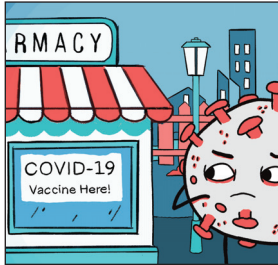




## A&E

Spartan Mambo  
dance club survives  
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## Sports

Cultural appropriation  
has no place in sport  
franchises

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# SJSU students showcase innovations

By Isalia Gallo  
STAFF WRITER

During the 2020 Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge (SVIC) Tuesday, San Jose State students proposed ideas for solving a growing global health crisis to industry professionals in an effort to receive awards.

SVIC is a competition created by the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business in 2004 as a way to encourage student entrepreneurs' creativity, according to the competition's SJSU webpage.

Students from all departments are able to create an innovative solution to a local or global issue and compete for cash rewards.

In October, students submitted project proposals and finalists were selected to present at the remote event through Zoom and Mozilla Hub, a virtual reality chatroom.

A team of SJSU students from the master's of biotechnology program won the category for Best Elevator Pitch with their project, BioMe. An elevator pitch is a description of an idea or product that is explained in a brief time period.

The student team proposed a solution to obesity by using a combination of probiotics and postbiotics.

According to a 2013 article in the scientific journal, Clinics in Perinatology, probiotics are microorganisms and postbiotics are byproducts of probiotics, both of which alleviate symptoms associated with obesity.

"[BioMe] actually takes an unhealthy gut which is a result of a diet that could be high in fats and sugars [that] leads to weight gain and it actually transforms it back to a healthy state . . . which modulates the metabolism for sustainable weight loss," Laura Henry, a biotechnology graduate student and BioMe co-founder, said over Mozilla Hub.

According to the SVIC judging webpage, students are evaluated on the practicality and originality of their product idea, its implementation and overall presentation.

## Spartans go for the gold

Student teams vie for the **Best Overall Innovation** award in the Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge. According to the SVIC webpage, projects are judged by industry professionals based on the practicality and originality of the product idea, implementation and overall presentation.

First Place:  
**"Sorting Jobs"**  
College of Business



Second Place:  
**"ADH Dreamer"**  
International team  
from Hong Kong



Third Place:  
**"Citizen Here  
Incorporated"**  
College of Business



INFOGRAPHIC BY CHELSEA NGUYEN FLEIGE



**We put a lot of work into it  
and we're excited that the  
judges saw what we saw in  
our idea.**

**Laura Henry**  
biotechnology graduate student

Judges from industries including marketing and technology determined the winners for all categories except the People's Choice Award, which was decided by an audience popular vote.

Award categories included Best Elevator Pitch, Best Peer-to-Peer/Social Networking Innovation, Best Healthcare Innovation, People's Choice and Best Overall Innovation.

Henry said the team's win was unexpected.

"[There] was a lot of competition today, a lot of really good pitches, but we're incredibly excited to hear [about the win]," Henry said during the event. "We put a lot of work into it and we're excited that the judges saw what we saw in our idea."

The Emergency Connection team won

Best Peer-to-Peer/Social Networking Innovation, for its app proposal allowing people to create posts asking for or offering community aid during or after a natural disaster.

"The inspiration for the app was purely to help people get quick and local access to resources in their communities during a natural disaster," business management senior and team member, Kylie Pappas, said over email.

Pappas said the competition made her realize how many students are capable of coming up with innovative ideas.

"I also learned that there is a lot that goes into creating a business [and it's] a lot more than just having an idea," Pappas said.

Sarika Pruthi, an SJSU Global Innovation and Leadership professor serving as the main organizer and faculty adviser for the event, said she was amazed by students' capabilities to create original ideas, especially during a global pandemic.

"This year was unusual as the event was held in a virtual setting," Pruthi said over email. "At first, it was difficult to gauge how much interest it would generate and to what extent students would feel willing and motivated to participate."

Pruthi said even under different circumstances this year, SVIC attracted a higher number of submissions than its previous two years, hosting 43 student teams at the first-ever online competition.

"I am very pleased that we have student teams from the College of Business, the College of Science and the College of Professional and Global Education (CGPE) among our winners today," she said. "This year is unusually successful for the College of Business, with student teams from [the college] taking four of this year's top seven awards, including the Best Overall Innovation."

Pruthi mentioned that she was disappointed the event was online.

"Not being able to see the smiles on the winner's faces and not being able to capture those smiles on camera, was perhaps the most difficult part of the event for me this year," she said.

Follow the Spartan Daily on Twitter  
@spartandaily

# SJSU offers free COVID-19 testing

Justice studies senior Ifeanyi Ebochie gets COVID-19 testing in front of Campus Village 2.

The Spartan Daily published a story Tuesday on the coronavirus testing mandated by SJSU for university housing residents who traveled for Thanksgiving. Read the full story by staff writer Isalia Gallo at <https://sjsunews.com/article/sjsu-opens-covid-19-test-centers>.

The free testing was held Tuesday and will be held Today in the housing quad in front of Campus Village Building A and Campus Village Building 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to a Nov. 28 campuswide email from President Mary Papazian.



JESUS TELLITUD | SPARTAN DAILY



OPINION

# Sports franchises must stop appropriation



By Jovanna Oliveras  
STAFF WRITER

Professional sports leagues should not allow cultural appropriation or racial slurs in team names.

Teams including the Kansas City Chiefs, the Cleveland Indians and the Atlanta Braves need to realize the organizations are not honoring historically underprivileged groups by having team names or mascots depicting legitimate ethnic identities. The use of ethnic groups to represent many U.S. sports organizations is flat out offensive and racist.

Public pressure from social justice movements, including Black Lives Matter, led to corporate pressures and the July 13 rebranding of the NFL's Washington Football Team, which previously used a Native American racial slur, according to a July 1 ESPN article.

The team's rebranding was decades overdue.

The derogatory term is believed to originate from nineteenth-century Native American bounty hunts. This is evident from The Daily Republican newspaper archives based in Winona, Minnesota, which contained a Sept. 24, 1863 ad that rewarded money for killing

Native Americans.

Investment firms and shareholders worth a combined \$620 billion asked Nike, FedEx and PepsiCo to terminate sponsorships with the Washington Football Team if the organization did not change its name, according to a July 1 Sports Illustrated article.

Proving just how effective corporate pressures can be, the Washington Football Team could not risk losing these significant sponsors.

The social outcry, activism and public pressure was enough for Washington Football Team owner Dan Snyder to cave and change the team's name.

Snyder and other Washington Football Team officials initially said the name was a placeholder until the organization could find another replacement, but the name may become permanent, according to a Sept. 13 NBC sports article.

Before the threat of corporate bailout, Snyder made his intentions clear just seven years prior.

"We'll never change the name. It's that simple. NEVER – you can use caps," he said in a May 10, 2013, USA Today

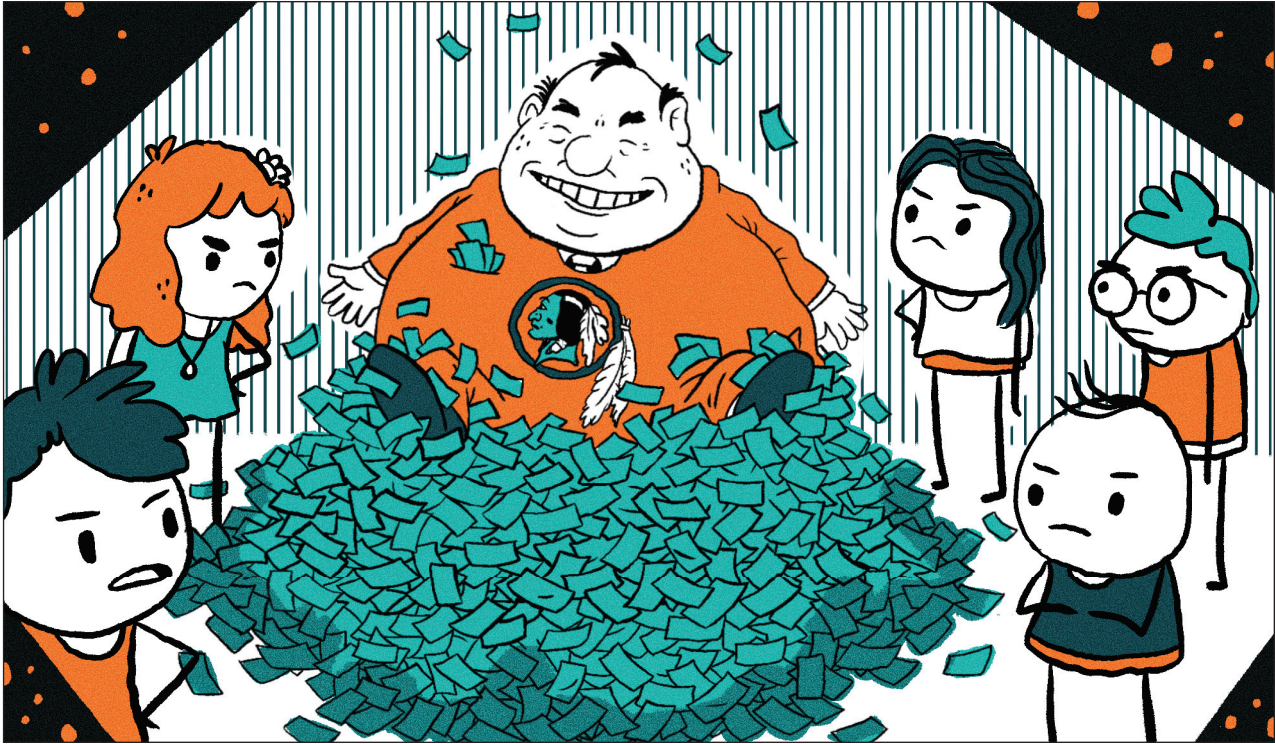


ILLUSTRATION BY NICK YBARRA

interview.

Many marginalized individuals are tired of having to explain why culturally incorrect cartoons as "mascots" mocking their identities are wrong and why they deserve basic human rights and decency.

Marginalized people, including Native Americans, should not be team mascots, especially considering the U.S.' history with Native American genocide, race-based violence and segregation.

Teams that utilize racial slurs and inappropriate caricatures can encourage many fans to believe these harmful stereotypes are accurate or justified.

But in reality, these false interpretations are recklessly representing

cultures that are not in anyone's right to represent except those within the cultures themselves.

The blatant misrepresentation of cultural identity and use of appropriation has no place in widespread media or American entertainment.

It does not matter if it's a non-Native American person wearing a headdress at a football game or a Victoria Secret model wearing eagle feathers on a runway in underwear.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the largest representative Native American advocacy organization, launched a campaign to rebrand Native American-inspired stereotypes in pop culture on its website.

Professional teams that disrespectfully depict Native Americans have become multi-million dollar franchises, yet none have repaid or apologized to the individuals they are dehumanizing.

Not only have Native Americans been dehumanized, but they have endured centuries of horror because of little federal and state support and minimal access to resources. According to data from the 2018 U.S. Census, Native Americans have the highest poverty rate among all minority groups in the country at about 25%.

Sports fans can honor Native Americans by instead developing empathy and building understanding with them, rather than pushing

for incorrect cultural representations.

People who don't think that these media representations are an issue means they do not personally experience this kind of cultural mockery, and that is a privilege in the U.S.

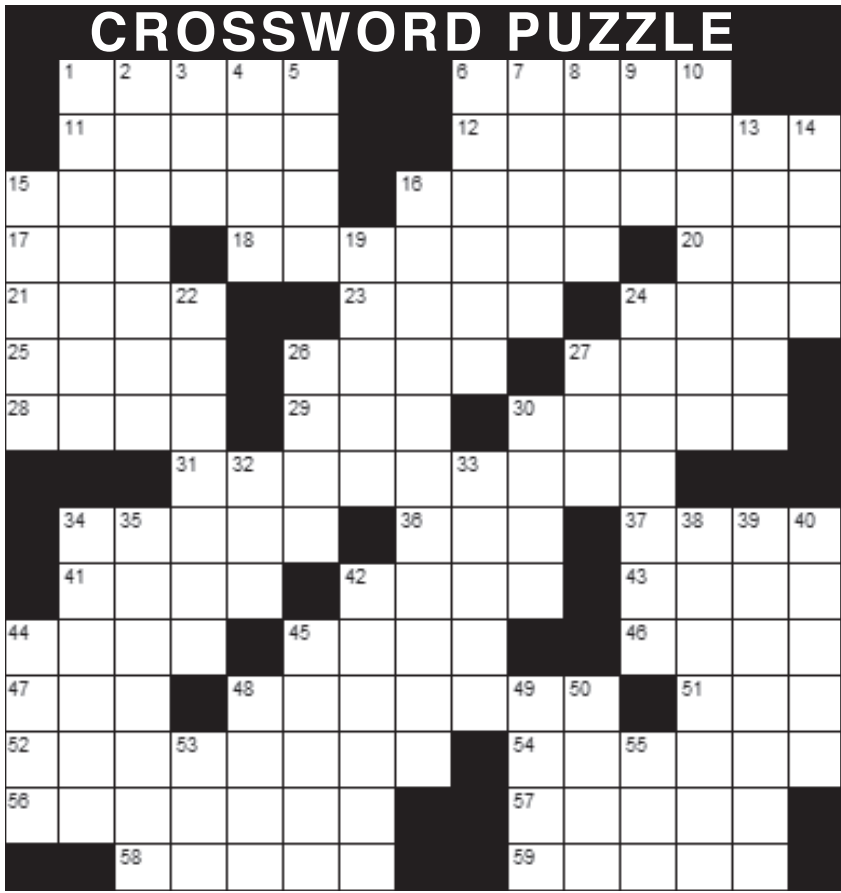
Sports teams have a huge impact on both fans and many of the identities it affects. These multi-million dollar organizations have the power to be a catalyst for larger changes in media representation of Native Americans.

Follow Jovanna on Twitter @joo\_zuniga

Erica Lizarrago contributed to this article.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Freshman
- 6. Fragrant oil
- 11. Way to go
- 12. Procedure
- 15. Spay
- 16. Light opera
- 17. Eastern Standard Time
- 18. Forefall
- 20. 18-wheeler
- 21. Fashionable
- 23. Cleave
- 24. Curse
- 25. Gambling game
- 26. An aromatic ointment
- 27. Cut away
- 28. Flower stalk
- 29. Estimated time of arrival
- 30. Liabilities
- 31. Engage attention
- 34. A nymph of lakes
- 36. An unskilled actor
- 37. Skin irritation
- 41. Paris airport
- 42. Flexible mineral
- 43. Arid
- 44. Attraction
- 45. Encounter

- 46. Pay attention to
- 47. Senesce
- 48. Continue to live
- 51. Henpeck
- 52. A sanctimonious person
- 54. What's left behind
- 56. Baked dessert
- 57. A type of dance
- 58. Squalid
- 59. Not inner

DOWN

- 1. Occurrence of a water flow
- 2. Workaday
- 3. Not in
- 4. Stair
- 5. German for "Mister"
- 6. Add on
- 7. Inclination
- 8. Legal wrong
- 9. Card with one symbol
- 10. Pull back
- 13. Smells
- 14. Wise one
- 15. They hold up heads
- 16. Outperform
- 19. Muse of love poetry
- 22. Collect

- 24. Immature
- 26. Require
- 27. Cool, once
- 30. Russian parliament
- 32. Beam
- 33. Desert plants
- 34. Zero
- 35. Debt
- 38. Adolescent
- 39. Craftsman
- 40. Row of shrubs
- 42. And nothing more
- 44. Trips around a course
- 45. Pondered
- 48. On the left or right
- 49. Quash
- 50. Brother of Jacob
- 53. Regret
- 55. Explosive

### SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

5				9	7			
	1		8			2		
	7	9	2				1	
						4		8
3								1
9		1						
	6				8	1	5	
		5			1		6	
			7	6				3

### SOLUTIONS 12/1/2020

A	N	O	A	S	E	L	F			D	O	R	M	
S	E	C	T		U	T	I	L	E		I	D	E	A
P	A	C	T		B	A	L	E	R		L	O	A	N
S	P	A	R	S		T	A	X	I	D	E	R	M	Y
		S	A	L	E		C	E	C	U	M			
E	P	I	C	U	R	E		D	A	M	M	A	R	
G	R	O	T	T	O	E	S		B	A	C	O	N	
I	O	N			S	K	I	T	S			C	O	O
S	O	A	P	S		B	A	L	D	N	E	S	S	
	F	L	I	N	C	H	R	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	
		C	U	R	I	A		G	A	T	E			
L	I	F	T	G	A	T	E	S		D	U	R	R	A
U	N	A	U		S	H	R	U	B		R	A	I	L
S	T	I	R		S	E	I	N	E		A	T	O	P
T	O	L	E		R	E	S	T		L	E	T	S	

4	8	2	3	5	1	9	7	6
6	5	3	4	7	9	8	1	2
9	7	1	6	2	8	3	5	4
5	6	9	2	3	4	7	8	1
1	4	7	5	8	6	2	9	3
2	3	8	9	1	7	6	4	5
3	2	4	8	9	5	1	6	7
7	9	6	1	4	3	5	2	8
8	1	5	7	6	2	4	3	9

### JOKIN' AROUND

Why did the tree go to the dentist?

It needed a root canal.

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# U.S. shutdown too little too late



The United States could be on the path toward a much-needed shutdown to get coronavirus cases under control, but it may not happen in time, if at all.

Winter brings colder temperatures and holiday celebrations that encourage social gatherings, creating a dangerous set of factors and a fatal end to the year.

With no unified federal action plan to curb rising cases across the nation, many Americans will die between now and January when President-elect Joe Biden takes office. Even then, COVID-19 safety protocols will still be unreliable.

Many states are already experiencing dramatic spikes in COVID-19 cases. According to The New York Times' COVID-19 Tracker, Iowa has experienced a 164% increase of cases per day compared to the previous two weeks average.

Wyoming is dealing with similar rates, with an average of 705 cases per day, a 99% increase from two weeks before.

California cities have not been spared in rising caseloads. The San Francisco Department of Emergency Management announced through Twitter on Nov. 12 that the city has seen cases increase by 250% since early October.

This concerning rise will only continue through winter as the country careens into the holiday season, with the Trump administration leaving the country vulnerable.

Deborah Birx, White House coordinator for the COVID-19 task force, reported the U.S. might be entering the most volatile period of rising cases since March, according to a Nov. 2 Washington Post article.

Despite the influx of cases, President Trump continues to claim that the rises are because of testing, but Birx's report directly contradicts the president's opinion.

According to the report, testing rates across the country have remained stagnant, while positive test results have spiked.

The U.S. government's lack of response and the exacerbating risks that winter poses for COVID-19 endangers Americans.

Cooler and drier winter air allows respiratory viruses to easily spread and poor weather conditions force gatherings inside. Lack of air circulation can concentrate viral airborne



ILLUSTRATION BY BLUE NGUYEN

**With no unified federal action plan to curb rising cases across the nation, many Americans will die between now and January when President-elect Joe Biden takes office.**

particles, according to Dr. Paul Offit, director of the vaccine education center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in a Nov. 10 USA Today article.

Some Americans may be experiencing "pandemic fatigue," causing people to risk exposure by visiting friends or family during the holidays after not seeing them for an extended time period, according to Columbia University Medical Center Dr. Daniel Griffin in the same article.

There may never be

aggressive federal action to control the transmission of COVID-19, but if measures were implemented, it would not be until President-elect Joe Biden takes office on January 20.

According to a Nov. 11 article from CNBC, Dr. Michael Osterholm, Biden's newly appointed COVID-19 adviser, said a four to six-week nationwide lockdown would reduce rising cases to manageable levels.

Unfortunately, Biden has not made any indication on if he would support such a lockdown.

The decision to enforce a nationwide lockdown would require collaboration from all state and local officials, according to a Nov. 14 ABC News report. A shutdown may also exacerbate the country's ideological divide as the economy may suffer if a lockdown is implemented.

This again exemplifies that the U.S. government and its people choose a thriving economy over a healthy population.

January may not be the light at the end of the tunnel for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The widespread American deaths expected this winter from the coronavirus will go without a response from the federal government, and January's transfer of power to the Biden administration may be too scared to rock the boat in order to save lives.

Follow Olivia on Twitter | @LivGerber

# New COVID-19 vaccines should not be mandatory



Schools and universities should recommend students, faculty members and staff get a coronavirus vaccine once it's widely available, but it shouldn't be required.

Campus community members can do their part to keep students, staff and faculty members safe by taking one of the expected COVID-19 vaccines.

However, everyone has the right to make their own health decisions considering the vaccine's rapid production process.

According to San Jose State's Student Health Center, the California State University system requires incoming students to submit proof of immunization records before attending the first day of classes.

Students can appeal immunization requirements if their health records provide a viable reason, like a compromised immune system, according to the website.

Students can upload a signed and dated letter from their licensed health care provider citing medical conditions or circumstances that explain why an exemption is medically necessary.

A lot of people may be nervous about receiving a vaccine right after its release, which is also a valid health concern.

Of course, individuals who are able to get the COVID-19 vaccine should consider receiving it because those who don't will be at high risk for catching the disease.

Prohibiting students from campus because of this personal choice limits their access to education.

58% of Americans said they would get a COVID-19 vaccine, compared to 50% who said they would in September, according to a Nov. 17 Gallup poll, a global analytics firm.

Infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci explained in a Nov. 19 White House Task Force briefing that a COVID-19 vaccine will be safe when it is ready for distribution and safety will not be compromised for speed.

"The process of the speed did not compromise at all safety nor did it compromise scientific integrity," Fauci said. "It was a reflection of the extraordinary scientific advances in these types of vaccines which allow us to do things in months that took us years before."

While a growing



ILLUSTRATION BY NICK YBARRA

number of people are in favor of a vaccine and health officials including Fauci have ensured it is safe, there are still many people who are rightfully cynical of a vaccine developed under the Trump administration.

No vaccine has been officially approved from any pharmaceutical company by the Federal Drug Administration.

Despite Fauci's statements, CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White announced in a systemwide email on Sept. 10 that most spring classes will be held online for multiple reasons, including a lack of sufficient testing and the lack of a vaccine.

"To summarize, the disease continues to spread," White said. "While the current mitigation factors do

**Learning institutions should recommend students, faculty and staff take a COVID-19 vaccine in order to prevent the spread of the disease and get back on track to having in-person classes in the future.**

make a difference, in the absence of a vaccine and of sufficient, cost-effective, timely testing and contact-tracing infrastructure, we are not able to return to a normal, principally in-person schedule in January 2021."

Learning institutions

for those who are concerned about the vaccine's safety or are immunocompromised.

Because a COVID-19 vaccine has not been released and has yet to earn the public's full trust, both schools and universities should hesitate on a decision that would force students to lose agency over personal health decisions.

Instead, a COVID-19 vaccine should be added to the list of recommended immunizations on SJSU's Student Health Center website, but students should not be kept from attending in-person classes if they decide not to get vaccinated.

However, a vaccine shouldn't be required

Follow Lexie on Twitter | @lexie4real



# Latin dance club adjusts to Zoom

By Shiri Marwaha  
STAFF WRITER

One San Jose State dance club has mesmerized audiences with light-footed salsa performances and brightly sequined costumes, but its members are missing one key element this semester: the ability to practice and compete in person.

SJSU’s Spartan Mambo moved practices, performances and competitions to an online format this semester in compliance with Santa Clara County’s coronavirus guidelines.

“For this semester, all of our classes and practices have been moved to Zoom,” said Spartan Mambo head coach Takeshi Young. “So I think that’s definitely challenging.”

He said teaching dance through a computer screen is difficult to adapt because in-person practices are easier to observe and guide students’ body movements.

“It’s harder to learn salsa when you’re just watching it on a computer screen, versus being able to see something in person,” Young said.

He said Zoom causes problems because of the audio lag when music is playing or when club members experience internet connection issues. These complications make it hard for Young to provide feedback and interrupts the team’s practice.

Practicing salsa without a partner has challenged the club and Young said he has focused on teaching footwork and solo dancing instead.

The dance club has not added members this semester because of remote learning.

“Usually we do a lot of recruiting for new students at the beginning of the semester,” Young said. “But given how everything [is online], we decided not to do any new recruiting.”

The club typically registers

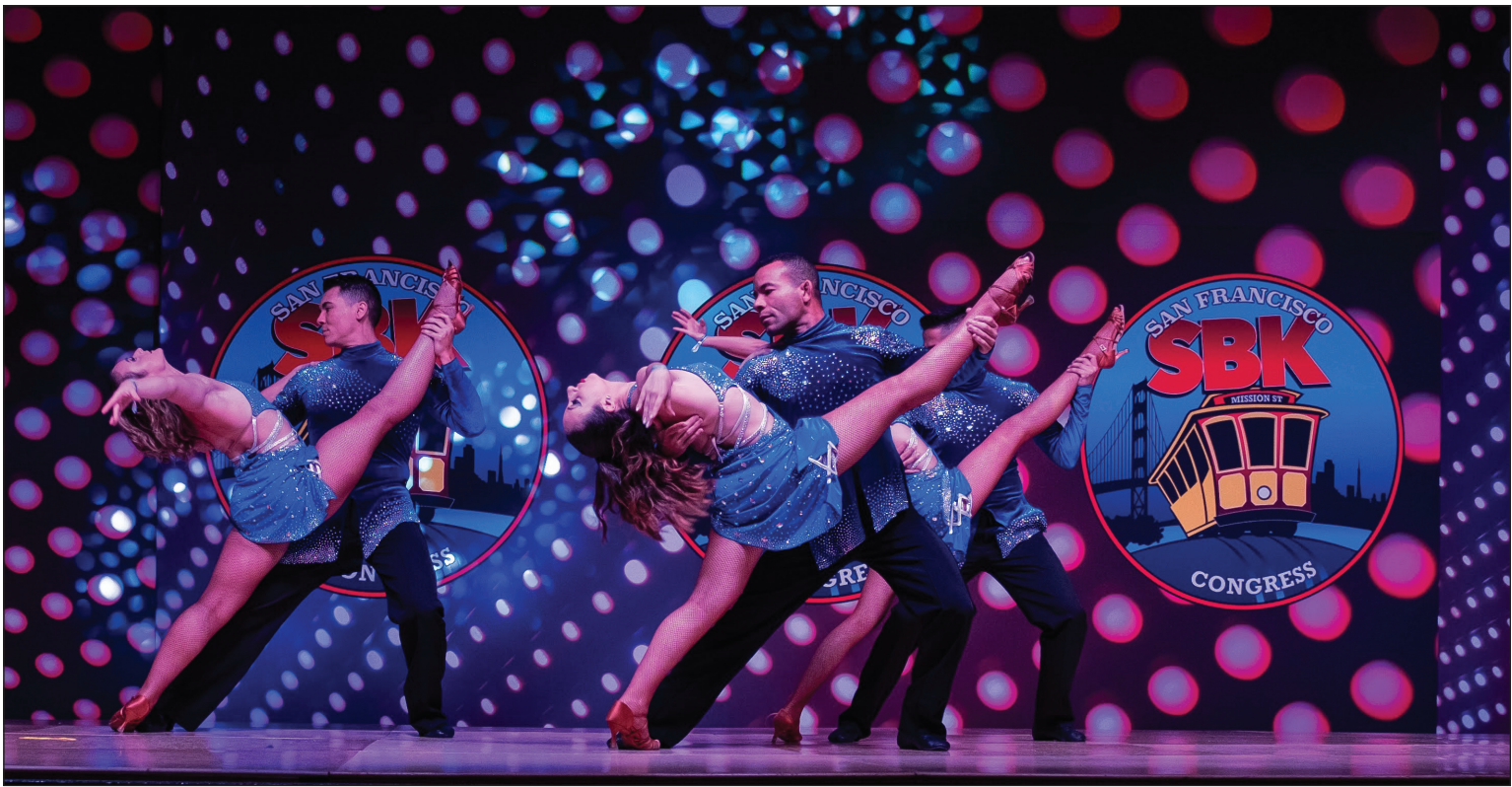


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCKENNA NEW

Spartan Mambo dance club members begin their performance at San Francisco Salsa Bachata Kizomba Congress on Nov. 15, 2019.

30 students each semester but has no new recruits and few returning students. Despite this, Spartan Mambo is practicing remotely with 14 members.

“Any type of willingness to want to learn is openly accepted here in our team,” said Spartan Mambo president and political science senior Emily Fernandez.

Auditions were the only criteria to join in previous semesters. Fernandez said most students who audition are new to Latin dancing.

“I seriously couldn’t dance the first time I danced salsa, you know, I had two left feet,” she said.

Fernandez said Young and the team take extra time to make sure new members understand the dance technicalities.

“If you want to learn, myself as the president, the coach and some other leadership members are willing to take time out of their day to help anyone,” she said.

“

I think what I’ve learned is just not to take anything for granted even if it’s something as simple as going into a dance studio and being able to dance with people as a community.

Isabelle Poblete  
Spartan Mambo club member

Isabelle Poblete, a business marketing sophomore, said when the pandemic hit, Young came up with an idea for a video project.

Although there haven’t been any in-person Latin dance competitions because of the

coronavirus pandemic, teams plan to perform and record virtual salsa performances for competitions, Poblete said.

“We give performances each semester, we do have a competitive team that tries to do one or two competitions per semester,” she said. “With COVID-19 being an issue we’re trying to do video projects.”

Spartan Mambo is looking forward to recording a socially-distanced dance video.

“We have actually a possible video shoot planned at the end of or at the beginning of December,” Young said.

Some club members are having trouble finding spaces to practice with ideal flooring for dancing.

“It’s a little difficult doing Salsa practice in my apartment just because of limited space,” Poblete said. “The different flooring makes it harder to dance.”

Poblete said despite the obstacles, the club has adapted

well to online practices and are working with dance teams at other universities to arrange a remote competition.

“We’re thinking of hosting a virtual salsa footwork competition in December,” Young said.

Poblete said the circumstances the team faced this semester have given dancers a new appreciation for their time together.

“I think what I’ve learned is just not to take anything for granted even if it’s something as simple as going into a dance studio and being able to dance with people as a community,” Poblete said. “I feel like I took that for granted when it was pre-COVID, now that we don’t have that anymore, I realized just how important that is.”

Follow Shiri on Twitter |  
@Marwaha5Shiri



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The Spartan Daily serves as San Jose State’s top news source and was named the best student newspaper in the state. New issues are published Tuesday through Thursday during the academic year with the website updated daily.

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