Middle Eastern
Cultural Resource Center
Open House 2020
AGENDA

❖ Land acknowledgement and BIPOC
❖ MERC Staff Introductions
❖ What is community?
❖ MERC Mission Statement
❖ Academic Support and Cultural Affirmation
❖ EOP Resources
❖ Affiliated Organizations
❖ “MERC” Name Change Form
❖ Student Panel and Raffle Winner Reveal
OPENING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND STATEMENTS

❖ Land acknowledgement
❖ Statement on Anti-blackness and indigenous erasure
INTRODUCTIONS

❖ NAME: Ashkon Molaei
❖ PRONOUNS: He/Him/His
❖ POSITION: MERC Coordinator
❖ BACKGROUND: Iranian
❖ HOMETOWN: Los Angeles
❖ HOBBIES: Dancing to Persian and Arabic music, watching Bollywood films and rom coms with my family and going to drag shows
❖ FUN FACT: I’ve been to Iran multiple times and one of my favorite sites has been the beautiful desert city of Yazd (complete with their own A/C (or badgir))
INTRODUCTIONS

❖ NAME: Kiyan Atrian
❖ PRONOUNS: He/Him/His
❖ POSITION: MERC Peer Mentor
❖ BACKGROUND: Iranian/Indian
❖ HOMETOWN: Reseda, CA
❖ HOBBIES: Playing with my cats, listening to music, writing
❖ FUN FACT: I have a female cat named Mac Miller and a male cat named Minerva!

❖ NAME: Ava Kargosha
❖ PRONOUNS: She/Her/Hers
❖ POSITION: MERC Peer Mentor
❖ BACKGROUND: Iranian
❖ HOMETOWN: Mission Viejo, CA
❖ HOBBIES: Baking, reading, basketball
❖ FUN FACT: My first jobs were at mall Santa and Easter Bunny sets :)
WHAT IS **COMMUNITY** TO YOU?
MISSION STATEMENT

❖ The Middle Eastern Resource Center (MERC) promotes the cultural awareness and academic success of students of Middle Eastern, North African and South Asian (MENASA) heritage. It fosters dialogue, cross-cultural learning, and interaction among the diverse ethnic groups within our MENASA student communities and the campus-at-large. Through its programs, the MERC works to assist students to embrace their cultural identity, integrate into student life, promote an appreciation and celebration of diversity, and reinforce an affirmation of our institutional and educational commitment to leadership, achievement, collaboration, excellence, and community.
ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Academic and personal support that is targeted to engage identifying student communities
❖ Network with different student orgs, depts and faculty affiliates
❖ Facilitating access to these resources to our underrepresented student communities
❖ Available by appointment for mentorship and support

Providing support for sociopolitical awareness and identity development at both individual and communal level
❖ Offer space for events, meetings, gatherings, lounge & study
❖ Provide a physical sanctuary for all students on the first floor of the SRB (under non-COVID circumstances :/)

Middle Eastern Resource Center
**CULTURAL AFFIRMATION**

- Educate and unify the UCSB & Middle Eastern community through the mediums of art, language, people, food, and traditions.
- Show the diversity that encompasses the Middle Eastern cultural community
- Develop an understanding & appreciation of Middle Eastern cultural heritage & history.

- We serve students of all backgrounds, with a particular focus in students of Middle Eastern, North African and South Asian heritage (MENASA)

- Help facilitate culturally affirming programming (Diwali, Eid, Nowruz, etc.)
EOP RESOURCES

❖ EOP Counseling & Peer Mentoring Approach
  ➢ Academics
  ➢ Retention & Beyond
  ➢ Financial Literacy – AS/EOP Grants
  ➢ Psychological Emotional Health & Personal Support
  ➢ Overall wellness
❖ Cultural Resource Centers
❖ Programming
http://eop.sa.ucsb.edu/about-us/staff
AFFILIATED ORGS

❖ Arab Student Group (@ucsb_asg)
❖ Armenian Student Association (@ucsb.asa)
❖ Indian Association of Santa Barbara (@iasbucsb)
❖ Indus (@ucsb_indus)
❖ Iranian Graduate Student Association (@igsa.ucsb)
❖ Iranian Jewish Student Association (@ucsb.ijsa)
❖ Lebanese Social Club (@ucsb_lsc)
❖ Muslim Student Association (@ucsbmsa)
❖ Persian Student Group (@ucsbpsg)
❖ Salaam (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship) (@salaam.iv)
❖ Santa Barbara Hillel (@sbhillel)
❖ Students for Justice in Palestine (@ucsbsjp)
❖ Students Supporting Israel (@ucsb_ssi)
CAMPUS AFFILIATES

College of Engineering
Shariq Hashmi

Islamic Studies at CMES
Adam Sabra
CAMPUS AFFILIATES

Department of Religious Studies
Juan Campo

Department of Religious Studies
Magda Campo
CAMPUS AFFILIATES

UCSB Alumni Affairs
Dr. Karen Ravago-Ballaret
(she/her/hers)
CAMPUS AFFILIATES

Multicultural Center Student Liaison
Ronaldo Noche

Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Walid Afifi

CAPS Peer Mentor
Olivia Belknap
Who can come see us?

- All registered undergraduate & graduate students, regardless of the insurance you have.
- No extra fees!
What kinds of services do we offer?

• 24-hour/day phone service
• Group Counseling
• Short term therapy and referrals
• Help with a variety of student concerns

(805) 893-4411
Mental Health Peers

- 10 undergraduate peers
- School Anxiety Program
- Workshops
- Outreach to student groups

Follow us on our NEW Instagram! @UCSBMentalHealthPeers
Department of Religious Studies
Janet Afary

Department of Religious Studies
Aazam Feiz
Department of Religious Studies
Dwight Reynolds

Middle East Ensemble
Scott Marcus
PAST AND RECURRING EVENTS

❖ MENASA Dance Night
❖ Bazaar as a part of Middle Eastern Culture/Awareness Week
❖ CAPS - Spill the T and CommuniTEA
❖ RCSGD - IdentiTEAS for MENASA students
❖ And much more...
“MERC” NAME CHANGE FORM

❖ http://tinyurl.com/MERCname
WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

❖ **Noun** “A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.”
❖ **Your answers:**
  ➢ “Community means ‘I’ll always have your back’”
  ➢ “An unwavering support system that follows you wherever you go”
  ➢ “Supporting and encouraging the best from each other”
  ➢ “People that I’m comfortable and happy to be around”
❖ **What is community to YOU?**
STUDENT PANEL AND RAFFLE WINNER!
CONTACT INFO
Ashkon Molaei
ashkon.molaei@sa.ucsb.edu

Ava Kargosha
ava.kargosha@sa.ucsb.edu

Kiyan Atrian
kiyan.atrian@sa.ucsb.edu

MEETING HOURS
Tues. 3-5
Wed. 2-5
Thurs. 1-3
Fri. 2-4
Thurs. 10:30-12:30
Fri. 11-1

FUTURE EVENTS
Diwali
IdentiTEAS w/ RCSGD
Student Mixers
Jum’ah Jam
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