The Migrant Times

Jessenya Guerra

California State University, Monterey Bay

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Rangel family snow trip 2019, group photo. Photo by Ismael Rangel.

Jessenya Guerra
Senior Capstone
Journalism and Media Studies
Creative Project
Umi Vaughan
School of Humanities and Communication
Spring 2019
For my family - past, present, and future.
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*Note: The Migrant Times Capstone Newspaper starts on page 4 of the portfolio, however the newspaper itself is numbered pages 1-6 on the broadsheet.
Project Proposal

1. **Provide your name and identify your area of concentration**
   Jessenya Guerra, Journalism and Media Studies

2. **Project Description:**
   The idea for my project is to demonstrate my knowledge of diaspora through the creation of a newspaper. I will make one 6 page publication of a fake, or perhaps use the name and format of CSUMB’s newspaper, with all the stories, ads, and creative works being related to the Mexican diaspora. All of the pieces will be written, edited, and designed by myself.

3. **Alignment with Common Theme:**
   All of the pieces will be related to the Mexican diaspora. For example, I have family members that work for the Migrant Education program in San Luis Obispo county. This education program was founded by second generation Mexicans to help those who are following in their footsteps.

4. **Purpose:**
   The purpose of my newspaper is to inform and enlighten the general public of all the good that has come from the Mexican diaspora, rather than focusing on the bad. My family, specifically has made a large impact on the California Central Coast and I feel that profiling them for this newspaper is a great way to do so.

5. **Format Rationale:**
   My format is a newspaper because I have worked on The Lutrinae the entire time I’ve been at CSUMB. This is a new skill that I learned here and something I hope to take with me into the workplace. A newspaper will allow me to use different types of articles, such as features and creative works to not only show the depth but also breadth of knowledge on the Mexican diaspora.

6. **Capstone Title:**
   I am not sure if I can use the title The Lutrinae as I am editor-in-chief, but if not the working title of the publication is The Migrant or The Nomad. In reference to the traveling part of diaspora.

7. **Working Summary:**
   My project will contain a plethora of stories, and other news related topics, related to the Mexican diaspora, and more specifically my family. I will be profiling family members to get a sense of their life related to how they have impacted California, and their local communities, as well as their perspectives of diaspora. I will also use my knowledge of
working on a newspaper to have content that is diverse and intriguing. I will write columns, include creative works by myself, perhaps have a photo journal or even games that represent this diaspora. The theme of diaspora will be present without being repeated so frequently as is done in academic writing or in this proposal.

8. **Expectations:** Articulate as clearly as possible the *specific expectations* associated with your chosen project, including a *detailed account of all deliverables*. Be sure to *align the project expectations with the appropriate assessment criteria* and include your understanding of *all documentation requirements* associated with the project.

This project will require that I write, edit and curate a number of articles, stories and other to fill a 6 page newspaper. For a 6 page paper I am expecting that I will need to write approximately 8, 500-1,000 word articles. The number of articles will vary with word count for each one. I will also need to write about 4, 500 word columns and have a creative works page. I do believe that this is doable for a 6 page, it will take a lot of work. The most difficult part for myself will probably be layout and printing. I have been practicing with Indesign for a while, which is what The Lutrinae is laid out on. I have taken graphic design classes in the past and I should be able to handle this, but I am a bit out of practice. Printing might be the most difficult because newspaper printing is costly. Hopefully I can find somewhere, such as staples or fedex that can print it correctly and on a similar paper.

9. **Specific Skills Required:** Demonstrate specifically *competency in the technical skills needed to complete the project in the proposed format* described and how you already have developed them. Be specific! For example, if you have chosen a digital story as the format for your creative project, how did you develop the skills needed to complete a digital story? Did you successfully complete Latina Life Stories? How did you develop competency in using editing software?

I learned all of the skills to write, edit, and curate a newspaper by working on staff at The Lutrinae. This was a new skill that I learned at CSUMB when I joined in August of 2017. I have been working as editor-in-chief of The Lutrinae since May 2018 and am fully prepared to do this. I am familiar with AP style and understand what it takes to write news worthy, feature, opinion or other stories/content. I am also currently enrolled in reporting. For lay out I have been working on that as a hobby. This is mostly unfamiliar to me, but I have a lot of friends who have offered to teach me the ins and outs, as well as staff at The Lutrinae that are willing to help me. I also have taken graphic design classes in the past, one on Adobe Photoshop, and one on Adobe Illustrator. I don’t think it will be too difficult to learn how to use.
10. **Next Steps:** What steps will you need to take to meet your project’s expectations, including preparation of all required deliverables? (be as specific as possible)

1) Outline - I need to outline all of the stories that I believe can be put into this newspaper and organize my stories ideas.
2) Research - I need to be fully aware of the meanings of diaspora and confirm that all of my stories are relevant and intriguing.
3) Meet with professor - After outlining my idea and doing my research I will have a meeting with my professor to ensure that my idea has a sound foundation
4) Interviews - I will set up interviews with whom my stories are about and their companies.
5) Take photos - I will take photos of the interviews or interesting situations for the paper
6) Write stories - I will take time to write out all of my stories
7) Edit stories - I will take a break to look at my stories as if they were not my own to edit them for AP style and newsworthy or important content
8) Format paper - I will spend, most likely a week or so, formatting the newspaper to what I think is good. I will also add in any ads that I feel will be intriguing or other design aspects.
9) Print paper - This may be more difficult than I hope for so I wish to allow a good amount of time to print

11. **Timeline:** Provide a detailed (and realistic) timeline for completion of each step required to meet the project’s expectations.

1) Outline - I am almost done with this step as of 2/18
2) Research - I will be working on this step to finish by the end of the week 2/23
3) Meet with Professor - I am planning on meeting with my professor Tuesday of next week 2/26
4) Interviews - I expect that this will take about a week to get all of my interviews, I can do most of them before or during spring break 3/ 4 to 3 / 25
5) Take Photos - I will do this simultaneously with the interviews 3/4 - 3/25
6) Write stories - I will do this simultaneously with the interviews as I get them 3/ 4 - 3/25 as many people know it’s easiest to write a story soon after the interview so all information is fresh in the brain.
7) Edit stories - this shouldn’t take too long as they are my stories and I know AP style fairly well 3/25-3/29
8) Format paper - I want to allow a good amount of time for this 4/1 - 4/12
9) Print paper - 4/15 - 4/19
By Jessenya Guerra

The title weren’t allowed to turn their backs to us,” Garate says in the spaniard contemplates denouncing title for American citizenship. “When we were in Spain we were expected to obey the rules. When we were in America is important,

the Garate family have a prominent presence in Spain with their land. “When we stay there we are waited on hand and foot and we stay in castles,” says Garate- Rangel. After attending a wedding in Spain the couple recall they were given their own personal servant to wait on them at the event, which is not common practice in America.

Garate moved to the Santa Barbara area of California with his family when he was child in 1980. Shortly after his parents acquired the proper paperwork and gave Garate a legal residency in the United States. “I was so young when it happened. I hardly remember it. I just knew that one day I had it and that was about it,” said Garate. Although he may not remember the path needed to get to the United States there is no recognition of the title and it is only when he is back in Spain that he sees the effect. The couple visit his home country when they can as the Garate family has a prominent presence in Spain with much land to their name.

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Hello all,

My name is Jessenya Guerra and I am a human communication major with a concentration in journalism and media studies. I chose to write a newspaper for my capstone project as it was a new skill I learned while I attended California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). When I started at CSUMB in the fall 2017 semester I was immediately intrigued with joining the newspaper, and wanted to start writing as soon as possible. However, as luck would have it, I joined the newspaper on campus as they were in the midst of transition from Otter Realm to The Luminare.

This transition led to a lot of waiting until my first story was published in the paper, but it was worth waiting for. Eventually, I worked hard enough for The Luminare that I was hired as an editor-in-chief. This has by far been one of my favorite parts of attending CSUMB and has changed the course of my career and solidified my commitment in journalism and media studies. I poured my heart into the newspaper and learned lessons for a lifetime, so I decided to continue those lessons into my senior capstone project.

The stories that are contained within these pages are an expression of my love for journalism and a demonstration of the cultivation of knowledge I acquired at CSUMB. There may be some fiction contained within as we tone of voice in a column, or even fictional advertisements. However, the people interviewed, the events visited, and key points made are all non-fiction.

I am truly excited that all of the stories, columns, and creative works can effectively demonstrate what diaspora would look like in the form of a newspaper. The idea is not to understand the definition of diaspora, but rather to communicate what it looks like in action, and to experience how diaspora plays out in everyday life.

This newspaper was written entirely inspired by my own personal diaspora, and how my grandfather was brave enough to bring his family to a new country to start a better life for his children, and grandchildren like myself. All of the content in this newspaper is either based on my personal history or is an interview with or about my family. All content in this newspaper is either family to a new country to start a better life for his children, and grandchildren like myself. All of the content in this newspaper is either based on my personal history or is an interview with or about my family.

By Jessenya Guerra

As it relates to my own personal diaspora, I sat down with my mother and asked about her life and her experiences as a Mexican in America. Leticia Guerra was born in April of 1968 in Mexico City, Mexico to Leticia Rangel Villalobos. She was the second daughter born to Anatolio and Nellie Rangel and would eventually be one of their 11 children.

She was married in 1995 to John Guerra, the family was just like any other nuclear family in the 1960s. John Guerra was born in San Diego, California to the United States. Guerra lives happily with her children have lives here in the United States. Guerra often thinks about retiring back to Mexico, but said she wouldn’t as her children have lives here in the United States. Guerra lives happily with her family in Atascadero, California.

John Guerra served in the United States Army from 1988-1992 where he learned to appreciate and respect the country he served. Shortly after returning Guerra had his first child, Jayce, before marrying his first wife Leticia Rangel in 1995. Guerra had two children with his then wife before eventually getting divorced in 2007. Guerra later had another child, Joyce, and married his new wife Jennifer Dodson, and gained two more children from his previous marriage.

By Jessenya Guerra

Talking about his relationship with hispanic heritage Guerra says, “Even though I grew up in a cross-cultural home, in that era it was very simple.” Guerra said there is no other nuclear family in the 1960s. John Guerra was born in San Diego, California to the United States. Guerra lives happily with her children have lives here in the United States. Guerra often thinks about retiring back to Mexico, but said she wouldn’t as her children have lives here in the United States. Guerra lives happily with her family in Atascadero, California.

By Jessenya Guerra

As it relates to my own personal diaspora, I sat down with my father and asked about his life and his experiences as a Mexican in America. John Guerra was born in San Diego, California in 1948 to Ramon and Joyce Guerra. He is only one of his older siblings, Jackie Guerra, the family was just like any other nuclear family in the 1960s. Ramon Guerra was born in Santiago Popapagui, Mexico and was not a United States citizen when his second child was born. He pushed to teach his children, what he lovingly referred to as an "attachment" to his father being naturalized in 1973.

Joyce Guerra was born in Colorado and was, in fact, a child resulting from his family line of German and Irish who came to the United States long before.

Guerra attended elementary, middle and high school in San Diego before joining the military almost immediately after high school. Guerra served in the United States army from 1988-1992 where he learned to appreciate and respect the country he served. Shortly after returning Guerra had his first child, Jayce, before marrying his first wife Leticia Rangel in 1995. Guerra had two children with his then wife before eventually getting divorced in 2007. Guerra later had another child, Joyce, and married his new wife Jennifer Dodson, and gained two more children from his previous marriage.
Microaggressions in downtown SLO
Migrant women question their safety in the city

By Jessenia Guerra

When Hérmene Garate-Rangel walked intoSplash cafe in downtown San Luis Obispo in early March, 2019, with her older sister and aunt she expected to have a normal lunch.

She expected to see some award-winning clam chowder and freshly baked pastries after a long morning of taking her sick aunt to doctor’s appointments. What she did not expect was for a man, older, larger, and whiter than the three of them to demand they give up their table for him to eat.

Garate-Rangel remembers the day so vividly saying, “We had already ordered and sat down with our little cups of water waiting for our food when he entered.”

Garate-Rangel says the man insisted there were tables outside available for seating despite the fear having already settled down to eat. “He kept telling us as there was seating outside where we could sit and see the sights. We’re locals. We’ve lived here our whole lives. We’ve seen the sights. Plus, it was chilly outside and [my aunt] was already freezing.”

Although Garate-Rangel was born in California her older sister and aunt were born in Mexico. “He heard us speaking Spanish and he was already suspicious with me from outset,” said Garate-Rangel explaining that before entering the restaurant her and the man had a small conflict over a parking spot.

Garate-Rangel and her sister, Minerva Rangel, explained the man was driving the wrong way on a one way parking lane and was unable to get the parking spot he was after. Garate-Rangel who was driving to the restaurant pulled into the spot as she was driving the correct way in the lot.

Garate-Rangel and her sister came from a family that emigrated to California in the late 1970s. Both have lived in the Central Coast area since the early 1980s, and have called San Luis Obispo home for many years. Garate-Rangel says it wasn’t until recently that she finds San Luis Obispo, an area that prides itself for being fairly liberal, has started to outcast her and her family for being Hispanic.

“It wasn’t until recently that I started to understand what was happening,” Garate-Rangel says there has been an increasing number of small examples of racism occurring in the years that she didn’t recognize as microaggressions until recently.

Garate-Rangel explains that the day the man not only wanted their table, but also went as far as to sit at their table to force the women to move. “There were other tables available in the restaurant, but for some reason he wanted our table,” she said. She also explained there were other groups of people in the restaurant at tables similar to theirs. “It was made sense for him to push the other groups away from their tables, they were all almost done with their meals and our food hadn’t been served yet.”

Garate-Rangel, her sister, and their aunt were determined, however, not to give up their table.

The group soon realized they were the only Mexicans in the restaurant and all the other families were white. “It was really disheartening to see others around, who were white, not using their [privilege] to help us.” Garate-Rangel feels there was nothing short of threatening the man they could have done to make him leave. Eventually, the man stood up from their table to get his food and gave up his mission to find a table to eat. “It was incredibly disrespectful, he really thought he could intimidate us into moving tables as if this were the 1960s. We have a right to be here and eat unbothered by racists like him.”

Microaggressions are defined by Donald Wang, Sae at Psychology Today as, “brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative prejudicial slights and insults toward any group.” These microaggressions are embedded into American society so deeply that often times they become difficult to identify.

However, Garate-Rangel’s situation was a clear demonstration of how microaggressions focused on racism can keep members of a minority group from living their everyday lives normally. The man mentioned earlier may not have realized he was being racist, or perhaps he did, but by targeting the only Hispanic group in the restaurant and undermining their right to eat in peace, he directly caused them harm.

Garate-Rangel and her sister come from a family that emigrated to California in the late 1970s. Both have lived in the Central Coast area since the early 1980s, and have called San Luis Obispo home for many years. Garate-Rangel says it wasn’t until recently that she finds San Luis Obispo, an area that prides itself for being fairly liberal, has started to outcast her and her family for being Hispanic.

My mother, Minerva Rangel, and I were born in California. We’ve lived here in the Central Coast area since the early 1980s, and have called San Luis Obispo home for many years. Garate-Rangel says it wasn’t until recently that she finds San Luis Obispo, an area that prides itself for being fairly liberal, has started to outcast her and her family for being Hispanic.

“Because of our heritage,” Garate-Rangel explains that even though with his legal residency he is allowed to collect food stamps, welfare and other forms of government assistance, he does not. “If we see I am using the government’s money then they see me less likely to accept my citizenship application. So I just don’t.” he said. Garate says when completing the paperwork to become a citizen the American government requires all new citizens to denounce their queen and relinquish their titles.

This would mean any children born to Garate and his wife would not hold the same title as they do if he were to become a citizen. “It is a hard decision for me, on one hand I could finally vote and have a say in the country I love lived in for most of my adult life. On the other hand my future children wouldn’t have the same experience as me when returning to my homeland.” Although the Garate family doesn’t anticipate children anytime soon, the thought is still daunting for them as the title carries a rich family history.

Garate says of how he would apply for citizenship he would wait for the next Presidential administration as he anticipates the next President to be more lenient towards those seeking citizenship. Stories like Garate’s are commonplace in America nowadays.

For information on the path to citizenship visit https://www.usa.gov/become-a-citizen.

Citizenship

Continued from pg 1

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Migrant Education

Continued from pg 1

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Community

La Santa Cecilia performs concert in Guadalupe

By Jessenya Guerra

On Saturday, May 11 Grammy award-winning artist La Santa Cecilia visited Guadalupe to play music for students of the Migrant Education program. La Santa Cecilia is a “modern-day creative hybrid of Latin culture, rock and world music,” according to the band’s Facebook page. The group consists of six members from all over the world, although they proudly state they are from Los Angeles or the City of Angels.

The group was invited to Guadalupe city hall to play music for children of the Migrant Education program, Saturday as a way for children to celebrate their diversity. Iggy Garcia, a teacher for the Migrant Education program and attendee of Saturday’s festivities said, “this is a really great opportunity for them to see they can celebrate both cultures.”

Orlando Mandujano, 15, an attendee of the concert and fan of La Santa Cecilia said, “You know it’s hard. I had brothers and sisters who emigrated here before I was born. Luckily they all have their papers now, but having family split by a border – that can be heartbreaking.”

Rangel also expressed his appreciation for La Santa Cecilia saying, “You know it’s hard. I had brothers and sisters who emigrated here before I was born. Luckily they all have their papers now, but having family split by a border – that can be heartbreaking.”

The high demand for Central Coast strawberries only furthered the need for migrant workers to relocate to these counties in search of reliable work. The Migrant Education program offers educational resources for children of migrant families who may be relocating often due to seasonal produce and access to work.

La Santa Cecilia makes a point, not only to celebrate being bicultural, but also to challenge politics and social issues in the United States. The band gained a lot of steam in 2017 when the Disney film Coco hit the box office with their track “Un Mundo Raro” on their soundtrack. Again the band was recognized early last year where they won their first Grammy in February for Best Latin Pop Album.

“Un mundo raro” along with the album Amor y Vive, their Grammy winning album, continue La Santa Cecilia’s social challenges. Post on their Facebook page that read, “Por un promesa muchas almas abren las puertas para llegar de muy lejanas tierras. Bienvenido sea, al que se lo crea, la suerte ahora empieza…” or translated in English “For a promise many souls arrive from far away lands. Welcome, to whoever creates it, your luck is starting,” accompanied by a romantic photo of Los Angeles.

Making the perfect sope, cutting corners or pure genius? An American way of crafting a Mexican classic

By Jessenya Guerra

If you are Hispanic, or even just a casual lover of Mexican food then you are probably familiar with sopes (soap-ehs). They are a common traditional dish that many Latinx cultures have perfected in their own diverse ways.

Growing up sopes were always a breakfast food served with beans, rice, frios, and whatever salsa my mom decided to whip up. They are a cross between a tostada and a biscuit, deep fried and golden for the perfect crunch.

Although sopes are seen most often for breakfast other families, cultures, and people have a variety of ways to enjoy them and you can house any topping one chooses.

There are many steps to creating these delicious discs. The first is to roll the dough into small palm sized balls. Flatten them and then heat on a skillet before pinching the edges and deep frying.

Over the years traditions get passed down, one of the most common being the traditional method of flattening sopes. The original method, that any Mexican eldor in my family would own by to flatten by hand. Flattening a sope by hand may seem simple, but the key to the perfect sope is to maintain a perfect circle while also being evenly flat.

This is nearly impossible to do by hand while also ensuring your hands don’t dry out the dough if you haven’t been trained how to do so since birth. Since making sopes by hand hasn’t been the most successful or consistent for myself we have developed an easier method that could help.

This new method helps to keep a consistent shape and size of the sope, while also making sure it retains the desired moisture. This method also reduces the amount of time spent on shaping the sope to make a flavorful cooking process. It should also be fairly simple for Mexican families because it has simple household items.

The items needed are only a traditional sope dough and a sandwich sized ziploc bag. The dough makes sense in it to make the meal, but many may be questioning why the ziploc bag?

To start we take the ziploc bag and zip along the left and right sides of the bag. The ziploc portion of the bag is not necessary important, this can also be done with saran wrap, however the sandwich ziploc bags are the perfect size and easier to use.

After rolling the perfect portion of dough into a ball we place it in the center of the bag onto a clean flat surface, like a countertop.

We then press the dough with the palm of our hands.

Sometimes the sope still doesn’t have the required evenness with this approach and it needs a personal touch.

With the dough and bag on the counter we press the dough with our fingers to the desired flattened and roundness, this allows the bag to keep moisture in the dough rather than being sucked into our fingers.

We then gently lift the dough from the bag on each side.

This is easier done by separating the bag from the dough rather than vice versa.

We use the gravity of the dough to pull the bag away easily. Sometimes might try this way of making sopes is lazy or cutting corners however it has saved us a lot of hassle and time in the kitchen.

We like to say it’s our American way of making sopes, since it was here in America where we got access to such amazing tools as the ziploc bag.

Scan this QR code to visit LaSantaCecilia.com to learn more about La Santa Cecilia and their music.

Un mundo raro

Ice. Water frozen solid. ICE. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE. El Hielo.

For those who speak both English and Spanish, and can relate to the struggles of immigration and deportation find the song very powerful.

La Santa Cecilia continues to make music and is expected to release a new album soon.

La Santa Cecilia performs concert at Guadalupe City Hall. Photo courtesy of Hermie Garate-Rangel. (Middle) La Santa Cecilia band member. La Marisoul, taking photo with fan Hermie Garate-Rangel at Saturday’s concert. Photo by Jessenya Guerra. (Right) La Santa Cecilia band members encourage kids to sing and dance along. Photo by Jessenya Guerra.
Dear Abby,

My abuela, simply put, is racist. I have a lot of respect for her because she brought my family across the border, and has worked really hard to get to where she is now. However, since I started dating my new girlfriend, she stopped asking me to come around. I know this is because my girlfriend is African American and my abuela just does not understand how we could be together. The biggest question I ask myself: I think my girlfriend might be the one, what should I do?

Sincerely,

Color-blind lover

Dear Color-blind Lover,

Congratulations on finding someone so special! I can see how this can be a very difficult situation. My abuela is the same way, and I know it comes from ignorance and not a place of hate. Perhaps you should make it a point to tell your abuela how you feel about her, knowing that things are more long term could encourage her to make things more civil between the two of them.

You should also try some purposeful bonding time, set up dinner dates and other activities to show your abuela that your significant other is a person—not just a person of color. Something else that could perhaps help your situation is to find the Center for the culture of your girlfriend and romanticize it.

Show your abuela there is beauty in diversity and there is nothing to hate or be afraid.

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Creative Works

Poetry
By Jessenya Guerra

Diaspora
Here to there we moved,
Farther than we’ll ever return,
A home unknown,
For generations.

Living in our memories,
Babies crying,
Sweeping dust floors,
Barefoot through our minds,
Picking strawberries,
Working,
Day and night,
Belonging is a memory,
Children anchor to a hostland,
The politics of people,
Aliens in their home,
Years pass,
Plants grow and die,
And so do families,
We forget our home,
Not for long for-
Here to there we’ll move,
Farther than we’ll ever return,
A home unknown,
For generations.

Sucker
We really did believe,
there was a chance,
maybe, probably,
hopefully,
potentially we had a chance.
A chance to make a change,
a change that could,
maybe, probably,
hopefully,
potentially make a difference.
A difference that could help,
help that would,
maybe, probably,
hopefully,
potentially give people hope.
Hope that if we make a stand,
A stand that could,
maybe, probably,
hopefully,
potentially bring us to the 21st century.

Border
It was almost impossible to live there. Live in a place where it was not possible for people to live. Live in a place where I had never thought that people could thrive, be alive, strive to be more than the destiny that was set forth for them.

People are lost until they are found within themselves. If you never give them the tools to go searching they will continue to be blind and lost. Their eyes are closed and they don’t even know. They don’t understand there is light after the dawn.

Children without direction they live and die in the same mud huts their parents lived and died in. They spread rumors and myths of a place that is different. A utopia where the streets are paved with gold and babies have full tummies. Many of them weep for solice, weep for peace, weep for the violence to end.

Two stand up, brave enough to travel far away. Farther than any of them ever have before. Farther than they may have ever believed the Earth could go. Walking for days, no water, no food, perhaps worse than the home they know the journey is long and horrible. One of them dies.

The brave one, believes he has found it. His solice, peace for his family. Just over the fence, but he will climb to stop.

He is shot. The streets are paved with blood.
Final Synthesis Essay

Over the Spring 2019 semester I have worked tirelessly to perfect my capstone project and integrate it with the course theme of diaspora. I have directly contributed to the HCOM 475 section’s by raising critical questions about the course theme. When the class began I brought to the class’s attention the idea of telling one-sided stories when it comes to race. Part of my capstone project is a photo journal that demonstrates stories different from what is commonly known about people of one race. For example, Mexicans are often shown working in fields whereas one imagine in my photojournal shows a young Mexican teen playing piano which is not a common story line for Mexicans. This was a topic I brought up within the class early on that other students were able to play with in their own ways and relate to their own projects. Another topic I brought up in class was the generational line, part of diaspora involves having two generations born in the new homeland. My family is an interesting case as my grandfather brought his family with him in the late 1970s, my mother was born in Mexico but she has many brothers and sisters born in America. This brought up the idea of what a second generation is and whether or not my family, or other similar families, fell under the same circumstances.

There are many ways I have learned to work collaboratively and independently throughout this class. The main collaborative project was the group presentation my group did towards the beginning of the semester. Since there was a fairly quick turn around on the assignment, my group members and I had to coordinate tasks via email and work heavily on google docs. Not having the luxury of meeting in person to practice the group presentation left us to have clear communication constantly during each stage of the project. This group project also helped me learn from my fellow peers as I was unfamiliar with PowerPoint presentation. I also worked collaboratively when we conducted two rounds of peer reviews on our capstone projects. This
assignment was much more difficult than I had originally anticipated because people become very attached to their projects. This makes it fairly difficult to give feedback in a constructive and positive manner when feelings are so closely related.

I also learned how to work on my own for this capstone class. When we filled out our project proposals we had to create a timeline for our the development of our projects. The most difficult aspect of this class for me was to stick to that timeline and get all of my deliverables in on time. However this class taught me how to be consistent and get work done in a timely manner, this was definitely a project that could not be left until the last minute and required much planning and fine tuning. All of these things needed to be done in stages and required me to stay on task the entire semester.

My capstone project specifically demonstrates my understanding of diaspora in a variety of ways. The first way my capstone is directly related to diaspora is because I focused the project on my family. My grandfather moved his family from Mexico to America in the 1970s he emigrated to find a better life of opportunities and education for his children and grandchildren. As a Mexican-American I know there is so much more to the conversation of diversity and diaspora that isn’t being talked about because it isn’t mainstream. I wanted to focus my capstone on emphasizing all of the good Mexican Americans are doing in America rather than the bad. All too often Mexicans are viewed negatively in mainstream media mostly because of politics and policy. This is directly a form of isolation to keep Mexicans from assimilating in America which is one aspect of diaspora. I thought that by putting all of the good, interesting, or even pointing out the isolating behavior in stories throughout my capstone project I could tell a different story about Mexicans, one showing who they truly are and what they truly want.
I also wanted to highlight the blending of two different cultures within my capstone project as this is another fascinating aspect of diaspora. This is a more subtle theme in my capstone as it takes place the most obviously through the advertisements in the paper. One of the advertisements is for discounted spaghetti tacos at a local Italian restaurant. Food is a big part of the Mexican diaspora and probably the most integrated aspect of Mexican culture throughout America. The spaghetti tacos symbolize the meshing of a classic Italian dish with a classic Mexican dish. This shows how in America, the new homeland for many diaspora’s, can become a melting pot for different cultures and throughout the generations of assimilation fusion dishes such as spaghetti tacos are born.

My creative capstone project meets the published criteria and standards for assessment. Out of the mechanics portion of the criteria and standards it says the project format has been developed. Creating my capstone project in the format of a newspaper took a lot of planning and coordinating with content and purpose. I wanted certain stories to be more important and stand out over others, this was possible in the formatting of the newspaper. I was also able to develop and demonstrate my skills in inDesign that I acquired from working on staff at The Lutrinae, CSUMB’s student run newspaper. For the substance portion of the criteria for assessment it says the project is clearly aligned with the concentrations in the major, my concentration is Journalism and Media studies and I couldn’t think of a project more fitting than a newspaper.
Reflective Essay

My senior capstone project is a diaspora themed newspaper called The Migrant Times. When it comes to aesthetics I wanted my newspaper look as similar as possible to a normal University newspaper so I modeled my paper after The Lutrinae, CSUMB’s student run newspaper. I did this by using inDesign an Adobe program used for formatting print media such as newspapers and magazines. I was fairly familiar with Adobe programs from my Associates degrees I earned at Cuesta College before transferring to CSUMB, but it wasn’t until I started learning journalism and working for The Lutrinae that I used inDesign. I designed the newspaper in Associated Press or AP style which is standard for all newspapers, this included things such as photo credits for all photos and column layouts. This was probably the most challenging aspect of my capstone. I had to craft the content of my capstone to fit perfectly on 6 pages of broadsheet newsprint, which I had never done before, only assisted with. It was definitely a challenge to fill all 6 pages with newsworthy, diaspora themed content, but I am very proud of the work I filled those pages with.

The purpose of my capstone was to entertain and inform people, not only about diaspora but the good the people in my family are doing for the community. I wrote my capstone for the CSUMB community thinking the audience would be my peers, my family, faculty and staff, and attendees of the Spring capstone festival. I kept this in mind while writing my new stories, as also compliant with AP style, I tried to keep my stories and articles at an easily readable level. This is to ensure anyone who might read my capstone will not be distracted by overly complicated words, phrases, or terms so they can focus on the true messages behind each article, photo, or poem. However, I was still able to integrate the main themes of diaspora into my newspaper just without the complicated and non-mainstream terminology.
When I first began my project I had planned on making an 8 page newspaper because this is ideal for a typical newspaper. When I began deciding what stories or aspects of a newspaper I wanted to include I started to realize an 8 page paper wouldn’t be practical for this assignment. In an 8 page paper one of the typical aspects would be a full page ad or perhaps games to entertain the readers, for a capstone project having a full page ad or games wouldn’t be necessary. I debated with myself for a while before deciding to have a 6 page paper without games or a full page and include two smaller ads instead. I made this choice because although games would add to the authenticity of a newspaper, I decided it could distract from the rest of the content. In addition when I planned out my article ideas and aspects of the 6 page paper I assumed I had enough content, however when I began to place all of my stories it ended up only filling 5 pages. This led to me having to pull together two community stories later on in my project than I would have hoped. Despite the initial lack of content, I still felt the overall paper came together nicely and the community stories add to the personality of the newspaper.

My newspaper covers many different aspects of diaspora which give it a larger social and cultural context. The front page story of the paper is about the Migrant Education program in Santa Barbara county and the resources it gives migrant children. This is a current topic because in the United States immigration is constantly viewed as an issue and California has been a leader for changing the narrative on immigration. The Migrant Education program, rather than continue to paint it as a negative, have decided to embrace those who come into California from Mexico legally or illegally. The second front page story about a Spaniard considering denouncing his title for American citizenship is another aspect of immigration that is not often portrayed or spoken about when it comes to becoming an American citizen. The photo journal in my newspaper titled hands is about telling a different story rather than the mainstream stories.
about Hispanics. All too often we are only faced with a one sided story about Mexicans- that they work in fields or construction, and they are different from everyone else. My photo journal highlights the things about Mexicans that either are different than the common stereotypes or whatever is unique about that individual.

My work has been influenced by writers as I modeled my articles after other news writers and styles. As mentioned before my capstone is in AP style which is a culminated writing style by news writers and editors in the past. While working at The Lutrinae and learning more about journalistic writing I began to integrate AP style not just in my formatting but in the context of my writing. Part of journalistic or AP style writing includes having the most important information at the beginning of an article and ending with the least important information. This allows editors to alter the length of an article based on space available for the story in the paper. As I was the reporter, writer and editor for this newspaper I wrote the articles in this journalistic style of writing to allow myself as the editor this same luxury.