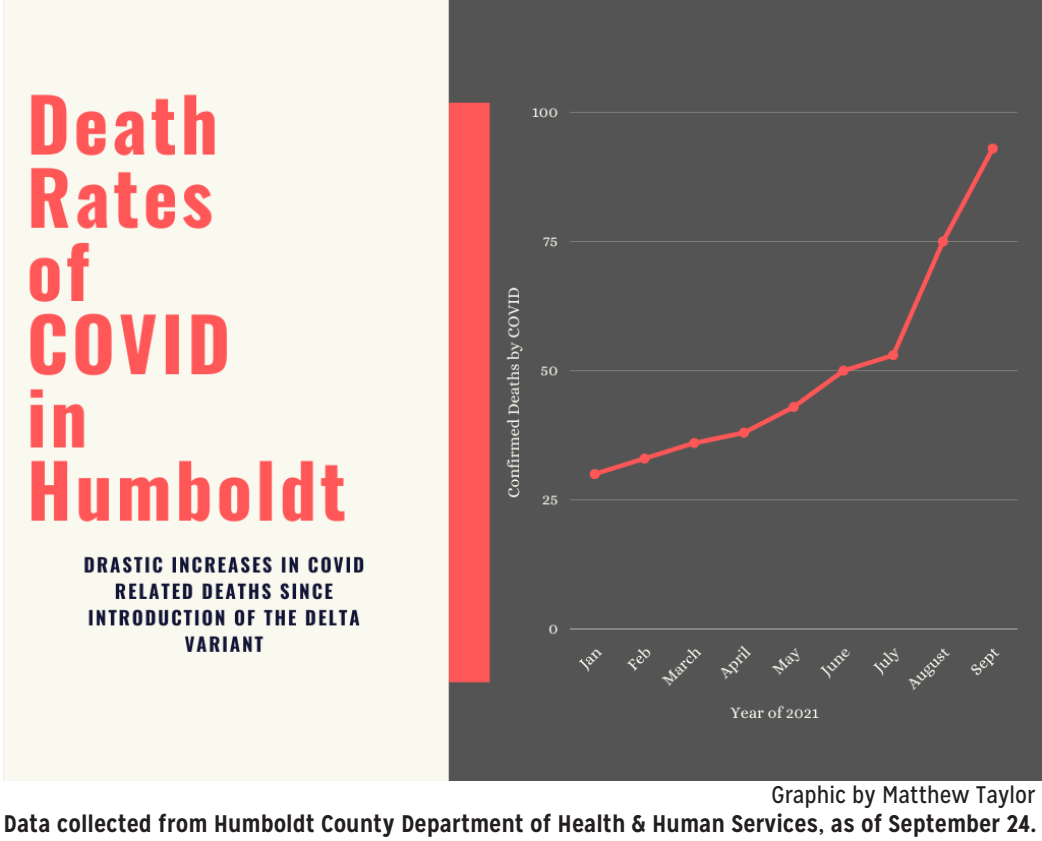
by Matthew Taylor

HSU is not ready for in-person learning. Currently people all across the country are itching to leave COVID-19 behind and the university is no exception to this. Many are holding the sentiment of, “I did my time and got my vaccine, now where is my reward?” That is not the way the world works.

Humboldt State University, willing a situation to be one way does not change the reality that it is actually another. The reality is that the county in which this university functions has an extremely concerning COVID-19 positivity rate and the death rates are going up as we speak.

As of writing this piece, according to data released by the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, we have a COVID-19 positivity rate that bounces between 10 to over 20% and a death count of 93. Almost half of those deaths came from the last two months.

Prior to the introduction of the Delta variant in July, COVID-19 only had a local death count of 22 by the end of 2020 and an additional 28 deaths by June of 2021. Aside from this alarming increase in deaths due to the Delta variant, by allowing things to go “back to normal” we continue to open the flood-



gates of more types of mutations which could hold worse consequences than just an increased susceptibility.

That begs the question, though. What about this hybrid or HyFlex learning that HSU has been attempting? Is that not the middle ground answer to this problem? No, it is not. Even if only vaccinated students were allowed on campus, with masks on, social distancing to the strictest sense, mutation would and does still occur.

There is substantial evidence, as expressed by disease specialists such as Dr. Peter Chin-Hong and Dr. Ashish Jha, that more common forms of masks, such as the cloth masks we often see across campus, are not as effective at preventing the spread of Delta as it is with previous variants. This is

absolutely not to say cloth masks do nothing at all or that they are equal to not masking up at all, just that the likelihood of passing COVID-19 around while wearing one is still very much there.

This whole argument, however, relies heavily on the idea that both students and faculty alike will and do follow the university’s pandemic guidelines to the strictest degree. Whether due to purposeful negligence or simple human error, there is no doubt in my mind and many others, that not only will vaccinated people break these rules, but unvaccinated people who come on campus will too.

Lastly, HyFlex learning is not as efficient or accessible as full in-person learning or full online learning. In many ways, it takes the worst of each form without taking any of the positives. Many students have already begun to struggle academically as professors attempt to learn to use the technology necessary for HyFlex learning on the job, inevitably failing to do so at times.

This situation has left many fully online students feeling left behind compared to their fully in-person peers. We feel cheated, promised the choice of a full online semester that the university in practice didn’t actually put into consideration in their attempts to push in-person learning back onto the masses.

# Oh the times, they are a-changin’

*Long time Humboldtian grieves loss of culture*

by Patrick Maravelias

Many a blue moon hath passed since the old days of HSU students coexisting with millionaire weed criminals and attending psychedelic-themed harvest parties in the forest on the full moon.

The Arcata plaza, once a bustling mecca of culture and community, is now a shadowy remnant of its former self. Whether from COVID-19, cannabis legalization, changing of the tides or a hellish concoction of all three, the Humboldt County community has regressed from happy hippie haven to sullen farm town and in not much more time than it just took me to describe.

I began attending Humboldt State University in the fall of 2015, about a year before marijuana was legalized for recreational use in California. When I arrived in town for the first time, it filled me with the warmest feeling of togetherness and glee, comparable only to falling head over heels in love.

My first time attending the Arcata Farmers Market, I witnessed children laughing and playing in the sunshine, street performers and fire spinners entertaining the crowds with a huge smile on their face. There were vagabond travelers smoking six-inch-long joints right in the middle of the square. Live music and block parties could be found in every neighborhood on every weekend. Obama was president. Nobody had a care in the world.

“If I’m ever describing Arcata I say it’s like a golden vein. A little golden vein of music right in the middle of California,” said Nick Flores in a 2015 interview. At the time, Flores was in a popular local band called the Smooth Weirdos with two HSU students. All three have since left the area.

Fast-forward 2016 California legalized cannabis for recreational use. About two years later the price of a pound of weed plummeted overnight. Generally speaking, a large portion of Humboldt County’s population had their income cut in half. People got desperate. A lot of people got robbed or killed. That did not just apply to farmers either. Trimmers making \$200 per pound one day made \$100 per pound the next day, which made several of them hang up their scissors.



A man attempts to limbo during a bustling day at the Arcata Farmer's Market on September 18, 2015.

Many trimmers and farm hands were from other countries, colloquially referred to as “trimmigrants,” and were deterred from ever returning once the jobs did not pay as well. Suddenly, there were no more foreigners coming into town on the weekends with five grand in cash in their pocket to blow at the local shops, bars and restaurants.

All the people holding cardboard signs with crude drawings of scissors on them could no longer be seen lining Highway 299 near Willow Creek. Bar-keepers and smoke shop owners could be seen for miles around scratching their heads, wondering when, if ever, their customers would return.

At that point, it was starting to become pretty clear the economy was struggling. Even with legal marijuana companies popping up, the jobs were not nearly as available and the ones that were usually paid no more than a restaurant job. Processing cannabis is, unfortunately, not difficult enough to justify the exorbitant salaries people were getting during the heyday of cannabis illegality.

Fast-forward to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and now the students were gone too. This is one of the few college towns rural enough that even one semester of remote learning sending students back to their family homes was enough to cause irrevocable damage in a community that is already half-impossible to access, lacking terribly in basic infrastructure and severely inundated with homeless students.

HSU’s enrollment was in steep decline even before the pandemic, down almost 50% since 2016 according to data recently released by the school. I have to wonder if those numbers will ever reverse even with a polytechnic designation, which the school has predicted will double the student population in seven years. Even if the school’s

prediction is correct, there is not enough housing for the students we already have.

Maybe I was just a bit more of an idealist in 2015. Maybe I’m too old and too grouchy. Maybe Humboldt used to be a mecca for illegal activity and these are all just necessary growing pains on the way to a healthier community. Or maybe the magic is just kind of gone. It seems like people are not quite as happy as they used to be.

I know COVID-19 made everybody anti-social, but I would challenge everybody to just be a little more kind. Let’s bring back a little bit of that classic, happy-go-lucky hippie vibe that Humboldt was built on. Otherwise, I cannot envision a future that does not end in the locals getting priced out of living here when the area becomes nothing more than a small-town tourist destination filled with vacation homes and cannabis-themed gift shops.



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## Would you like to contribute to The Lumberjack?

There's more going on in our community than a small group of student writers could ever hope to cover. If you're a member of the student body we serve, you have a valuable perspective that we'd like to help you share.



Step 1: What's your idea?

Do you want to write a story or opinion? We'd also be happy to publish your artwork, photography, comics, or poetry.

Step 2: Contact us.

We can be reached at [contactthejack@gmail.com](mailto:contactthejack@gmail.com). We can help you write your first story or make sure your art is ready for print.

Step 3: Publish!

When your work is ready we can finally publish. Depending on your idea, it could end up here in this paper, on our website, or both!

