



The 6th Annual Community College
Honors Research Symposium
at Stanford University May 4, 2013

Conference Committee

Bernie Day	Foothill College
Patty Hall	Cañada College
Katharine Harer	Skyline College
Sarah Harmon	Cañada College
Matthew Kennedy	City College of San Francisco
Candace Klaschus	Las Positas College
Joseph Kralick	Stanford University
Sami Kudsi	City College of San Francisco
Joyce Lee	Skyline College
Kimberley Lindsay	Stanford University
Lillian Marrujo-Duck	City College of San Francisco
Tim Maxwell	College of San Mateo
Eva Mo	Modesto Junior College
Jennifer Saito	Los Medanos College
Mitch Schweickert	Los Medanos College
Letitia Scott-Curtis	Cabrillo College

Acknowledgements

The Bay Honors Consortium thanks the Office of Undergraduate Admission at Stanford University for supporting this opportunity for community college honors students. We also acknowledge the following people for their invaluable contributions. They rock.

Richard H. Shaw	Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Stanford University
Jennifer Summit	Professor, Department of English, Stanford University
Meggan Smith	Stanford University
Melba Madrigal	Skyline College Honors Graduate, Student Speaker
Michael Smith	Symposium Photographer
Maureen Willhoite	Program Layout, Los Medanos College
Ricoh Printing	Program Printing, Las Positas College

The Stanford Fleet Street Singers

Ethan Aines, Jonathan Homrighausen, Rebecca Gonzales-Clayton
Honors Student Volunteers and Generally Awesome People



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Symposium Guests,

Welcome to the 6th Community College Honors Research Symposium at Stanford University!

The presentations in which you have invested countless hours reflect the scholarly work that Stanford celebrates. Your commitment to knowledge, passion for learning, and intense curiosity are the qualities that fuel the creation of innovative ideas and groundbreaking research. Today is a forum to celebrate the cultivation and exchange of ideas; an opportunity to appreciate the vast array of perspectives and experiences; a moment to reflect on the responsibility of intellectuals in a free society.

Stanford University was founded *to promote the public welfare by exercising an influence on behalf of humanity and civilization*. Pursuit of knowledge for its own sake is a beautiful, noble, and meaningful enterprise. Ultimately, however the research you will conduct at universities has an ethical purpose: To make the world a better place. Pressing issues plague our world – who will solve them? Who will conduct the scientific research that solves cancer? Who will perform the public policy research that offers a solution for the state of public education, the environment, or Social Security? You are the leaders who have the potential to work on these issues.

This research symposium is also a time to celebrate the unique perspectives of community college students. Your diverse backgrounds and life experiences add much-needed richness to classroom conversations and the overall intellectual quality of university communities. I commend you on your scholarship and wish you the very best in your academic, personal, and professional endeavors.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Shaw".

Richard H. Shaw
Dean of Admission and Financial Aid



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The 6th Annual Community College
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Schedule of Events

Opening Ceremony 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Professor Eva Mo, Emcee
Modesto Junior College Honors Director

Professor Jennifer Summit, Keynote Speaker
Department of English, Stanford University

Session I Presentations 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Session II Presentations 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Session III Presentations 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Closing Ceremony 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Performance by the Stanford Fleet Street Singers
Heslet Scholar Award
Bay Honors Consortium Honors Faculty of the Year Award
Melba Madrigal, Student Speaker
Skyline College Honors Alumna, Cornell University Transfer

Admissions Workshop 3:45-4:30 p.m.

Stanford Admissions Staff

Campus Tours



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Session I Presentations 9:45-10:45 a.m.

All presenters and attendees are expected to arrive no later than 9:45 a.m. and stay for the entire session. Please refrain from entering the room once the session is in progress.

Room 13

Rupinder Pal Singh

College of San Mateo

Mentors: Mohsen Janatpour &

Steven Lehigh

Undocumented Workers in The U.S. Economy

An investigation into immigration laws targeting undocumented workers.

Evelyn Martinez

Cabrillo College

Mentor: Letitia Scott-Curtis

Harvest of Sorrow: The Bracero Program

An historical analysis of the Bracero program's impact on agriculture and its lessons for current immigration reform.

Melody Mayer

College of San Mateo

Mentors: David Laderman &

Minu Mathur

Torn Apart

The Struggle for Reunification in Mixed-Status Families

An examination of how child welfare and federal immigration practices combine to separate undocumented parents from their U.S. citizen children.

Room 15

Rafi Ansari

Las Positas College

Mentor: Cynthia Ross

Are You Left or Right?

Studies of the Two Hemispheres of the Brain

An investigation of how the two hemispheres of the brain influence learning.

Minh-Ai Jenny Phamhi

Skyline College

Mentor: Cameron Chandler

Jumping for Recovery

Trampoline Rebounder Exercise

An exploration of the effectiveness of RE in helping brain injured patients improve strength, flexibility and balance.

Brenna Gomer

Las Positas College

Mentor: Craig Kutil

The Elephant in the Room

Using Multidimensional Statistics to Understand Mood Shifts in Bipolar Disorder

An examination of the strengths and weaknesses of multivariate probability to better predict the onset of manic episodes.

Room 105

Alyssa Paradise

Sacramento City College

Mentor: Nicholas Miller

Misogynist and Feminist Wars

Online Anonymity Provokes Violence

An analysis of anonymous threatening language aimed at feminist online forums.

Cristina Bauss

College of the Redwoods

Mentor: George Potamianos

Cleo from 5 to 7

Agnes Varda's 1962 Landmark Film

A study of fifty years of film reviews to understand why it took so long for this film to be recognized as a feminist masterpiece.

Elen Coleman

Modesto Junior College

Mentor: Eva Mo

The Conspiracy of Silence

Rape Culture and the San Joaquin Valley

An examination of how a rape culture has been normalized through our most powerful institutions.

Room 107

Justin Beirold

Cabrillo College

Mentor: Letitia Scott-Curtis

Internet Crime

An analysis of types of internet crime and the need for legislation that will not infringe on the public's rights.

Evan Mullicane

Los Medanos College

Mentor: Kasey Gardner

Beyond Human

The Evolution of Attitudes Toward Artificial Intelligence

An examination of the evolving character Zero, from Mega Man, illustrating society's changing perceptions of sentient technology.

Tyler Hayden

Las Positas College

Mentor: Colin Schatz

Zombie World

Do-It-Yourself Zombie Apocalypse

A demonstration of an original laser tag game built by students at Las Positas College.

Room 201

Aubrey Manzon

Los Medanos College
Mentor: Kasey Gardner

Not Just a Game

What Game of Thrones Reveals About Deeply Entrenched Gender Inequality

A comparison of *Game of Thrones*' Cersei Lannister to contemporary female political leaders Hillary Clinton, Corazon Aquino and Irene Saez.

Khin Soe

City College of San Francisco
Mentor: Elizabeth Arruda

Oral Herstories From Burma

A collection of oral histories of former female political prisoners revealing torture, abuse and a flawed International Criminal Court system.

Room 202

Christine Kelly

Las Positas College
Mentor: Jayne Smithson

Cultural Diversity and The Natural Environment A Photographic Essay

An investigation into the dangers of replacing Native American ecological practices with European land management systems.

Joel Van de Sande

City College of San Francisco
Mentor: Aimee Medeiros

Geographies of Endangerment

Mexican Wolves, the American Southwest and the Politics of Extinction

An examination of Mexican Wolf repopulation efforts, land-use policies and the politics of mapping habitats.

Kelly Challand

Los Medanos College
Mentor: Liana Padilla-Wilson

Mystical Jewels of the Diné

Modern Navajo Jewelry and Spirituality

A presentation of primary research illustrating how Diné jewelry is incorporated into Navajo ceremonial traditions.

Room 217

Aaron Tun
Phyo Htut
Jordan Chan
Zhiteng Yan

Skyline College
Mentor: Ilkka Koskelo

Ionic Thrust: Grounded or Lift-off?

An investigation of an alternative means of aerial transportation using ionic thrust instead of mechanical propulsion.

Jessie Thomas

San Diego Mesa College
Mentor: James Davis

The Second Space Race

Technology, Politics and the Future of Near Space

An examination of the growing U.S. national security threats caused by low Earth orbital congestion, the potential for policy solutions and the need for international cooperation.

Benjamin Wallsten

Crafton Hills College
Mentor: Jennifer Floerke

What the “Bekenstein Bound” Tells Us About the Fundamental Structure of Our Universe

An interpretation of the “Bekenstein Bound”, which leads to the conclusion that the universe is discrete in many surprising ways.

Room 219

Inga Manasherob
Sharry Bal
Catherine Smith

Footbill College
Mentor: Benjamin Stefonik

Forgiveness and Grudge Holding

An empirical study looking at gender differences in forgiveness and grudge-holding in relationships.

Natalie Craig

Las Positas College
Mentor: Robin Roy

Understanding the Jonestown Tragedy From a Social Psychology Perspective

An examination of the 1978 Peoples Temple mass suicide, looking at collective behavior, conformity and the deliberate distortion of reality.

Room 303

Zsasha Flores

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Tony Burman

Fornicating for Freedom?

The Role of Lust in the Dystopian Genre

An examination of dystopian literature reveals that there is more to the genre than totalitarianism.

Andrew Pimentel

City College of San Francisco
Mentor: Christopher Greger

The Love Songs of Duffy and Prufrock

A presentation of literary solipsism through a dialogue between T. S. Eliot's, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and James Joyce's, "A Painful Case".

Léna García

Cabrillo College
Mentor: Letitia Scott-Curtis

Albert Camus' Pied Noir Roots

An exploration of Camus' complex racial and social identity as a French Algerian and how it influenced his writing.

Room 305

Stephanie Angel

Modesto Junior College
Mentor: Richard Serros

Igniting the Divine

Botticelli and His Paintings on Love

A reinterpretation of Sandro Botticelli's paintings, connecting the Renaissance and modern women to conceive a manifest of divine love.

Sean Collins

City College of San Francisco
Mentor: Maria Cheremeteff

Vermeer: Visions of Reality

A presentation exploring Vermeer's unique technical approach and compositional innovation.

Elena Tolstova

Cañada College
Mentor: Denise Erickson

The Bear and the Eagle

Parallels in 19th Century Russian and American Landscape Painting

A comparison of the social and political forces affecting landscape painting movements in the two countries.



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Session II Presentations

11-12 p.m.

All presenters and attendees are expected to arrive no later than 11 a.m. and stay for the entire session. Please refrain from entering the room once the session is in progress.

Room 13

Samantha Zevanove

Cabrillo College
Mentor: Letitia Scott-Curtis

"Welfare Culture"

An analysis of the welfare system in the United States and the ways in which cultural attitudes and ideologies impact its policies and efficacy.

Susanna Faulds

College of San Mateo
Mentor: Mohsen Janatpour

Methane Hydrate

Agent of Global Warming and New Source of Energy

An examination of the potential for methane gas to be harvested as a source of fuel rather than released into the atmosphere.

Evan Tucker

Sacramento City College
Mentor: Sherri Patton

Indians for Sale in 1850

Bound Labor in the Golden State

An exploration of the social forces that led to the enslavement of Native Californians and the impact on native communities and the state.

Room 15

Kendra Wolcott

College of the Redwoods
Mentor: Sean Herrera-Thomas

Between Silence and Sound

Deaf Culture, Cochlear Implants and Controversy

An examination of differing perspectives of the deaf community and hearing society about cochlear implants and issues about culture, disability and quality of life.

Annabel Firpo

Cabrillo College
Mentor: Letitia Scott-Curtis

Being Transgender

An Enigma in the Medical Community

An investigation into the medical maltreatment of the transgender community.

Ben Martin

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Suzie Bailly

Biomimicry in Human Technology

A presentation of how nature has led us to create products, such as Velcro, and other innovative solutions to design problems.

Room 105

Elaina Mattingly
Jessica Rose

Cañada College
Mentor: Paul Roscelli

The Cheating Culture

A presentation of student research at Cañada College to discover the prevalence of cheating and the reasons why competition pushes students to compromise their academic integrity.

Christine Silver

Foothill College
Mentor: Benjamin Stefonik

Peer Pressure and the Four Dimensions of Shame

An examination of the emotional motivations for conforming to peer pressure based on the results of a survey conducted at Foothill College.

Room 107

Andrew Pimentel

City College of San Francisco
Mentor: Jeffrey Liss

From Apology to Apostasy

A Literary History of Christianity in Japan

An analysis of the fiction of Ryunosuke Akutagaway, revealing insights into the failure of the missionary efforts in 16th and 17th century Japan.

Kelsey Hensley

American River College
Mentor: Joshua Weiner

The Ramayana: A Feminist Approach

An illustration of the link between feminine repression in the Ramayana and historical Indian patriarchy.

Marie Efira

Foothill College
Mentor: Kathryn Maurer

The Saturday Oil Pressers

A presentation of an old cantor's tale of a rare story of peaceful assimilation and preserved Jewish identity on the Western coast of India

Room 202

Richard Cappel

American River College
Mentor: David Lopez

A Matter of Life and Death

A discussion of the materialist theory of consciousness informed by the biology of decision-making and the philosophy of freedom.

Ronald Aaron Bola
Sharon Syau

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Kay Ryals

Learning from Mistakes

Acknowledging Fallibility in Medicine

An exploration of medical errors as seen by doctors themselves and outside observers.

Noimee Lasat
Aruna Singh

Skyline College
Mentor: Melissa Michelitsch

From Dirt to Diamonds

A presentation of research testing San Bruno soil for cellulolytic bacteria to discover its potential as a biofuel.

Room 217

Ann Lawani

Los Medanos College
Mentor: Liana Padilla-Wilson

Big Love, African Style

An evaluation of the practice of polygamy by Nigerian immigrants in the United States.

Rashin Parsa

Skyline College
Mentor: Katharine Harer

Gypsies of Tehran

An examination of the lack of education among the gypsies of Tehran illustrated through an original documentary video and personal interviews.

Dishan Jones

Los Medanos College
Mentor: Liana Padilla-Wilson

Saved by the Sea

The Overlooked Stories of America's Black Pirates

An exploration of the African American pirate maritime culture as an escape from bondage during America's colonial period.

Room 219

Silvia Casanova

Modesto Junior College

Mentor: Bill Anelli

Zen Emptiness

A Groundless Ground for Social Justice?

A discussion of the apparent paradox between the Dogen-based Soto Zen concept of emptiness and the desirability of social activism.

Aaron Thiele

College of the Redwoods

Mentor: George Potamianos

Abuses of the Cloth

Ingmar Bergman's *The Seventh Seal*

An analysis of the differing interpretations of Bergman's 1957 film, with an emphasis on his critique of organized religion

Merhawi Ghebrecristos

Citrus College

Mentor: Senya Lubisich

Virtue: The Axial for an Upright Society

An examination of the great thinkers of ancient times, illustrating how a lack of virtue creates an imbalance in society.

Room 303

Elizabeth Johnstone-Miller

City College of San Francisco

Mentor: Edgar Torres

17th and 18th Century Spanish Baroque Churches of Mexico

A historic and stylistic analysis of the creative and extravagant Spanish churches in Mexico.

Daphne Ruiz

Fullerton College

Mentor: Julie Pearce

Pigment Privilege

Intraracial Colorism in Mexican Culture

An examination of Casta paintings to correlate colonialism with the institutionalization of colorism in modern Mexican society.

Lisbet Hernandez

Cosumnes River College

Mentor: Georgine Hodgkinson

El Mensaje de Mitt Romney

An analysis of the Romney Presidential campaign commercials, exposing the differences in content and meaning between the Spanish and English versions.

Maikeli Dennis

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Lynne Miller

Blood, Ink and Tradition

An analysis of Polynesian tattooing in the South Pacific, comparing environmental factors and cultural values in two distinctly separate cultural groups - the Maori of New Zealand and Samoan.

Trevor McManis

Modesto Junior College
Mentor: Theron Westrope

Is Home Where the Heart Is?

An investigation of the identity crisis of Peruvians and Brazilians of Japanese descent.

Kotaro Matsumoto

Cabrillo College
Mentor: Letitia Scott-Curtis

Applying Content-based Instruction in Teaching Japanese

A review of Japanese language teachers in the United States to evaluate the use of cultural content in theory and practice.



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Session III Presentations

1:15-2:15 p.m.

All presenters and attendees are expected to arrive no later than 1:15 p.m. and stay for the entire session. Please refrain from entering the room once the session is in progress.

Room 13

Sean Collins
City College of San Francisco
Mentor: John Oakes

Questioning Authority in Chaucer's "Wife of Bath"

An exploration of notions of aesthetic individuation, subjectivity and self-determination.

Madeline Gerlach
American River College
Mentor: Christian Kiefer

As Chaste, As True
Conflict of Gender Roles in *Othello* and *The Winter's Tale*
A discussion of two married couples who serve as an Elizabethan model of masculine honor as defined by female sexuality and fidelity.

Hannah Nichols
MiraCosta College
Mentor: Tony Burman

From Miguel Cervantes to Stephen Colbert
An analysis of the appeal of performance parody as a means of political criticism.

Room 15

Donald Dean
Alexandra Mezouari
Kimberly Holmes
MiraCosta College
Mentor: Bob Turner

Rising China
An analysis of the long-term effects of China's aggressive economic policies on the economic balance between the two countries.

Sarah Kay
Skyline College
Mentor: Jeff Diamond

The Tipping Point of Arab Spring
An application of the rules of social epidemiology in Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point* to the popular social movements of Arab Spring.

Room 105

Lien Gray

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Christopher Sleeper

Hidden In Plain Sight

An inquiry into the African presence and origins of racial differentiation in Renaissance Europe.

Miles Stanley

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Lesley Doig

True Sons of Liberty

Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Marquis de Lafayette
A presentation of the unique and inspired plans for emancipation proposed by two European men after the American Revolution.

Cedar Green

Cabrillo College
Mentor: Michael Mangin

British Neutrality During the American Civil War

An investigation into why Great Britain remained diplomatically neutral throughout the duration of the Civil War.

Room 107

Wesley Chan

Cabrillo College
Mentor: Michael Mangin

Is This Slice of Rubber Really Worth \$100?

An examination of whether minimalist running shoes enhance a runner's performance -- or is the improvement a result of the placebo effect?

Dennis Lee

Mt. San Antonio College
Mentor: John Brantingham

How To Control Our Economy

A discussion of the way in which fiscal and monetary policies can work together in the American economy to attain price stability, relatively full employment and a satisfactory rate of economic growth.

Andrew Davis

Cañada College
Mentor: Paul Roscelli

Everything Midas Touched Turned To Paper

An investigation into the advantages of the gold standard for a stable economy.

Room 201

Elizabeth Barcelos

West Valley College
Mentor: Julie Maia

Chasing Saudade

An examination of the use of saudade in the translation techniques of “Mar Portuguez” and “O Infante”, two poems by Fernando Pessoa, from Portuguese into English.

Jessica Sankus

American River College
Mentor: Dierdre Wolownick

The Poetry of Translation

An exploration of the translatability of poetry and the difficulty of maintaining the autonomy of the original language, tone and connotations of a work.

Room 202

Jenoah Timko

College of San Mateo
Mentors: David Laderman &
Minu Mathur

For Better or For Worse

Questioning Marriage From A Queer Perspective

An investigation of differing opinions within the queer community about marriage, and how heteronormativity affects assimilation into mainstream society.

Deanna Badong

Skyline College
Mentor: Katharine Harer

Sustainable Happiness

How Consumerism Depletes Our Earth and Our Happiness

An analysis of the unsustainable habits of America’s young adults that strain the Earth’s limited resources.

Emily Osborne

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Lynne Miller

An Evolutionary Perspective on Loneliness

An examination of loneliness as a necessary biological adaptation that motivates human beings toward social resolution.

Room 217

Tulsi Solanki

Skyline College
Mentor: Nickolas Kapp

Kombucha and Cancer

A presentation of research investigating the positive correlation between Kombucha concentration exposure and cancer cell death.

Sam Pingdewinde

City College of San Francisco
Mentor: Chantilly Apollon

The Effect of Ethanol on Zebrafish Heart Rate

A study of ethanol, one of the most widely used depressant drugs, showing impacts on zebrafish heart rates similar to the effects of alcohol on humans.

Erin Slattery

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Lynne Miller

Nanofibers in Human Tissue?

A presentation of the use of biomaterials in the cutting-edge field of regenerative medicine.

Room 219

Maryam Khan

Skyline College
Mentor: Ilkka Koskelo

The Revolving Pendulum

A Study of Harmonic Motion

An investigation into the applications and behavior of driven harmonic systems and their importance for our daily lives.

David Buickian

Glendale Community College
Mentor: Marcus Afshar

Efficiently Filtering RFID Data Streams

A discussion of why data stream filtering is a necessary component of RFID systems in order to provide the backend system with refined data.

Gabriel Denham

Skyline College
Mentor: Kacey Meaker

Straintronics and the Unique Properties of Graphene

A presentation of research into the properties and the viability of graphene as a potential substitute for silicon in computers and electronics.

Room 303

Vincent Hoeschen

Los Medanos College
Mentor: Kasey Gardner

The Few, The Proud

Does Military Recruitment Rhetoric Reflect Reality?

A comparison of first hand experiences of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan with military recruitment messages.

John Neveu

City College of San Francisco
Mentor: Lillian Marrujo-Duck

The Crash of a C-46: Tail Number 41-12420

An examination of the experiences of the men who served in the rarely talked about China-Burma-India theatre of war.

Nicholas Potts

Modesto Junior College
Mentor: Eva Mo

My Lai, Your Lie

An exposé of the structural dehumanization of the “enemy”, Vietnamese citizens by the United States military during the Vietnam War.

Room 305

Jasmine Schwab-Doyle
Sophia Vozniouk

Irvine Valley College
Santa Monica College
Mentor: Brittany Adams

Las Mujeres Que Bailan

A presentation of feminist culture within the Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin religious and mystic practices -- from the beginning of the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the present.

Candita Wager
Nathan Monahelis
Christopher Budiman
Alix Darrow

Las Positas College
Mentor: Candace Klaschus

Clarifying the Synesthetic Experience

A discussion of the neurological condition of synesthesia and a performance of an original string quartet by a synesthete composer.



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