



ALPHA GAMMA SIGMA SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER

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TRANSCRIPT NOTATION REQUIREMENTS

1

5 VIVO Hours & 5 Chapter
Involvement Hours
OR
1 Committee Credit

2

Attend 5 Committee
Meetings

3

Attend 2 SMC Socials or 2
SMC Workshops

4

Cumulative 3.0 GPA and
6 SMC Units

5

Do not receive three
negative 1s





Co-President's Letter

Ky Fernandez



Hi everyone! Welcome to Alpha Gamma Sigma! We are so thrilled and grateful that you have decided to join us as a member for the Fall 2022 semester. Whether you are a new or a returning member, we hope that you have an amazing experience as a part of AGS!

Just to share with you a little bit about myself, my name is Ky Fernandez and I am currently in my fourth year here at SMC and my second semester at AGS. Last Spring, I served as the Recording Secretary and was one of the peer mentors for the Peer Mentorship Committee. To meet other people was the only thing I had in mind when I first joined AGS, but little did I know it had actually amplified the interest and passion I did not know I had to represent AGS as the President this semester. Since then, I have learned to embrace working with others and forming meaningful relationships which has taught me so much about myself as a person and as a leader. From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely hope that you too are able to partake in these same experiences and develop a similar desire to be of service to others—all while improving yourself and having a blast!

As you may know by now, AGS has so much to offer; we champion on serving our community by providing our members various volunteer events, virtual activities, and leadership opportunities. So on behalf of the AGS Board, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities as they are all for you! Yes, you! If you have already started participating in them, then keep up the good work! As I end this message, I would like to congratulate all of you for everything that you have accomplished in both of your academics and with AGS up until this point. It is not easy balancing both, let alone being a student, but you are here and I could not be more proud of who you have become. Please remember that AGS is always here for you. You represent us as much as we do our very best to represent you, so never hesitate to reach out. Forever rooting for your success. Cheers!

Sincerely,

Ky Fernandez Fall 2022 AGS Co-President



Co-President's Letter

Holly Stiebel

(elected Assistant External Vice
President & appointed Co-President)



Hi AGS members!

Finals are just around the corner and I'd like to wish you all good luck! We are so proud of you for continuing to work hard inside and outside of the classroom, despite these challenging and untraditional times. As we continue to get closer and closer to deadlines for academic work such as the UC application, CSU application, and scholarship applications, please remember to relax, keep calm, and don't stress out too much.

AGS has provided amazing opportunities for all members and it's clear that your motivation and drive will enable you to be successful in whichever course of study you choose to pursue. You all have shown your dedication to your academics and extracurriculars and we are excited to see you continue to blossom next semester. We hope to host more in-person socials, meetings, and start working towards our goal of being more present on campus. As the semester comes to an end, please use your winter break wisely. If you need a break, take a break! Make an effort to put the books down, reflect on the past semester, and hang out with your friends or family. You deserve it! End this semester strong and come back stronger next semester!

Thank you to all general members, board members, and advisors. Next semester is going to be one for the books!

Sincerely,

Holly Stiebel Fall 2022 AGS Co-President



Meet the Board!



Co-President:
Kyra Fernandez



Co-President & Assistant
External VP: Holly Stiebel



External Vice President:
Jordian Christopher



Internal Vice President:
Kayla Rodriguez



Publicist: Le Thuy
(Harley) Nguyen



Hours Secretary:
Angelina Nalchyan



A.S. Representative:
Hanna Bozorgzad



ICC Delegate & Student
Relations Officer:
Ramsey Daniel



Assistant Hours Secretary:
Yuheng Li





Treasurer: James Koesnadi



Constitution & Student Policy
Advisor: Aminna Khun-Khun



Website Coordinator:
Raaid Elmelegy



Events Secretary:
Tzlil Pinhassi



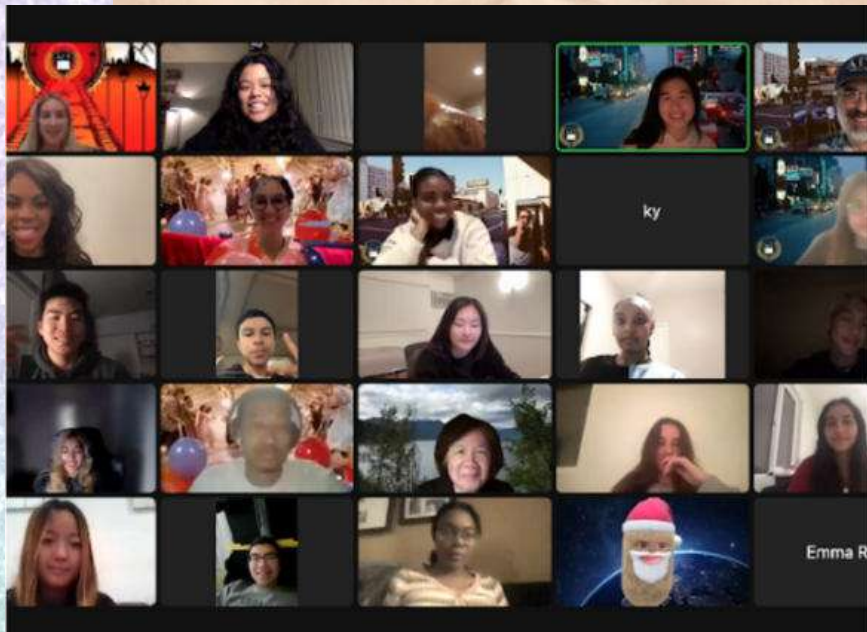
Assistant A.S Representative:
Javier Mozorra



Assistant Events
Secretary: Wai Hun Sann

AGS Banquet

Yeweon (Chloe) Heo



The AGS banquet, one of the big social events of the semester, was held virtually on Saturday, November 19, from 6:00pm-9:00pm. The members of the Banquet Committee worked hard to bring forth the theme of this event "Hollywood in the 80's". The evening's hostess was Internal Vice President Kayla Rodriquez, chair of the Banquet Committee, who welcomed everyone and encouraged us to use the various zoom backgrounds promoting the theme found in the AGS Discord link.

New State AGS Student Trustee (of the South) **Tenecia Harris** spoke about her work this past year with the state organization. Professor Green spoke briefly about the upcoming AGS Spring Convention in April 2023, when our chapter will be the host of the event, and encouraged everyone to plan on attending. Professor Wong provided information about the AGS State Scholarships and how it was awarded into the categories of service and academic excellence. She also provided information about the AGS scholarships and other scholarships for different programs offered through the Santa Monica College Foundation. Everyone was encouraged to apply; application deadline is Dec. 31. Professor Quevedo spoke about applying for AGS Permanent Membership status and its requirements of completion of 60 semester units and maintaining at least a 3.25 GPA with active membership for at least two semesters. Co-president Ky Fernandez spoke about our upcoming board elections and encouraged those interested to apply by the deadline date.

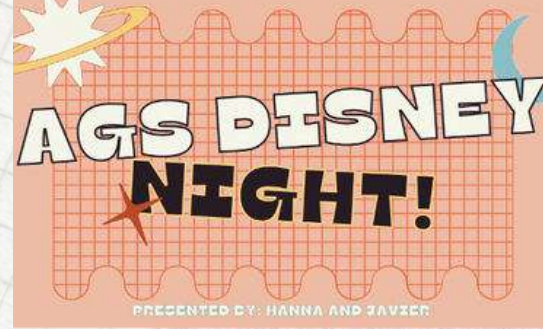
The banquet continued with the socializing and fun part of the evening. The members of the Banquet Committee hosted various icebreaker games in breakout rooms of five to six members set aside for members to get to know each other. The game time portion was divided into two breakout rooms of "Guess the Song (from the 80's)" or "Skribbi.io". Everyone separated into the breakout room of their choice. The competition generated a lot of enthusiasm among the participants since the winner will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. The Kahoot game followed with questions to fit the theme of the 80's.

The awards part of the evening included awards for outstanding general members and outstanding committee members. Ky was recognized as the outstanding board member. The evening concluded with short speeches from the two co-presidents Ky and Holly and from each of the advisors Professors Green, Wong, and Quevedo. Kayla expressed her gratitude to each of her Banquet Committee members by name and thanked them for their hard work in making the banquet a great success!



Disney Social

By Natalia Zeledon



On the evening of Friday, October 14, AGS held their first social of the Fall 2022 semester, a virtual Disney-themed social. Like the title says, this social was composed of everything and anything Disney-related. There were movie soundtracks playing in the background, trivia games based on Disney movies and songs, tutorials on how to draw Winnie the Pooh, and a few rounds of scribble.io. The evening ended with our taking quizzes to find out what Disney character or villain we had the most in common with. Members were encouraged to participate by having their cameras on, speaking verbally or in the chat, and dressing up in Disney attire. I personally wore my T-shirt based on the 2021 Disney movie, Encanto, with matching ears. Others also wore Mickey or Minnie Mouse ears, or even Disney hats! Those that could not turn on their camera would change their zoom profile picture to a picture of themselves at a Disney theme park.



I had the pleasure to interview one of our AGS co-Presidents, Ky Fernandez, who I deem to be a great friend. She also inspired me to attend my first AGS social! When I asked her why she chose to attend the Disney social specifically, she responded with that she had never attended an AGS social before and was curious to know how they were like. She had heard about them in past club meetings but had mainly attended workshops in the past, and wanted to give a social a try. Ironically it was a first time for us both! When asked about her favorite aspects on the social, she talked about how much she loved the scribble.io activity! Specifically in that people get to showcase their artistic and guessing abilities, since sometimes it was harder to tell what something was depending on who drew it and what the given word was. Ky mentioned that she was at first nervous about playing the game as she was not too proud of her artistic abilities, but felt welcomed by her fellow AGS members and officers that were present and some were even able to correctly guess the word before she finished drawing! Ky was also impressed with how fast people could draw considering the very short timeframe that the game gives you.



Personally, I really enjoyed the trivia games based on Disney movie facts and songs. Especially since the questions incorporated questions from older Disney movies and songs, which I was not super familiar with, so I felt that my knowledge got tested and I really had to think about some of the questions. My knowledge of songs used in some of the films got tested as some questions required us to fill in blanks, to which I had a matter of seconds to recall how certain songs went. It was interesting how we all interpreted or remembered a song differently, and in the end, were either proven right or wrong when the correct answer was revealed. The social ended with a quiz that we got to take to find out which Disney characters we had the most in common with, and I look forward to more socials in the future!



Beauty is in the eyes of Tiktok?

By Brigitte Sorto



TikTok, a renowned social media app has become one of the most influential apps in the world, known for its plethora of videos ranging from informational, entertaining, vlogging, and more. However, its influence on beauty is what has changed aspects of our lives. TikTok has also reintroduced tropes, similar to what we are used to seeing in 80s-early 2000s high school movies, such as jocks, nerds, emos, and more. However, these new “tropes” have taken the form of styles, with labels catered mostly toward women and young girls such as; coquette, y2k, grunge, and more. Makeup trends have also arisen, from the “clean-girl look” to “Hailey Bieber’s brownie lips”.

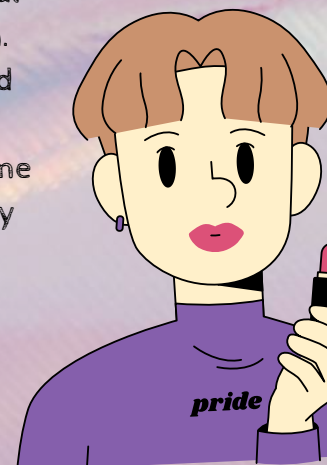
TikTok has allowed many to express themselves, but are these labels and trends having a little too much influence over our lives? These trends are constantly changing making some feel as if they’re completely out of the loop when they finally catch up. Labels are constantly placed on women who fit a certain style even if they don’t mean to and are just expressing themselves. This leads to criticism if a makeup look or style is not executed properly, thus leading to toxic behaviors toward women.



With TikTok spreading short videos from all over the world, trends are circulating quicker than ever before. Before TikTok was at its peak, magazines, runways, and celebrity photos were the way to determine what was in and what was out in the fashion industry. Designers and celebrities held more power when it came to defining pop culture and the trends they wanted to set. However, now regular people can post a quick video with a catchy song and have a viral video and new trend circulating in a manner of seconds. Imagine this happening every day with different people, different songs, and different trends all circulating in the same app, at the same time on a variety of people’s for you pages. Some may even show up weeks after being posted, others recreating and others simply liking the video, which only adds to their popularity.



Although celebrities and magazines still hold some weight over what we wear, we must also acknowledge that social media heavily influences our ideals and self-perception. It’s important to not base your own worth or life around labels to categorize your style. Self-expression is supposed to be fun, making you feel like you. So, next time you want to find some inspiration from a TikTok, be easy on yourself and do what makes you feel comfortable. We’re all more than categories and labels!



On Wednesdays We Wear Pink!

For Breast Cancer Awareness By Brigitte Sorto



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! It is important to acknowledge the importance of Breast Cancer Awareness and recognize its symptoms. Did you know it doesn't exclusively target biological women? In fact, according to the CDC, men can also get breast cancer similar to that of women. Let's break down the symptoms for both men and women! Both men and women should regularly feel their breasts, even if it may seem a little awkward.

Check Yourself!

1. Notice any lumps or swelling in the chest, or even armpits
2. Check for color changes, flaky skin, rashes, crusting, etc.
3. Notice any changes in nipple or breast shape or size
4. Look for any unusual liquid from the nipples

So what's next? The first step would be to consult with your doctor or contact breast cancer non-profit organizations or support groups for help if there are issues with your healthcare providers. From there, treatment must be started, which differs from person to person, depending on how developed the disease is and other personal issues. A variety of tests must be conducted for men and women alike to understand the issue and the next steps.

So what can you do, even if you're not personally affected by breast cancer?

There's a variety of things one can do to help others understand breast cancer and support alliances. For one, it's important to understand preventative measures, which would include staying physically healthy, avoiding large quantities of alcohol, radiation exposure, and more. You don't have to be personally affected by breast cancer to be well-informed about the issue. In fact, it's essential for everyone to be aware of what affects others and could potentially affect you. It's also important to acknowledge that many people of color (POC) are unaware of cancer treatments, or preventative measures. This can happen due to a plethora of reasons, such as a lack of bilingual doctors or organization groups, a lack of knowledge of organizations or support groups that can help, and medical negligence. Many POC, such as Black women die at a higher rate of breast cancer in comparison to white women due to a lack of therapies and socioeconomic factors, according to Curetoday. These factors must be taken into consideration when advocating for Breast Cancer Awareness and should not be neglected! These issues prevail before and after October, so no matter what month it is, Breast Cancer Awareness should be a topic of discussion. It is never too late or too early to get involved, informed, and an advocate!

Resources for you:

<https://breastcancernow.org/get-involved/breast-cancer-awareness-month>

<https://www.youngsurvival.org/directory/breast-cancer/african-american-breast-cancer-alliance-inc-aabca#:~:text=The%20African%20American%20Breast%20Cancer,communities%20affected%20by%20breast%20cancer.https://www.sistersnetworkinc.org/programs.html>

VIVO: COLOR A SMILE

LILY PARCELLS

One of the missions of AGS is serving the community, and doing this throughout a pandemic became increasingly difficult. Color A Smile, now an AGS VIVO (Virtual Independent Volunteering Opportunity) continues to bring an accessible virtual volunteering solution. Founded in 1990, Color a Smile collects and distributes colorful drawings to senior citizens, troops, and nursing homes/hospitals. To date, Color a Smile has collected and distributed well over two million drawings mailed to every state in the country and is rapidly approaching three million (Jerry Harris).

How do you verify the hours? If you want to get verified hours for your service, the process is relatively simple. On the Color a Smile website, find the "validating hours page" and fill out the form given. You will then get an email with a validation form which you print, fill out, and mail along with your drawings. Within two weeks of receiving your drawings, Color a Smile will send you an email with your verified/signed validation form. Color a Smile only uses their personal validation form, but the majority of schools/organizations accept it. One drawing is equal to ten minutes of community service!

On November 10, Jerry Harris, Director of Color a Smile, attended one of the AGS general meetings to tell us more about the organization, its history, and its impact. He said it actually started before the internet, when they would drop off coloring sheets at schools for students to complete. Now, you can go to their website and volunteer with four simple steps; according to Harris: "Download a page, color it, put your name at the bottom of it, and then mail it to us. That's all there is to it". He continues "There are lots of page options and this opportunity is great for everyone—organizations, classrooms, or within families. It is simple and a low commitment."



So you've sent out your drawings. Where do they go and how do they actually affect people? As explained by Harris, the drawings go to three different places. First to singular people like a grandmother or senior citizen who receive two to three drawings per month. Second to hospitals/nursing homes which receive around ten drawings per month; they usually go to the activities director who puts them up in the common room/area. The senior citizens and hospitals or nursing homes receive these drawings because they are on their mailing list; you can add anyone to the Color a Smile mailing list at no cost! The third place is the Meals on Wheels program. Local programs throughout the country receive packages of 100 drawings per month and includes a drawing in each food package they deliver.

I'll be honest, when I first heard about Color a Smile, I thought What can a drawing really do? But when Harris talked about the feedback and thank you notes they get from receivers, my mind was changed. "We get thank you letters all the time from people just telling us that 'I don't get to see people' and those that get the drawings every month say that they look forward to receiving them. They get nothing but junk mail, but they look forward to our envelope because it's something that you know, will put a smile on their face, and then they put it on their refrigerator door." The pictures bring vibrancy to a space and help remind people that there are others thinking about them. I myself have visited many relatives in hospitals and nursing homes, and they can often be very gloomy and depressing. I feel it's often the little things that have a big impact, especially in terms of the atmosphere of a place. I hadn't thought about how a picture could change that, even if from a stranger.

But that's the thing, as discussed by Harris, they get thank you notes all the time, but they aren't addressed to Color a Smile, "they're addressed to a Holly or Billie or Susie. They're thanking the person that colored the drawing. It's a personal thing, even though it might be one of a million." The drawings can carry more meaning to the people receiving them, they show people that we care and foster small connections in an isolated time. Especially because of COVID, more people than ever have been hospitalized or need some sort of extra support and care, as well as more people being isolated—meaning *we need these drawings even more than before*.

Holly Stiebel, AGS Assistant External Vice President and a Color a Smile volunteer, reflected, "You'd never think that coloring pictures, such a simple volunteering experience that some may overlook, could be as rewarding as it is. Listening to Mr. Harris, the head of the organization, speak about the grandparents who say the pictures bring a smile to their face each time they receive them, or when soldiers receive them, brings joy to me knowing that my volunteering makes such a huge impact on the mood of their recipients".



BURNOUT RECOVERY:

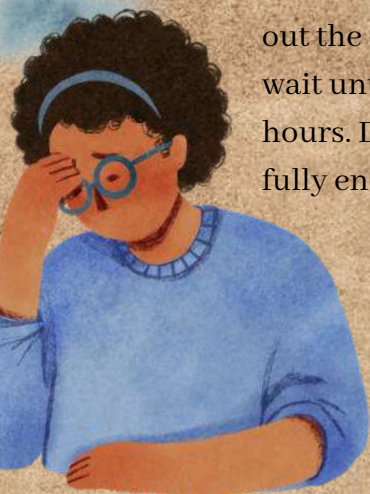
Advice from your Peers

BY EMMA RILEY

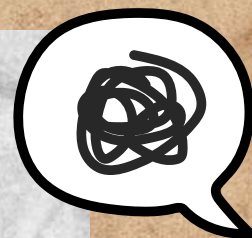
Picture this: It is the middle of the semester and you're in your third class of the day, eyes glazing over. One of your biggest exams is next week and it just feels like there couldn't be any more room in your brain for another review session. You can't even study any of your classmate's faces because of the mask mandate; that was one of your guilty pleasures pre-pandemic. The professor's words trail in and out of your ears and you find your hand reaching for your phone. You half heartedly snap a picture of the board hoping the information might stick if you revisit it with more mental energy later. Texts from your friends in the group chat and posts on your Instagram feed are easier to digest than the lecture, but still aren't enough to revive your unignited mind.



Fast-forward to 7:30 pm, finally home from class: You open your camera roll and the messy whiteboard seems like a world away. I've done enough today, you think to yourself. Weighing out the options with the trace amount of brain power you have left, you decide schoolwork can wait until motivation revisits you and browse YouTube or Reddit or TikTok for the next few hours. Day in and day out, you're spinning your wheels because you're never fully rested, never fully energized, never fully tired.



A survey done at Ohio State University found that the number of students feeling the effects of burnout increased from 31% in 2020 to a whopping 71% in 2021! **My survey at Santa Monica College was just a small fraction of that; but out of the 18 students I personally surveyed, 100% of them said "yes" when asked, "Are you feeling burnout right now?"**



Almost all of the respondents agreed that burnout hit them the hardest in the middle of the semester, right around midterms. One undergraduate interviewed, a second year Chemistry major, noted that while burnout was strongest for them midyear, they had to endure the effects all the way to finals week. Another said, "When I get study burnout, I switch to one of my hobbies. Then I get hobby burnout and switch back." The feeling of exhaustion and repeated stress around midterms is enough to dampen the spirit of any budding student. When the feeling carries on longer than expected, or bleeds into other aspects of life, it's time to take action.



1%



Straight from your fellow classmates and peers at SMC, here are some helpful tips and coping strategies for combating burnout and reigniting your academia:

"I make sure that I'm getting enough food, sleep, and water. It's difficult to run smoothly when there's no fuel in my tank."

— Jake, second year Psychology major



"Whatever stage you're doing in school, whatever you want to do, be nice to yourself"

*— Jamie,
Interior Design major*

"I try and take breaks to play video games. It might not be the most healthy coping skill but it gives my mind a mix of active and distracted."

— Austin, first year Computer Science major

*"It's
"nice"
to be
"nice"*

"See your friends. Make time for people around you that you love. Don't push yourself."

— Tammy, Fine Arts major



Kickin' Cancer 5K Run

By Jesslyn Chandra

On a breezy November 13 Sunday morning, a brave group of energized people gathered together to join the 20th Annual Kickin' Cancer 5K Run in Brentwood, CA. The event was held by the Lynne Cohen Foundation, a foundation created by Lynne Cohen's three daughters to support the prevention of ovarian and breast cancer. For over 20 years, The Lynne Cohen Foundation has continued to generate awareness and funds for research in the fight against ovarian and breast cancers; and with the joint help from USC Cancer Clinic, they provide free services to women, including those who are uninsured.



And on this day, a few members of Santa Monica College's AGS chapter also turned to the field to offer some volunteering help. It was a very special day for our chapter because it was the first-ever off-campus volunteer event in three years! After the pandemic started to ease up, things slowly started to get back to normal, and AGS decided to step up and bring nobility to the community around them. I was privileged to interview one of the AGS volunteers Theresa Wellington from the event. Theresa's comments:

Q: How do you feel about joining as an Alpha Gamma Sigma volunteer in the event?

A: Volunteering in this event was a great opportunity. I was glad to help the cause and show my support.

Q: How did the Kickin' Cancer 5K Run go? Are there any exciting things that happened during the event?

A: I met some wonderful volunteers and people who participated in the 5k. There were some great event sponsors and music to get everyone ready to run and walk. There were also some touching speeches about lost loved ones. It really felt like everyone came together to show support in the face of such a devastating disease.

The Kickin Cancer 5K Run was a fantastic event to raise ovarian and breast cancer awareness. All the volunteers, especially the one from the SMC's Alpha Gamma chapter, really make a difference at the annual event. Even though it has been three years since the last off-campus volunteering event, it did not blow the flame out of the honorary club members to still help spread goodness in this world by volunteering.

It was noted that the crazy wind and cold did not stop the participants from finishing the race; instead, it motivated them to reach the finish line as fast as they could but, more importantly, to help provide needed services to those affected with cancer.



A Day at the College Fair

By Lily Parcell

On Thursday, October 13, 2022, Santa Monica College had their fall College Fair, with an in-person portion in the morning and virtual portion in the afternoon. This was SMC's first in-person college fair since the start of the pandemic, and we made a strong return. SMC's college fairs have often been some of the largest for community colleges. As stated on SMC's website, "Santa Monica College has over 23,000 full and part-time students, and 300 international students from 100 different countries. SMC's college fairs have become very popular and thanks to the schools' interest in our students, our fair has become the largest of all other California community colleges. In the past virtual fall, 200+ colleges and universities were present".



SMC has numerous transfer guidance opportunities, including many workshops on personal insight questions (PIQs), counselors, and fairs. They even made a sample question list to ask colleges during the fair, which I used and found to be very helpful. In the past college fairs, I didn't know where to start and ended up asking nothing at all. The fair was big and well organized--including all of the UCs and I think most of the CSUs attended, as well as the University of Southern California (USC) and Loyola Marymount University (LMU). It also included a glass blown pumpkin sale, made by the students and community involved in the glass sculpture class here at SMC. Isabella Burnett, a student at SMC, reflected, "It was helpful. I talked to the representatives about my major and got pamphlets, and I liked that the UCs had their own corner. It was easy to find particular schools".

I personally had a chance to talk to UCLA and UCLA's Department of Design Media Arts (DMA), which had a separate table and admissions officers like many of the separate business, engineering, design, etc. colleges of each school had. In addition to the top schools, the fair really did have a lot of colleges too, and I wandered around the central plaza and stopped at any college table which caught my attention, many of which I have never heard of. I talked to someone who went to the University of Alaska Southeast, which I learned has open enrollment. The person there wasn't even a professional admissions officer; he was from the Los Angeles area and just wanted to share his love for his school. I also learned about Western Undergraduate Exchange (WEU), which provides reduced or in-state equivalent tuition for participating colleges on the west coast, including the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Hawai'i Mānoa, both of which were at the college fair.



I talked to some international schools like the American University of Paris, which is an international university, and universities in another country like the University of Auckland which is in New Zealand. Many of the international colleges had information about your transferring there or if you wanted to study abroad there for six months, one year, etc. I also talked to some specialized schools, such as the Otis College of Art and Design. In general, I noticed lots of schools had a combination of QR codes, which became popular after the start of the pandemic, as well as some pamphlets. In the past, there were mountains of pamphlets, but fairs have evolved to be more environmentally friendly and desire to save paper. Overall, the fair was a great and helpful experience, and I found out a lot more about a vast array of colleges and programs with people who were eager and open to talk about them.



VIVO: Words Alive

By Emma Riley



In a short two and a half years, the COVID-19 pandemic has rattled almost every sector within our society; perhaps the most important being the foundational education for our future generations. Would you believe that a recent study in San Diego found a whopping 60% of third graders are reading below their grade level. This may seem like a minimal issue but unfortunately fourth grade is when our school system stops teaching reading as a skill and begins to require reading as a prerequisite.

Poor literacy is a huge issue that affects almost every branch of our infrastructure. An article written by Regis College states that child illiteracy can lead to increased rates of incarceration, unemployment, and loss of accessibility of medical information. Low levels of literacy can even lead to more hospital visits. It's no secret that illiteracy can greatly negatively impact many children's chances at success. If you had the opportunity to nudge them onto a better path, wouldn't you? A unique organization to give you the opportunity to make a difference in a child's future.



Robyn Grand, Community Engagement Manager of Words Alive came to the AGS general meeting on November 10 to discuss the mission and hope of Words Alive, a multilevel and expansive reading organization based in San Diego. Their mission is to connect children, teens and adults to the power of reading. Their game plan? Find the most riveting material for every age group and let the excitement of page turning unfold. Words Alive has many opportunities for volunteer work but their most popular program has to be Page Turners, with 1500 active volunteers to date. Page Turners is the channel that books flow through to every other program Words Alive.

Volunteers get to choose a book for whatever age group they're interested in reading for, read the book at whatever pace they want, and then write a thoughtful review. Kitty Ng, a former co-president of AGS (Spring 2021) and a current student at UC Berkeley, reviewed children's picture books and novels and then provided feedback to help the organization determine which books were appropriate to add to their curriculum. The volunteer hours are all self-logged. If you didn't like the book you chose, leave a critical review and you'll still get the credit! It's important that the group knows that a book may perhaps not be acceptable. If you enjoy that magical feeling you get when you finish a book and it really speaks to you, gift that feeling to others. If you like to read for pleasure, you'll love to read for Words Alive. Visit their website at wordsalive.org/pageturners to get started.



AGS Walk to the Pier Social

By Natalia Zeledon

On the afternoon of Saturday, October 29, AGS held their first in person social of the semester and the first in 2-1/2 years! As the title indicates, members and two advisors walked together from the SMC main campus to the Santa Monica Pier for an afternoon of fellowship and fun! The event began with meeting up at the SMC main campus in the early afternoon, then after a headcount the group began the over two mile walk, or 30 minute walk, to the Santa Monica Pier.

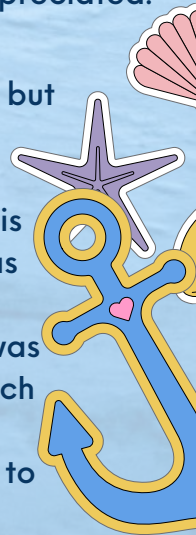
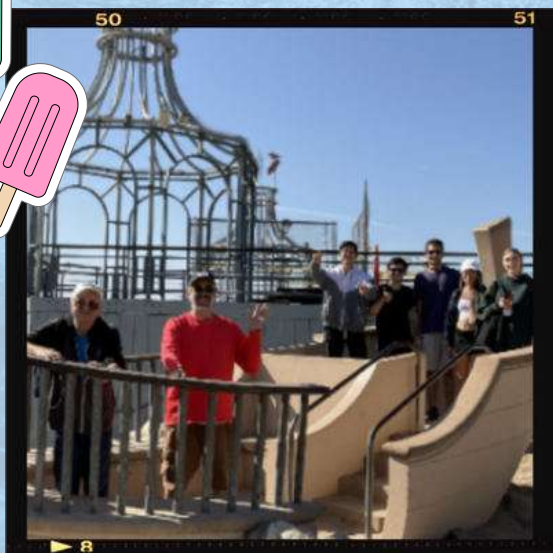
Upon arriving at the pier, they were greeted by local performances and grabbed lunch from the boardwalk. The remainder of the social consisted of socializing and getting to explore the Pier and surrounding beach area.

I had the pleasure to interview AGS Member Theresa Wellington, who got to attend the social! She mentioned that she ultimately decided to attend the social with the intention of connecting with her peers. Theresa went on to talk about how most of her classes are online at the moment, so it has been harder to meet people and make connections. She especially wants to connect with others who are interested in transferring to a 4-year institution, and felt that she was able to do so at the social. Theresa was actually surprised that most, if not everyone who attended the social, had the same academic goals as herself, as well as the different majors that were present. She enjoyed getting to hear about everyone's experiences at SMC so far and how AGS as an organization has been at the core of many of their college experience at SMC! She also got to know Professor Quevedo and Professor Green, our club advisors, in-person and on a more personal level. They even opened up about transfer advice, which Theresa very much appreciated.

In addition to Theresa, I also had the opportunity to interview AGS member Anikait Roy, who also attended the social! He mentioned that he originally attended to mainly get social credit, but got a lot more out of the event than he anticipated. Anikait went on to talk about how immediately everyone clicked and felt connected to one another, which is something that is difficult to obtain in online settings. It was a rather refreshing feeling to see and interact with his peers face to face instead of from behind a computer screen, which was something that he was used to for awhile. Some things that were discussed were their backgrounds, goals, hopes and dreams majors, and experiences at SMC in navigating online/hybrid learning. He said that it was rather eye opening to hear about everyone's perspectives and advice that was shared with each other about navigating school during a rather interesting time to be a college student. Anikait said that by the time they walked back to campus, he felt as though the group was a lot closer to one another than when the event first started. Himself, along with the others that attended the event, enjoyed it greatly and hope for more events like this in the future!



fun at the pier '22!





MOVIE NIGHT SOCIAL

By Natalia Zeledon



On the evening of Friday, November 4, 2022, Alpha Gamma Sigma hosted a virtual movie night for members to participate in! The theme was based off of the timeless 90's film, Clueless, where members got to watch it together from the comfort of their homes and interact with one another using zoom and the teleparty app! Though these platforms, members were able to express which scenes were their favorites (without spoiling the film), emoji reactions during famous or overall funny and relatable scenes. After the movie ended and the hosts were preparing a game, some members expressed confusion regarding some of the references, to which Professor Quevedo addressed them as they were signs of the times.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Viviana Quevedo, an AGS member who attended the social event. Viviana said that she was really interested in this particular social and ultimately chose to attend since she enjoys watching a variety of movies. So this social was right up her alley and sparked her interest right away. She also mentioned that she enjoys being able to connect with AGS members outside of the weekly meetings, and felt that socials are a great opportunity to do so! Besides getting to watch a movie on a Friday night, Viviana especially enjoyed the game that was hosted afterwards that involved answering questions and then finding out which character from the movie she had the most in common with! It was a special touch to the end of a fun and relaxing evening with AGS.



In addition to Viviana, I had the pleasure of interviewing Cecilia Jeong, the A.S. Director of Basic Needs and AGS member who also got to attend the movie night social! Cecilia said that she chose to attend the social because she doesn't watch that many movies in her spare time, and wanted to try something new! She feels as though movies gives us a glimpse into how pop culture was like in the past and found the movie to be rather interesting and funny! Additionally, the fact that the social was held virtually made it more accessible and appealing since participants could enjoy the film from the comfort of their own homes and still get to interact with people from school, which she noted is rather fascinating to think about. Cecilia liked that the film is easy to follow along with and understand, she was concerned that she might not fully understand or enjoy the movie since she claimed to not have much knowledge of the time period, but was surprised. She also wanted to note that this film was written by female director named Amy Herckling, and she appreciates that we get to watch films that were written by women in this organization.

With all of the feedback from members, it can easily be concluded that the movie night social was a success and enjoyed by those who were able to attend. It was also much needed since November can be a busy month academically! Therefore, an applause to the hosts for holding another successful and engaging online social; we all look forward to more in the future!



Student Clubs @ SMC!

By Yeoweon (Chloe) Heo



On September 29, 2022, Santa Monica College hosted the Club Awareness Day event at the Main Campus Quad area from 11:15am-12:30pm. More than 40 clubs participated in this big event, where one can find such clubs at AGS, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), SMC Cheer Club, International Students Forum (ISF), and others. The event was significant in that it was SMC's first official club event organized by Associated Students (AS) and Inter-Club Council (ICC).

In particular, it was meaningful as an opportunity to bring more students onto campus since the beginning of the pandemic so that everyone can be more involved in the college community.

Students were allowed to sign up for the clubs they were interested in. Another highlight of September 29 was the Homecoming Week pep rally that occurred that day. The SMC Cheer Club prepared a pep rally and showed great enthusiasm in their cheer. All in all, it was great to see the lively activity on campus. Club Awareness Day ended successfully and I'm looking forward to the next one.

Halloween Club Row!

On October 27, 2022, Santa Monica College hosted Club Row, its second on-campus event. It was again organized by ICC with a Halloween theme and again occurred at the Main Campus Quad area. This was a larger event than Club Awareness Day—with some clubs selling treats and other individually wrapped items to raise funds for their clubs. Because of the Halloween theme, many students could be found in their favorite costumes, which added to the festivities of treats, fun, and music. Club Row came at a good time too—as it provided a welcomed break from the stress of midterm exams.





PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY WITH STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

By Jesslyn Chandra



Halloween is one of the most popular holidays at this time of the year—leading to Thanksgiving and Christmas. A few international students showed their enthusiasm about the yearly spooky celebration occurring at Santa Monica College.

On October 26, around 60 international students from the ISF club gathered around The Quad to carve pumpkins. ISF, which stands for International Student Forum, is one of the most famous clubs at Santa Monica College. Earlier this month, they started their first meeting with Snack Appreciation Day, which went fantastically. ISF collaborated with International Education Center (IEC) this time to hold the Pumpkin Carving Party.

Students are given an hour to carve their pumpkins in a group consisting of 5 to 6 people. With the carving tool, the students really went out and beyond their ideas to carve the pumpkin. The music playing in the background also increased the excitement of the event. There is also a contest for the most creative carving. To determine the winner, the students cast their votes with a scream, and the team who got the most screams for the pumpkin wins!

At this fun event, I had the privilege to interview ISF's president, Abril Olivares. Here is the interview:

Q: How did you come up with this fantastic idea for the Pumpkin Carving Party?

A: First of all, I want to clarify that I wasn't the only one who came up with this idea. Actually, all the board members and I thought that pumpkin carving was an excellent activity to immerse international students into Halloween and American culture. Also, we thought people could get creative with all of the designs and then have a contest!

Q: Is the event turned out to be as you expected?

A: I have been pretty proud of how all of the events have turned out; however, organizing the Pumpkin Carving was full of trials and tribulations. In order to get all approvals, we had to attend tons of meetings and at one point we were not sure if we would obtain funding from Associated Students for the pumpkins. There was so much pressure and expectations on us, but with the social media team, the IEC, and all of the students, we ended up hosting the event for almost 60 people. I hope that ISF gets more and more people; students are genuinely invested in activities/events, and for us super fulfilling to get these incredible results.



The Pumpkin Carving Event has succeeded in bringing students from all over the world to gather together and celebrate Halloween at Santa Monica College. With the event, many students got to meet other students from other countries, especially those who just arrived to the United States and do not know many people yet.

MEET THE AGS ADVISORS! :)



Professor
John Quevedo



Professor
Terry Green



Professor
Betty Wong

THE AGS MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the chapter shall be to foster, promote, maintain, and recognize scholarship among the students of Santa Monica College, to develop programs offering cultural, social or enrichment experiences; to promote service to the college and community; and to emphasize the development of leadership, character and judgment.

SPECIAL THANKS

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