For San Jose State students like behavioral science senior Analisa Cortez, the transition to online classes and moving back to their parents’ homes because of the coronavirus pandemic has been difficult.

"I feel like I'm not really comprehending learning has in some ways helped and discouraging that the courses I was taking were more challenging," Cortez said. "I'm getting comments from residents saying the change to online learning wasn't as stressful as it has been for students in other majors because most of his classwork is program based and online. "I can just do so many things on my tablet but I can understand how it would be hard for people who don't have one," Revell said.

With next semester also being mostly online, students who are feeling anxious and stressed can call CAPS like Analisa Cortez, who said it's been hard learning at home using an online format.

"I'm getting comments from residents saying "You're hiding behind COVID like, 'You're hiding behind COVID and not doing [the 311] anymore, " Khamis said. "Councilmembers discuss how to deal with rising non-emergency calls.

"Lack of revenue from parking meters and garages, low ridership in non-emergency operations, underfunded, city manager says. "San Jose residents voice frustration over vehicle abatement."

Residents say 311 phone line unanswerable, officials cite lack of funding

By Stephanie Lam

The San Jose City Council discussed how to improve internal communications and handling residents' non-emergency issues during Tuesday's Zoom meeting.

Even though residents can call the city's 311 phone line or download the San Jose 311 app to submit non-emergency service requests, councilmembers said the city has not been doing an adequate number of 311-related calls. These calls are operated and funded through the San Jose 311 Communications, which is part of the Bureau of Administration in the San Jose Police Department.

"It sucks, but it's still better than getting the 'college experience, ' but it's a nice alternative. " Fujimoto said.

Students can approach their feelings rather than avoid them and seek out resources that are available on campus and their surrounding community," Fujimoto said.

"It's helped my anxiety in that I don't have to worry about how to dress or like, being physically in a classroom, " she said. "However, it is very depressing and discouraging that the courses I was so excited to take are now online or not even available!"

Overall, Cortez said she is frustrated and discouraged because ethnographic methods, which is a research approach that examines subjects in their cultural setting while applying theory that would have been available before the pandemic. "It sucks, but it's still better than getting stuck physically with the stage at graduation."

Kall Fujimoto, director for SJSU's Counseling and Psychological Services, said in an email to the Spartan Daily that some students who moved back home can experience an increase in anxiety and depression because of the changes in their routines.

They may feel isolated and be in an environment that is unsupportive," Fujimoto said. "For some, being at home may even be unhealthy as relationships with parents, significant others or family members may create situations that can make more challenges."

Fujimoto said some coping mechanisms for students experiencing anxiety and depression include staying connected with friends, creating supportive networks and incorporating physical activity into your life.

"Students can approach their feelings rather than avoid them and seek out resources that are available on campus and their surrounding community," Fujimoto said.

"It's been nice . . . because previously we were doing long distance, " Revell said in an interview via Discord. "I'm not getting the 'college experience, ' but it's a nice alternative."

Revell said he was lucky the change to online learning wasn't as stressful as it has been for students in other majors because most of his classwork is program based and online.

"I can just do so many things on my tablet but I can understand how it would be hard for people who don't have one," Revell said.

With next semester also being mostly online, students who are feeling anxious and stressed can call CAPS at (408) 924-3910.

Follow Lexie on Twitter @lexie4real

Follow Stephanie on Twitter @SparC.Blum
A very weird time to be making music, but we definitely don’t want to stop and lose the momentum we have going.

Kayla Renelle Voluntary Hazing vocalist

Before calling themselves Voluntary Hazing, the band’s name was SJSU Ska Ensemble. The ensemble was founded in Fall 2018 by Thomas Narveson, guitarist and music education alumus Gabe Perez and drummer Alex Quick.

The true formed the group as a way to share ska music and history with their friends from the Spartan Marching Band. Any SJSU student could join the ensemble’s weekly meetings in the music department. The ensemble didn’t advertise to meet up, but people heard about the band through word-of-mouth.

Occasionally, the ensemble would sign up to play at the SJSU music department’s open mic nights and listening hour series. Prior to remote learning, Listening hour was an opportunity for music and dance students to perform in front of their peers for course credit.

Despite having weekly meetings on campus, they were never registered as an official SJSU club. Narveson said he didn’t want to fill out the required paperwork and procedures that came with registering a club.

Kendle said the members continued making music, but we definitely don’t want to stop and lose the momentum we have going.

It’s a very weird time to be making music, but we definitely don’t want to stop and lose the momentum we have going.

Voluntary Hazing, formerly SJSU Ska Ensemble, plays during a listening hour in the Music Building in 2019.

Student band endures with strong bond

By Stephanie Lam

Successful bands are often known for their undeniable chemistry and endless energy. For local ska band Voluntary Hazing, they’re finding a way to keep their magnetism alive by navigating a new reality of online rehearsals.

According to music education alumus Alex Quick, ska is a genre of music that combines both jazz and blues with a Jamaican folk flair. The 12-member group composed of San Jose State students and alumni, performs renditions of songs from artists like Elton John and Pavarotti at the Music Building in an effort to produce original music.

The band is divided into three groups: vocals, rhythm and brass. Rhythm members play instruments like drums and bass, while brass members perform with either trumpets or saxophones.

But with so many members, it’s hard to designate a time and day to practice together, Thomas Narveson, a trumpet player and former SJSU student, said over the phone.

“Working with the members of Voluntary Hazing is like working on a group project,” Narveson said. “Except there’s 12 of you and everyone has to do a specific thing all the time.”

Prior to shelter-in-place mandates, the band performed live in almost every month at downtown San Jose music venues. So far, the band has performed at places like Art Boutiki Music Hall and the SJSU Hammer Theatre Concert. But now that most venues are closed, the band has participated in livestream concerts, most recently a remote Relay For Life fundraiser raising money for cancer research.

In order to play livestream gigs, each member has to use a camera to record their own instrumental part at home. The clips are then compiled and made into a video by Kayla Renelle, a 2020 SJSU photography senior.

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Trump risks student-athletes’ health

President Trump’s influence on the Big Ten Conference’s decision to reinstate the football season this fall seems to be a political play to boost his reelection chances and put the lives of student-athletes at risk.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, multiple college football conferences delayed this season to start back up in spring, according to a Sept. 17 USA Today Post article. Until last week, this included the Big Ten Conference that consists of universities like Michigan State University, Penn State University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Based on the voting patterns of previous elections, some of the states represented in this conference, such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Illinois, tend to lean Democrat. For the upcoming election, Trump will need to win over these states to earn more electoral college votes.

Trump, on big name football universities representing the conference, can easily be interpreted as politically driven. This may be because of the fact that in a 2019-19 National Football Foundation report, 56% of the U.S. adult population described themselves as fans of college football. After the Big Ten Conference initially announced on their website Sept. 16 that its football season would be postponed, Trump tweeted on Sept. 17, “Had a very productive day with the Big Ten Conference, about immediately starting up Big Ten Football. Would be good (great) for everyone—players, fans, country.”

The following day, the conference announced its return to play, at least one university is already dealing with ramifications that can have damage control in order to proceed. The same day the Big Ten Conference announced its return in the fall, the University of Wisconsin-Madison issued a statement urging its student-athletes to “stay home and watch their school’s football games.” The university also reinvigorated its community that more than 40 members of the athletic department tested positive for COVID-19.

According to the New York Times’ COVID-19 case tracker, Big Ten teams are still experiencing a rise in case numbers. In the past week in Wisconsin, there was an average of 1,700 cases per day, an increase of 15% from two weeks earlier. In Michigan this week, an average of 768 cases per day have been recorded, an increase of 31% from last week.

Despite these numbers, the Big Ten Conference announced on their website Sept. 16 that its football season will continue this fall. After the announcement, Trump tweeted about his influence, making sure it was clear to voters that he had played a part in the decision. “Thank you to the players, coaches, parents, fans and school representatives,” Trump said in a Sept. 16 tweet. “Have a FANTASTIC SEASON! It is my great honor to announce the return to play. On a strategic level this conference is very influential because it drives a large audience. According to a 2017 article from Pac-12, the conference experienced record-breaking viewers on games with fans watching more than 12,000 hours of video.

‘Open up, Pac-12. Get going.’ Trump said in a tweet on Sept. 16. “I said the same thing to the Big Ten and they did. And now I’m saying (it) to Pac-12. You have time, you really have time right now. Get going.”

Interestingly, Trump ignored other conference postponements including the Mountain West Conference, where San Jose State plays, and the Mid-American Conference. This is likely because the states represented in this conference including California, Nevada and New Mexico tend to be reliably left and that the Democratic nominee Joe Biden may see these as a waste of his time.

Trump has politicized collegiate sports by targeting football conferences in states where he needs to win votes to boost his reelection chances. However, I believe that the impression that college football is so important to him to waste of his time. Trump has politicized collegiate sports by targeting football conferences in states where he needs to win votes to boost his reelection chances. However, I believe that the impression that college football is so important to him to boost his reelection chances that he would put the lives of college athletes on the line.

Follow Olivia on Twitter: @LivGerber

According to a Sept. 17 New York Times article, Trump’s path to winning the White House shrinks considerably without winning electoral college votes in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, the states represented in the Big Ten Conference. If presidential candidate Joe Biden wins these three states and all of the states Hillary Clinton won in 2016 plus Arizona, I find 270 electoral votes, meaning he won the presidency, according to a Sept. 3 CNN article.

In an effort to gain votes, Trump is calling to put the lives of college athletes on the line.

I am a UC Berkeley alum and math tutor who is currently accepting new students. I hold a BA in Applied Mathematics and English and have passed the CSET (California School’s Credential Exam) in Algebra and Calculus. I have experience tutoring college and high school students, including help with homework, exam preparation, and problem-solving strategies. I have worked with students with dyscalculia and will help them succeed. Most recently, I have tutored online through Wyzant’s free question-and-answer and explaining concepts. I am currently offering online Zoom tutoring sessions. I am flexible with scheduling and can work with students as long as they need to master the coursework.

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I look forward to working with you!