

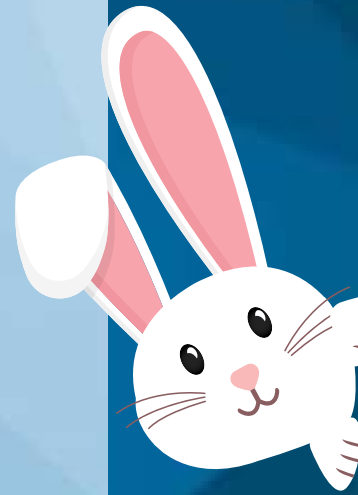
**AGS Spring 2023 Newsletter**

**Santa Monica College**

**Alpha Gamma Chapter**

**VOLUME XXXII (ISSUE 3 OF 4)**

**ALPHA  
GAMMA SIGMA  
HONOR SOCIETY**



April

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Manuela Concha

**FELICES PASCUAS! Welcome AGS members and prospects to the April edition of our newsletter. I am so eager to guide you through this and last month's events. Every single member of the newsletter committee has taken a deep dive into our events to give you all a little grasp of what our community offers. I encourage you all to read each article and allow yourself to be invaded by the energy transmitted through each piece.**

**We are already halfway through our spring semester and there are so many events that we wish to share with you all. There are so many more coming in the upcoming months so don't miss out on more experiences and opportunities to be active within our community. We truly hope that you have all enjoyed the multiple possibilities of socials, service, fundraisers, and workshops that the team has organized for you throughout these couple of months.**

**I am so excited to present our second newsletter of the spring semester as the team and our amazing advisor have worked hard to turn in this present so you can all enjoy the events which have passed through the committee's team eyes and have an insight on what is yet to come. Despite being in different parts of the world; compromise, passion, and enthusiasm made this all possible. We are constantly searching to learn, improve and become better at what we do.**

**I hope you are safe and healthy from wherever you are reading this. Welcome once again to the first Spring 2023 newsletter. Enjoy!**

**Regards, all the way from Bogotá, Colombia**



# CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holly Steibel

**Hello everyone! Congrats on being over half way done with the spring semester! Within the past few months, members have taken part in multiple events, whether it be VIVO's, socials or even volunteering in person. All of us are so proud of you, and want to thank you for participating in AGS events. We have begun taking steps to come back to pre-pandemic norms of in-person meetings and events, and we are so excited at the progress our club has made!**

**As an introduction, my name is Holly Stiebel, I'm a Business Administration major, and I am currently in my second year here at SMC. I joined AGS back in Spring 2022. I started off as a member of the VIVO committee, moved up to Assistant External Vice President, and then became the Co-President halfway through fall 2022. AGS has allowed me to strengthen both my leadership and public speaking skills, and has also allowed me to break out of my shell! If it weren't for AGS, I wouldn't be nearly as involved or excited to lead!**

**If you missed the chance to either register as a general member, join a committee, or apply for a board position, we hope you will consider applying next semester! Our elections are coming up shortly, and we would love to have you explore all of the opportunities AGS has to offer. We have multiple opportunities for people coming from any background, major, or interests, and would love general members from this semester to step up as board or committee members! If you are new to SMC, I'd like to specifically encourage you to participate in a committee or apply for a board position. You'll be able to make so many new connections, and join a great community of like minded students. Thank you so much for your interest and involvement in AGS, and I wanted to formally thank everyone for supporting each other, working hard, and navigating new responsibilities! It means the world to us that you all set time aside each week to join our meetings, knowing everyone is succeeding in school, balancing work, and participating in many other extracurricular activities! Thank you all!**



# TRANSCRIPT NOTATION REQUIREMENTS

**1**

10 VOLUNTEER HOURS  
(IN PERSON OR VIVOS)

**2**

COMMITTEE CREDIT  
OR 2 FUNDRAISERS

**3**

ATTEND 5 MEETINGS  
(2 IN PERSON)

**4**

ATTEND 2 SOCIALS OR 2  
SMC WORKSHOPS  
(1 IN PERSON)

**5**

CUMMULATIVE 3.0 GPA  
AND 6 SMC UNITS

**6**

DO NOT RECEIVE 3  
NEGATIVE 1'S





# MEET THE BOARD!



**CO PRESIDENT**  
KAYLA RODRIGUEZ



**CO PRESIDENT**  
HOLLY STIEBEL



**EXTERNAL VP**  
HANNA BOZORGZAD



**INTERNAL VP**  
WENYU E



**ASSISTANT EXTERNAL VP**  
SAKUNIT SRILOM



**HOURS SECRETARY**  
YUHENG LI



**ASSISTANT HOURS SECRETARY**  
KAIFENG LI

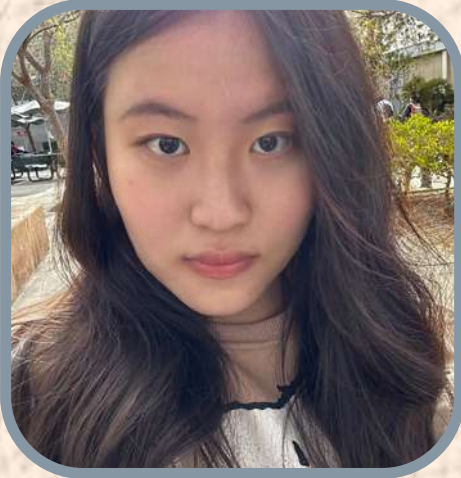


**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
NOEMI ALVARADO



**ASSISTANT TREASURER**  
DULINA WICKREMESINGHE

# MEET THE BOARD!



**I.C.C. DELEGATE**  
JIN LIU



**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
MANUELA CONCHA



**ASSISTANT A.S REPRESENTATIVE**  
AIXIA XIE



**PUBLICITY OFFICER**  
ZOE MEDINA



**A.S REPRESENTATIVE**  
SHAN SYED



**STUDENT RELATIONS OFFICER**  
SEMIA BEJI



**EVENTS SECRETARY**  
WAI HUN SANN

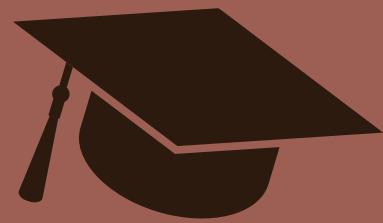


**ASSISTANT EVENTS SECRETARY**  
ESMERALDA HERNANDEZ



**WEBSITE COORDINATOR**  
ERIC ZHENG

# HOW TO TRANSFER TO UC'S WORKSHOP



**SYUAN YU SIAO**  
Newsletter Staff

On March 21st, counselor Erika Knox worked us through the available workshops on the SMC website. There are three sections dedicated to UC, CSU, and other public and private colleges and universities. For UC transfer students, the Transfer Center offers workshops on, including but not limited to, UC Application, Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG), which is happening in September, and Personal Insight questions (PIQ).

The counselor introduced that UCs are more research and theory-oriented, whereas CSUs focus on a hands-on approach. When transferring to the UCs, larger classes can be more common. In addition, Blue and Gold covers California residents' systemwide tuition and fees

when one's family income is under \$80,000. According to Blue and Gold, "more than 56% of UC's California undergrads pay no tuition." To learn more about financial aid, please join the Show Me the Money workshop at SMC.

Minimum UC Admission Requirements include 60 UC transferable semester units, minimum GPA requirements (2.4 for residents and 2.8 for non-residents), and 7 Course patterns.







CALIFORNIA

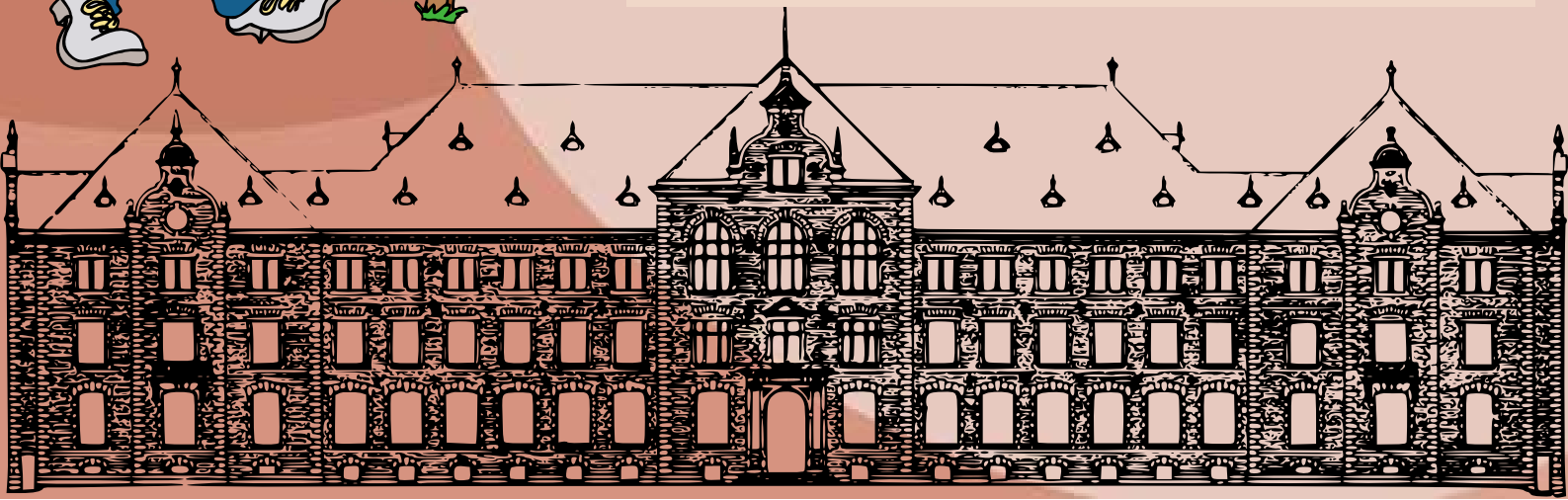


**CONGRATULATIONS!**



The units can be checked by looking at one's unofficial transcript on Corsair Connect and completed by the time students graduate from SMC. Note that the mentioned GPA numbers are requirements but not necessarily competitive. Students can connect with a counselor at General Counseling and Transfer Center to make sure they are meeting the requirements.

Major preparation requirements are important to focus on for transfer students who want to be competitive, which is available on Assist.org. Major preparation is recommended to be completed by the semester students apply. SMC also has the Honors/Scholars Program, which offers the TAP program with UCLA that gives students special consideration.





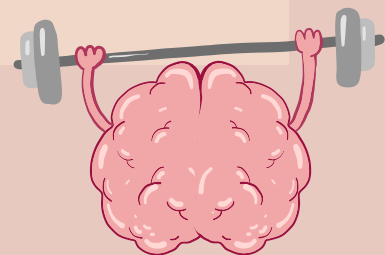
The program also connects students to the Transfer Honors Program at UCI and other colleges/universities. To learn more about the benefits and details of joining the program, please join the Scholar Information session. Students who might have benefited less from the Scholars Program are encouraged to look at other special programs, such as the STEM Program.

UCLA and UCs also compile two lists of the number of applicants, admit rate, and GPA range of admits. For students who are not

entirely sure about what they want to major in, these sites are great tools to explore potential majors that may be less competitive to get into.

UCs follow a holistic review, meaning that they consider not just GPA but also extracurricular activities, volunteering, hobbies, and work, just to name a few. Counselor then talked about special majors at each UC campus and opened up a Q&A time. She also mentioned that the full PowerPoint presentation can be found on 'Workshops' under 'Student Support.'

Attending workshops is a great way to know what SMC has to offer and ask questions. Students can also request a recording of workshops. Upcoming workshops can be found on the SMC website and socials and by joining AGS's weekly information meetings.



dream  
school

LOADING...

# **CELEBRATION OF CESAR CHAVEZ & DOLORES HUERTA**

**NATALIA ZELEDON**

Newsletter Staff

**On Thursday, March 30th, AGS volunteered at the SMC Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta celebration! The event began with volunteers meeting up in front of the SMC library and going as a group to HSS to set up food, tables, and refreshments. Afterward, we got to watch a documentary alongside the rest of the SMC student body about a small family-owned Mexican and Mediterranean restaurant located in Los Angeles called Tirzah's. The documentary covered a multi-generational Mexican American family's immigration story and how they brought their culture and receipts to the United States. The granddaughter and her husband, who is of Mediterranean descent, would develop what is now called Tirzah's Mexican and Mediterranean restaurant. The documentary also covered a variety of foods and flavors that make up Latin America.**

**After the documentary was finished, a Questions and Answers panel took place as the restaurant owners and the filmmaker got to answer questions from the SMC student body. This was followed by a lunch provided by Tirzah's themselves!**





**The delicious lunch consisted of birria, white cauliflower, rice and beans, bolillo, and a variety of refreshments including aguas frescas. This very generous lunch was served by AGS members and advisors as everyone worked as a team to deliver a delicious meal to the SMC community. Lunch lasted for about an hour and then AGS members assisted with cleaning up after the event.**

**The ambiance was great with lots of conversations, laughter, and people giving compliments to the owners about how delicious the food was! For many students including myself, this was my first in-person AGS volunteering event and I enjoyed it tremendously because I was able to give back to**

**my community and get to meet fellow students in person! We are looking forward to similar events in the future!**



# WALK TO THE PIER

**LILY PARCELLS**

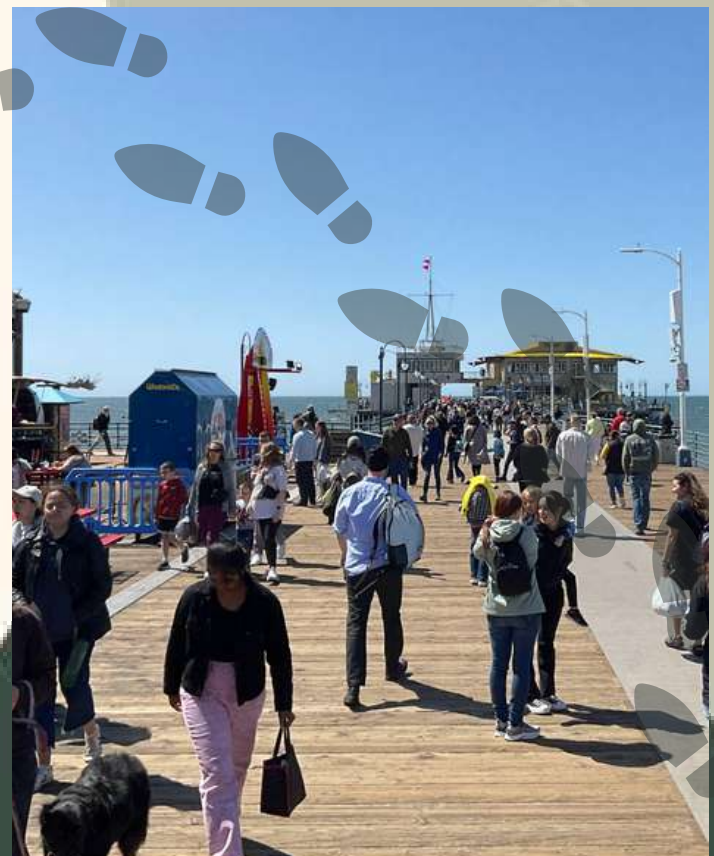
Newsletter Staff

On March 24, 2023, Alpha Gamma Sigma had its Walk to the Pier social, the second in-person social in three years. It had been raining the past week, but the group lucked out as the day was sunny and perfect for a walk. After doing some icebreaker activities, we were split into pairs so that we could get to know a new person and began to make our way toward the beach. We walked through Hotchkiss Park and then down to the beach, walking along the beach on the bike path to get to the pier. The ocean was beautiful and it was the perfect temperature, with no fog and minimal wind.

We talked about a range of topics, from transferring to favorite movies and TV shows. We discussed the difficulties of online school and meetings through Zoom, but also the accessibility it brings to people. Throughout the event, we were able to share information and opportunities, but also participate in a fun and non-stressful activity.

Amit Elkanar, an SMC student and member of AGS, noted: "I'm glad to be here to get to know people from all over the world and discover different perspectives while having fun at the same time!"

We also met some people on the way. On the way down to the beach we saw a parrot in the window who greeted us by saying hello. On the bike path, we ran into a Cal Tech Mathematician, Yaroslava, who says to "work hard".





We also learned interesting facts about each other. For example, Professor Green's dad started a group that gets people to donate books to YMCA, which then sells them and uses the money to send kids to big bear summer camp. One student brought their dog Millie, and she became a prized member of the group and the AGS mascot during the trip. Another student had her birthday that week, and we were able to sing to her. In general, this event helped people meet each other and build a stronger connection to AGS and SMC.

Once at the pier, the group walked down to the end where we saw a couple taking wedding photos, people performing, fishing, and selling souvenirs. We took a group photo and then split for roughly 30 minutes to explore the area. Some people went to the arcade, others got food, and others went down to the beach. Then we made our way back to SMC. As stated by Professor Green, "It was a beautiful day to see general members meeting and talking and getting a well-deserved break from studying". It was a beautiful day, and we got our steps in with my phone recording over 15,000 steps for the period (22,000 for the day). According to those who attended last year, this semester had a bigger group than last semester, and I hope this trend continues next semester as we transition to more in-person events.

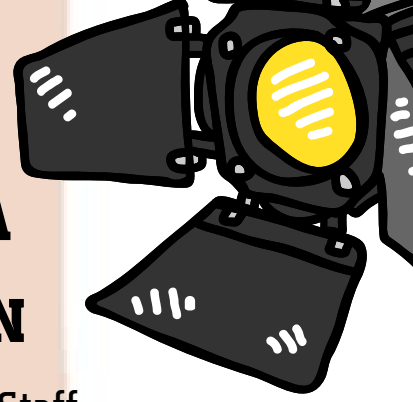
## *Walk to the Pier*



# VIRTUAL MOVIE NIGHT

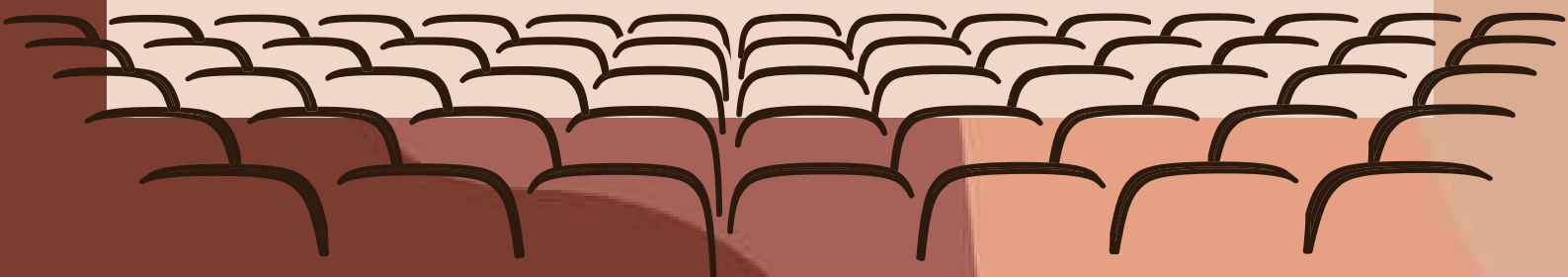
**NATALIA  
ZELEDON**

Newsletter Staff



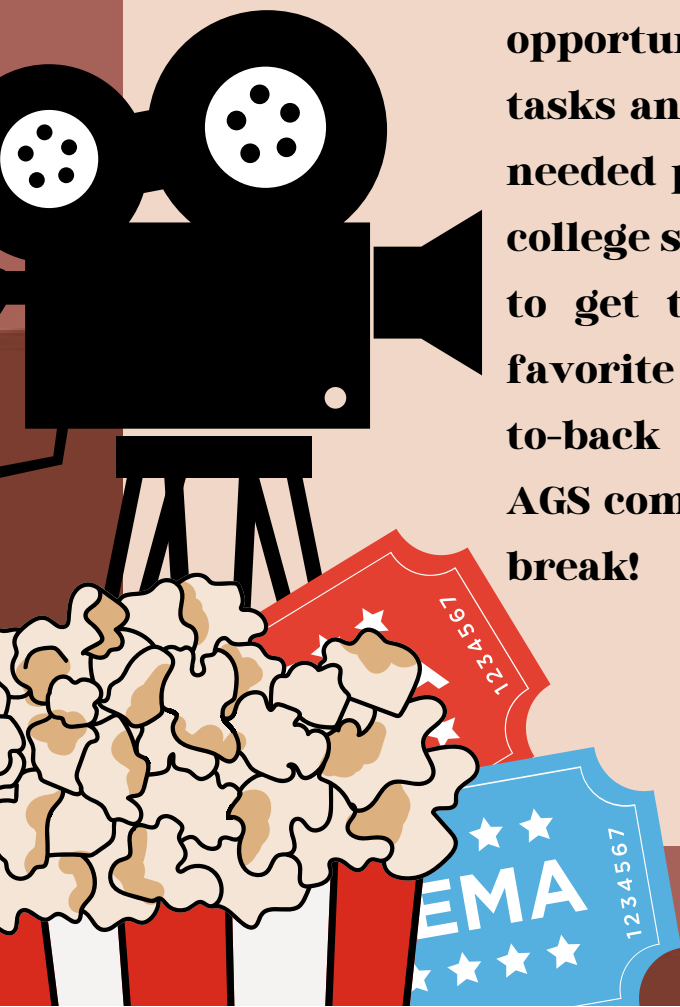
**On Saturday, April 8th AGS hosted the first virtual movie night of the Spring 2023 semester! AGS members got to take a vote on what movie to watch and La La Land won as the movie of choice! After first meeting all together on Zoom, AGS members signed into teleparty, an online platform that allows**

**groups to stream movies together, to watch La La Land! La La Land takes us on a musical journey throughout our very own Los Angeles as Sebastian, a struggling jazz pianist, and Mia, a struggling actress fall for each other while pursuing their dreams!**



Members got to use the chat feature to express their excitement or make any comments without disrupting the movie. Something that did occur a lot was members expressing how they still had the songs memorized from when the movie first came out in 2016! For some people, this was their first time watching La La Land, however, there were many comments about how they liked the music numbers and local scenery throughout Los Angeles! There is also a reaction feature with many emojis to choose from where members including myself were able to show off their favorite parts of the movie! You could tell that by the end of the movie, everyone enjoyed it because everyone reacted with crying emojis and expressed applause in the chat! The beauty of virtual socials is that members can enjoy a great movie from the comfort of their homes, or wherever they may be!

Opportunities like these give students an opportunity to step back from their daily tasks and responsibilities and take a much-needed pause from their busy schedules as college students. It definitely felt rewarding to get to sit back and enjoy one of my favorite musicals after a long beach of back-to-back midterms, and hang out with my AGS community one last time before spring break!





# COLOR A SMILE

MANUELA CONCHA

Newsletter Editor

In an emerging society, new and developing needs have arisen. Nowadays, a person is defined by multiple things including their impact on others and their willingness to serve. AGS has partnered with the organization Color a Smile to allow students and members to spread kindness and become aware of the impact they can have through a simple action that can be carried out from the commodity of their home. This is a Virtual Independent Volunteering Opportunity (VIVO) that offers service opportunities to those found in other areas of the country or world.

Color a Smile is a nonprofit organization founded in 1990.



They carry the mission to spread happiness to seniors and military troops overseas through the mailing of colorful drawings.

People of all ages and abilities are kindly invited to spread joy, help others and be the cause of a genuine smile. Beyond the authentic reason of bringing joy and spreading happiness through drawings, Color a Smile also considers it essential to offer service opportunities to younger generations as believed that they will be more likely to serve in the future and become citizens of the world.

Since they first started, they have distributed over two million drawings. However, you might ask yourself; how much can a colored drawing actually impact a person? Well, Jerry and Susanne have shared the extensive feedback and thank you letters they have received from people who now hold those colorful drawings. As I carefully fill in the spaces in my drawing with my colored pencils, I am filled with joy, knowing that the person receiving that artwork will probably smile due to the energy and intention with which I fill the gaps.

CREATE

# BE HAPPY

Besides transmitting happiness, AGS through its alliance allows members to receive volunteering hours. How so? You must first sign up through the AGS website for the VIVO event. Then, submit a validation form through the Color a Smile website where shortly after, you will receive mailing instructions and the printable validation form. After receiving the drawings, they will respond with an email confirmation of service hours which you must submit to an AGS Google form. The best part is that you can do it all over again after you finish!

Coloring a drawing to remind people that they are not alone coursing through time and space, allows the formation of a personal bond due to the intention transmitted through the artwork. The appreciation responses are directed to the person whose name is placed on the bottom of the paper. This constantly reminds us that small actions can lead to such large impacts and most of the time, the smallest details are the ones that become most meaningful.

For me, coloring simple drawings from the comfort of my home has become much more, and through every drawing, I intend to light someone's day and bring them joy.

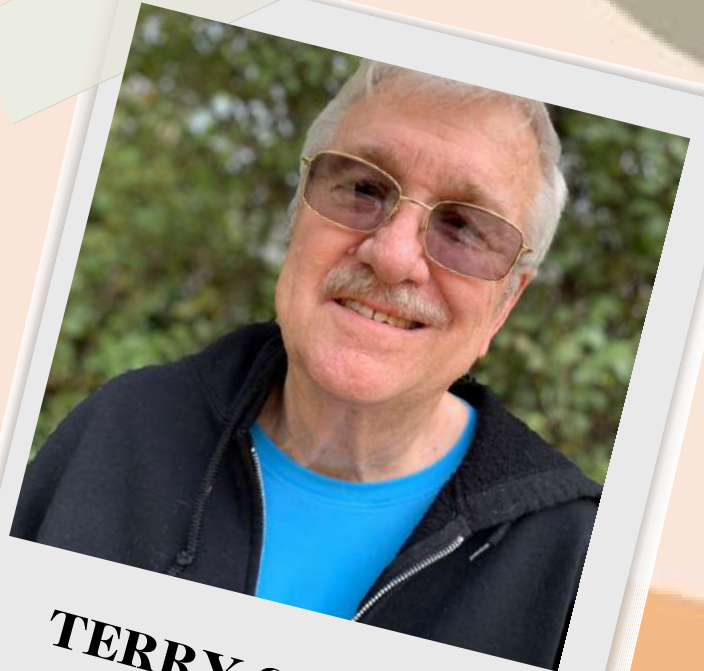


Manuela's Color a Smile Drawing

# AGS ADVISORS



**BETTY WONG**



**TERRY GREEN**



**JOHN QUEVEDO**



THANK  
YOU



**THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE ADVISOR:**

Professor Betty Wong

**SPRING 2023 AGS NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Manuela Concha

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE TEAM:**

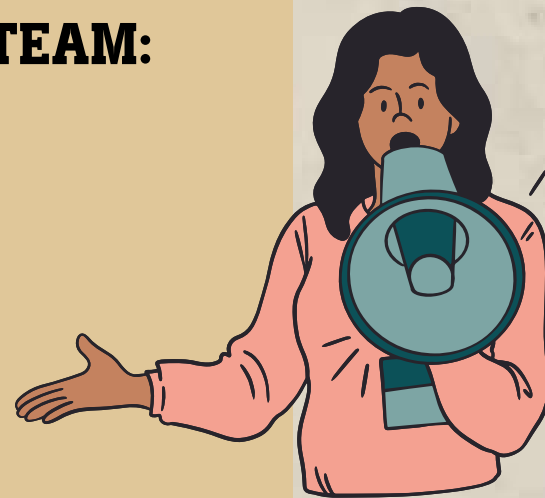
Natalia Zeledon

Lily Parcels

Syuan Yu Siao

Aerin Hyeseung Jung

Neko Phang



## AGS MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the chapter shall be to foster, promote, maintain, and recognize scholarship among the diverse student body at Santa Monica College; to develop activities offering multicultural, academic, social, or enrichment experiences; to promote service to the college and community; to emphasize the development of leadership, character, judgment, respect, and care for others, and the environment.