

UC SANTA BARBARA

THE *Current*

September 24, 2026

The Current staff

Fall quarter kicks off with a week's worth of events and festivities

And away we go. A new academic year at UC Santa Barbara is officially underway, and it's giving all that good Gaucho energy.

Classes begin today, but the campus has been buzzing over the last week — from the multiday UCSB Move-In activities that welcomed students to their residence halls, to the second annual Gaucho Welcome rally for freshman and transfers students, and the always-popular Fall Involvement Fair.

Through it all, Chancellor Dennis Assanis and Eleni Assanis were out greeting families, helping students get settled, visiting with campus staff and cheering on incoming Gauchos with encouraging words during the boisterous rally inside the Thunderdome.

"This is *your* university now," Chancellor Assanis told the crowd. "This is *your* campus."

"We are a family here at UC Santa Barbara," Eleni Assanis added. "We support each other. We lift each other up. We treat each other with respect. And we do amazing things together."

"It's time for your story to begin," the chancellor said. "Welcome to campus, Gauchos. You are a part of the family now ... Congratulations!"

Image



Photo Credit

Jeff Liang

Chancellor Dennis Assanis and Eleni Assanis, right, welcome a new family during Move-In Weekend.

Image



Photo Credit

Matt Perko

The wheeled moving carts are always a surefire sign that a new academic year is beginning.

Image



Photo Credit

Jeff Liang

Chancellor Assanis and Eleni Assanis visit with UCSB staff during Move-In Weekend
Image



Photo Credit

Matt Perko

The UCSB cheer and dance squads hyped the crowd inside the Thunderdome for the second annual Gaucho Welcome
Image



Photo Credit

Matt Perko

Chancellor Dennis Assanis and Eleni Assanis address a crowd of incoming Gauchos at Gaucho Welcome

Image



Photo Credit

Matt Perko

The Fall Involvement Fair offers students a chance to learn about campus clubs and other opportunities.

Image



Photo Credit

Matt Perko

Here's to a great year, Gauchos.

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

Media Contact

Shelly Leachman

Editorial Director

(805) 893-2191

sleachman@ucsb.edu

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we

draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.