



Math 329 Instructor, Rob Komar and student, Andrew Gleeson at Fall 2013 research showcase

Image by Tim Maxwell

## NEWS

### Honors Students Showcase Their Research

*Written by Laila Talpur  
Edited by Dee Dee Pickard*

On Tuesday, December 17, 2013, the three fall semester seminars, Math 329, English 329, and Physics 329, came together at The Honors Project Showcase. The event hosted humanities poster boards juxtaposed with science poster boards. Students eagerly presented poster boards of their five-month research to fellow peers. The unique poster presentations exemplified to CSM faculty and students the diversity of student intellect that Honors has to offer.

*Contd. on pg 4*

### Honors Scholars Steal The Show!

*Written by Elena Roldan  
Edited by Laila Talpur*

On December 17th 2013, the Fall 2013 Honors Project Showcase marked a historic moment for the College of San Mateo. Completing successful back-to-back

semesters at CSM, Honors Project students Rupinderpal Singh Grewal and Soroush Badieli became CSM's first ever Honors Project Scholars.

The Honors Program at the College of San Mateo consists of some of the most driven and hardworking students on campus. In order to graduate from the program, students must successfully complete three honors course

seminars, submit three honors papers, and accumulate a minimum of twelve Honors Option Points.

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Dee Dee Pickard

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It's February!

Again, the honors community is in full swing as we start off the spring semester. If you look carefully, you'll find find honors students in every corner of the CSM campus -- writing proposals for upcoming research projects, revising abstracts to submit to the 7th annual Honors Research Symposium, organizing The Project's club events, and participating in lively academic discussions. You might even catch one of us napping on the couch in the honors lounge between classes! We know this honors business is not for the faint of heart, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

As the Honors Project grows in numbers, we've been so fortunate to include a group of outstanding newcomers who will, no doubt, impress with their honors-level research projects at the end of the semester. The veterans among us are excited to induct these new Honors Project Participants, and concurrently congratulate our two Honors Project Scholars (read on to hear more!).

The production of the second edition of *The Labyrinth* has certainly kept the editorial staff on their toes and, I especially have been looking forward to presenting the culmination of last semesters research to the CSM community. The projects which came from such strong, imaginative thinkers were a community effort. We truly collaborated on the process -- lending support, giving critiques and forging friendships along the way. I am so proud to be a part of the Honors Project community and I hope you will find in these pages, as much reason to celebrate our accomplishments as I have.

Happy reading!

Dee Dee Pickard  
Editor-in-Chief

### *Correction:*

*The Labyrinth staff would like to offer our sincerest apologies to Lukas Fragodt whose name was incorrectly spelled in the Spotlight piece in the December edition.*

Grewal, continuing his 6th and final semester at CSM, having taken the Physics 329 and Math 329 with Professor Janatpour and English 329 with Professor Maxwell, as well as having accumulated over fourteen Honors Option Points, reflects back on his journey through the honors program, “There is a tremendous amount of knowledge I have gained from the honors program...I feel better equipped to tackle any kind of research assignment. After doing research for three semesters on three very different topics, I have learned a lot on researching a topic and taking advantage of the resources available to me.” Grewal, offering advice to incoming and continuing honors students, pleads, “Stay on top of your research and the writing component of your research...The program is built in a way that you cannot start writing your paper the night before it is due and do a good job on it. You have to spend time researching your topic to really understand what you are trying to argue in your paper. The sooner you start, the sooner you finish which means that you will have more time to refine and make a robust argument through your paper.” Grewal welcomingly addresses incoming Honors Project students, “Congratulations for joining the honors program. You have made a decision you will not regret later!”

Badiei, also continuing his 6th and final semester at CSM, having taken the Physics 329, Math 329 and English 329 Seminars, and having accumulated over fourteen Honors Option Points, offers his advice to interested honors project students, “Join honors for the right reason. Join because you want to learn. Join because you desire knowledge, not recognition. Join because you want to push yourself.”

The Labyrinth staff gives this message of congratulations to Rupinderpal Singh Grewal and Soroush Badiei: “An exemplary pair, we look forward to watching your successes unfold in your future academic and professional endeavors.”

## Honors Homecoming: Orientation of Spring Semester Seminars

*Written By Melissa Khoo  
Edited by Laila Talpur*



On the penultimate Friday of January, the Honors Project had its first weekly meeting of the Spring 2014 semester. Veterans and newbies alike, approximately twenty honor students in total attended the orientation meeting. The meeting was lead by Honors Project coordinators, Professor Tim Maxwell and Professor David Laderman. In attendance were veteran foundation instructor Professor Leighton Armitage and two counselors from the CSM counseling department, Jesenia Diaz and Kathy Sammut who spoke to the new members about the importance, especially for honors students, of creating an SEP.

The professors provided general information on the honors project, and described the benefits of being an honors student. Additionally, returning honors students answered questions and gave words of wisdom to first-time members about their experiences. There was an enthusiastic, and vibrant atmosphere in the room. Overall, the meeting was successful and informative. Plus, everybody was provided with delicious cookies and sodas! Now that the students are well informed about the basics, they are ready to embark on this academic journey.



The Honors Project's first two honors scholars, Rupinder pal Singh Grewal (left), and Soroush Badiei (right)

*Images by Laila Talpur*



# What Is The Project?

Written by Ivonne Fajardo

Edited by Laila Talpur

The Honors Project gives students an amazing opportunity to conduct independent research based on a field they are interested in. During the first few semesters, honors students were lacking direction as to how they should use the Honors Project as a tool to further their scholastic progress. They decided something needed to be done to change this, and with the help of Professor Tim Maxwell, several motivated honors students created **The Project**. The Project club meetings regularly take place Fridays from 2 pm to 3 pm in the Honors Lounge in building 10. The Project isn't strictly centered around The Honors Project, but it also is a club where each student can progress academically, artistically, and socially.

Although the club faced a few bumps in the road during its first semester, The Project has come a long way and it's members are now ready to make this an amazing second semester! The club plans to host events such as beach clean-ups, fundraisers, water fights, obstacle

courses and much more. The club members have realized the importance of creating a tight knit community on campus and want to provide that community for fellow students. Additionally, the club is striving to make as many resources available to students as possible. The club is in the process of compiling lists of scholarship, internship, and symposium opportunities for all students no matter what he or she is studying. The Project is also actively applying for grants that would provide scholarships for its members. Lastly, the club is finding different ways to fund all of these amazing opportunities so that they may be available for little or no charge.

The life of a college student isn't always fun, but the Honors Project gives its members license to explore their academic passions in an exciting and innovative way. The Project club helps honors students connect and have fun during this process. Anyone is welcome to join, even those who are not in the Honors Project!



*Honors Students Showcase Their Research Continued from page 1*

Student Angel Ma Fu of the Honors Project said, "Whether you enjoy science, humanities or arts, the showcase is an excellent place where you can gain a wide variety of knowledge about new topics that are being explored." After the poster board presentations, the evening progressed into speeches by the program's first-ever Honors Scholars, Rupinderpal Singh Grewal and Soroush Badiei. Following these speeches, students elected from the English and Physics seminars presented their research to the audience. Presentation topics ranged from predicting fashion trends to the Copernican Revolution and the colonization of Jupiter's Moon Europa. Although the refreshments were plenty, nothing compared to the food-for-thought provided by the honors students that night. The showcase was a memorable concluding chapter to the Fall Semester seminars and a great introduction to new honors students.



The Project Club



# Mohsen's Back!

Written By Elena Roldan  
Edited By Laila Talpur

Mohsen Jantapour's  
Physics 329 Seminar

Image by  
Timothy Maxwell

Mohsen Jantapour is a professor loved by many honors students. Having taught three consecutive honors project seminars, including the Physics 329 and the Math 329 seminar, Professor Jantapour is known for his witty intelligence, artistic capacity and charming sense of humor. A man of extreme dedication to his students, Jantapour has a reputation for never missing lectures, but on December 2, 2013, his dedication was put to the test. Bending over to pick up a dropped sock, Jantapour suddenly felt a sharp pain run down the back of his spine. Requiring immediate medical attention, he was rushed to the hospital. Doctors concluded he had ruptured a disk between his third and fourth lumbar section, causing the shooting pain in his back and the loss of control over one of his legs.

Doctors urged Jantapour to undergo emergency surgery the following day. Unwilling to abandon his students at such a critical time in their research, Jantapour, against doctor's wishes, asked to schedule a surgery the following week. Jantapour assigned substitute instruction for his regular classes, but suffered through severe pain in order to give the last of his lectures in the Physics 329 seminar. Defending his choices, Jantapour explains, "The other classes, I could send somebody to do it, but honors class is so personalized, and I had worked with each



individual. There's nothing that anybody could have done." When asked for an explanation behind his tenacious performance, Jantapour stated, "Whenever you do something, you need to do it with dedication, otherwise why do it?" Professor Jantapour's willful and fighting attitude embodies the definition of passion, a hallmark of the Honors Project.

His care for and dedication to his students is a trait to be admired by all. Through his continued physical therapy, Professor Jantapour feels better every day and is on the road to a full recovery.

## Spotlight On: Rupinder Bajwa

Edited by Divi Kumar

**TL: How did you become interested in the Honors Project?:**

RB: Well, I became interested in the honors project after hearing about the program through a friend who had participated in it. Also, when I was walking past the Honors Project office in building 10 and I happened to stumble across a flyer. The thing on the flyer that really caught my eye was the text talking about the project allowing students to realize their true potential.



**TL: What topic are you thinking of researching?**

RB: One potential topic I may be researching on is the financial benefits and faults of piracy. This idea directly came from my seminar class with Dr. Laderman. During a

discussion about copying the group ended up bringing up the issue on piracy. After the discussion I realized that this topic may be a good fit for my subject matter and would be an extremely fascinating thing to research. However, I am still brainstorming various topic ideas and will be looking at ones that closely match up with the seminar I am taking on remix and my foundation course, Microeconomics.

**TL: What do you hope to gain from the honors project?**

RB: I hope to gain immense knowledge both pertaining to my subject matter and my research topic. I also hope to gain valuable skills that I can take with me when I transfer to a University and onto my later life. I believe this project will help me reach my potential and give me the necessary knowledge to continue to break barriers.

**TL: How will the project help you become a better and more competitive student?**

RB: Undergoing such a rigorous, but riveting research assignment, I believe will help mold my motivation and perseverance in all my work, giving me the leg up against my competition.

# And We Propose...

## Some abstracts submitted to the Honors Research Symposium

### Enzymatic Fuel Cells - Powering our Planet with Sugar

By Ivonne Fajardo

Dependence on fossil fuels has caused irreversible environmental damage and, if left unchecked, will continue to worsen. Although most attention has gone to solar, wind, and hydro energy, organizations such as Sony and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute have made great developments in harnessing energy from organic compounds. These devices are referred to as enzymatic fuel cells or bio-batteries, and can harness energy from common substances such as glucose. A comparison between designs from both company's batteries reveal functionality and overall efficiency differences that are greatly impacted based on the purpose they serve. Furthermore, because the most efficient applications have proven to be military and consumer goods, an in depth mathematical and environmental analysis of their performance in these fields demonstrates advantages to our current power sources. Lastly, these analyses give quantitative proof of the depth of impact they will make on our energy consumption.

### Camera Industrialization: Visual Aesthetics and Visual Thinking

By Laila Talpur

Visuals have been embedded in human culture since its origins, from cave paintings to Renaissance paintings to the development of photographs to film-making. With each new means of artistic expression have come new forms of visual thought. My research explores the art of cinematography by analyzing the three turning points in the movie camera's industrialization: the primitive Kinetograph, the three-strip Technicolor, and the 3D Red Epic Camera. The optics involved in these movie cameras and how they have been vital to an understanding of the mechanics of movie cameras is crucial to an understanding of the evolution of visual aesthetics in film. The optical quality of film produced by this technological movement has directly impacted our conceptual systems by manifesting a new type of visual thought. The advancement of film technology and visuals begs the question: Are ever improving visuals in films really getting filmmakers any closer to representing reality?



### The Real cost of Time: An Analysis of Acceleration on Fuel Emissions

By Divi Kumar

Every day countless drivers speed aggressively, in hopes of saving their precious time. However, in doing so, they emit immense amounts of harmful greenhouse gases into the environment. My paper analyzes the affects of acceleration on emission, presenting a model for an optimal driving style that can drastically minimize the emissions of a vehicle. In my research I emphasize how non-aggressive driving is more efficient by illustrating the effects of acceleration on the fuel emissions of a vehicle. Further, I utilize a VT-Meso model, created by Virginia Tech University, to derive a relationship between acceleration and fuel emissions. The model estimates fuel consumption and emission rates using, the average speed, the stops per unit distance, and the average stop duration. Aggressive driving emits approximately 400% more pollutants into the environment, in contrast to non-aggressive driving. My research proves that a minor shift in people's driving style can alter the fate of the planet.

### The Goldstein Effect

By Samantha Trump

I will explore recent developments regarding the revelations of the NSA's mass surveillance program, investigating the negative effects of government propaganda and other measures that have targeted the ideologies and heroes of the digital revolution in a concerted effort to disable it. Mass surveillance, I will argue, is not the path to national security as the government claims; in fact, it is a direct infringement of Americans' basic human rights. The "whistleblowers" who have spoken out --such as Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning, and Julian Assange-- are labeled as traitors and have been forced to live not only in fear but in exile as a result of the U.S. government's actions. I propose that the uprising of political entities such as the Wikileaks Party and Pirate Parties, who support direct democracy, copyright reform, freedom of information and transparency are not, in fact, enemies of peace but instead a product of necessity. who can peacefully lead us to a world not dictated by the fear of an invasive government.

## Predicting Fashion Trends: Plotting the Future of Fashion

By Elena Roldan

Fashion trends represent society as a whole; how society thinks, feels, and acts. Predicting future fashion trends assists in the prediction of future anthropological trends. Answering the question, "Can fashion trends be predicted?," my paper calculates and plots American female fashion trends of the twentieth century in order to predict future fashion trends of American women in the twenty-first century. Using methods of applied calculus and trigonometry, trends in the length of women's hemlines and trends in the height of women's heels are calculated and predicted. I predict a rise in hemline lengths in the decade of the 2010s, and I predict a fluctuation of hemline lengths throughout the twenty-first century; additionally, I predict an increase in the height of heels throughout the twenty-first century, and I predict patterned fluctuations of heel heights throughout the twenty-first century. Utilizing these predictions of fashion trends, the future of American societal norms can be known and understood.



## The Man and Story Behind the Revolution in South Africa

By Bernie Leung

Why do revolutions happen, where do they happen, and when do they happen? According to Eric Selbin, revolutions are made possible through stories of "revolution, resistance, and rebellion," and "central to this is the recognition of the myth and memory of revolution and of the power of mimesis for the mobilization and sustenance of revolutionary activity." How, then, did activists change the oppressive "story of the moment" during the apartheid regime in South Africa? I will examine how the Apartheid story enabled the Afrikaner minority population to keep some thirty million majority black inhabitants down. How did Nelson Mandela manage to change the narrative, become an icon, and rewrite the story, thus ending apartheid and becoming the first black president of South Africa? I will be analyzing how "story" explains why revolution was not possible in South Africa without Nelson Mandela, the storyteller, the icon, and the revolutionary leader.

## Self-Understanding: A Metaphorical Construction

By Branden Ocon

The fundamental question the paper sought to answer: how individuals understand cognitive reality and how that affects the interpretation of future self. The methodology I used to conduct the research was both qualitative and quantitative. I reference multiple publications and video seminars from linguistic expert George P. Lakoff, support Lakoff's work with technical analysis of cognition from neuro-scientists and psychologists, and form an objective hypothesis based upon the given information. I then used that hypothesis to better understand and reshape my metaphorical constructions to develop a better understanding of reality and conception of future self. The results are conclusive; complex metaphors are used to connect conceptual images within the mind to innate human emotion, thus forming human experience and our understanding of reality.

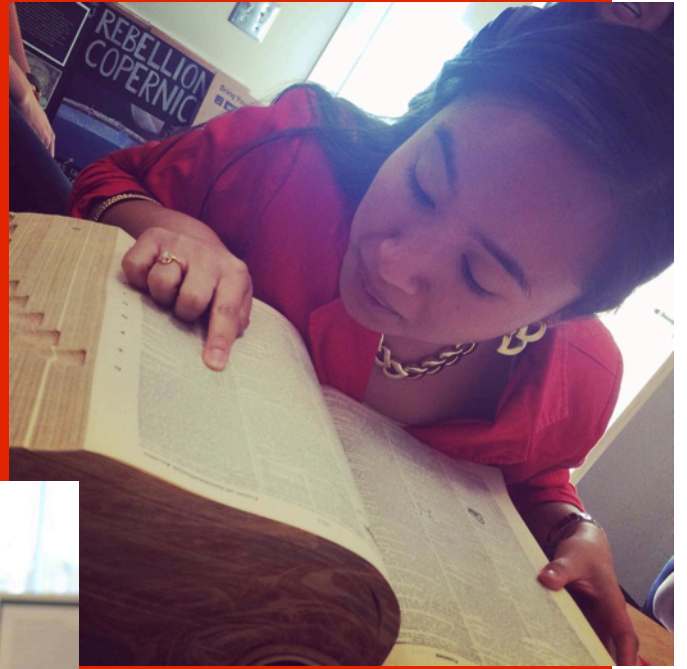
## Rebellion Against Copernicus: The Search for the Center of the Universe in Europa's Subsurface Ocean

By Dee Dee Pickard

The metaphor *man is the center of the universe* has been the most significant influence upon man's identity since the conception of humankind. Though the custom toward centrality has been challenged many times throughout history, it stands to be disintegrated entirely as plans to colonize other worlds become a more realistic possibility. How are emerging astronomical technologies threatening the fundamental identity of man? Through my reflection upon recent Galileo mission data and my exploration of Europa's origins in the Copernican revolution, I have shown that the human race rebels against the demise of the center-of-the-universe myth and the sense of insignificance that ensues. I discuss the consequences of human remotion and conclude that otherworldly human colonies would provoke the greatest revolution in the history of man's existence, not because of inevitable changes to cultural and physical life, but because it would lead to discoveries which would collapse the human identity.

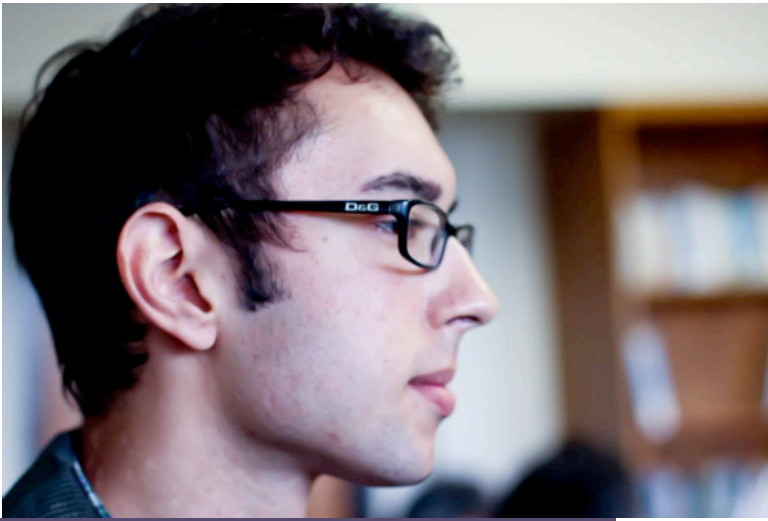


# MOMENTS









## Who Needs Water, Anyway?

*Written By Robert Cecchi  
Edited By Eleni Jacobsn*

We're in a drought, haven't you heard? While I've been clamoring for somebody to shut the water to Los Angeles off for years now, it turns out nature has gone ahead and done it by slapping our state with the lowest levels of precipitation we've had in nearly 500 years, so say the experts. As our

reservoir pools continue to shallow and our faucets run dry, some are demanding we enact serious statewide water restrictions in order to conserve what little we have left. To them I ask: Should we really be forced to sacrifice our freedoms for just a little bit of water? America was basically founded on forty five minute showers and wet T-shirt contests; this notion of spreading around the water wealth is about as un-American as drowning a bald eagle in a sticky vat of communism. Already I've received numerous complaints regarding my completely benign behavior of relaxing to the tranquil sounds of all of my bathtubs running after a hard day's work, and I am outraged. If we give in to these proposals, who knows

*Robert Cecchi photos by Laila Talpur*



what liberties will be under attack next. Only one flush per go? I don't think so.

It's not like the water has completely disappeared or anything; the north-western states seem to be getting so much H<sub>2</sub>O action they're practically part of the Pacific. Seems pretty suspicious to me. Perhaps they're stealing our rain; I certainly wouldn't expect anything better from a place like Portland. I'll

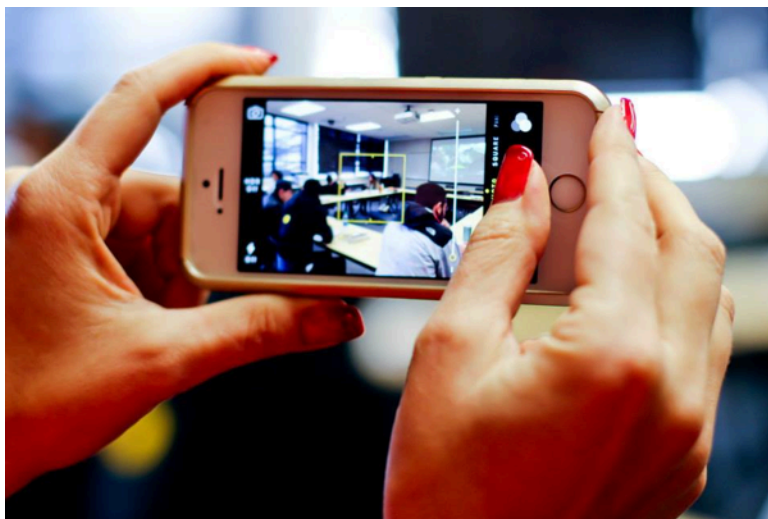
bet they were feeling moody and wanted to set the right atmosphere for chain smoking cigarettes to repeat listens of Neutral Milk Hotel. Those hipsters. Look scientists, I know romance isn't your game but you're making us look desperate here; if we're ever going to win our water back we've got to play the game. When we see a beautiful pair of curvy nimbus clouds strutting their stuff all over the Pacific, the least attractive thing we can do is get all hot and flustered over the slightest chance of getting our tongues wet. I'm looking at you weather guy. The "professionals"



making such a huge fuss about water supplies being “completely gone” and their crops being “dead” have it all wrong; nobody likes a crybaby. Instead, we ought to keep it cool by downplaying how thirsty we are. We look the other way, kick it with the ‘fellas’ for a weekend, and definitely wait three or more days before making any steamy weather predictions we’re going to regret. The storms will come around eventually.

But honestly, why even bother making an effort at all when somebody (probably from Portland) has already decided to turn California into a post-apocalyptic wasteland. I hope you had your favorite superhero power already picked out because when the plumes of radiation emanating from Japan’s Fukushima reactor begin to hit our shores and kill off what remains of our vegetation following the drought, all the good powers will already have been chosen. Sorry champ, my buddy Garry already locked in on Cyclops’ sweet laser eyes, but if there’s a guy on the X-Men team with super-leukemia you can totally be him. At this point I say we might as well embrace our inevitable waterless, mutant-infested, Road Warrior-esque desert future. And thanks in part to the head start our food industry’s diligent efforts to evolve our bodies into functioning solely off high fructose corn syrup have already given us, the transition might not even be all that difficult. Wasteland or not, I wouldn’t worry about it.

It’s just water.



## Let’s Be Hannest Here...

*Written by Hanna Haddad  
Edited by Dee Dee Pickard*

For those of us applying to transfer to private colleges, now is a stressful time. Juggling a myriad of admissions essays, scholarship and internship applications, classwork, club responsibilities, and extra-curriculars seems quite inhumane and a wee bit ridiculous. Knowing this, I come to you with a nugget of advice: be bold. Bold, you say? How on earth will that help? How on earth will it solve my issues?

Well, to be blunt, boldness alone is not enough.

But, when you’re “selling” yourself to school admissions counselors, teachers and potential employers, being bold can quickly set you apart from the crowd. All too often, we conform to expectations. To a certain degree, doing so can be useful. However, when compared to others, you need to stand out.

Put yourself in the place of say, an admissions officer. Do you

really want to be reading another essay about how your great-grandfather “fostered” your desire to become a mathematics major? Yawn. Instead, make an effort to be quirky, interesting, and fun, while still remaining dignified and respectable.

Avoid clichés. Avoid colloquialisms. Avoid terminology that might even suggest conformity unless, of course, it’s important to the readers. Avoid flower-words. And yes, I made up this term. Flower-words are words that in essence mean nothing; they certainly don’t get to the root cause of your motivation. Take this sentence for instance: “I strive to become a valuable and important asset for my community.” Sure, it’s nice and all, but what on earth does it mean? To the reader it doesn’t show motivation or passion. It is not bold, and therein lies the problem.



Common to most all successful people is boldness and uniqueness. They, to some degree, know themselves. They’ve cultivated what they’re good at and enjoy. Perhaps, take some time to reflect this week, and think, “Do I appear boring? How can I appear interesting? How can I make myself stand out from others?” That alone, I would say, is more than enough to take you wherever your ambitions may lie.

Find your niche and live it.

## Internship with the CoFC

Written By Hanna Haddad  
Edited By Dee Dee Pickard



A political science major, interested in government, Hanna Haddad began looking for a way to get involved interning for the city of Foster City. He'd heard that paying jobs for the city were lucrative but difficult to get. However, Haddad thought there might be room for someone interested in a volunteer opportunity. Haddad emailed the City Clerk and after anxiously awaiting a response, the clerk's deputy invited Haddad in for an interview. He was offered a position as an intern and soon began assisting with office and clerical duties.

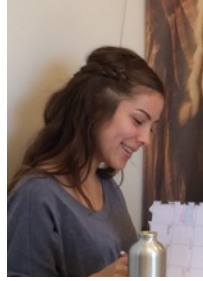
As time passed, his supervisors noticed Haddad's ambition and asked him if he wanted to work more hours. Haddad was eager to meet the challenge; he felt he was getting important work experience in the field. After he had gotten settled in, Haddad took on the project of working on the new city website for the City Clerk Department. Later, through a lucky coincidence, a clerical assistant position opened up and because of the initiative that he showed, Haddad was promoted from volunteer to clerical assistant, an official City of Foster City position.

While he worked officially as a City Clerk Department employee, Haddad supported HR and Finance Departments. His tasks included processing incoming and outgoing mail, typing up handwritten minutes, processing paperwork, processing finance transactions at the front desk, and updating the City Legislation database. Because he worked so closely with a number of government employees, Haddad gained a better understanding of the local government and this motivated him to continue working toward positions in higher government offices.

In his words, he engaged in a great deal of "monotonous, mundane tasks", but overall, he viewed it as a great experience. When asked about his favorite part Haddad said it was sitting at the front desk and processing the finance transactions. He found that although it was incredibly nerve-racking, there was something utterly fascinating to handle official city business. Haddad recounts, "At the end of the day, I got a fantastic work experience, plenty of new connections in the city that I live in, and most important, the motivation and desire to make my dreams come true."

## Living the Dream

Written by Linda Olmos  
Edited by Dee Dee Pickard



Since she was little, Linda Olmos dreamed of having a career in the media. After months of persistent emails to Jenna Holmes, Wild 94.9's street team's Party Crew promotions coordinator, Olmos

finally got the chance to sample the field.

Through her unique internship, Olmos attends concerts, store openings, tailgate games, parades, and events with the Party Crew. While setting up the Wild tent, giving prizes away, taking pictures, and interacting with listeners, Olmos gets the chance to practice her communication skills. Specifically, the internship emphasizes the importance of staying current in the world of social networking because it is an essential component of the field.

In addition to the experience she gains on the streets interacting with her community, Olmos's internship for Wild 94.9 has given her the chance to meet many influential people. Josie Untalan, a promotions driver, who began as an intern, motivated Olmos with her keen eye for detail. Untalan guided Olmos with meaningful advice and welcomed her into the community.

When both Nessa and Katrina B, two on air jocks, took Olmos under their wing and welcomed her to move her talents into the studio, Olmos excitedly embraced the opportunity. Spending time in the studio gave Olmos an inside perspective on the life of a radio jock and a job in the media.

Nessa, a Wild 94.9 jock and MTV personality on the show, "Girl Code", has become Olmos's greatest role model. Nessa is a Berkeley graduate and has an interest in political science. Similar to other jocks, Nessa also started out as an intern for the radio station. Her background story inspires Olmos every day to not only follow her dream, but pursue her dream school. Currently, Olmos is studying at CSM, planning to transfer to a four-year institution, and aspiring to double major in political science and communications. Although Olmos has a wide range of interests, she yearns for the opportunity to share her voice and hopes to one day be a radio or television personality herself.

Olmos is thankful for the opportunities she's been given, and for her newfound academic support system. She feels motivated to pursue her dreams. When asked what she thinks, Olmos said, "I feel blessed."

# Be the Editor of Your Own Life

*Written By Timothy Maxwell  
Edited by Dee Dee Pickard*

By earning their HOPs--joining and creating clubs, taking leadership positions, going to academic conferences, and doing research that they'll present at the Honors Showcase--Honors Project students are both transforming themselves and making important contributions that are changing CSM's culture.

Certainly, students are keeping themselves busy, but staying busy--even with learning experiences--does not always result in deep learning. This often requires seizing the opportunity

to reflect, to think about oneself, one's thinking, and one's activities in a serious way.

Beginning this spring, the Honors Project, under the guidance of Tim Maxwell and others, will be piloting just such an opportunity--and a new way to earn HOPs: the e-portfolio.

An important trend in education, E-portfolios are websites featuring students' academic and extra-curricular endeavors-- the latest in academic networking. They provide students with the opportunity to

describe, reflect upon, and if students choose to promote their sites, advertise their achievements.

In addition to gaining perspective on themselves and their learning, students will benefit from having an easily accessible, visually appealing, and in-depth portrayal of their hard work and accomplishments.

Beginning in March, Maxwell will be holding workshops for those interested in participating in this pilot. The Honors Project community will be hearing more soon.



February 2014

COMING UP

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Abstract Workshop	8
9	10	11 Abstract Workshop	12	13	14	15
16 Symposium Abstracts Due	17	18	19 Club Day	20 Club Day	21	22
23	24	25	26 Hoover Archives Visit	27	28	

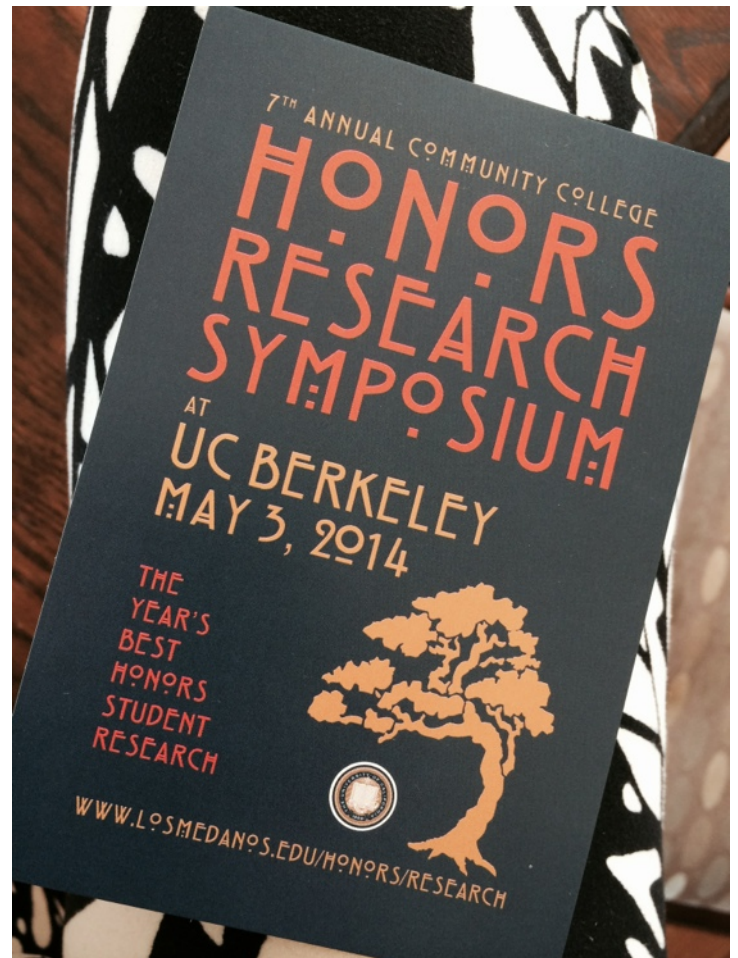


# 7th Annual Honors Research Symposium: UC Berkeley

Written by Samantha Trump  
Edited by Dee Dee Pickard

Although it feels as if spring semester has just begun, members of the CSM Honors Project are hitting the books in preparation for the 7th annual Honors Research Symposium, which will take place on May 3, 2014. At the end of this semester, Honors Project students will be given the opportunity to present their original undergraduate research in the Honors Symposium held at UC Berkeley. The goal of the symposium is to bring together Honors Students from community colleges who will not only present their innovative ideas but gain valuable insight and perspective of other like-minded individuals who share a passion for knowledge. Realizing that the pressing issues of today's society are presented in the research they conduct, the students reflect on the ethical responsibility they have to educate others.

At last year's 2013 Honors Research Symposium, held at Stanford, four CSM Honors Project students participated and presented their research projects. The presenters and their topics included Rupinderpal Singh Grewal with his project titled "Undocumented Workers in the U.S. Economy" (Faculty Mentors: Mohsen Janatpour and Steven Lehigh), Melody Mayer with "Torn Apart: The Struggle for Reunification in Mixed-Status Families" (Faculty Mentors: David Laderman & Minu Mathur), Susanna Faulds with "Methane Hydrate: Agent of Global Warming and New Source of Energy" (Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Janatpour), and Jenoa Timko with "For Better or Worse: Questioning Marriage from a Queer



Perspective" (Faculty Mentors: David Laderman & Minu Mathur). Three of four presenters had their research project published in *Think You?*, the online journal of the Bay Area Honors Consortium. One of the published students, Rupinderpal Singh Grewal, elaborates on his experience presenting on stage:

"The audience was very welcoming and I felt I was having an intellectual conversation with my peers rather than giving a presentation to an audience. Everyone was very eager to learn about my findings and my underlying argument through my findings. I was a little nervous before I started my presentation but once I got up and began presenting, I enjoyed every bit of it. It was an amazing experience!"

The 7th Annual Honors Research Symposium hopes to see new as well as returning students. Some proposals for this year's symposium include "Rebellion against Copernicus: The Search For the Center of the Universe in Europa's Subsurface Ocean" by Dee Dee Pickard, "Camera Industrialization: Visual Aesthetics and Visual Thinking" by Laila Talpur, and "Manipulation of the Masses: Unseen Mechanisms of Propaganda" by Samantha Trump.

Honors Students are strongly encouraged to be

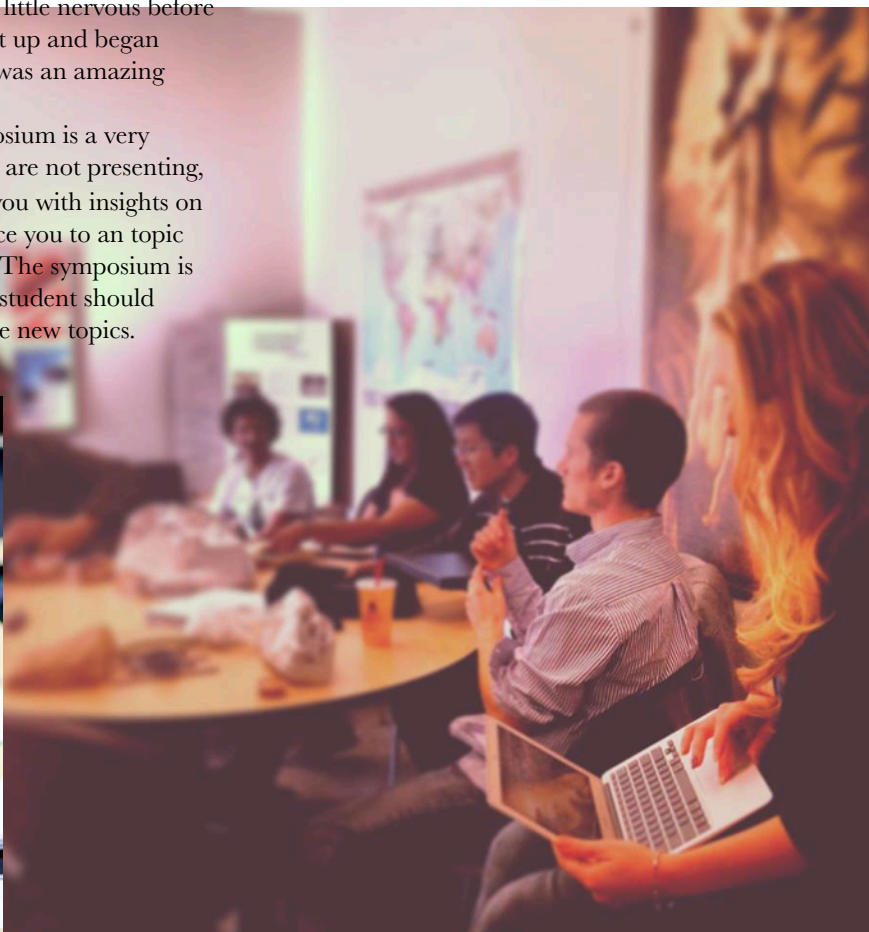
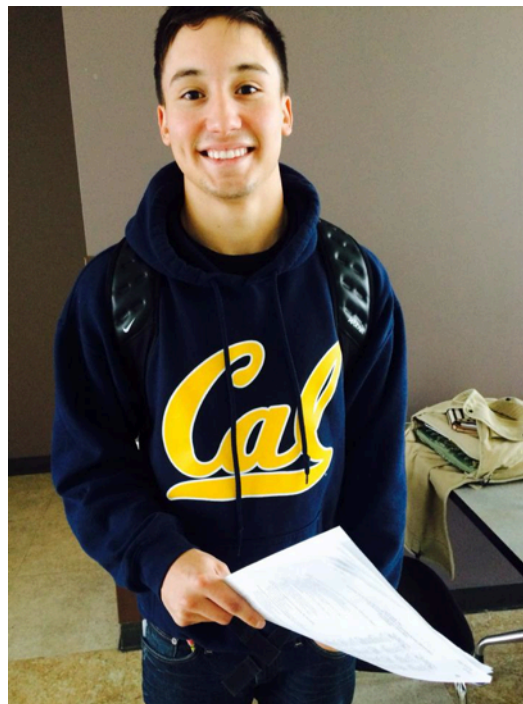
a part of the symposium experience even if they are not submitting a proposal. Interested parties should contact one of their honors coordinators for details. The deadline for students submitting proposals was February 16th. Best of luck to all who applied!

Reporting on his experience at the symposium last year, Grewal said:

Once I found out that I would be presenting at the symposium, I began working with Professor Maxwell to sharpen my presentation skills and make my powerpoint for the presentation. Because of the vast amount of research I had compiled for my paper, 15 minutes were not enough to present it all. So, Professor Maxwell advised me to only present my core argument with the most significant findings. After taking his advice, I made a draft of the powerpoint and once again met with Professor Maxwell to refine my powerpoint. I practiced my presentation in the communication lab multiple times to make it coherent. Overall, the whole preparation process helped me gain experience in making robust and coherent arguments through presentation.

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Being able to present at the symposium is a very rewarding opportunity and even if you are not presenting, attending the symposium will provide you with insights on doing research and it may also introduce you to a topic that you may want to explore yourself. The symposium is definitely something that every honors student should attend and take advantage of to explore new topics.





“Triangular numbers can be viewed as the sum of all numbers from 1 to n, which is known to be  $n(n+1)/2$ . Triangular numbers can be generalized to simplex numbers, which are analogous to triangular numbers in any dimension. Although some of the conclusions in my research have been known for centuries, I independently arrived at many of the results. This presentation describes the results, many of which can be shown through very elegant proofs and my journey to them. Because triangular numbers are a relatively unknown but not overly complicated area of mathematics, they present an ideal opportunity to start real mathematical thinking.”

-Andrew Gleeson



“In our solar system there are points in between planets where an object can reach equilibrium because the forces caused by astral bodies cancel each other out. These points are referred to as Lagrange points. My research concentrates on how some types of Lagrange points have been utilized by man to place stationary satellites to observe different aspects of our solar system. Other Lagrange points with different properties have allowed man to use them as launch pads to propel different types of machinery into space using only a small amount of fuel.”

-Ivonne Fajardo

“Transhumanism is a philosophy that advocates for the integration of science and technology into the human evolutionary process. My research paper, entitled, *Homo Divus: A Survey of the Transhumanist Domain*, argues that if one segment of the human population adopts transhuman technologies, the remaining proportion of the population will have an incentive to adopt transhuman technologies so as to remain competitive.

-Ryan Garrett



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