

# THE TALON

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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ISSUE I

## MSJC expands health care opportunities

By Jesus Alcalá Avalos

The MSJC Student Health Center is open! The Health Center offers health consultation, first aid, wellness education, counseling, and referrals. The San Jacinto Campus Health Center is in room 1540, between the Café and Veteran's Services. The Menifee Valley Campus Health Center is in room 723, in front of Parking Lot D, across from the Library. A third center is planned at the Temecula Campus.

MSJC Health Centers are available to all students who are enrolled with at least 1 credit and have paid their enrollment fee. To obtain service, a student must present their student ID in the health center.

Appointments can be made in the health center or by calling. 951-487-3206 for San Jacinto. 951-639-5206 for Menifee.

On 2019 August 27, MSJC hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the health center on the San Jacinto Campus. The health center had been open for two weeks before the ceremony.

President Roger Schultz



Dorothy McGargill (L) and Lisa McAllister (R) cut the ribbon for the new health center.

Photo by Joseph James

was the first speaker at the ceremony. Schultz thanked the Trustees for approving the project, thanked Dr. John Colson for preparing the site and hiring the new staff, introduced Associate Dean of Health Services Dr. Lisa McAllister, introduced Student Trustee Shayla Lopez, and recognized Tyler Mendel for starting the project.

"Although our vision is transforming learners, communities, and lives, I think the health center will add a dimension of truly saving lives," said Schultz. Student Trustee Shayla Lopez spoke about the burdens and stress that come with college and how she hopes that the health center will help students manage their well-being.

Health Services Specialist Monique Rodriguez-Torres detailed the services available at the health centers. According to Rodriguez-Torres, the health centers may provide over-the-counter medication, first aid, wellness counseling, and mental health counseling services. If the health center is unable to provide

a necessary service, they will refer the student to a local health provider.

The health centers are limited in services because nurses are limited to first aid and over-the-counter medications.

Lisa McAllister is in the process of hiring a nurse practitioner by the Spring 2020 term. The nurse practitioner is authorized by

a supervising physician to provide examinations and write prescriptions.

Although the nurse practitioner may write prescriptions, the health centers will not have any prescription drugs on campus. Students will have to go to their local pharmacy to obtain their medication.

Rodriguez-Torres said that the nurse practitioner will also be limited to short-term prescriptions of non-controlled drugs. Rodriguez-Torres explained that the health center was not a 24-hour facility and could not provide the continuous monitoring that controlled drugs require. The MSJC Health Center will work with students to get them long-term care from a local health care provider.

McAllister is also hiring a wellness coach for the Spring 2020 term. The wellness coach will provide personalized plans for nutrition, exercise, stress management, sleep scheduling, and other plans that promote the health of a student.

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## Wishing upon a star: One student's dream

**Editor's Note:** This story describes a summer adventure of an MSJC student.

By Elijah Rios

Over the course of the summer, my interest in playing music grew immensely. I did not know how much music would have an impact on me. That is, of course, until I sat down for my first ever orchestra rehearsal. I believe that music has the unique power to evoke emotion.

Whether that emotion be good or bad, music will always make us



Disney's Performance Art Conservatory

Photo provided by Elijah Rios

reminisce on how fortunate we are or remind us how unfortunate we are.

I have always wanted to play the violin, but I didn't know how far that dream

could take me. This summer I got to experience firsthand how far a dream and with a little help 'Wishing upon a Star' could take me; and that dream came to fruition.

Music holds a special place in my heart. When I was about 13 years old, I was surfing YouTube for music. My favorite song at the time was "Viva

La Vida" by Coldplay.

I happened to stumble upon a violin cover of the song fortuitously. When I first listened to this rendition, I immediately fell in love with the violin. Ever since then, my yearn for playing the violin was born.

Even though I had a yearning to play, my situation was difficult. Yet, even with these difficulties, it did something unfathomable in me. It made me passionate again.

When I was 8 years old, I was diagnosed with a brain tumor in my fourth ventricle. This is the part of the brain that controls

all our basic body functions and motor skills.

When the surgeon resected the cancerous tumor, it undoubtedly left side effects; one of those side effects happened to be muscle atrophy, practically leaving my entire left side paralyzed. As you could imagine, the muscle atrophy became a hindrance on wanting to play the violin.

In 2015, I decided to buy myself a beautiful Cremona student violin and enroll in violin lessons. My dreams were starting to become a reality, or so I thought.

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## Puente supports the Latinx community

By Cindy Lopez-Ordóñez

Puente exposes under-represented students to opportunities for transferring to four-year institutions as well as to learn from an interdisciplinary curriculum. In addition, Puente provides support during the transition from high school to a college environment. Puente began in 1981 at

Chabot Community College in Hayward, California. Puente emerged from Felix Galaviz and Patricia McGrath, after they observed high-dropout rates of Hispanic/Latino students.

Since then, Puente expanded to middle schools, high schools, and community colleges throughout California and is now a national-award winning program.

In 2007, Puente had its first cohort at Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC), after Ms. Angeles, San Geronimo counselor, heard about Puente offering staff training. Angeles and Dr. Ramirez contacted Puente's state office and were initially rejected.

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### MSJC Promise

Are you interested in free tuition? Read about MSJC's newest program!

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### Summer Movie Review

Missed out on some of the great movies released during summer 2019? You can fill yourself in with this review!

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### Umoja: Promoting Unity and Leadership

UMOJA is inspiring students to take new leadership roles everyday

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# Meet your new editor-in-chief

By  
Alyse Kiara Deatherage

As the Fall 2019 semester starts, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our previous Editor-in-Chief, Shelby Walker. Thank you for all you've done as Editor-in-Chief, and good luck on your future journeys!

My name is Alyse Deatherage and I am happy to accept the amazing honor of being Editor-in-Chief for the Talon, our newspaper here at MSJC.

Last January, I started a workshoping class taught by Professor John Mull where we edited tons of peer-written stories each week. I found that I thoroughly loved helping writers by giving them feedback that could really help them grow.

As the class went on, I came across an advertisement for the Talon and decided to take my interest in editing outside of just this class. I reached out to Michele Weber, the Talon's advisor, and as fate would have it, they were in need of new editors.

I've always been a natural writer, not in the sense that everything I write is good, but everything I write tends to come very naturally. In high school, many of my teachers commended the way I could write papers easily. I'll never forget Mrs. Simmons, my 12th grade English teacher, who told me that five pages was

a maximum limit, not a minimum, when I turned in my eight-page paper.

Coming into college, though, I realized I still had so much to learn, and even now I find myself improving more and more each day. Luckily, my three years here at MSJC have given me lots of time to work on my writing skills and I've come a long way since my first semester. My growth is all thanks to the lessons of amazing professors like Professor Katie Stahl-Kovell and Professor Riley Phillips, who have really helped me develop as a writer.

Outside of school, I was a dancer for 13 years and I've now been teaching dance for three years. I'm honored to say that I've had some of the best students while teaching at Dance Spectrum Dance Studio in Beaumont, CA, and Victoria's Simply Dancing in Moreno Valley, CA.

When I was in the first grade, a teacher recommended to my mom that I take dance lessons because I was always very energetic in class and loved to move whenever music was on. I started out in ballet and tap, and after a few years began adding classes including jazz, lyrical, and musical theatre. As the years went on, dance became an even bigger part of my life and I now get the privilege of sharing it with my students.

I owe so much thanks to



Alyse posing with a drawing by S. McPherson  
Photo by Antonia Gutierrez

my wonderful instructor, and now boss, Pearl Wardlow and her husband Chad. They truly dedicate all they have to the studio and their students and I don't know where I'd be without their wonderful support throughout the years.

Originally, my major was dance, but I soon realized that this passion was not the career path I wanted for the rest of my life. Liberal Arts was my next major, which I chose because I thought teaching would be a good career path since I love working with children and

teaching at the dance studio. However, I decided against this as well. Finally, I went with the passion I've always had for English, which I hope to turn into a career in editing someday.

I'm an advocate of both education and finding the path that's right for you, which is why I've been happy to be a part of our wonderful Supplemental Instruction (SI) program for the past year. SI has changed my life, helping me to be more outgoing and really changing the way I approach socializ-

ing with others overall.

When I first entered the program a year ago, I was very quiet and reserved in my classes. I was wary to speak out or talk to professors one-on-one and I never even considered joining clubs or programs on campus.

However, I took a math course that had an SI session attached to it and I loved the way my SI Leader was outgoing and always super inclusive and talkative with us. I remember thinking that I wanted to be more like that and decided that I would apply to the SI program.

Now, I love to socialize in class and have made many great friends. I've gained the confidence to speak to my professors individually and to join the Talon and the Honors program and it's truly thanks to the courage I've gained from the SI program.

I can say that without Janice Levasseur and Kathalena Rios and all that they've done for me with the SI program. I would not have gotten this amazing chance to be Editor-in-Chief for the Talon.

I look forward to an amazing semester with everyone on the newspaper staff, all of the supporting staff and advisors, and all the wonderful staff and students who enjoy reading our newspaper.

## OPINION: Celebrities speaking on politics



**Editor's Note:** This story does not represent the opinion of MSJC or The Talon

By Jennifer Vargas

There is quite the controversy over the question of whether or not celebrities should speak out about politics. A quick glance at social media will lead to seeing statements like "You're a singer, not a politician, nobody cares what you think, stick to singing." For curiosity's sake, who then is allowed to speak out about politics? Only politicians? Wouldn't those views just be biased opinions to help whichever party they belong to? If someone is well educated on the policies and candidates running, why are they seemingly not allowed to speak out about their beliefs?

When a family gathers for a barbeque and politics are brought up, do people tell their family members "you're a teacher... you're a nurse... you're a bank teller.... nobody cares about your political opinions?" Why are celebrities excluded then from their political opinions; simply because they are in the public eye? Why shouldn't they use their platform to help make a difference?

We don't try to stop celebrities from helping the homeless, or donating to charities, so why should we stop them from engaging in politics? Is it simply because we don't want our opinion of them to change if they do not agree with our values? Or is it because people are scared they are going to persuade others to vote a certain way and that will mess up the results they are hoping for?

To bring this issue into current context, recently singer-songwriter Taylor Swift started a petition in support of the Equality Act to demand "that on a national level, our laws truly treat all of our citizens equally." In order to elicit a response from the White House, a petition has to have at least 100,000 signatures. The petition has now passed 500,000 views, which Swift pointed out was "five times the amount that it would need to warrant a response from the White House." The next morning, the White House gave a response.

Let's pause there; Swift used her platform to speak out about something she was passionate and well-informed about, encouraged others to support that, and managed to get a response from the White House. Regardless of her job classification, that's pretty impressive.

Would a celebrity have an ulterior motive for speaking out about politics? Usually not, in fact, it tends to alienate large groups of people. There has been pure outrage with some people who have left comments saying they were disgusted they attended her concert and will no longer be supporting her.

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## MSJC Promise to alleviate costs of education



Enrollment Services provides the paperwork to apply to MSJC Promise

Photo by Jesus Alcala Avalos

By Jesus Alcala Avalos

The MSJC Promise is a program that will reimburse the cost of tuition for a student's first year at MSJC. To qualify, the student must have never attended college, must apply for FAFSA, must take 12 units per semester for their first year, must take English and Math, must maintain a 2.0 GPA, and must enroll in the First Year Experience program. Visit [msjc.edu/free](http://msjc.edu/free) for the full requirements.

"The goal of MSJC and the Promise is to make college more attractive

to the public as part of our vision - Transforming Learners, Transforming Communities, and Transforming Lives," said Dr. John Colson, Vice-President of Student Services.

Students can apply to join First Year Experience at [msjc.edu/fye](http://msjc.edu/fye) after they have received their student number. FYE students are required to take Guidance 100: College Success.

Colson was part of the committee that set the requirements for the MSJC Promise.

"The First Year Experience program has as a re-

quirement both the Math and English sections required for the Promise Program. Also, and importantly, the FYE program offers students a structured program of support with dedicated counselors as well as featuring a cohort of other students. We believe that this is a proven program that will assist students in their path to success," said Colson.

Colson also said that students who participated in dual or concurrent enrollment, taking college-level classes as a high school student, may still quali-

fy for the MSJC Promise.

Colson explained that the MSJC Promise is a reimbursement program and not a fee waiver. This means that a student will have to pay any cost of education that FAFSA funds do not cover. At the end of the school year, students will be able to apply to be reimbursed for the cost of tuition.

Colson said that the applications would be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office, Enrollment Services, and the First Year Experience program.

Colson said that \$450,000 will be available for the 2019-2020 school year and \$400,000 will be available for the next school year. Colson had not estimated the number of students that the MSJC Promise may support.

"I really want to stress that this is first come, first serve," he said.

The MSJC Promise is set to serve as many students as possible until funds are depleted.

The MSJC Promise is funded by the California College Promise established by AB19 on Oct. 13 2017. California College Promise provides funds for the California Community

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# Phi Theta Kappa inspires students

**Editor's note** This story is from the perspective of the president of PTK

By James Parker

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is the world's largest honor society in higher education. It has a total of 1,285 chapters on different college campuses in all 50 states and almost a dozen other countries.

PTK has a two-part mission. One is to encourage and recognize the academic achievement of two-year college students. The other is to provide opportunities for students to experience individual growth through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

In order for a student to be eligible for membership in PTK, they must be enrolled in an institution offering an associate degree, complete at least 12 units of coursework towards an associate degree, have a GPA of 3.5, receive a membership invitation through their student email, and pay the membership fees for the chapter.

The total membership fee for MSJC's Beta Delta Omega Chapter is \$90. The International PTK fee is \$60, the Regional Nevada/California fee is \$10, and the Local Chapter fee is \$20. The local fees go directly to the chapter's account and they are used to pay for member's tickets to the Fall and Spring Regional Leadership Conferences. The chapter also uses it to pay for the school's induction ceremonies that are held once a semester.

There are many benefits for members of PTK. Members receive a PTK Golden Key Membership Pin, a PTK Membership Certificate and ID Card, recognition during the college induction ceremony, an official seal of Phi Theta Kappa on their college diploma, a notation of membership on their college transcript, and they can wear PTK commencement regalia during college graduation.

Members are also provided with a competitive edge. There are \$37 million dollars in scholarship opportunities for members only, and free enrollment in PTK-CONNECT, a transfer and college completion planning tool (formerly known as CollegeFish.org). They can be published in PTK's anthology: Nota Bene.

Members can also gain research and servant leadership skills by participating in Honors inn Action for their local chapter, be a part of a network of almost



Phi Theta Kappa Officers Receives Leadership Awards

Photo provided by James Parker

3 million scholars and leaders and receive special benefits and member discount offers from PTK Corporate Partners like GEICO and Bank of America. These benefits can be life changing, and members also make friends and create priceless memories. It can make succeeding in school fun.

Personally, being a member of PTK has been terrific, to say the least. I remember walking to the library in the fall of 2018 and having a brief conversation with Jennifer Borton, a Spanish professor and one of our chapter's advisors. She asked me if I had heard about PTK and I said no. She told me about it and said due to my GPA, I should have an invite in my student email.

I checked it and, sure enough, I had an invite. I joined without hesitation because I have a goal of succeeding in college with flying colors, especially considering I didn't do that in high school.

Members can receive benefits whether they attend our chapters meetings or not. If they don't have time to be involved with our projects, they can still receive benefits.

I wanted to be involved, so I began going to the meetings. I was invited by Nick Reeves, a biology Professor, and another one of our advisors to go to the Fall Regional Conference in San Diego. There was a breakout session by two young men that inspired me to become more involved and take on challenges.

I applied to become the service officer for our chapter and I also took on positions in other clubs as well. In the past spring semester, most of our officers graduated and they felt I would be a great President for this year.

I hesitated because of all my other involvements on campus, but I thought of how happy I am when I'm involved with PTK, that breakout session, and how it could be the opportunity of a lifetime. I'm so excited for this year and we have a great team of leaders and advisors.

I love how PTK members can make a difference in their community. We partner with Life Stream who brings Blood Drive trucks on campus once a month and we have members volunteer to bring awareness about PTK and encourage students to donate blood at the same time.

Each October we have a team attend the Susan G. Komen Inland Empire MORE THAN PINK WALK (formerly known as the RACE FOR THE CURE) to help support breast cancer survivors and donate to those still fighting.

We do an Honors in Action Project in which a research paper is written that answers a topic question that falls under the idea of Transformations: Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change. Then we host an event that acts towards making a change on the specific issue.

Last fall the topic was homelessness and the event

was called Homeless for a Night. Students were invited to the Menifee Valley Campus to watch a documentary about homelessness, donate items such as clothes, toiletries and more to a shelter and also slept in cars in the parking lot to get a feel of what it is like to be in that situation.

PTK does a college project every year in December which is our Holiday Toy and Food Drive. Our members collect toys and food to donate to families in need for the Christmas holiday. Items are packaged and delivered to the doors of chosen families to show that everyone deserves to have good Christmas memories.

Last year over 60 families received gifts and toys. Events like this brings joy to my heart and make me proud to be a member.

"Phi Theta Kappa gives students at MSJC the opportunity to develop leadership skills through service-learning experiences outside of the classroom. Our chapter is led by student officers that are driv-

en to give back to their college community. By joining PTK, students at MSJC choose to gain access to new experiences beyond the scope of their classes," said Reeves.

"You know it never fails to surprise to see the smiles on the families we help feed during our traditional Holiday Toy and Food drive, and to see the joy, especially in the children. There's something about giving back to the community that gives me this joy that is truly infectious. I leave that day spreading it to my family and friends. It's a heck of a heartwarming and humbling experience," said Alex Perez, a Computer Science major student and this year's Vice President.

Our chapter earned the Distinguished Chapter Award last year and was labeled a 5-star chapter. The chapter is looking forward to continuing with that 5-star honor. PTK is happy to welcome aboard any leaders who want to join in on the enriching experience.

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## Celebrities Speaking on politics cont.

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Is that how we treat friends and family who have different opinions than ours? Sure, celebrities aren't necessarily our friends, but why should we treat them with such free disdain? Why should their opinions be any less valuable just because they happen to have a bigger platform? They do not have to be ostracized simply because their beliefs might differ from our own.

Think of it this way, if a singer wanted to start acting, they might initially be met with resistance. People might say, "stick to singing, you know nothing about acting." That may be true, but if they have a desire to learn, they can study, take classes, and develop a knack for acting. People might even go on to win both a Grammy and an Oscar. Maybe one becomes a master at both. Look at Arnold Schwarzenegger. California literally had The Terminator as their Governor. Who says actors can't also be politicians or become informed on issues important to them? Maybe people are just scared of what these people can accomplish.

Take Ronald Reagan for instance. The former President acted in at least 30 movies and was President of the Screen Actors Guild before serving his country in the Army. He became the Governor of California for two terms and eventually President of the United States for two terms. Who says actors or people of other professions cannot become good political leaders?

It is key that if celebrities are using their platform to speak out, they become informed. Swift has been one of the artists to prove that she has truly taken the time to learn about the policies, candidates and bills/acts so that she can support those that align with her beliefs.

In a recent interview with BBC1 Live Lounge, Swift opened up about her decision to use her platform to speak out about politics. "The things that happen to you in your life are the things that shape you and your political opinions and your willingness to discuss them... If I can stand here with 120 million Instagram followers and say 'this,' maybe 'this' helps, maybe it doesn't, but you gotta say it."

Encouraging others to get involved and educated so that they can also use their platforms to help illicit change will only bring positive changes to the world. Charities aren't the only things celebrities can support and who knows the difference they can make if we take the time to be opened minded and non-judgmental because of their celebrity status.

### COMMUNICATIONS CLUB

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## New digital changes at the MSJC bookstore



### Msjc Bookstore Goes Online

Photo By Pablo Ramos Diaz

By Pablo Ramos Diaz

MSJC Bookstore has been the best place for students to prepare themselves for the new semester. The store provides students with pencils, merchandise, and most importantly the

ability to purchase their textbooks. The bookstore is an excellent and friendly place for students; however, things will be changing.

Bookstore officials have decided to stop selling textbooks directly. Students who are still interested in

purchasing their books will have to purchase them online on the bookstore website and wait until they are notified that their books are ready for pick-up.

The workers hope that students catch great deals and save money with their new price match. The move to online will allow the school to modernize itself and keep up with the ever-growing digital age. Students who are returning to school and new students gave their thoughts and opinions as to what they think about the recent changes.

As the new semester begins and students receive their ISBN to track down their required books, they will have to order them online now rather than going in person to order them.

Joanna after high school enrolled in culinary school and after spending six years she decided to go to college and major in business so

she can open up some small businesses and give people jobs. Being that this is her first year here she heard about the bookstore changes and gave her thoughts about the new changes.

At first it seemed strange to her since she isn't tech savvy and prefers them to be in person. Once the changed settled in, she appreciated it.

"It doesn't bother me at all; if we have to work with it, then that's what we have to do," she said.

It seems despite the changes Joanna and few other students find the new change strange, but don't mind it at all. Additionally, a similar to Joanna was another first year student followed up and shared his thoughts on the bookstore's change.

Omar Gonzales who just graduated from High School is getting ready to take his first step into college majoring in Liberal

Arts Sociology. During one of his classes the teacher had told their students about the recent changes that have been added to the bookstore. While being interviewed he gave his thoughts on the change and said "It's alright having to purchase it online and have it delivered to school because I usually can pick it up when I'm asked."

For Gonzales it seems that the recent changes are much more convenient than ever. With the new changes set into motion the workers are eager for the new semester to start as the new changes bring a completely new mindset as to how the store should operate. In short, the new changes bring something fresh new for MSJC as a whole.





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# MSJC expands health care opportunities cont.



President Scholtz speaking at ribbon cutting ceremony

Photo by Joseph James

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In the meantime, students may obtain mental health counseling. Rodriguez-Torres said that the mental health counseling has been the most popular service in the two weeks that the health center has been open. This service helps patients manage their stress, depression, anxiety, trauma, and other mental health issues. Rodriguez-Torres said that the mental health counselors were on campus

before the health centers opened and were integrated into the health center. The health centers also have a lactation room that is open to anyone in the community, not just to students. Users are expected to bring their equipment and take everything with them, as there is no storage available. Due to a limited staff, Rodriguez-Torres warned that the health centers may be closed due to the absence of a staff member.

McAllister explained that the number of staff-hours is dependent on the demand for health center services. The development of the health center began with former MSJC student, former SGA Senator, and current UCI undergrad Tyler Mendel. "I have had depression and anxiety for most of my life," said Mendel. After obtaining treatment in 2015, Mendel noticed a drastic improve-

ment in his motivation and well-being. Mendel then became an advocate for mental health services. Mendel joined SGA as a senator to gain access to the Institutional Planning Committee. On 20 October 2015, Mendel presented his case for a health center. The motion passed, and a committee was formed under the leadership of Bill Vincent, Vice-President of Student Services. The committee launched a survey in 2016 to gauge interest in a health center. Out of about 1100 students surveyed, 85% said they would utilize a health center. 76% said they would support a fee within the range of \$15 to \$19. 86% said that they already had health insurance. The survey also accepted

comments. Opponents commented that they did not like that the fee would apply to all students, regardless if they use the health center. Other opponents commented that the school should focus on hiring new staff and renovating old buildings rather than providing health care. Supporters commented that although they may have health insurance, a clinic on campus would provide convenience. Other supporters commented that

they were okay with the fee if it meant more people got access to health services. On Aug. 11, 2016, Dr. Bill Vincent briefed the Board of Trustees on the progress made by the Student Health Center Committee. Dr. Ray Peek and Dr. Grant Peek had been assisting the committee, as they are a part of the health centers at Chaffey College and Mt. San Antonio College respectively. Tyler Mendel and Crystal Murillo shared their personal stories in the meeting. The Board held a vote on Dec. 8, 2016. Trustees Ann Motte and Dorothy McGargill opposed the health center. Motte had concerns over liability, arguing that the college should instead partner with a local hospital. Motte also wanted the college to focus on hiring new faculty rather than creating a new department.

McGargill also had concern over the liability that a health center may create. Supporters of the plan included Trustees Bill Zimmerman, Sherrie Guerrero, and Tom Ashley. Zimmerman explained that MSJC would be mirroring other colleges that successfully manage a health center. Guerrero argued that a health center would promote student success. The health center was approved 3 to 2. Although the plan was approved, the fee remained to be approved. On 13 Sept. 2018, the Board approved the fee 3 to 1. Motte remained in opposition. The fee was set to \$20 for Fall and Spring, and \$17 for Summer. The MSJC Health Center is now open, and all students that have paid their enrollment fee may use the facility.



MSJC Health Center

Photo by Joseph James

# Wishing upon a star: One student's dream cont.

from page 1

As the lessons rolled on, I came to realize, due to my almost paraplegic left-side, I could not move my left hand fast enough to play the notes. My aspirations to learn the violin were slipping through my fingers. I had just spent \$340 on a beautiful violin, and I could not play it. If they were to make a left-handed violin, then I could play! My left arm could bow, and my right hand could play the notes! So, I set out on a new mission to find a left-handed violin. So much research on Google with no luck. Then one day, I found it! I told my parents that I had found one and that I planned to save up and buy it. It is now 2019. I had saved up some money and decided to purchase my left-handed violin and I was so ecstatic. The next thing on my list was to get myself lessons once again. Many people, mainly my friends and family, were concerned about how ex-

actly a lefthanded violin would change my playing. However, I didn't listen all that much; I had a vision, and, in that vision, it just somehow worked, and I would be able to play this 'Special' violin. Then, a new challenge arose. How was I going to play this left-handed violin, when in fact I am right-handed? I set forth on a new task: To recondition my brain. After a couple of hours of intense practicing on the violin, I had finally succeeded in my goal. After this minor accomplishment, I found myself a teacher, fortunately enough he had taught a left-handed violinist before. This new endeavor, that was just a dream, could officially begin. I had noticed that Disney Performing Arts was offering a summer instrumental workshop. I had a new goal in mind. To attend the workshop. When the enrollment process began, I was feel-

ing discouraged, because the one thing they wanted was a video of yourself playing grade three music. However, I decided to give it a chance anyway. I sent in my video, explaining why I play the violin left-handed, and I explained that I didn't have the same skill set as the other musicians but explained my yearning to learn and gain knowledge from this experience. A couple of weeks later, I got a call from the performing arts center. Turns out I was accepted! The Saturday before the conservatory started, I had encountered many problems with my violin. First, my bridge slipped. Then the bridge had snapped after resetting it. I was freaking out, thinking to myself, "what could've been". I saw my experience at the conservatory go straight out of the window. The next day I took my violin to a local shop hoping they could fix her before the conservatory began.



Disney's Performing Arts Conservatory

Photo provided by Elijah Rios



Orchestra performers

Photo provided by Elijah Rios

The string technician said he could, but it would not be until late that night. A day before the conservatory. I thought to myself just please fix her; so, he did. The violin was surprisingly ready within a couple of hours, sooner than I had expected, grateful that I was able to get her fixed. Next thing I know I was in my car, out of my neighborhood and I get in a car crash. A sense of disbelief engulfed me. Why did this have to happen the week of the conservatory? There was nothing I could do except go with the flow. It is now the first day of the conservatory. A sense of reality occurred to me. 'I do not belong here with these musicians who have devoted most of their life to the instrument of their choosing'. The facilitators

told us to go in and get settled; and once I had sat down, every bit of self-doubt washed away. Because in that moment, I was right where I needed to be. Several days passed and I made many friends and memories, memories that I would always cherish. All of us were there to give an incredible final performance at the Hyperion Theater in Disney's California Adventure. The lights went dim, the stage was set, and we were ready to perform. I sat down in my chair with my music; suddenly my music stand light and music fell. I gathered the music and composed myself to not worry about the light. After introductions of the orchestra, I was ready to give the best show I could. My performance

that night was by far the best effort I could have ever given, and my effort along with the other musicians made the concert a success. I was grateful for the opportunity that Disney had entrusted me with. A left-handed violin player who only had six months of lessons. We finished the entire concert; I was there in awe of what I had accomplished. Many people never thought that I could play the violin left-handed, many people thought that an orchestra would never have a left-handed violin player. But I was never going to let those obstacles keep me from capturing that moment in the concert; because in that moment, I played.

# Puente supports the Latinx community cont.

from page 1

Although their mission statement is directed towards Latinos, interested students do not have to iden-

tify as Latino/a. The program is inclusive and previous cohorts have included individuals who identify African-American, Cauca-

sian, and Native American. Puentistas are exposed to interdisciplinary curriculum of English, Counseling, and Mentoring for two semesters. The English component exposes Puentistas to Latino literature. Dr. Ramirez, Interim Dean of Instruction, Academic Programs at the San Jacinto campus, is the instructor for the English component. The Counseling component consists of one Guidance course, which functions to improve study

skills, and grants access to a counselor for a year. Rosalva Amezcua is the designated instructor for counseling. Amezcua began her involvement because she wanted to become a mentor. "The most rewarding aspect is seeing students succeed," said Amezcua. The most challenging aspect is the "lack of support and resources." Amezcua has been able to reach out to the high schools because of the strong relationship with TRiO and Upward

Bound, both of which are college prep programs. The Mentoring component of Puente is designed to build relationships between alumni and participants. Puentistas are involved in their campus through the Puente Club. The requirements to join Puente are: enroll in English 94, a 0.5 unit course, and Guidance 100, a 3 unit course, for Fall; enroll in English 101, a 4 unit course, for Spring; attend five on-campus activities each semester, field

trips, and mentor mixers. "I soon realized that the program was going to show me things that my parents wouldn't be able to. With the help of both professors, I learned the importance of familia through Puente and also the goal to not stop but keep striving for more," said Puente Alumna Gabriela Alaniz. Puente's mission is to matriculate its participants and have them return to their communities as leaders for the next generation.



Fall 2019 Puente cohort

Photo provided by Rosalva Amezcua



# Summer movie review: Amazing Sequels

By  
Alyse Kiara Deatherage

The summer of 2019 has been filled with amazing sequels and live-action movies from some of our favorite childhood movies and characters. We've seen new takes on these films and with so much to see, it's hard to keep up with all the amazing new releases.

We started off the summer with one of Disney's most adored classics getting a live-action remake, Aladdin. From the addition of new songs, to the characters, to the overall excitement of this movie, everyone was talking about it.

This movie has more songs, and changed many of the ones it already had, including the addition of the song "Speechless" sung by Jasmine. Aladdin is known for having a focus on the male protagonist, Aladdin (hence the title), but this 2019 version shares the spotlight with Jasmine more than any other version has.

The characters all seemed to fit their role perfectly. It's hard, if not impossible, to replicate an actor as skilled as Robin Williams, especially knowing that Williams improvised his lines when he performed his role as the genie. However, Will Smith did an amazing job.

Mana Massoud and Naomi Scott, who played Aladdin and Jasmine, also fit their roles perfectly. Each character truly connected with both the audience and each other making the movie so much more enjoyable.

Overall, Aladdin (2019) is not comparable

to the Aladdin of 1992. Aladdin (2019) is fun, the characters fill you with joy, the dancing and the music blows you away, and you just feel good after watching it. There can never be another Aladdin that will replicate the childhood memories and feelings of the 1992 movie, but on its own this movie stands as an amazing movie.

Whether you watched or played Pokemon as a child, or an adult, or you've never seen it at all, we all know and recognize the name Pikachu, and we all recognize the name Ryan Reynolds. When you put the two together you get the 2019 live-action film Detective Pikachu.

Detective Pikachu was originally a game released in 2016 and re-released in 2018. While the game is based on many adventures where Pikachu is solving mysteries, this movie is based on one specific mystery: finding Tim Goodman's father. The two have their disputes, but overall end up making a good team.

Although Pokemon is generally targeted towards children, this live-action film really attempts to even the score. With adult humor thrown in there it makes this movie perfect for viewers of every age.

For the Pokemon fans, there's even more to enjoy as we see a wide range of known and unknown Pokemons for all fans to enjoy. The animation on the Pokemon themselves makes them look as real and alive as any of the other characters in the movie and each has its own quirks to enjoy.

Overall, the movie



**The Lion King**  
Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage

kept its fans on the edge of their seats as they laughed, and maybe even cried, throughout this fun, family friendly, live-action movie.

The Secret Life of Pets 2 was nothing like the first movie, it was filled with so much more. We get to see all the animal friends we know and love from the first movie go out on not just one, but various new adventures.

We see Snowball as he accepts his new life as a pet and goes out into the world to fight crime. Gidget's obsession with Max leads her into a den of cats where she must blend in to win the fight. And, of course, Max goes off to learn how to be brave and let go of his strong will to protect the new baby in the house, Liam. All of this happens while new and exciting friends are introduced and become part of the adventures.

Overall, the movie gives us more character

development than the first one and we really see the story's growth. It's exciting to indulge in the fantasy of our own pets doing such whimsical things while we're away from home. The story is not so focused on the humor of the pet's secret lives, but instead the way they grow just like their owners do. It is the perfect light-hearted sequel for the family.

One of the most controversial sequels of this summer was Toy Story 4. "With Toy Story 3 being such a perfect ending to this long-time childhood story, how could there possibly be more," wondered Disney fans like myself. Yet, here we are with another conclusion in 2019.

Compared to the first Toy Story, the artistic quality has gone leaps and bounds over the years. Bo Peep and Woody are so much more detailed and come to life in a completely different

way than the first movie.

In this sequel, we see our favorite characters along with new friends trying to save Bonnie's new toy, Forky. Along the way, Woody notices a change in himself that only makes him more and more anxious to bring Forky back every time he runs away. That is, until he meets Bo Peep again and discovers that she's been living the life of a lost toy. Getting played with at the park when she can, and helping and saving other lost toys when needed.

Woody sees her life and is given a choice to stay with Bonnie or to explore a world he's never known before. After the past three movies of adventures where Woody is forced to choose between his kid or a life of adventure, what will his decision be this time?

You'll have to see the movie to find out. What is clear though, even from the previews alone, is that Disney has once again created characters and a story to fill us with laughter, joy, and pure entertainment as we lose ourselves in the sequel to such a classic tale.

Towards the end of the summer we were greeted with a true classic, The Lion King. This live-action was well anticipated beyond just 2019 and I'm happy to say it really pulled through for us 90s kids.

Something about seeing actual lion's battling, rather than cartoons, was so intriguing. It really brought this movie to a new level that just made the characters feel authentic. Likewise, the music, both new and old, really captivated the

audience and brought them to the African terrains of Pride Rock.

The voice actors each fit their roles so well. Through their song and script, the actors and actresses were able to really bring the characters to life.

One downfall of such a vivid live-action movie, where the animals are based off of animals in real life, is that their facials are not similar to the emotions that humans feel and their expressions lacked the ability to portray their feelings. The lions never really smiled and at touching moments their faces seemed rather blank simply because lions smiling is not a natural occurrence. We could see the anger and fury in their eyes when they fought, but other emotions were scarce or not seen at all, in almost all of the animals' cases.

Some of my favorite parts included the moment where Timon and Pumbaa begin to sing "Be Our Guest" from Beauty and the Beast and the many other comedic moments between Timon and Pumbaa and the extended version of "In the Jungle, the Mighty Jungle".

Overall, Disney did the right thing by not changing too many details in this live-action. It truly kept the heart-warming feelings of the original and captivated its audiences with its authentic characters, songs, and settings.

## Summer photos



**Hugging Totoro in Hawaii**  
Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage



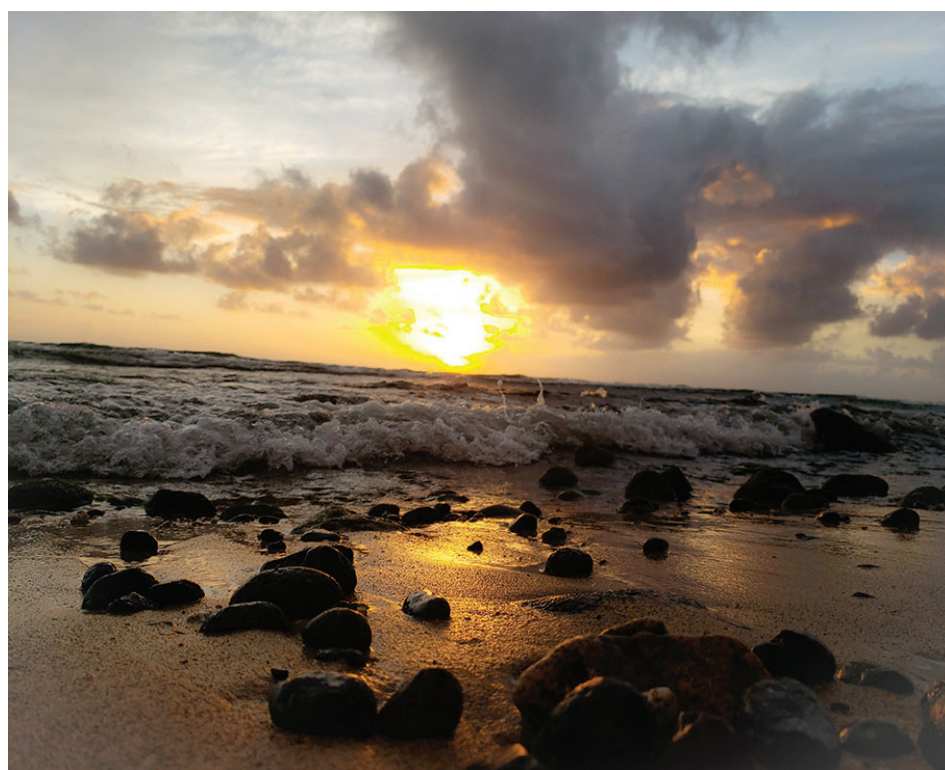
**Hanging in Hawaii**  
Photo by Krystal Reinhoel



**Representing styles of diversity for UMOJA**  
Provided by James Parker



**Fun at the Lake**  
Photo by James Parker



**Summer sunset from a beach in Hawaii**  
Photo By Krystal Reinhoel



**Beach Selfie**  
Photo by Krystal Reinhoel



# UMOJA promotes unity and leadership

**Editors Note:** This article is written from the perspective of a member of the UMOJA program

By James Parker

The UMOJA club at Mt. San Jacinto College is designed to bring unity to all of its students. “Umoja” is Kiswahili word that means “unity”. The mission of UMOJA is to enhance the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other diverse students. It provides a space where students can express themselves, find out about resources, and help increase the retention rates of diverse student populations.

The first UMOJA program was in 1988 at Chabot College in Hayward, CA, and at the time it was known as the Daraja Project (“Daraja” means “bridge” in Kiswahili). It has since grown to include 55 California Community Colleges, 1 CSU, and 1 Community College in the state of Washington.

All of these schools are a part of one UMOJA Community. The community is endorsed by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. This allows funding for schools to send students to annual conferences, leadership summits, and open houses where the students can network and experience being in a larger group of people from African cultures throughout California.

The 14th annual UMOJA Conference was held last November at the Riverside Convention Center. It was a two day event and had Eric Thomas and Dr. Joy DeGruy as keynote speakers.

According to Motivationgrid.com, Thomas is the top motivational speaker in the world. He is well known on social media as ET the Hip Hop Preacher. He encourages the stu-

dents to give 120 percent in everything they do.

DeGruy is the author of “Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America’s Legacy of Enduring Injury & Pain.” She has a PhD in Social Work Research, Master’s in Clinical Psychology and a Master’s in Social Work.

She told the compelling story of how she challenged the tourists of the Statue of Liberty so they can show the chains at Lady Liberty’s feet and explain their significance. It moved the entire audience.

I am an African American, full-time student who has been an SI Leader, ICC Rep and recruiter for Mu Alpha Theta, member of A2MEND, service officer Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), and Vice President of UMOJA at MSJC. I am currently the President of PTK and a tutor and I still make time for the clubs I have stayed active in.

Honestly, Umoja means everything to me. I love the Umoja community on our campus. In our club we have a whole bunch of diverse students that help each other succeed and give each other pointers about resources on campus. I feel like Umoja at our school is going to bridge the gap between our disproportionately impacted students and success, which will also increase the retention rate of those students. So, that’s why Umoja means everything to me. Umoja Woo.

MSJC English major and Honors Enrichment Program student Anthony Smart was the Vice President of UMOJA during the Fall 2018 semester. In Spring 2019, he became the President of the UMOJA club which he plans on continuing during the Fall 2019 semester.

“Umoja means community, unity and most importantly in my personal opinion, family. Umoja is



Photo of the attendees from the Umoja Leadership Summit in the summer of 2019.

Photo provided by James Parker

a place filled with brilliant, like minded diverse diasporas from all different walks of life. So, you can always learn something new even if you are of the same culture. Umoja is a safe haven for me where I can be my most raw, unapologetic, authentic self. That’s what Umoja means to me,” said Smart.

The 14th UMOJA conference is where Smart and I really got to know each other. We have become close friends with a brother-like bond ever since. We ride to school together daily and they have made it a mission to expand the club, an example of how strong of a bond UMOJA can create.

Mahad Hagimohamed, an Air Force veteran and previous SI Leader, attended the Student Equity Meeting in the Spring semester with Parker and Smart. Faculty members were impressed with Hagimohamed, Smart, and Parker’s input on the topics at hand and their commitment to making a difference.

Darnell Bing started out as the part-time UMOJA coordinator and is now the full-time director for UMOJA and has helped arrange a trip for two students to attend the Umo-

ja Open House event in Sacramento on Sept. 12th.

I will attend with Natani King, a psychology student who is new to MSJC. Natani is excited for her first semester and her new experiences with the UMOJA club.

“It’s an honor to be part of such an enriching club! I’m enthused to be building a family atmosphere with my fellow peers along with sharing our knowledge and background,” said Natani.

The UMOJA club also provides opportunities for its students to speak their minds at other school events. There was a student and faculty

panel with a focus on toxic masculinity during the Spring semester where Hagimohamed and Parker got the opportunity to be student representatives.

The most recent large UMOJA event was the Umoja Leadership Summit at UC Merced August 1st-3rd. It invited over 200 UMOJA students from all over California to learn about leadership skills, express their artistic skills and bond with members from other schools.

It was the first Umoja event that communications major Darryl Hill Jr. attended. When asked about it Hill said, “We discussed

African heritage, leadership and we had some fun in between. I walked away knowing that if I apply myself and stay persistent then I can be something. It made me reflect on who I am. I think growing this way made me very adaptable and relentless. I just have to learn how to use that.”

MSJC’s UMOJA club is open and accepting to all students and aims to create the unified stance that its name represents.



UMOJA students

Photo provided by James Parker

# Mu Alpha Theta benefits math students



Mu Alpha Theta’s adviser and officers from Spring 2019.

Photo courtesy of Mu Alpha Theta

By Alyse Kiara Deatherage

Mu Alpha Theta is a well-known mathematics honor society that is spread nationally over many high schools and community colleges. MSJC is proud to have students participate in this program each semester.

Mu Alpha Theta began in 1957 at the University of Oklahoma. It was created with the goal of encouraging students who excel in mathematics; orchestrating events where students and teachers can participate in fun mathematic events, including a national convention where students unite with peers from around the globe; and rewarding extracurricular achievements through grants, awards, and scholarships.

To be eligible, students must: complete at least one semester at MSJC, complete at least one math course at or above Math 105 (College Algebra)/ Math 110 (Pre-Calculus), and have

at least a 3.0 GPA average in all courses above or below Math 105/Math 110.

Mu Alpha Theta’s mantra is “Building the Resolve to Solve” as they build up their students’ work ethic and ability to solve problems in math as well as their pride in their own work, both inside and outside of the mathematics field.

Shahla Sadjadi is the current advisor for Mu Alpha Theta. She provided some background on how the chapter began at MSJC.

“In 2008, Neil Willis was an MSJC student and an SI Leader for Janice Levasseur,” said Sadjadi. “He had recently relocated from New Orleans, Louisiana, after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, to live with his aunt. Neil belonged to Mu Alpha Theta as a high-schooler in New Orleans and wanted to start a chapter at MSJC.”

Levasseur and Willis worked together to build up the Mu Alpha Theta since then and it

has now been active at MSJC for eleven years.

Students who participate in Mu Alpha Theta have to pay a small club fee of \$5 per semester as well as \$10 to join the Math Honors Society section.

Each semester, Mu Alpha Theta has an annual math competition that students can participate in. It is a bi-campus competition so each year it switches the campus it is held on. It is being held on San Jacinto’s campus this semester.

Christain Cortez, a Computer Science student at MSJC, has been in the club for three semesters. Last year, his team won for the Groups category in the Mu Alpha Theta math competition.

“The club is filled with passion and enthusiasm from all its members. Being in the club makes me feel like I’m part of something special and significant,” said Cortez.

They also hold fun events on campus, such as

their “Tig-or-treat” event in October to get students interested in their club and allow them to have fun while they testing their mathematical knowledge.

James Parker, a Math student and previous ICC rep and recruiter for Mu Alpha Theta, has been in the program for two semesters. He enjoys being surrounded by members who enjoy math as much as he does.

“Being involved with Mu Alpha Theta brings a sense of belonging and recognition amongst people who love math,” said Parker. “We can be witty, nerdy and understand

each other. I love the events and how we make math puns all the time.”

Mu Alpha Theta’s president, Mahak Tiwari, recommends that everyone should take an interest and participate in this club because it is beneficial to them and looks great on a college resume. They also offer leadership experience with the many positions they have available to students.

“Especially for those newcomers that are going to be taking math classes this Fall semester, this club would be very beneficial to them and once they go off to a four-year university,

having Mu Alpha Theta on their academic resume will unlock a lot of scholarships for them,” said Tiwari.

Tiwari also expressed an appreciation for the way Mu Alpha Theta opened up new relationships and connections for her at MSJC.

“You need to have that place where you can be safe and be comfortable around others and that’s why I chose Mu Alpha Theta,” said Tiwari.

For the Fall 2019 semester Mu Alpha Theta plans to meet every Friday at the Menifee Valley Campus from 10-11 a.m. in room 453.

**MEETINGS ARE HELD @9:20 AM EVERY FRIDAY IN ROOM 453 (MVC) & 1111 (SJC)**

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**FOR MORE INFO: PLEASE CONTACT**

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MTIWARI156@STUDENT.MSJC.EDU

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JHARTMAN@MSJC.EDU

**SJC: SHAHLA SADJADI**  
SSADJADI@MSJC.EDU



# Poems by Hector Cardenas

Ranch dressing dress ranch BUT have you ever noticed?

An undressed man dressing in ranch dressing isn't dressed

Strange laws they make now

But get this

A dressed man undressing A ranch dressing is dressed

But

Does he own a ranch? Who's owned a ranch btw?

How do we know a ranch hand uses a 'ranch dressing'

on his s a l a d ?

Maybe just Maybe

just Maybe Just

Maybe just M a y b e

they lied to me and

In fact The ranch dressing

institutes a dress code on the salad and because

some ranches are religious So

Stay with Me

Here

Salads are naked and violate PURE-itan laws AND

Requiring a quick make up Or Some might say

A

"Ranch Dressing"

"Poetry for the end of the world"

As you might know the world Is

Careful now.....careful For The

You can't ALL be scrambling Exit

I told you Already The world Is Ending

There's no need to freak out To

The Truth is |Redacted| The

We were already Right \*You just didn't do Anything

"?"

## More Summer Photos



Disney Orchestra Performers at Disneyland

Photo provided by Elijah Rios



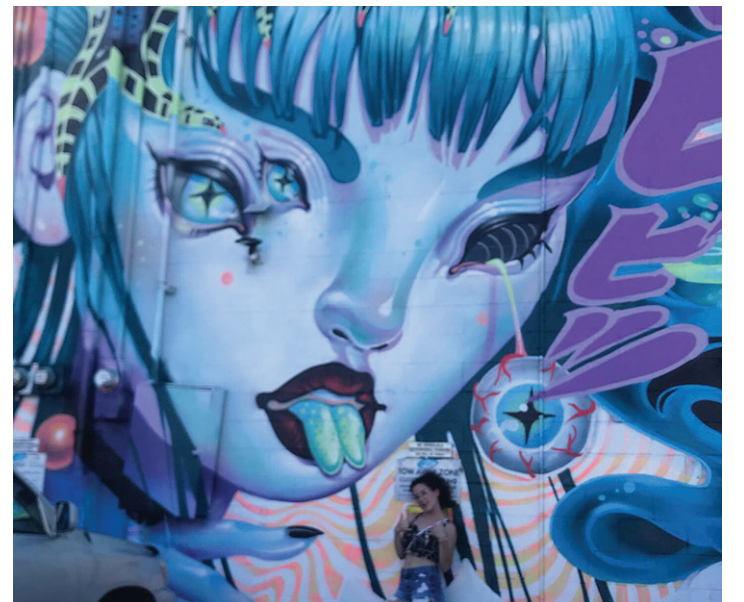
Lake Elsinore sky diving

Photo provided by Sergio Arceo



James Parker at UMOJA Leadership conference

Photo provided by James Parker



Hawaii street art

Photo by Antonia Gutierrez

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