

# The View

PRINTED MONTHLY

## Gateway Hall and Mixed Use Center construction plans for CI

NAOMI SANTANA

At the 2019 Convocation on Aug. 23, CI President Erika D. Beck announced that there are plans for developing new buildings for the north part of campus.

“Yuba and Sage Hall will be replaced by a dynamic and innovative campus hub that will include more than 250,000 gross square feet of apartment-style student housing, an expanded health clinic, faculty offices, instructional and research space,” said President Beck.

She also said that the University has received state funding for two new buildings. “Gateway Hall, a \$71 million project, encompassing two buildings and 120,000 gross square feet of space, will serve as a vibrant new entryway to the University – a one-stop shop for academic and student support services including advising, career services, financial aid, instructional space and faculty offices,” said President Beck at Convocation.

According to President Beck, there are two separate projects planned, Gateway Hall and Mixed Use Center. These projects are “designed to meet a variety of current and anticipated space needs,” said the President, through an email interview. The Mixed Use Center, as the name implies, will serve as a multiple needs facility.

This center will require both renovation and new construction. According to President Beck, this project will be divided into two phases. One phase will focus on “apartment style housing for 275 students, large classroom spaces, office space for Extended University and a student health center.” The second phase will include a performing arts theater, additional student housing and other services.

As the number of incoming students increases, these two projects are intended to provide additional support services. President Beck said that the Facilities Service team will do their best to minimize the impact on students and the campus once construction begins. The Facilities Service team will also try to manage roadway access, limit construction hours and enforce dust control.

Currently, the first phase of the Mixed Use Center construction is set to begin in January 2021, while the construction of the first phase of the Gateway Hall project is set to begin in 2022.

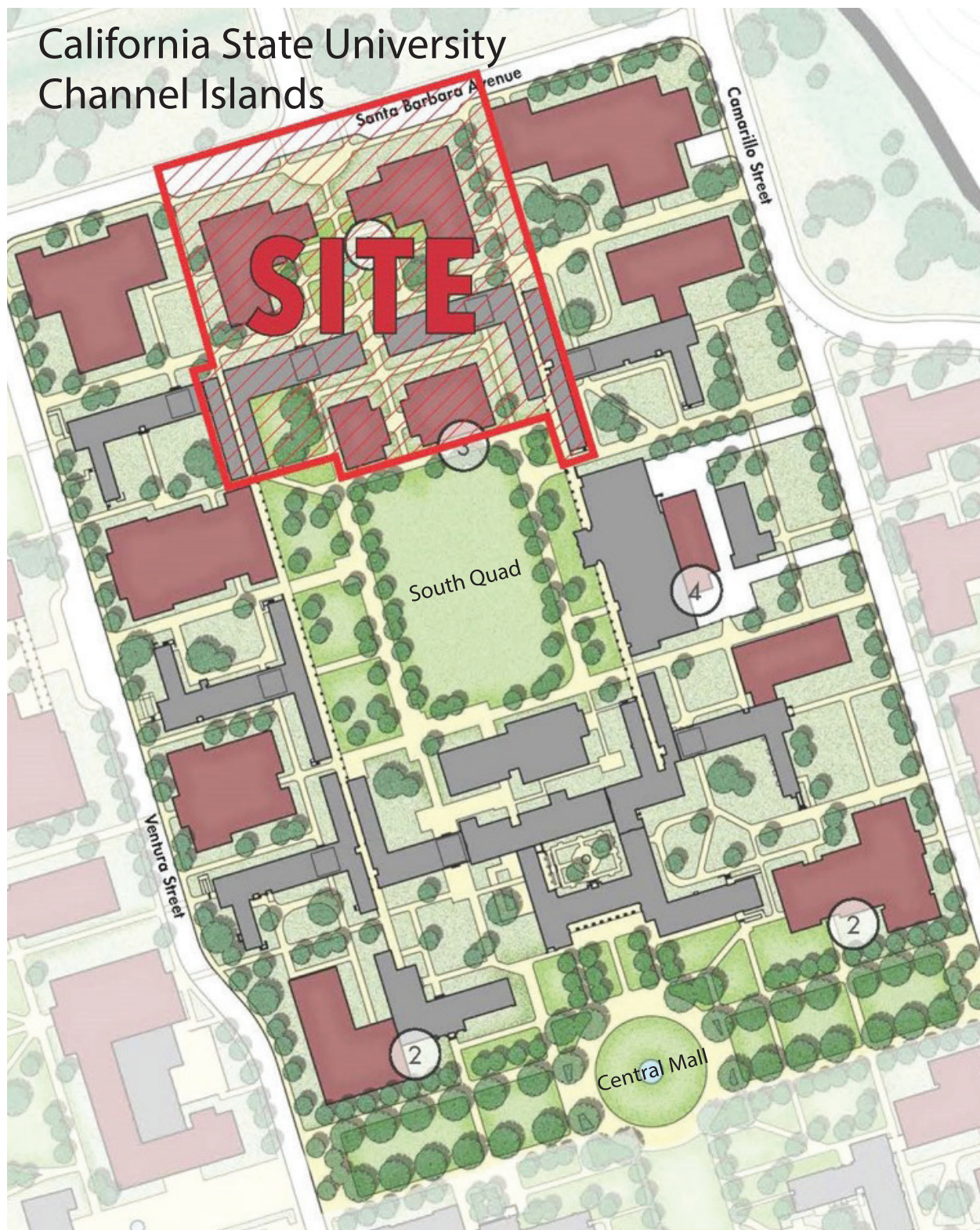
According to President Beck, both of these projects will include several input meetings. The idea behind these meetings are to include student representatives that are identified in university programs that are associated with the project. For example, Housing and Residential Education will identify student representatives for design input on student housing plans for the Mixed Use Center project.

Recently, the Master Planning Committee for the Gateway Hall project invited the student body president, Sara Ruiz, and vice president, Isaiah Ball, “to a precinct study meeting that broadly reviewed the north campus area, which included the Mixed Use Center and Gateway Hall projects,” said President Beck.

Ball, who attended one of the first meetings, wants to make sure the University keeps the student body in mind as they are creating these buildings. “Are there going to be spaces for the students to have a place to hang out?” asked Ball. CI claims that there will be ample space for students to utilize.

Regardless, Ball is still really optimistic about the plan as it will create a new campus vibe. “It’s honestly really exciting. There are a lot of things that we still need on campus.”

Currently, this plan also includes new parking projects and plans for constructing new parking stalls adjacent to the A3 lot. Students interested in providing feedback on these projects are encouraged to contact Student Government leadership.



Current planned area where construction for the Gateway project will be. Graphic courtesy of Planning, Design and Construction & the Gateway Hall Feasibility Study prepared by CO Architects.



Sage Hall, where the Mixed Use Center is planned to be. Photo of Sage Hall courtesy of Tyler Nguyen.



# New communication professor excited by CI

VYCTORYA THOMAS-VANZANT

José Castro-Sotomayor, a new professor for communication with an emphasis in environmental studies, unsurprisingly enjoys having class outside.

Castro-Sotomayor wants to be outside, not in the normal classroom or office. “It’s basically challenging the structure of the classroom, trying to think every space around campus as a teaching space,” said Castro-Sotomayor. “I found that this pedagogy works because sometimes the classroom as a space is a very concrete space and has a big difference on how you receive information.”

“

I believe that everything about teaching boils down to the interaction you will have with your students.”

Professor José Castro-Sotomayor

Castro-Sotomayor’s passion for teaching dates back to when he was a young boy. “I think I’ve always wanted to teach,” he said. “Even when I was very young, I started looking at these movies about teachers. They were very inspirational to me.”

They showed him just how impactful teachers can be in a student’s life. This would continue to serve as inspiration for him as he developed his own teaching career. “I was thinking, ‘I want to do that. I want to open minds, to share what I know, and hopefully let students know that they are capable of doing what they want and they are capable of achieving their dreams as I did.’”

Before teaching in the United States, Castro-Sotomayor taught in his home country, Ecuador. Before coming to CI, he was a professor at The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where he taught for five years.

CI has some similarities to Castro-Sotomayor’s previous campus, specifically the architecture. He noted that both campuses have a similar Spanish style, slightly influenced by colonial architecture. While The University of New Mexico is integrated within the city, CI was built farther from the center of Camarillo.

Nevertheless, Castro-Sotomayor likes that CI maintains a connection by reaching out to communities, organizations



José Castro-Sotomayor, the new communication professor, is hoping to inspire students. Photo by SarinaDasha Galindo.

and institutions. “I know this is a teaching institution mainly and it’s very student centered, so that’s what I was looking for, an institution that will allow me to develop and refine my education, my teaching skills, my pedagogies as well,” said Castro-Sotomayor.

Additionally, CI is one of the eight universities in the United States that has a research station built on a National Park and there are not many programs that offer environmental communication, like CI does. “I’m glad that I’m here because I can contribute directly to the environmental emphasis of the program,” Castro-Sotomayor said.

Having only been at CI for a short amount of time, Castro-Sotomayor has been quick to put his teaching style

to practice with his students. “I believe that everything about teaching boils down to the interaction you will have with your students,” he said. “I always look to connect with the students on a more personal level through the teaching and through the theories in the classes that I’m teaching.”

Castro-Sotomayor looks forward to growing as a professor and giving back to our campus. He hopes to foster critical thinking, meaningful engagement and the sense of community while he is here. “I believe that the student body is very engaging, very open to new ideas (and) very critical as well. It has also encouraged me to push myself,” he said. “I’m looking forward to seeing what I can do here.”

## A time to stand up: Celebrating Human Rights Month

SERGIO MERCADO

December of each year marks the observance of Human Rights Month, a time where everyone is encouraged to learn about, share and stand up for the rights intrinsic to all human beings.

The month of December was chosen to honor the United Nations’ adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The UDHR outlines the rights that all governments should seek to preserve for its people and is cited by Amnesty International as a “foundation for national and international laws and standards.”

The UDHR was drafted with the intent to join different sides of the world under one unified goal: to secure the rights that all humans are born with.

The writers of the UDHR believed the preservation of the basic rights of man would be key to preventing war and atrocities. Several member states of the U.N. agreed to protect the rights outlined in the document’s 30 articles,

along with newer documents drafted by the U.N. for more specific protections. Since then, the document has been translated to over 500 languages so people around the world are aware of the rights granted to them by the UDHR.

The rights in the UDHR will sound familiar to anyone familiar with the Constitution and its amendments. Protections of free speech, habeas corpus and equality under the law are echoed in UDHR. However, the UDHR also includes other entitlements such as the right to education, the right to work and the right to rest and leisure. These rights written 71 years ago are as important to us now as they were at their time of the UDHR’s inception.

The protection of rights remains the center of several conflicts seen today. “The big one right now is what’s happening with China and Hong Kong. The government is trying to stop all the protests, subdue them (and) censor them,” said Kevin Reyes, a senior biology major. Censorship is a clear

act against article 19 of the UDHR, the right to free expression.

While the document’s protections still serve great purpose today, many people argue its possible amendments and interpretations. Groups like Amnesty International wish to add the right to be a conscientious objector, or the right to refuse to kill. Others wish to end the death penalty with the belief that it can be considered cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

Many have voiced concerns over whether certain rights, which protect equality for people regardless of sex, race, religion, or any opinion, can exist in nations in religious states. So how can we celebrate Human Rights Month?

First, we can learn what our human rights are. Read the UDHR; there are several simplified versions made to make it accessible to everyone.

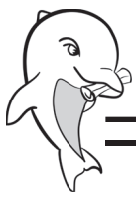
Second, we can help those whose human rights are being threatened. Organizations like Amnesty International accept donations

to protect human rights. Volunteering is also a good option for those who can’t afford monetary donations. “Spreading awareness around campus, having an event maybe, (are ways to help),” said Reyes.

Finally, an option open to many students is to spread awareness online. “Many students have social media; they can show it to other people and what not and that way it will gain support,” said Reyes. A popular hashtag used by the U.N. in human-rights-related tweets is #StandUp4HumanRights.

People may diminish the efficacy of social media activism, but the more people know about modern issues, the more likely people are to stand up against them. As Reyes said, “It all starts with speaking up about something.”





# Snow in California?

NAOMI SANTANA

One of the best parts of winter vacation for many students is getting to visit places with snow. Living in California does not allow many to see and experience snow, but there are places in our state where you can find it.

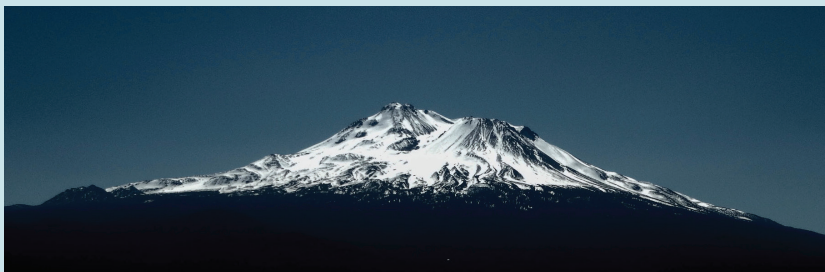


Photo courtesy of Joshua Livingston

## Mount Shasta

Mount Shasta is located in Northern California in Siskiyou County. According to [visitmtshasta.com](http://visitmtshasta.com), Mount Shasta is one of Northern California’s “fastest-growing new locations or destination vacationing, from luxury resort retreats to wilderness camping.” Mount Shasta allows visitors to engage in many activities, such as bird watching, caving, fishing, golfing, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and more.

Mount Shasta also includes hundreds of hiking and biking trails, according to [visitmtshasta.com](http://visitmtshasta.com). This location contains crystal clear lakes which makes it the “most idyllic destination in the county.” Mount Shasta is the perfect place for scenic views and to enjoy the snow and various activities.

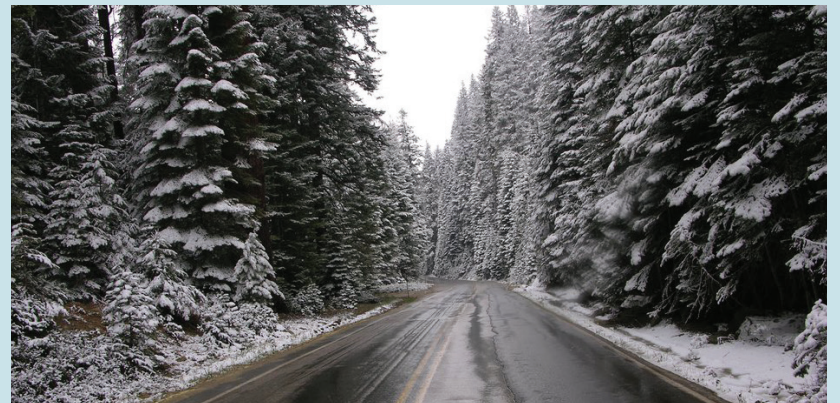


Photo courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## Sequoia National Park

Sequoia National Park is also another great place for snow lovers to enjoy. During the winter, Sequoia National Park receives a lot of snow “adding scenic drama as it opens up new playgrounds of winter sports options,” according to [visitsequoia.com](http://visitsequoia.com).

“I grew up 45 minutes from Sequoia National Park and (I would) go snowboarding, sledding, skiing, etc. all the time!” said Taylor Sandoval, a junior communication major.

Sandoval also said that she enjoys visiting Sequoia National Park every time she goes home for the holidays or during weekends. Sequoia National Park allows visitors to engage in many activities that range from hiking and rock climbing to skiing and sledding. According to [visitsequoia.com](http://visitsequoia.com), Sequoia and Kings Canyon winter “also brings with it a nostalgic, old-fashioned, stare-into-the-roaring-fire kind of vacation experience that is a relaxing counterpoint to the high-adrenaline ski vacations offered elsewhere in the California Sierra.”

Their website also mentions that it is a different way to experience the winter season. Sequoia National Park allows families to reconnect with one another and create memories together.

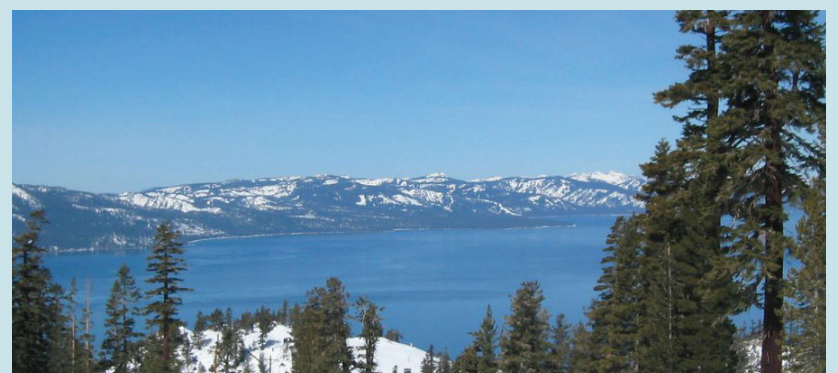


Photo courtesy of Travis Wise

## Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe is another great place to experience snow and engage in fun activities. It is located at the California-Nevada border, according to [visitcalifornia.com](http://visitcalifornia.com). At Lake Tahoe, you can breathe fresh and pure air while enjoying the scenic views, and during the winter, you can go skiing. According to [visitcalifornia.com](http://visitcalifornia.com), no matter what season you visit, this place will make you want to “plan the next trip before you even leave.”





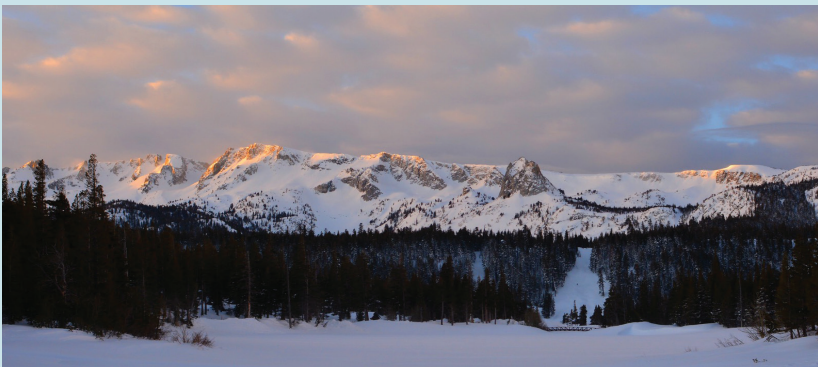


Photo courtesy of jcookfisher

### Mammoth Mountain

Mammoth Mountain is located in Mammoth Lakes in the eastern Sierra mountain range of California and it is a very popular spot to visit. During the winter, the temperatures up the mountain are typically in the mid-30s.

According to mammothmountain.com, there are many activities that people can enjoy, such as skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiles and more. People can also enjoy tours, riding a scenic gondola and events, such as the Holiday Tree Lighting.



Photo courtesy of Dorian

### Idyllwild

Idyllwild is located above the San Jacinto Mountains in Riverside County. According to californialimited.com, this location does not allow skiing due to the rockiness of the terrain.

Despite this, it is a perfect place to enjoy some quiet time and forget about the stressful, noisy city life according to idyllwild.com. If you are looking for a great place to enjoy some quiet and serene moments, then Idyllwild is perfect for you!



Photo courtesy of wanderingnome

### Frazier Park

Frazier Park is located in Kern County and is about 66 miles north of Los Angeles. Many people like to visit Frazier Park because it is most convenient for them to visit. According to amli.com, the town of Frazier Park “receives little snow, but nearby Mount Pinos and Chula Vista campground get plenty of white stuff.”

Although Frazier Park does not receive too many inches of snow, the place does allow many people to experience and enjoy it. “I always go to Los Padres Forest in the mountain near Frazier Park since that’s the closest for me,” said Avery Flower, a junior psychology major. Los Padres National Forest is also close to Frazier Park and allows the visitors to experience more snow.

According to amli.com, Frazier Park has good hills on which visitors can go sledding and there is an ample amount of parking.



Photo courtesy of Ian D. Keating

### Big Bear

Big Bear is a favorite spot for many snow lovers because of the beautiful scenery and fun activities. Many people go to ski, snowboard or enjoy other activities, such as zip lining. According to bigbear.com, Big Bear Lake is “a unique mountain resort community located 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles and surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest.”

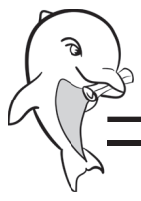
The temperatures during winter average 40 degrees during the day and 20 degrees during the night. These temperatures can be experienced from mid-December through March, according to the website. The winter at Big Bear also provides about 100 inches of snow. According to bigbear.com, this area provides a “natural habitat for approximately 30 wintering bald eagles and 29 species of rare plants.”

“I have been to many places to see snow, such as Frazier Park and Big Bear. I would say that Big Bear is so beautiful and my favorite place to visit,” said Vanessa Chavez, a junior early childhood studies major.

Other students agree, “I have been to Big Bear and Ojai mountains. I would recommend checking out both,” said Bianca Soriano, a junior psychology major.







# Where did Christmas come from?

ELISE BECHTEL

Every year on Dec. 25, families all over the world come together to celebrate Christmas. This holiday has been celebrated for millennia but not many people know its historical background.

According to history.com long before the existence of Jesus, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. The winter solstice was a time to celebrate that the worst of winter had past and warmer, longer days were ahead.

The people of Rome ended up celebrating a holiday called Saturnalia, a holiday that honored Saturn, the god of agriculture. This celebration was a month long, starting the week before the winter solstice.

Moving into early Christianity, Easter was the more celebrated holiday. It wasn't until the fourth century that church officials instituted the birth of Jesus as a holiday. The problem is that the Bible does not state when exactly he was born. Historians suggest that he was born in the spring, with one of the main explanations being that shepherds would not be herding in the winter.

“

This holiday has been celebrated for millennia but not many people know its historical background.”

According to history.com, it was Pope Julius I who chose Dec. 25 as the day that Christians would forever celebrate Jesus' birthday. This is where the Roman holiday of Saturnalia comes into play, as it is believed that the Romans just ended up combining the two different holidays together. By holding Christmas at the same time as the traditional winter solstice festival, church leaders figured that Christmas would be more accepted by all.

Skipping forward to the 1600s, religious reform happened throughout the world and it changed how

nations celebrated Christmas. According to history.com, Puritan religious leader Oliver Cromwell took over England and canceled Christmas as part of his vow to end all decadence in England. This did not last very long though because King Charles II returned to the throne and restored Christmas.

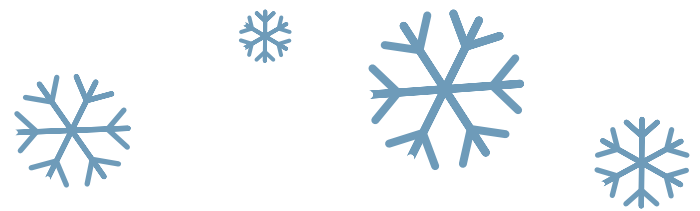
English separatists who came to America were even more orthodox than their Puritan cousins. Because of this, Christmas was not celebrated in early America. From 1659 to 1681, Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston.

It wasn't until the nineteenth century that Christmas started gaining popularity in America. But it was America that ended up reinventing Christmas. Popular authors of the time, Washington Irving and Charles Dickens, helped to create the idea that Christmas was a time to spend with family and to give and receive gifts. Christmas was named an official United States federal holiday on June 26, 1870.

Since it is such a big part of American culture, many families have holiday traditions that stretch back many generations. Meghan Branson, a sophomore environmental science major, celebrates with a tradition that many might be familiar with. “To get ready for Christmas we put lights and the Christmas tree up and decorate it,” said Branson.

When asked if she spends the holiday with extended family members, Branson told The CI View that she and her parents “promptly leave their nicely decorated house to go celebrate Christmas at her grandparents' house in San Diego.”

Over the centuries the holiday has gone through countless changes that brought us to the Christmas we know and appreciate today. Traditions vary between families, but those that celebrate it may agree that, as Andy Williams sang, it's the most wonderful time of the year.



The Rockefeller Center tree in 2018. One iconic symbol of Christmas. Photo courtesy of Andrew Doran.

# The Jewish-American commercialization of Hanukkah

JESSICA GOOLSBY

Hanukkah has been around since the second century B.C. The holiday is an eight-day celebration that commemorates the rededication of the second Temple in Jerusalem.

It came after the Jewish people, living in Syria at the time, were told to stop practicing Judaism and to instead worship Greek gods, but the Jewish people refused.

The Maccabees, a group of Jewish warriors and rebels, rose up to fight against the Syrian Greeks and ultimately won, reclaiming their Temple. To celebrate, they used oil to light a menorah. There was only enough oil to last one day, but the miracle was that it lasted eight.

How Hanukkah is celebrated now revolves around oil. To commemorate the oil lasting eight days, they light the menorah each night and eat fried foods. But as the years progress, it's getting harder and harder to keep the interest of Jewish children for the holiday. It is difficult when all their friends are celebrating Santa Claus and getting endless numbers of presents. Jewish parents are having to compete just to keep their children's attention.

In an article from The Atlantic, Rabbi Josh Plaut of the Reform Metropolitan Synagogue in New York City, said, “Hanukkah is ... a minor holiday that America has elevated into something much more.” The promotion of Hanukkah began in mid-19th century when rabbis leading the Reform Movement wanted to create something for kids to interest them in the synagogue. It just so happened that Hanukkah occurs close to Christmas.

Compared to other holidays, Hanukkah is considered a minor one in the Jewish calendar. Some of the most



A traditional menorah used in the celebration of Hanukkah. Photo courtesy of hotzeplotz

important holidays and celebrations are Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot.

In a poll by the Public Religion Research Institute, older Jewish Americans ranging from ages 60 and older, said that Yom Kippur was the most important Jewish holiday. Fifty-three percent have this view, while only 6% said

Hanukkah was most important. Comparably, younger Jewish Americans ranging from ages 18 to 39, were asked the same question and 37% said Yom Kippur was most important, while 20% said Hanukkah.

What this poll is showing, is that the younger generations are beginning to view Hanukkah as more important, due to the competition between Hanukkah and Christmas.

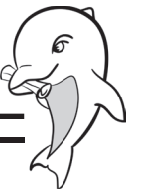
Kayla Joy Sokoloff, a member of the Texas Hillel Executive Board, said in an article from huffpost.com, “I can see that Hanukkah, a holiday that often coincides with Christmas, would be seen as a more important holiday in the eyes of younger Jewish Americans ... I would imagine that young Jewish Americans trying to fit in with their peers would put more of an emphasis on a holiday that they feel all Americans can relate to.”

Ryan Adelman-Drummond, a freshman math and computer science major who has celebrated Hanukkah alongside his grandfather since childhood. “I do think it is important but ... America has commercialized everything,” he said.

This does not mean that Hanukkah is not important or that it can't be celebrated; it just means that the holiday has been expanded throughout the years. It's easier to get kids excited about a religious tradition when there are presents and good food involved.

Without the commercialization of Hanukkah, many kids might have decided to start celebrating Christmas. The top priority of Jewish leaders is to cherish Judaism and encourage others to do so as well.





# Buddhists find enlightenment on Bodhi Day

ELISE BECHTEL

Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Siddhartha Gautama, also known as Buddha, attained enlightenment while he sat under the Bodhi tree. His attainment of enlightenment is the foundation that Buddhism has been building upon for the last 2,500 years.

Gautama was an Indian prince who gave up his lavish lifestyle in search of enlightenment. According to [holidayscalendar.com](http://holidayscalendar.com), “following intense meditation, he was able to see how everyone and everything was connected and therefore, reached a state of enlightenment”.

On his path to enlightenment, Gautama went through three stages. The first stage was the discovery of his past lives in the cycle of rebirth.

Secondly, he discovered the law of karma and the Eightfold Path, a series of eight aspects that a person must know and understand in order to reach Nirvana. Nirvana is the state that is reached when the laws of karma and rebirth have been transcended. It is achieved when a person’s individual desires have been completely removed from their consciousness.

Thirdly, he learned the Four Noble Truths; Dukkha, Samudaya, Nirodha and

Magga. These are the understanding that there is suffering in the world, that it has a cause, to know that suffering does end and the ability to find the path that leads to the end of that suffering. All of these steps led to Gautama’s ability to achieve Nirvana.

Bodhi Day is celebrated by many branches of Buddhism but the best known is the Mahayana branch of Buddhism.

The day of enlightenment is said to have taken place on the eighth day of the twelfth month of each year, which is why people now celebrate it on Dec. 8.

Unlike most holidays, Bodhi Day is a quiet celebration. Most Buddhists or people who follow Buddhism do not host huge celebrations. Instead, many people take the time to meditate and some even visit shrines as a way to become closer to Buddha. There are some people who choose to decorate Bodhi trees, which are much like Christmas trees.

The website [davesgarden.com](http://davesgarden.com) says that “unlike other festive trees which hold many decorative ornaments, a Bodhi Day tree will often only have three distinct ornaments of specific colors to symbolize the Three Jewels.” These Three Jewels are: yellow for Buddha, blue for the Dharma, and red for the Sangha.

Bodhi Day reminds us to not be caught up in the superficial things of life. It is a day to reflect on life and remember Buddha’s teachings and achievement of enlightenment, which in the Buddhist religion is the ultimate goal.



The Bodhi Tree that Buddha sat under in Bodhi Gaya, Bihar, India. Photo courtesy of Margie Savage.

## A holiday tradition for American Hindus

ROBERT MCDONALD

According to the Pew Research Center, 2.29 million Americans follow the Hindu faith. To ensure that the Hindu population of the United States and the western world would be able to participate in the holiday season, in 1985, the founder of Hinduism Today magazine, Sivaya Subramuniyaswami, created the festival of Pancha Ganapati.

According to Hinduism Today, the festival of Pancha Ganapati is celebrated from Dec. 21 until Dec. 25. This festival enables people who follow the Hindu faith to participate in the holiday season without compromising their religious beliefs.

During this time, they remember their deity, Lord Ganesha, by striving “to mend past mistakes and bring his blessings of joy and harmony into five realms of their life ... family, friends, associates, culture and religion.” Lord Ganesha has five faces, and each day of Pancha Ganapati is designed to worship a different face.

Children prepare offerings of fruits, incense and sweets to Lord Ganesha, while adults give gifts to children and other adults. Gifts are given each day and opened on the fifth day of Pancha Ganapati, which falls on Dec. 25. These gifts are wrapped in a different color to symbolize the purpose of the day. According to Hinduism Today:

**Yellow is the color for Dec. 21, which represents family discipline “to create a vibration of love and harmony among all members.”**

**Blue is the color for Dec. 22, a day devoted to restoring love “among neighbors, relatives and close friends”.**

**Red gifts are given on Dec. 23, which represent the establishment of “love and harmony among business associates and the public”.**

**Green gifts on Dec. 24 aim “to draw forth the vibration of joy and harmony that comes from music, art, drama and dance.”**

**Orange is used on Dec. 25 calls for love and devotion to “charity and religiousness”.**

In the coming weeks, millions of Americans and thousands of students at CI will be celebrating the holidays in a way that is unique to their culture, faith, family and their individual spirit. Even though most may not know about the Hindu Holiday, it is important to understand that the holiday season extends to Hindus as well.

## Holiday celebrating African heritage

ANDREW DORAN



A traditional set up for Kwanzaa. Photo courtesy of Black Hour.

Kwanzaa, a seven-day holiday of African heritage, is celebrated by individuals who come together to celebrate their past. This celebration lasts over seven nights, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

According to [africa.upenn.edu](http://africa.upenn.edu), Kwanzaa is one of the youngest holiday celebrations in the United States. The holiday was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, the chairman of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Karenga wanted to create a celebration in which African Americans would be able to come together in order to create community and remember the culture and history of where their ancestors were from. In a YouTube video interview with Karenga, he explains that Kwanzaa is “used to explain our history and enrich our lives.”

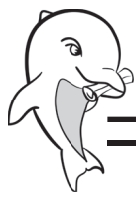
During the celebration, African Americans gather and remember their ancestors in Africa. They do this by celebrating different principles of their past. According to [history.com](http://history.com), this includes maintaining community and celebrating their common purpose.

In addition to celebrating different principles, the holiday also celebrates different symbols. According to the official Kwanzaa website, these symbols include crops, gifts and a unity cup. All of these symbols are supposed to harken back to the African past and bring reinforcement to their current cause.

Individuals who celebrate Kwanzaa end up dressing their house in colorful objects that remind them of Africa. These can be rugs, cloths and other items. People also enjoy singing or drumming to traditional African songs, again, reinforcing the rhetoric of remembering the past.

Every year, the National Retail Federation does a survey to figure out how many people in United States celebrate certain holidays. They found that in 2015, 1.9% of people who were polled planned to celebrate Kwanzaa, which ends up being around six million people. There are debates though as to how many people celebrate Kwanzaa as Karenga claims up to 28 million people celebrate.





# Ekho's Eats: Sugar Cookies

KAYLA MUNOZ

Duration:

Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 10 minutes

Total Time: 25 minutes

Yields 24 large cookies or 48 small cookies

Ingredients:

2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 cup butter, softened

1 1/2 cups white sugar

1 egg or 1/4 cup mashed banana

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 F.

In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and baking powder. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth.

Beat in egg or mashed banana and vanilla extract.

Gradually blend in the dry ingredients.

Roll rounded teaspoonfuls of dough into balls and place onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.

Let the cookies stand on cookie sheet for two minutes before removing to cool on wire racks.

Frosting may be added to provide a festive look. Enjoy!



Student taking on the recipe. Photo courtesy of Andrew Doran.



## Purpose

The purpose of The CI View is to provide the student body of CI with precise and accurate news about what is happening on their campus and in their community. It is run by students, for students, and provides a platform for the student voice. The CI View aims to be student-centered by giving students opportunities to become involved and learn about the dynamic field of journalism.

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# "Let It Snow" during winter break

JESSICA GOOLSBY



When the holiday season arrives, the non-negotiable holiday movie binge begins. Everything from "The Nightmare Before Christmas" to "Die Hard" is fair game.

So, if you find yourself on winter break, settling into the couch with a cup of hot chocolate in your hands, I give you one of the newest and best Christmas movies on Netflix.

"Let It Snow" is a Netflix original movie that debuted on the streaming service on Nov. 8. It is based on The New York Times bestselling book, "Let It Snow: Three Holiday Romances" by Maureen Johnson, John Green and Lauren Myracle, and it was adapted for the screen and directed by Luke Snellin.

The movie focuses on teens around a small town that has been hit by a snowstorm on Christmas Eve. Starring Kiernan Shipka (the Duke), Jacob Batalon (Keon), and Shameik Moore (Stuart) as the big-ticket names, the storyline jumps between three different characters, until they eventually meetup.

To make a great holiday movie there needs to be a good fantasy/reality balance, relatable characters and just the right amount of cheesiness to make it lovable, not cringey. Holiday movies are so often reduced by how unlikely the story seems and the writers' inability to create a script that sounds like dialogue that would occur in actual life.

Not only does "Let It Snow" have relatable characters who speak the way teenagers would speak, but they are each given a storyline that involves more than just romance. Each character is given a backstory, even if a slight one. Isabela Moner's character, Julie, opens up on how the holidays, and life in general, can be different and more difficult for people who grew up with varying lifestyles. Her character struggles with wanting to take care of herself while feeling responsible for her family.

But perhaps the best part of the characters is the sheer diversity amongst the cast, allowing for any viewer to relate to someone. Often in romantic movies the two leads tend to be a cisgender white

couples but this movie gave room for an LGBTQ+ relationship and an interracial relationship. Oftentimes, when a movie is diverse, the characters are used to send a political message; but "Let It Snow" lets the characters be just that, characters. Their sexuality, race and ethnicity don't further or hold back their story. They are just people, living their lives.

The narrator, while slightly cringey, is only made better by being played by Joan Cusack, whose likability on screen makes her confusing character worth the stretch.

Since no movie can be perfect, a fatal flaw in the film is the unfinished storyline of the narrator. The film built her up to be an important part of the story and then ended the film without any resolution for her character. Whether or not there was more finalization in the book is unknown, but it left viewers wanting more.

Overall, the movie is not perfect but good enough for a lazy Sunday. It'll manage to keep your attention for the 93-minute run time, but it won't leave you wanting to watch it again until at least next holiday season.

## The weird "Parent Trap" Christmas movie no one asked for

ANDREYA MARTINEZ

With the holidays on the way, we can also guarantee that onslaught of cheesy holiday Hallmark movies will begin playing nonstop.

"Switched for Christmas" is a 2017 Hallmark movie starring Candace Cameron Bure, Elon Bailey and Mark Deklin. The movie opens with a rendition of "Baby, It's Cold Outside" playing and Bure's characters, yes characters, starting their day. She plays a set of twins, Kate and Chris.

Kate, the overworked and underappreciated single mother of two, lives in a Colorado suburb with her kids, a dog and a cozy house. Chris, the put-together realty project manager, lives in Denver with a chic, minimalistic apartment. Golly gee, it seems as though these two can't be any more different!

The opening sequence continues to emphasize their differences down to the classic suburban full breakfast of bacon

and eggs to the on-the-go working woman's green smoothie.

Their dad tricks them into meeting each other for their annual sister brunch they promised their late mother they would have. It had been a couple of years since they'd met and when the twins interact, well, what's a word worse than awkward?

It takes less than 30 seconds of them sitting across from each other at brunch to start comparing how bad their lives are and how easy the other's is. With the convenience of no real responsibilities at work, Chris and Kate switch lives for the winter to prove each other wrong.

Upon taking on each other's persona, they run into the prospective love interests. Chris' love interest is the new donor at the school, Tom, who just happens to be an old high school crush. Kate's love interest is Greg, a random, hot architect at the office.

After they agreed to specifically not become romantically involved with men

in each other's lives, they do the exact opposite. It starts with a token, over-rated cooking montage where Kate and Greg create gingerbread houses in the image of the company's real estate properties. The scene is complete with a cliché flour fight and missed glances.

Meanwhile, Chris invites Tom over for a carnival planning session complete with mood lighting and a cozy couch position.

Next, Greg falls for Chris who is pretending to be Kate and things go awry. In true Hallmark fashion, after all the misunderstandings things are magically solved.

Nevermind the true lack of diversity, save the two black characters of Kate's assistant, Emily, and the school principal. Forget about the self-centered privilege of each of the characters complaining about their amazingly-full lives. No one even learned the true meaning of Christmas!

Aside from eye candy and the nostalgia of seeing the one and only DJ Tanner on

screen, there was no real point to the movie. The acting was subpar; there is a reason why no one wins Oscars for Hallmark movies.

It was entertaining in the sense that I didn't completely regret the last 84 minutes of my life, but I wouldn't recommend it to anyone ever. And the worst part was, it wasn't bad enough to be a bad movie either. I personally *love* bad movies! This one just exists.

It would be nice for Hallmark to make movies with real plots and morals that more than upper middle-class white people can identify with. But I guess if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

