

# Plead to the USL Championship Side



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## Table of Contents

1. Capstone Proposal	1-2
2. Pro's	3
3. Plead to the Championship Side	4-6
4. Who Said	7
5. Plead to the Championship Side	8
(continued)	
6. Left	9
7. Right	9
8. Plead to the Championship Side	10-11
(continued)	
9. American Pyramid Scheme	12
10. Plead to the Championship Side	13-14
(continued)	
11. Ni de Aqui Ni de Alla	15
12. Amatuer's	16
13. The Come Down	17
14. Reflective Essay	18-19
15. Resume CV	20

## **Capstone Proposal**

The idea of the project is to create work that will one day be used to measure how well Monterey Bay Football Club has used its influence on the community to succeed. It is also an invitation for future students to continue to ask questions of the club. The form the project will take for the larger portion is a creative nonfiction piece. There are going to be poems scattered throughout the creative non-fiction to change the pace of the reading. The social issue the content covers is the failure of just representation for soccer in Monterey county, for MBFC the new addition to CSUMB to be a catalyst for change in the soccer structure of the United States by starting in our county.

Change, transition, and transformation, aligns directly with what United States soccer needs. Soccer in the states is relatively young compared to other countries, and players lack fair financial representation to compete at the highest level. Reform at the grassroots level is necessary and MBFC makes it possible by inviting the university and its students to be a part of the club. In order to have a major effect on soccer development, youth leagues, and their coaches along with MBFC, and their coaches, need to agree on a collective plan for the whole community.

The project's primary purpose is to show the problems at hand in our community and provide solutions to those problems. This project is meant to inform readers that there might be an alternative to the way soccer in Monterey county is proceeding with soccer development. And to develop a plan for MBFC to consider implementing. A question I hope the project will create is can students apply pressure on MBFC to consider business strategies that can benefit both themselves and the community.

Creative writing will help share my story and stories of those in the soccer community; through, creating a portfolio of poetry, creative nonfiction, and it will illustrate problems and solutions to consider when addressing soccer reform in Monterey county.

Capstone projects title is, *Plead to the USL Championship Side*. The reason being is because that is the division MBFC is going to play in. Plus Key words like USL Championship side are common terms in football soccer jargon, so it could be easy for other scholars to find and hopefully use.

I'd like to start the main project off with a prose poem that illuminates some issues at hand and hopefully gives some clarity to what issues the project will address. Secondly, I would like to have a creative nonfiction piece with footnotes and research as to what running a professional soccer club looks like, research on how other countries conduct business at the professional level. The creative non fiction will also include what I went through as a young athlete, and what knowledge I have gained throughout the years that may help find solutions. Following would be a collection of poetry relevant to the issues and solutions before mentioned. A reflective essay to close the content.

The reason this creative project suits me is; because, I have had courses in creative writing and social action which requires students to write creative stories, while connecting them to social issues.

## Pro's

Jorge is a kid; he hates futbol. He does everything, besides play futbol in his own spare time, like playing American football, basketball, video games, riding his bike. But his father knew the importance of Jorge playing a sport, so he always made him play one, and Jorge had a choice according to his father, even if Jorge didn't know it. He played futbol all through his kid life; finally, when he was eighteen an American custom; a passage really for some; turning a child into an adult; him being able to make his own decisions-- was to take a break from soccer. And so he did. During this spell away from the ball his bonds and passion for the sport grew, and everyone around him was "succeeding" in achieving soccer city fame. But Jorge didn't think of himself as a skillful player, or a good player at that. He didnt rate himself whatsoever. And when he had nothing to lose, after two years of absence, he returned to the pitch. The first days back he felt a new understanding for the game. A click switched in his brain, and just like switching the light on, he was bright. The game was slow, or so it seemed, he watched as the ball rolled to him, and went from right foot control; to left foot pass, and vice versa. Running the opposition from side to side. Making late runs into the box, and receiving a negative ball to finish first time, scoring on his return from leave; he cemented his spot in the team.

## **Plead to the USL Championship Side**

There has been twenty- one World Cup<sup>1</sup> tournaments, and the United States has been to ten.<sup>2</sup> United States lost to Trinidad and Tobago during qualifications for the 2018 tournament; with an United States own goal, next a golazo<sup>3</sup> shot from the right corner of the big box<sup>4</sup>, the ball went flying into the second post<sup>5</sup>. Trinidad and Tobago beating the United States, that dark and gloomy day, meant the United States would not play in the 2018 World Cup tournament. That is the first tournament they missed since 1990. Before 1990 the United States went forty years without participating in the World Cup. Thirty years in the competition is a great feat for any country. However, in those thirty years the United states only passed the group stage<sup>6</sup> three times. Furthermore, soccer fans might say the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean

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<sup>1</sup> The United States failed to qualify for the World Cup in 2018. And, to think I quit my job to watch the tournament. It hurts! 32 countries make it to the tournament known as the World Cup, but mine didn't.

<sup>2</sup> There was a 40 year gap when the United States did not qualify for the tournament. Finally, in 1990 the drought of tournamentless summers ended. Imagine that 40 years of not giving a shit. They still don't.

<sup>3</sup> A golazo is a great goal, and though it wasn't a score for the Americans; it was indeed a golazo.

<sup>4</sup> The big box is eighteen yards out from the goal, and eighteen yards wide on each side of the goal. To score from outside the box is a special skill on its own. This goal however went one step further and I'll dub it as a golazo. A golazo that hurt every American soccer fan around the world.

<sup>5</sup> Usually, when referring to the goal there are three posts; the cross bar is the top post parallel to the ground, the near post is the side closest to the player with the ball (this post supports the cross bar), the second post is the side furthest from the player with the ball (this post also supports the cross bar).

<sup>6</sup> The group stage consists of eight groups each group having four teams, for a total of thirty two teams, and each team plays the teams in their group once, for a total of three games played in the group stage. The two teams who accumulate the most points at the end of their respective three games, passes. The group stage is the first round of the tournament, not getting out of the group stage is bad. But it can't be worse than getting knocked out in the playoffs. In the playoffs fans' hopes are high, then crushed if eliminated.

Association Football (CONCACAF)<sup>7</sup> is the easiest route to the world cup, so to not qualify makes it that much more devastating for fans. The country should be upset-- the United States dominates in almost all other sports, American football, basketball, baseball, swimming, gymnastics<sup>8</sup>. American kids get to try out a variety of different sports; the variety could be a negative or a positive when it comes to creating a soccer player, one outcome could be increased athletic ability<sup>9</sup> due to the different exposures of sport. A negative in spending the athletes time in other sports is less time with the soccer ball, which means less technical ability, because of all the time spent with other sports the athlete doesn't find the time to master the soccer ball. This could be a major difference between American soccer players and soccer players from other countries. I've been lucky enough to play in Argentina, Mexico, South Korea and the United States; I've also played against french, dutch, guatemaltecos, salvadorian, chilean players, and what those players from other countries always have more of is technical ability<sup>10</sup>. The combination of

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<sup>7</sup> The CONCACAF has teams from North America like Canada, Jamaica, United States, Mexico, Haiti, Barbados, French Guiana, Costa Rica, and like twenty seven others. The highest ranked team; globally, that's in the CONCACAF division is Mexico coming in at ninth! The United States isn't too far behind at thirteenth. I understand, you must be thinking; what is the big deal? Why this short essay? Well thirteenth place is not a fair representation of where the club actually is. I'd say they deserve to be more around the twenty second spot. The reason they are in the thirteenth spot is, because recently they won first place in a tournament called the Gold Cup, which is played by teams in the CONCACAF; also, they beat Mexico, a higher ranked team than them, substantially moving them up the rankings. Like the CONCACAF there are five other conferences made up of numerous nations, including Europe(UEFA), South America (CONMEBOL), Asia(AFC), Africa (CAF), and Oceania (OFC). The list ranks them from best to worst, in my opinion. The countries included in the UEFA and CONMEBOL make them some of the toughest conferences to play in. Moreover the soccer culture in those two nations is much more advanced than in others.

<sup>8</sup> There are plenty of other sports the United States suck at, that I'm leaving out, also I'm aware I might be exaggerating thinking American soccer needs reform, anyway; soccer is the sport I love and support. Likewise, the U.S. might not have the best national baseball team, but we sure as hell have the best baseball league. I would be happy with that, the best soccer league being in the United States, unfortunately the goal is tough. And, as long as business runs the show; sportsmanship will never matter, but that's a different matter. I'm getting ahead of myself. Just listen when it's something you've been around all your life; you want it to progress, to be the best.

<sup>9</sup> Athletic ability, what a term when I think of athletic ability; I think of rapid, agile, fierce, precise muscle and body control.

<sup>10</sup> Technical ability is when a player is extremely comfortable with the ball. Sometimes it's practiced for hella hours at a time. Sometimes it is passed down from generation to generation. Sometimes one never finds it. No matter how hard one searches, no matter how long one practices. There will always be a master of the ball. Do some kick ups that will help and if you don't know what kick ups are search it on youtube. Next get off your couch, and go spend time with the ball.

technical ability and athletic ability produces players unlike any other that are just a joy to watch, and to play alongside. The sense of community one can derive from seeing a player go professional they played alongside with or against is comforting to say the least.

## Who Said

There's always someone we answer too,  
but you already knew that.

Ask yourself this.

Who do I answer to...

I know;

you know the answer;

whether, we consent or not;

we're being molded,

shaped, and

change

is what we do.

But

we are

the way

we are

because of

you.

Thinking of community when building a Soccer club is a business model straight out of *Systemic Analysis of the Soccer (Football) Value Chain: Learning from the Brazilian Context*<sup>11</sup>. The scholarly journal covers the complex structure of a football (soccer) club model. Within the article are examples and guides of what steps to follow in order for a soccer club to have longevity. The study is broken down, and drawn into a web of ideas, and concepts. There are two main parts to the business model, which is the business side and the consumer side. Each part has sub parts. Those sub parts also interweave with other ideas and concepts that need to be followed to sustain a successful club<sup>12</sup>. The main parts in my opinion had to do with the community. The communities part in maintaining a successful operation are concepts and ideas such as, jobs created by the club for the community, passion for soccer, practice of sport, number of venues for the practice of sport, practicing amateur football, social role of soccer, interest of public/ fans, and so on and so forth. So, besides the business model of supply and demand; the analysis as to why such a club could work if following the Brazilian football model is of utmost importance to the newly founded football club in Monterey Bay<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Five authors by the names of Rosiane Serrano, Daniel Pacheco, Ricardo Cassel, Luis Henrique, and Priscila Soares, put together an article titled *Systemic Analysis of the Soccer (football) Value Chain: Learning from the Brazilian Context*, basically giving people a template of what it takes to be a successful sustainable football (soccer) club.

<sup>12</sup> Think brainstorming, or a web pattern. The scholarly journal *Systemic Analysis of the Soccer (football) Value Chain: Learning from the Brazilian Context*, beautifully creates a brainstorm-like diagram of all the different components it takes to create a sustainable football club model.

<sup>13</sup> Just saying, if I was working with Monterey Bay FC; I would have had someone interacting with the fans working their youtube page everyday, or once a week, at least until the season start. I would be out scouting, reporting, about the team; helping it get clicks, and views. Spreading the word everyday that there's a club, it is ours, and we need to protect it. Help it grow, nurture it, watch it grow. But who knows if the club will help Salinas, or Marina, or Seaside, or all, or none, only time will tell. There have been local pro teams in the past that have failed. They didn't help the community, they didn't build that bond necessary to keep the club alive. And now there is an amateur team known as Monterey County Jaguars; they're having trouble getting the community to show up to the games. It comes down to bad advertising, perhaps not enough funds at that low of a level to pay employees. This is where the community and Monterey Bay Football Club comes in to help financially. The people of Monterey got lucky and got Ray Beshoff, to bring a football club to town. Hopefully Ray and the other investors invest in the community in order to build a club from the ground up. It's quiet at the moment, hopefully it's because they're waiting for the season to creep closer to the start.

## Left

A rumble in Patterson.  
A fight in Salinas,  
putasos in Storm House—  
pelea in Newark...

Each one different, but each one similar;  
either planted in the soil,  
or moving forward.  
Either scenario is something to live with.

I planted my feet in the soil;  
I learned, I was letting a homie down.  
The times I got heated  
my guilty conscience hurt just as bad.

Passion for soccer.  
Practicing amateur soccer,  
social role of soccer—  
image of soccer...yes.

## Right

I couldn't move.  
I was  
frozen.

I made a promise  
to myself that that would  
never happen again—  
I wouldn't stand  
by, and watch my  
friends get hurt.

The next time it  
happened I kept my  
word. So now  
I try and I try  
to stay away. But now  
I find myself  
patiently waiting,  
for something to pop off

Let's think of the club, and it's assets. The assets being the players. One can find, and save money, by bringing in players, from the community<sup>14</sup>. This could create a feeling of pride for the club and fan. Knowing that the club pulled from the community pool of players, that would build trust between the club and community. It would show to the community that the club is willing to work with its resources and invest in the county and its players. For the fan this sort of gesture would provoke feelings, and emotions, that it is possible for a dreamer to reach their goal of becoming professional, and if not, a close second, maybe in coaching, scouting, officiating, or another job like, ticket box, usher, concession stand, security, or something that has to do with the club. For the fan it shows that the club is a business, and can help the person looking for that job to live a successful, helpful life, attain one.

It is important to have attractive soccer. If the club has attractive soccer then the city will try to imitate the style of play, or the people of the city might think the club is reflecting what the city has given to the soccer club with regards to soccer. In other words, the fans and club feel proud they are producing goods. If that is the case then perhaps the club will continue to invest in the community. And if the community sees first hand that the club is working for the community; the bond will continue to grow along with the city's confidence. The club owners and the fans

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<sup>14</sup> Salas 831, and all of Monterey County needs to be scouted. All of the tri-county area needs to be scouted; that includes Santa Cruz County and San Benito County. In order to scout players the club will need scouts. Along with players being scouted, soccer people from the area should be hired to help run the club. The club will also need to invest in the community. If you play soccer and live in Salinas then you might know how difficult it is to find a nice patch of grass to play on. For example, Constitution Soccer Complex is a huge piece of grass; usually, it gets used so much by the third week of the season there are patches of grass and bumps everywhere. Furthermore, the fields are always packed, and on top of that it is a private park. If a team goes to practice without a permit they run the risk of getting kicked off. The limited number of soccer fields has been and continues to be a major issue for soccer players in the city of Salinas. An easy fix could be building cement fields that have smaller dimensions surrounded by an extra sturdy high fence and fence goals. Hard dirt fields with smaller dimensions and surrounded by high fences is a possible solution as well. The people won't mind. Plus having sufficient playing fields is a part of the Brazilian model. If Monterey Bay FC were to pay for such fields, I'm sure the community would repay by going to the games. If they don't, they will lose out on an opportunity to show the community that they wanna be part of the soccer culture.

must share responsibility for the club.

In Germany there is a fifty plus one rule<sup>15</sup>; this rule promotes fan engagement in the club. It gives fans voting rights, which at times sees that the game doesn't become too commercialized. This helps because it gives the people a feeling of still being a major part of the sport, and reestablishes the belief that football is more than just business. Fan engagement like voting rights can prevent private investors from taking complete control of a football club, and running it like a business; trying, to milk out every penny possible from fans, players, and staff. Fans vote for proposals like league games being played only on weekends that way season ticket holders do not have to travel, or stay out late for a match on a weekday; when they could have work the following day. A standing section is another thing that fans can vote for. Even smoking being allowed in a stadium is one rule that can be voted on. Privileges, such as those, being voted on really gives ownership and responsibility to the fan, for their very own club. Imagine how the club must feel with fan engagement. People speaking about the club, looking up the club online, those types of interaction is as good as it gets for a business. The more exposure the better; the more clicks– the more money.

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<sup>15</sup> The fifty plus one rule is a club being owned by fifty one percent fans and the other by whomever; usually, a millionaire. Fifty plus one rule needs to be implemented into the format of United States soccer. The fifty plus one rule would immediately fix the promotion, relegation scheme that has been poisoning soccer in the United States since the start (but more on that later). The fifty plus one rule gives fans back their sport. It's a necessary compromise to bring fairness, and culture, and originality into each club and each division. The fifty plus one rule admits that soccer is a business, but it's also the people's sport. The fifty plus one rule should be a rule at every club; fans need to have a say in what goes on in the club. If the club wants to grow then fan involvement is how they do it and what better than giving them half plus one percent of the club.

## American Pyramid Scheme

Everywhere i look, and in everything we do;  
those with money make the rules.  
To them fair play is them staying at the top  
making it as hard as possible for others to reach them.

Competition, to win at all costs;  
to cheat is part of their culture.  
To win, and rout is too.  
The pyramid is made of stone--  
unwavering, not an ascension, not a descension.

What's the point of playing; individual gain.  
Just like the model they showed us daily;  
everybody for themselves.  
I want to see a country that's fair, equal opportunity.

For those at the bottom of the pyramid;  
as with those at top.  
The top can go down; just like  
the bottom can go up.

Would it hurt the prides of those at top  
to take advice from those in other countries.  
It would hurt their pockets.  
If it is between them and us, they're picking themselves,  
and leaving us out.

Everywhere I see ascension, descension;  
fairplay to the team on the come up;  
from the bottom of the table to the top.  
No promises, no security, with blood, sweat, tears--  
and of course some money.

In the past there have been semi pro teams based out of Salinas, and the life span of the teams in the past were extremely short. Funding was always a major issue for the clubs. The club in Salinas that's playing in the semi-pro league now struggle to fill the stands. I blame advertising and marketing strategies. But then again how is one person gonna do it all on his own. I spoke to the owner of the club, and he told me what I already knew. People offer him help; the people expect pay in return for their services, which sounds only right, but for a small, very small club like The Monterey County Soccer Club Jaguars it is a stretch to find the help and be able to pay. Small clubs like this need a big brother an investor, the problem represents an opportunity for the new Monterey Bay Football Club also known as The Union. To collaborate with local programs around the tri- county. Like MCSC Jaguars or The Ville from Watsonville. If there is one thing I learned in college, which there isn't just one there are multiple things; is cooperation, collaboration, is vital for success. Network, in other words, these clubs could help one another and see each other succeed alongside one another. Now that the Tri-County has teams at all levels, and San Jose isn't really too far, central California could have a real network of power house soccer in the works. If there was ever a time for a soccer revamp it is now. The Union could really be the catalyst in making soccer in the county a real force.

If they don't take into consideration the people of Salinas, and the semi pro teams in the area then the same thing will happen as it is in San Jose empty stadium, no fan involvement, no fan commitment, just another Major League Soccer team being strung along because of the

security of the United States soccer pyramid<sup>16</sup>. What if MBFC doesn't take into consideration clubs like The Ville and clubs like MCSC Jaguars then those clubs will die and in turn MBFC will die. Because no local talent will be supported, funds will be spent on bringing in talent from other places, which is fine if they mix with local talent; because then our game benefits too. If MBFC have no local talent, and the local semi-pro teams die, because of MBFC failing to cooperate, and collaborate with the smaller clubs; then based on the past attempt at a sustainable life of a professional soccer team in Salinas, it will fail.

Consider this an extended invitation to Monterey Bay Football Club the new USL championship<sup>17</sup> team to include all the communities in Monterey county and neighboring counties in its future business. It is a guide, a set of principals from a student/ fan. A list of what is least expected. But it also serves as a reminder of how clubs in the past have failed and what not to do. It is also an invitation for future students to engage in research involving the club. To track and record their success and also their faults. It is a perfect opportunity to dive deeper into research with regards to soccer; especially since, the club is a new one, and research will be important in changing and adapting for success.

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<sup>16</sup> The United States Soccer Pyramid is a joke. The United States Soccer pyramid is business over sportsmanship. The business men literally eliminated all forms of competition in soccer by making the teams involved in the MLS static. What I mean is that the businessmen acted like businessmen, when creating the MLS. They made it so that no team in the MLS can move down in division. What that means is there are no repercussions for the team that finishes last in their respective division. And there is no award for the lower division teams if they finish first at the end of the season. There is a safety net protecting all teams in the MLS from moving down a division. In almost all other leagues there is a format known as relegation and promotion. The three teams finishing last at the end of the season are to be relegated one division lower. And the division below sends up the top three teams to the division above them. This creates a sense of urgency and motivates smaller teams to become as big as possible off of hardwork and strategic business planning. Unlike the system the MLS has now where there is really no urgency in the teams to do well, because they get to stay in the highest division, because they bought a spot there. That is not sportsmanship, that is businessmen keeping others down. Selfishness but reflective of American ideologies. The point of sport is to give each team an equal chance at winning; instead the format sets a low ceiling thus not allowing competitors to compete.

<sup>17</sup> The United States Soccer League or USL has different divisions (levels) of soccer. The USL championship is one division below the highest in the United States (MLS). That is the division MBFC is going to play in.

## Ni de aqui Ni de alla

Not wanted here, neither there, nor anywhere.  
Not wanted by Americans  
in America.  
Wrong color skin, hair,  
definitely not in the economical level.  
They think; I can make it to college after high school,  
I was a fool,  
who is the fool.  
They said college was the only way to make it:  
I believed them; so I didn't try.  
I heard rumors. Leaving to Mexico was the way to go.  
Turned out it wasn't.  
Not wanted by Mexicans  
in Mexico.  
They'll take you,  
and every peso you got.  
You thought you were safe because you were Mexican,  
think again.  
They see a pocho  
trying to take  
the position away  
from a native--  
eventually  
when you got  
no pesos left,  
they deport you,  
or you deport yourself  
back  
to where  
you're not wanted.

### *Amatuer's*

IM to me; I hate soccer. I do everything, besides play soccer on my own time, like play football, basketball, video games, ride my bike. But one thing I always had to do; according, to my father, was play a sport. So I was always in some sport, mainly it was soccer, and that didn't feel like a choice. I played, until I was about eighteen, then as an adult the first decision I made was to take a break from soccer for two years-- during that break I realized how much I loved soccer, and my passion, and my desire to get involved rose and keeps rising higher and higher... It seemed like everyone else too; cuz during that realization, they were achieving some of the better awards for Salinas soccer stardom. I didn't believe in my skills then, but I had to test them out after being gone from the game, so I did. And guess what happened; I returned with a new understanding of the game. Everything felt slower, and I was seeing the game hella different. I'd look at my feet, receive with my right, pass with my left; receive with my left, pass with my right. Running the opposition from side to side. Making late sprints into the box, receiving a negative pass, and finishing first time, scoring on my debut. What you think.

## **The Come Down**

You know I used to be so worked up  
at work taking that shit too seriously. Ever since I was a kid.  
Yo you can't park there; you gotta park over there.  
I'm in charge. Listen to me, a 12 year old.  
Then as I grew older had more jobs I relaxed, realized this ain't going to be my career;  
I don't need to take this too seriously, so I didn't. I started to work with the customers give them  
stuff I wasn't supposed to. I realized it ain't my shit  
they need it or want it ask and you shall receive.  
I did this even before I thought of big corps taking advantage.  
Now I see myself in other workers, when they say no.  
Who do they work for, why do they care?  
Reputation, doubt it, money, maybe.  
I want to help the person who's down on his luck.  
I want to help people come up.  
So I will; will you.

## Reflective Essay

This creative project has been a reflection of what I've learned at CSUMB. For instance in creative writing courses the students were allowed and encouraged to use their own voice. So, in the creative non-fiction part of the project I imitated Junot Diaz style in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, I tried to use a scholarly voice, and in the footnotes a voice more like my own. Recently I actually did style imitations, which I used to do, but now it was an exercise in class, and confirmed by several professors that it's ok to use others' works to learn and improve our own work. For the poems I used prose a couple times to really give the reader an idea of who I am. Prose also works as a good introduction. I also tried to creatively create the body of the poems to add visual effect, and visual pauses, so it might be easier to read.

My audience are the students of CSUMB who will demand answers from MBFC and their business decisions. My audience are students who care about sports and are now interested in studying MBFC and giving them valid ideas to take into consideration. For me it was perfect timing; because, I am very much involved in the soccer community in Salinas. So it only felt right to ask questions of the new team. My creative work is intended to inspire, provoke, entertain and persuade readers to change from the old ways and find a better solution to the tasks at hand.

The creative work in this project came mainly from my own experience within the soccer community. I had to do research that was conducted mainly out in the field talking to people who are in the soccer community. For example, I had a chat with the Head Coach of Mens Soccer at CSUMB Jaap Graeme. In addition I had a chat with Jorge Rojas President of Monterey County Soccer League and in both conversations I got great insight to what other peoples' experience was like in their paths with soccer. I also had plenty of chats with local soccer players; who were

closest to making it pro. Some of the stories, if not all of them, belong to the soccer community who went through the process discussed in the creative works. The poems came from years of experience within the community. Years of collecting stories of my own and those around me. And the creative work wouldn't have such an impact if it weren't for MBFC playing on the CSUMB campus.

The theme of the capstone course was change, transition, and transformation. The way my creative works aligns with the topics of the course is MBFC gives responsibility to the community to change the way we approach soccer now, and think of the bigger picture when transforming future business plans. Think of the conveyor belt that MBFC makes for the community and it's kids and students looking to change and transition into the next step of their lives. It also invites MBFC to evaluate themselves yearly and transform if need be. It also invites MBFC to take into consideration the community when conducting business and change their ways if they aren't working. The beauty is the library of data MBFC can potentially acquire if students do decide to track, and create a capstone project around the club, and the way it operates. Plus imagine the feeling of a successful collective project where multiple communities are engaged in to try and improve.

Some influences of mine with regards to the creative works are Junot Diaz, Charles Bukowski, and John Steinbeck. Each person's style is seen throughout the work. For instance I used the footnotes in my creative works like in Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. I admire the storytelling and advice giving poems of Bukowski, which is something I tried to replicate in my poems. Steinbeck's short stories about the underrepresented people in Salinas is the most influential to me and my creative works.