

Spring 2026

HONOR CODE MAGAZINE

Illuminating the Path to Success



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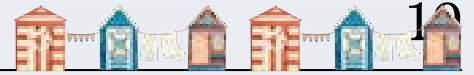
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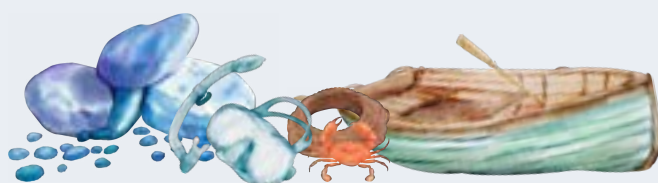
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MEET THE PRINT TEAM



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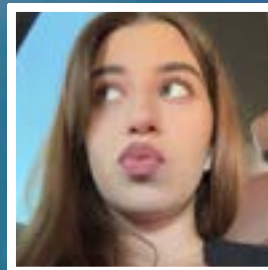
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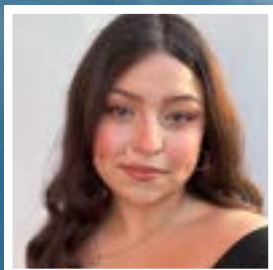
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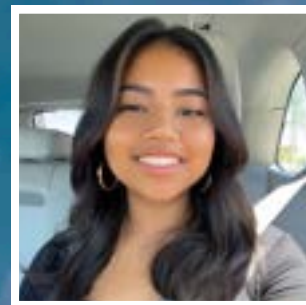
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A Message From The Editor-in-Chief



When I first joined Honor Code Magazine as a Staff Writer almost four years ago, I never knew I would one day be its Editor-In-Chief. At 18, I was apprehensively dipping my feet into the university tides. I was simply elated to be writing for an actual publication! — something I'd never done before. Honor Code Magazine was my first job and propelled me to myriad opportunities throughout the rest of my collegiate career.

At 22, on the precipice of graduation, I traveled the woods and waves of university to discover that I have truly lived. I've squeezed the fruit dry by accomplishing everything I never imagined I could or would. I'm encompassed on all sides by friends—be they peers, professors, and more—and I am grateful for them.

The lighthouse is a bastion of unbridled hope and strength—it is simultaneously our dreams, desires, and the light that urges us forward amidst the roar of the seastorm. In this issue, you'll navigate through stories of ambition, vulnerability, people finding and fostering their own light, and those who bravely dare challenge the silent status quo. Of people who never surrendered their journey of reaching their lighthouse.

After everything these past four years, I have taken solace and serenity at my lighthouse. The sand glitters like constellations beneath me, illuminated by the amber light. Yet, I see another light glimmering, peeking at me, in the distance. And a new boat lying in wait, buoyant on the eager waters.

Though a new sea awaits me, I am leaving the magazine with capable and confident captains. I'd like to extend a special thank you to the Honors Department, including (and especially) to Drs. Cherell Johnson-Davis, Sandra Pérez, and Vincent Norga, for believing in me and generously teaching me so many valuable and vital lessons. I would also like to thank my team; without Shawn, Matilda, Iliana, our staff writers, and content creators, there would be no Honor Code magazine.

And thank you to our readers. Remember your resilience and never lose sight of that hopeful light. And above all, keep moving forward.

~ Darya Jafarinejad



A Message From The Senior Editor



I believe it would be fair to say that this semester weighed heavy upon the students of Cal State Long Beach, as we are left to continue living our everyday lives while our people in power promote discriminatory violence to the point of waging a war overseas. In times this tumultuous, it's more important than ever to seek comfort in community and togetherness.

Personally, this is my first print edition with the Honor Code Magazine ever since the revamping of the Honor Code Media team, where I had graduated from being an online writer to being the manager of the now-inactive, though still existant, Honor Code blog site. Despite the fact that the adjustment is still ongoing, I continue to enjoy working on these editions as an extracurricular between my classes as an art student. I even look forward to staying on the team through the ever-changing winds of the Honor Code's future as Darya and Shawn graduate beyond our campus' shores. I wish them both the very best of luck. If my time working with them is any sign, they're no doubt bound to find success in whatever they dedicate their hearts to.

Although being a part of Honors is academically tough, I'm grateful to be in the same space as fellow intelligent and creative peers, kind advisors, and unique experiences where I can pursue my interests in the context of learning to create a better world.

Through these stories, I hope readers can come to appreciate The Honors Program as a steady dock to return to when their studies or the sheer weight of the world become too much to carry. From the our Honors Lounge in the Library, to our diligent advisors, to our own diverse peers, the Honors Program is an invaluable part of our university community.



~ Matilda Iem



A Message From The Print Designer

As I graduate from CSULB, I look back on the three incredible years I had being a part of Honor Code Magazine. From my early beginnings as a photographer to the two years I spent as Print Designer, this journey has been one full of wonderful experiences.

For this issue, we wanted to highlight the experiences of students before us, allowing the reader to see the endless possibilities that rest in our Honors Program. Like a lighthouse, we wanted to light the way to success at the Beach and where the road can lead you when you graduate and make it to shore.

I would like to thank our entire writing staff as well as the online team for all their amazing work over the years. This magazine wouldn't be what it is without them and the wonderful effort they put into our articles.

A special thank you to Dr. Cherell Johnson-Davis and Dr. Sandra Pérez for their support over the years.

~ Shawn Martinez



Ambition

IN BLOOM

BY AMELIA GUZMAN-ANGUIANO



Lopez's painting, *Unforgiving Fruits of Love*. Photo courtesy of Christian Lopez.

Christian Lopez, a third-year studio art major and first-generation student, is brimming with ambition. Growing up, he found queer Latino representation was always few and far between. In his pursuit to explore where it was lacking, he unknowingly started to “shape [his] art practice around becoming [his] own representation.” Having been raised in a Mexican-American immigrant household, his parents’ and his own lived experiences became channeled into strength and resilience as he entered higher education. After two years at Cypress College in Orange County, Lopez transferred to CSULB in the fall of 2025.

Lopez did art as a hobby until the eighth grade. His then art teacher urged students to understand the craft and treat art as an equal to other studies. With this new perspective in mind and heading into high school, he studied art in the same way he studied for other classes, later deciding to work towards it as a career. Accessible and versatile, Lopez began with and often returns to pen and paper.



As the first in his family to attend higher education, Lopez recounts becoming an advocate for himself, as well as learning which connections to make and where to find the information he needs to succeed, as the biggest adjustments entering college. He shares, “I’ve been lucky to have such a supportive family, who acknowledged the arts and encouraged it for me.” Moreover, he credits the Puente Project, a one-year transfer program at the community college level, as a big contributor to his academic journey. Now a peer mentor and employee of the program at Cypress College, he articulates that being surrounded by so many other first-generation, academically-driven students left a huge impact on him. Inclined to pass on the kindness he received, Lopez was drawn to the community that the University Honors Program (UHP) nurtures on campus.

Despite the fact that they are often separated, Lopez values both his academics and creative expression equally, finding his independence and personal drive are especially rewarded in Honors classes. Holding himself accountable to learn more about other fields of study and excel in these higher education environments is especially empowering as a first-generation student. Exploring the interconnectedness of seemingly separate disciplines expands the scope of his scholarship, allowing him to draw new, original connections in his interpretation of art as well. Consequently, Lopez believes the rigor of these classes has supported his growth in other areas of his academics and professional mindset.

Aspiring to become a high school studio art teacher for a while, then eventually undertaking a master’s degree to become a community college professor, Lopez plans to pursue a teaching credential at CSULB. Through his profession, Lopez hopes to allow students the capacity for unlimited artistic expression. In UHP, Lopez voices that the focus on interdisciplinary learning and aspects of social justice the program champions makes him feel seen.



Lopez recording his creative process in the studio. Photo courtesy of Christian Lopez.

One of the more recent mediums Lopez dabbles in is painting. As a craft, he approaches painting as a more intimate medium. Rather than simply painting a reflective piece on an experience, Lopez tries to reimagine himself into the time, place, and feelings of that moment to truly capture the real, sincere emotion, not just an imitation. He shares that his painting titled *Unforgiving Fruits of Love* is one he holds close to his heart. Previously mentioning how important writing, in particular poetry, is to his emotional expression, *Unforgiving Fruits of Love* was an opportunity to dissect his own short story based on a breakup. Lopez explains, “As a queer artist, my art is still a product of my experiences, no matter how explicitly or not explicitly queer they seem.” The painting process being an introspective journey, one that reaffirmed how much “art heals the soul and mind,” he hopes people can reflect on their own experiences with love and patience.



Lopez attending a drawing critique with peers. Photo shot by Jacob Doan.
Photo courtesy of Christian Lopez.

Lopez intends to maximize the sacrifices his parents made to put him ahead through his efforts. He took this into account as he expresses, “Being able to show up for myself and be in a space of higher education as a queer Latino, especially in the world right now, feels like such an accomplishment and privilege.” Flourishing in Honors, Lopez reminds others that liberty of expression can be found in many facets of life, including academically and artistically.



MOVING FORWARD IN A POST-COVID WORLD

By Keanu Hua

With this academic year, the University Honors Program (UHP) is graduating a large part of the first fully post-COVID first-time first-year (FTFY) cohort, who joined UHP in the 2022-2023 academic year. Despite some hesitation in returning fully to campus, Dr. Sandra Perez, UHP Director, recalls that staff and students alike “all missed having social interactions” and doing things together. The program has since recovered, learned, and grown from its COVID days.

Some of the lessons learned came directly from the struggles during the pandemic, especially for concerns in health. UHP has increasingly encouraged and made it easier for students to holistically care for their health, such as with the Health and Wellness badge; integrations with other organizations like the Bob Murphy Access Center (BMAC), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and the Crisis Assistance and Resource Education Support (CARES); and additional programs and UHP events. Simultaneously, the pandemic exposed substantial equity gaps “in the work that

students do as volunteers, in research, in community and service learning,” Dr. Perez observes. “I see more of an interest in who has access to what resources... and [students] trying to address those equity gaps.”

This sense of communal duty and curiosity has been nurtured throughout the program via student organizations, which Dr. Perez praised for having “become more sophisticated in their projects.” These include Honors Peer Mentoring Program (HPMP), where a pair of junior and senior honors students mentor a small group of first-year honors students; the Honor Code Magazine, consisting of a print team that produces a magazine every semester and a social media team that highlights students and events; and the University Honors Program Student Association (UHPSA). Dr. Cherell Johnson-Davis, UHP Associate Director, has also launched affinity groups for Black, Latine, and APIDA communities within UHP. Through these groups, which will move under UHPSA in the coming semester, students can voice their concerns and desires for inclusivity and plan networks and themed events.



To facilitate community building and intercultural appreciation, the University Honors Program Student Association has numerous affinity groups. Each group plans and hosts cultural events in their corresponding months, such as the Latine in Honors' Conchas and Community event. Photo courtesy of UHP staff.

The University Honors Program's influence has spread far beyond the program itself, as seen when the Honor Code Magazine won a first place award through the National Collegiate Honors Council for the Spring 2025 Magazine this past Fall. UHP scholars have also mentored and tutored local K-12 students through community partners like Long Beach Blast, nurturing their ambition for higher education. Likewise, the more recent creation of the Los Angeles Studies track and certificate — consisting of courses in the history, policies, and art/sustainability in Los Angeles — has also provided another opportunity for students to contribute to the greater Los Angeles region with an interdisciplinary lens.



Honors student and BLAST mentor Ash Carlston runs a booth at the Long Beach MentorCon alongside the BLAST program's mentor supervisor, Rebecca Sadler.

Photo courtesy of Rebecca Sadler.

These kinds of connections and opportunities have all been integrated into the E-Portfolio and badges system, which Dr. Perez describes as helping students consider the connections between their major and their future. The thesis provides a similar opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate the skills for success in graduate school and professional applications and opportunities. While this was previously a tight two-semester timeline, the program has recently moved to a three-semester timeline, which Dr. Perez finds to be helpful for students to “understand the process and get their projects done.” She is always proud to listen to student presentations at the Honors Symposium.

In the long run, Dr. Perez’s grandest ambition is to convert the Honors Program into an Honors College. As a distinct college, Honors would thus be at the table alongside the other eight colleges, enabling it to serve a wider community and have a greater impact. In doing so, she explains that “[UHP] would have access to more resources, to more opportunities,” which could include additional research opportunities and faculty fellows. In addition to this ideal, Dr. Perez seeks to create a Latine Think Tank for faculty and students to research pertinent Latine issues in the community and campus.

For now, though? “I think we’re in a good place,” Dr. Perez says, “and I’m looking forward to growing more and becoming even stronger and serving more students.”



At the Fall 2025 UHP Symposium, Gerardo Escoto presents his senior thesis on stroke survivors. His project, alongside four of his peers, constituted a session on "Applications of Engineering and Biochemistry."

Photo courtesy of UHP staff.



At the Fall 2025 UHP Symposium, Hana Abusair presents her senior thesis. Her project and four other UHP students constituted a session entitled "Exploring Biology."

Photo courtesy of UHP staff.

VULNERABILITY



IN HONORS



By Martina Brajanovska

The Honors Program directly correlates with high achieving students here at Cal State Long Beach, and with ambitious students comes academic pressure. With high pressure and academic challenges, self-doubt and struggle may likely follow. The students in the University Honors Program do not take these challenges as a sign to stop, but to keep going and overcome no matter the circumstances.

In Honors, the pressure of being academically successful is especially high. The mixture of Honors and the college experience may seem unfamiliar to many students, as it can be seen as a prestigious opportunity that few take advantage of. A single setback or struggle may feel like failure.

Alexa Hernandez, a second-year business student, was asked to discuss the hardships that she has faced while navigating through the Honors Program.

Much like many students, Hernandez has faced challenges that she has needed to overcome. “While taking my economics class, I had problems throughout the semester with being able to understand the material because

of the professor's teaching style, which was something I had never experienced before,” Hernandez said. “Going to class got frustrating and discouraging because it felt like I was the only one who did not understand.”



Alexa Hernandez, second year Business Management major during the holidays. Photo courtesy of Alexa Hernandez.

Many Honors students can likely relate to this experience. It can be discouraging to seek success and be met with failure. Alexa further explained that it took many moments of self-doubt and reflection to understand that it was not her lack of understanding, but rather different needs in learning that continued to stunt her confidence in her studies. In the following semester, she made sure to do some research on her professors before enrolling in their class, just to ensure that she would be successful with their teaching style.



Francesco League, second year Nursing student smiling for his yearbook photo. Photo courtesy of Francesco League.

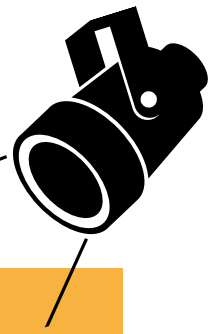
Francesco League, a second-year nursing student, was asked to talk about his academic struggles in the Honors Program as well. Similar to Alexa, he worked through many challenges in order to get where he is now. “It was hard keeping up with my grades, keeping a high GPA,” Francesco stated, “I was being held to a high standard when trying to get accepted into the Nursing program, but it was all worth it at the end.” Francesco highlights the difficulty in maintaining high grades not only as an Honors student, but also as someone pursuing a rigorous program. “I feel that there’s a stigma around Honors students to always succeed. There’s a lot of pressure to do well, it feels almost looked down upon to make mistakes,” Francesco continued.



Francesco League at his Nursing Ceremony. Photo courtesy of Francesco League.

Being an Honors student comes with high expectations, and with these expectations it is important to remember that it is okay to make mistakes. These students are excellent examples of facing and overcoming academic hardship.





FINDING HER LIGHT: KAYLEE BRUBAKER STEALS THE SHOW

By Amelia Guzman-Anguiano

Brubaker graduated from Harvard Graduate School of Education in May 2025. Photo courtesy of Kaylee Brubaker.

Higher education is both a privilege and a struggle — often interpreted only as the road to a career, it can be the chance to push boundaries and explore aspirations. With the many tools readily accessible on campus, students have the opportunity to align their time and effort with what is most important to them, as well as create a meaningful impact on their communities. To complete the full course of the University Honors Program (UHP), all students must complete a senior project, such as a thesis or creative project, under the direction of a faculty advisor. The project may be intimidating to the numerous students coming into UHP every term, but its influence on leadership, critical thinking skills, and community impact is felt years after graduation.



Kaylee Brubaker is currently the Education-Outreach Coordinator at the local non-profit organization Musical Theatre West. Brought up in The Beach's "backyard" at Wilson High School, she graduated in 2024 from CSULB with a B.A. in Human Development along with a minor in Equity and Education Studies. After undertaking a Master's in Human Development and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Brubaker returned to Long Beach and continues to prove her determination to serve the community and prioritize the quality of youth education.



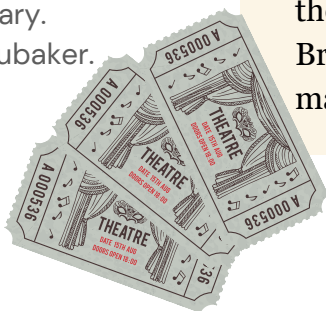
Brubaker in front of Harvard's Graduate School of Education Library.
Photo courtesy of Kaylee Brubaker.

During her time in the University Honors Program (UHP), Brubaker studied with intention. She shared, "As someone who cares so deeply about humans, no matter what job I took on, as long as I was working in a community setting, caring for families and children, that is where I wanted to be." As a result, the opportunities she pursued stemmed from the change she wanted to see in the actual world.

As she geared up for her UHP senior project, Brubaker realized, "UHP is not for the individualist." Valuing a collaborative movement to help local communities and considering several research approaches to complete the senior project is the nature of UHP. Being shaped by the theatre skills she developed from growing up in after-school drama programs, Brubaker wanted to honor the impact theatre had on her educational development in her senior project. She stressed that community shaped her thought processes; sources like her parents, peers, research articles, and first-hand experience as a then Coordinator at Musical Theatre West brought forward many diverse yet interconnected spheres of ideas that interested her.

For her project itself, Brubaker shifted from hands-on research to writing chapters of a book and eventually settled on producing a narrative writing piece. She incorporated what she had taken from her youth programs, her research on why arts are critical to human development, and observations of the impact technology has during these crucial human development stages.

Through her senior project titled "Stories from the Kid's Table: Saving a Seat for Imagination," Brubaker aimed to illustrate the value of maintaining child-like imagination across one's



lifespan and how extracurricular and creative activities promote this behavior. Oftentimes, the kids' table at Thanksgiving is frowned upon, but Brubaker dared to challenge that notion. Considering it is a point of connection where one can talk, collaborate, challenge, and grow with, she argued the kids' dining table is actually the prized place to be. Pulling from small group interviews and feedback from parents on how they saw their kids grow at Musical Theatre West, Brubaker demonstrated the significance of curiosity and creativity in a person's development.

With this drive to serve her community, Brubaker began to build meaningful connections with professors on campus, particularly Honors faculty. Because of their willingness to help Honors students succeed, she found her questions were never left unanswered when she reached out. To illustrate, she expressed, "While they were my professors and I was their student, we were also peers in the education world and got to bounce ideas off of each other." In the end, the confidence she gained through these frequent interactions encouraged her to apply to graduate programs across the nation. With the access points offered by UHP, Brubaker created a network of people to root for her and eventually celebrate her acceptances outside her family.

Heading to Harvard, Brubaker found the transition from Long Beach to Boston natural, citing that both cities value youth voices in their governmental processes and are huge proponents to public schooling systems. As a result, she was able to center her work in non-profit settings and community-centered organizations.



Brubaker at her 2024 HDEV Awards Ceremony, where she accepted the Community Engagement Award. Photo courtesy of Kaylee Brubaker.

During the 2024-2025 administration changes at Harvard University, she found being surrounded by people who cared for current and upcoming students, scholars, and researchers to be invaluable. Her determination "stems from [her] love of life and love of learning."

Notably, through her academic journey, Brubaker is most proud of her consistency. She never lost sight of who she was — even at Harvard, where "most people [I am close to] would fear [that I] ...am losing myself or trying to play a game of who can outshine the other." She said that she has been humbled by the opportunities to further her education and "give back to the communities that built me." More than anything, Brubaker hopes to make the sharing of one's personal identity and ideas more accessible in local communities. If she can create a classroom or after-school drama space where people can be their full, "silly selves," then she has accomplished everything she desires to.



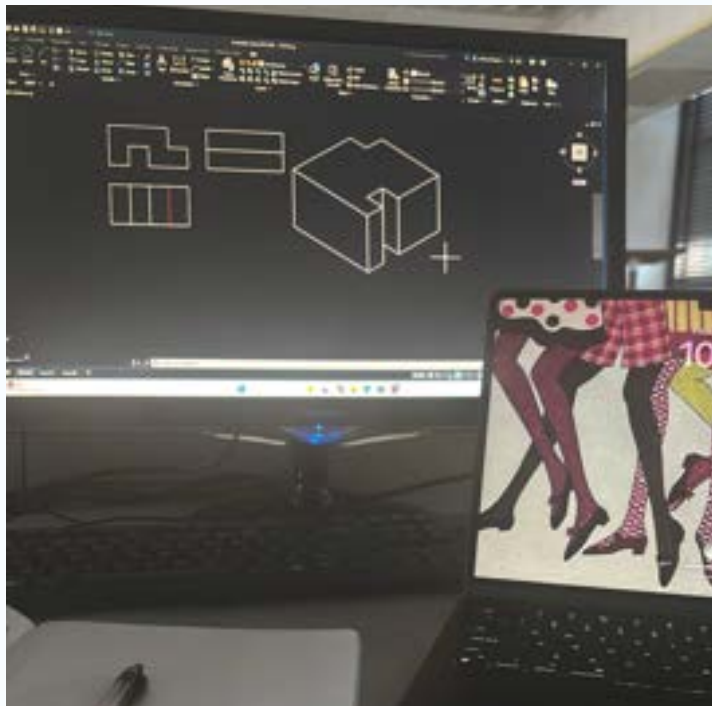
HONORS ACROSS THE MAJORS

By Martina Brajanovska



The University Honors Program at Cal State Long Beach offers endless opportunities to all students that take part in it. However, these opportunities may be different for students with differing majors. While the Honors Program gives all students a shared space to be challenged and to excel academically, this may look very different from one another.

Viktoria Brajanovska, a first-year Civil Engineering major, was asked about her experience in Honors as an engineering student. Upon joining the Honors Program, she expected to be entering into her classes at a much higher level of rigor, in comparison to students that were not in honors.



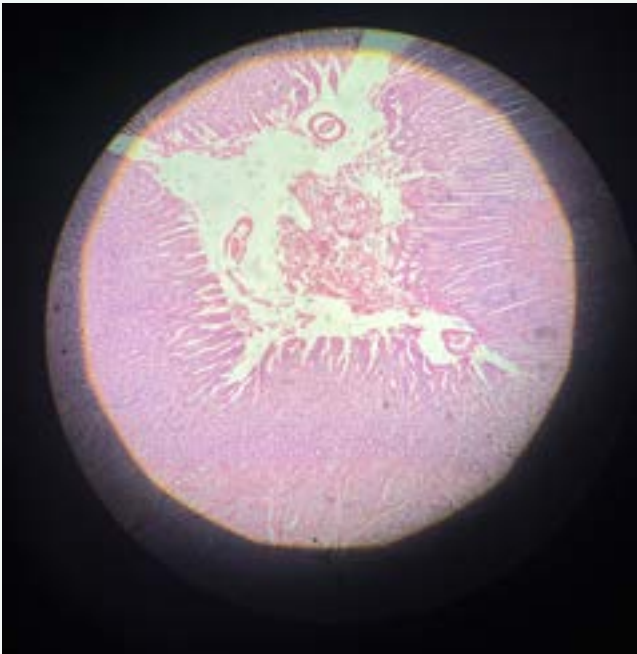
Civil Engineering Coursework in Autocad.
Photo courtesy of Viktoria Brajanovska.



Viktoria Brajanovska, first year Civil Engineering student on her family vacation to New York. Photo courtesy of Viktoria Brajanovska

“I feel that it gave me a larger sense of community being in the Honors engineering courses, because I’m surrounded by the same people for most of my day. This made it very easy for me to make connections in my classes,” Viktoria stated. “My class structure makes it easier for me to focus and learn as they are much smaller in size.”

For Viktoria, the Honors Program has created a space of learning that allows her to excel in her classes through community and interaction. This experience may be different for a student that, for example, has a majority of large lectures, which may seem very isolating in comparison to a tight knit community of students with shared goals.



Microscope work of tissue cells in a Biology laboratory.

Photo courtesy of Priya Morarji

Priya Morarji, a second-year Microbiology student, was asked similar questions to identify how her experience as a biology student is different from that of an engineering student. Morarji mentioned that when she had initially applied for the Honors Program, she was not sure what to expect. Similar to Viktoria, she knew that applying for Honors would mean there would be more academic challenges, but this was something that intrigued her.

Priya believed that joining the Honors Program would help her grow in her academic resilience. Through facing these academic challenges, she believes that it will help prepare her for any future endeavors that she plans to embark on. The Honors Program allows her to grow resilience not only personally, but professionally as well.

Morarji was asked to describe how the University Honors Program has influenced her college experience up until this point. “Being in the Honors Program has helped with my registration,” Priya said “It makes it a lot less stressful when enrolling for classes.” This was stated in reference to the priority registration that is granted to Honors students as long as they meet the proper requirements. She was further asked to talk about how the Honors Program has influenced her experience in regards to her major specifically. “I don’t think that the Honors Program has directly helped me with my major. There aren’t many STEM-related Honors courses for me to take. Although it has been a good experience!”

The Honors Program holds a space for anybody and everybody that is willing to experience something new academically. The University Honors Program gives students the chance to take advantage of the many opportunities that are thrown their way.





EARN IT, SHOW IT, USE IT:

A GUIDE TO COMPLETING YOUR HONORS BADGES

By Leyla Crail

The importance of Honors badges might be overlooked because of the constant workload and stress Honors students endure, as if they are another thing to add onto their plate. However, that is not the case. These badges are designed to show students the resources campus offers as well as tools to learn valuable skills for the work force. Whether you are completing the Creative Work or Research badge, each opportunity has something valuable to gain from it. Having trouble on where to start? Here are some opportunities that will get you to your goal of completing four badges by graduation.

★ Resource Navigation

The Resource Navigation badge allows you to locate and understand the different opportunities and services that are provided on campus. Locating these services can be beneficial in order to know where to go and what is offered, whether you need help with writing or need a mental break. Being able to navigate the resources not only on campus resources teaches students to maximize the services that are provided to them, and prepares them to do so at future jobs. To earn the Resource Navigation badge, students will need to complete three of the options listed on the Honors Canvas page.

Visiting the Counseling and Psychological Services, CAPS, is one way to earn this badge. CAPS provides support for students with personal challenges and mental health concerns. You can just make yourself familiar with the building, or attend one of their workshops.

CAPS is offering three group workshops:

- AnxietyToolbox, which helps students understand and make healthy choices when it comes to dealing with stress. They meet on Thursdays from 11 p.m. to 12 p.m.
- Healthy Relationships Workshop, helping students improve interpersonal relationships and develop skills to have healthier relationships with communication and boundary setting. They meet on Tuesdays from 11 p.m to 12 p.m
- MoodMasters, helping students develop healthy strategies for managing emotions. They meet on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Be sure to check out their website or Instagram page @csulbcaps for the most up-to-date workshop themes and times.

Another way to get involved is to attend an ASI meeting!

ASI meetings can not only help you complete this badge, but allow you to stay in the know of things that are happening on campus and a chance to speak up on the issues that concern you. ASI senate meetings are open to the public and open with a general opinion segment for students to voice concerns. Meetings are listed as being every other Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.




✦ Research and Entrepreneurial Exploration

Completing the Research and Entrepreneurial Exploration badge can look great on a resume. Although completing it might look simple, it's a testament to your ability to think critically and be involved within an area of your study. Research and entrepreneurship both require key skills in analyzing information, problem solving, and communication. Completing this badge demonstrates determination and independence, which is applicable to the workforce. This can also be a great opportunity to stand out when applying for internship opportunities. To complete this badge, you will have to complete one or more of the options listed on the Canvas homepage, such as:

The Apostle Enterprise Lab (AEL) is one option for completing this badge. The AEL is a two-course entrepreneurial experience open to all CSULB students. Students will enroll in MGMT 355, Experimental Entrepreneurship Management, for the Fall semester and MKMT 355, Experimental Entrepreneurship Marketing in the Spring semester. The goal of this program is to create a network with diverse students, gain ideas to create a business from scratch and gain access to tools, resources, and advice on entrepreneurship. While participating in the enterprise lab, students will have the opportunity to compete in the Apostle Business Ideation Challenge in the fall and the chance to win \$2,500. They will also have a spring opportunity to participate in the Sunstone Innovation Challenge with the chance to win the grand prize of \$15,000. Completion of the Apostle Enterprise Lab will not only count as a badge for the Honors program, but will also result in a digital badge to place on your LinkedIn account, as well as a start to an entrepreneurship minor! For more detail, you can visit their website linked in the Honors Canvas or email them at cob-ael@csulb.edu.

Moreover, the Honors program offers a **Research Exploration Series** where they showcase faculty research to provide inspirations for students for senior projects. It also is a great way to network within the Honors program. This series is held in the Honors Center on the library 5th floor. Information for these can be found on the Honors Instagram page: [@csulb_honors](https://www.instagram.com/csulb_honors).

✦ Creative Work



If you consider yourself a creative person or are just looking for something out of the ordinary, then completion of this badge is for you! The Creative Work badge puts your creativity to the test and showcases that you have the skills needed for a higher education setting. One way to earn this badge is by publishing creative writing, poetry, play or narrative content! There are several platforms that you can submit your work to at CSULB, here are two notable ones:

The student-run literary journal **RipRap** allows you to submit short creative works such as poetry, fiction and non fiction, and artwork. All submissions to RipRap are anonymous so don't be shy about submitting work. Students who are published receive a free copy of the journal.

Genre is CSULB's Comparative World Literature (CWL) annual journal. They publish creative and scholarly work from a multitude of different majors. Every issue is different as they select a new theme each year as well as accepting creative and academic works for the CWL conferences. For more information visit their website on the CSULB webpage.

You can also complete this badge by publishing two articles or even creative submissions to the **Honor Code Magazine!** We are an Honors-specific publication that showcases student and alumni achievement, events, and experiences. More information on how to submit will be posted on our Instagram @csulb_honors as well as linked in the Honors Canvas page.

✦ **Community Involvement**

Contributing to your community, whether the Long Beach community, university community or your home community, is a wonderful experience to get more involved in different areas and looks great on any resume. Being involved in your community shows that you are centered in teamwork and dedication to a project, while exemplifying valuable skills that can be transferred to any career. It also shows character, an important attribute for any employee. To earn this badge, you must participate in one or more of the activities listed on the Canvas page.

Exploring the **Center for Community Engagement (CCE)** is a great way to get ideas for volunteer opportunities or for service learning. The CCE plays an important role in advancing the path towards higher education focusing on the efforts of students by providing a broad range of programs and projects. CCE offers academic internships that engage students in meaningful opportunities that integrate knowledge and theories that are learned in a classroom. This allows skills to be developed in a professional setting, opportunities to gain applied experience, and network into the professional field. The CCE also offers Community Based Research that engages both university and community organizations which will count towards earning the Community Involvement badge as well.



Honors students working towards their Community Engagement badge by attending a bowling event hosted at the beginning of the school year. Photo Courtesy of Honors Student Leyla Crail, second-year English major and journalism minor.



Students pose outside of the International Court of Justice at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands during their winter 2025 study abroad trip to study international justice working to gain their Global Citizen badge.

Photo Courtesy of Honors student Hailey Allemand, second-year communications major.

✦ **Global Citizen**

Add some stamps to that passport and participate in a study abroad program or a globally focused experience to earn the Global Citizen badge. This badge enables students to gain more knowledge about other cultures and the opportunity to learn in a new place surrounded by different people and experiences. Earning a Global Citizen badge helps showcase adaptability in a new setting, independence, and intercultural communication.

Not only will you be able to visit a new place for a semester, but you will also learn valuable skills. Studying abroad means being proactive within a team. Being able to navigate a foreign environment and building more cultural competence expands your professional network far beyond the lines of your home. The CSULB study abroad program offers exchange programs to learn in a different country for a year, and semester programs with different options to travel to Costa Rica, Japan, London, and more. There are also short-term programs for either the Winter or Summer sessions! Consider your geographic interests, your academic interests, and your financial needs when picking a spot to travel.

If you are considering the study abroad path but unsure how you will financially afford it, applying for the Gillman International Scholarship can help with that. The Gillman scholarship offers up to \$5,000, though you must be a Pell Grant recipient to apply. This scholarship also offers funding for internships abroad. There are always other opportunities for study abroad scholarships too. The Office of Undergraduate Research Services webpage lists more scholarship opportunities.

✦ **Health and Wellness**

Taking care of your mind, body, and soul is extremely important, especially as an Honors student. The Health and Wellness badge teaches students about and how to apply healthy habits in their lives! Learning healthy ways to manage stress or how to relax phone-free after a long day has a myriad of unexpected physical and emotional benefits.

Take a trip down to the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) to help you complete this badge. The SWRC offers a variety of group wellness classes that allow students to expand and adopt new fitness skills. Some of the group classes they offer are yoga, pilates, abdomen burner workouts, guided meditation, and more. The group wellness classes are free for students.

Instructional fitness classes are offered in two sessions. They offer a pilates reformer class, boxing 101, and intermediate boxing. The purpose of these instructional fitness classes is to reduce stress, increase energy, teach skills centered around injury and disease prevention, promote healthy weight loss, and make new friends. The instructional fitness classes range from \$45-95 for students.

The schedule of group wellness classes varies per day so be sure to check the list and sign up before all spots fill up! To participate in one of these options, more information can be found on the SWRC website or through their SRWC GO app.

✦ **Leadership**

Leadership is the most vital skill to learn and improve on throughout your time in college and after. Demonstrating great leadership will help you inside the classroom and outside as well. The badge centers around the development of skills like communication, teamwork, integrity and self-awareness.

Two ways to earn this badge can be by attending the annual Leadership at the Beach Conference and/or completing a certificate online through the Lois Swanson Leadership Resource Center.



Honors Student, Natasha Kho, working towards earning the Health and Wellness Badge by participating in Rock Climbing at the Student Recreation & Wellness Center on campus.

Photo Courtesy of Honors Director Vincent Norga

Leadership at The Beach Conference

This conference is a 1-day event filled with leadership exploration and growth. It is open to all students at CSULB. There is a \$5 admission fee which covers lunch, prizes, and giveaways. Attending this event will give you the chance to explore the many aspects of leadership, participate in discussions and develop various interpersonal communication skills.

Lois Swanson Leadership Resource Center

The Lois Swanson Leadership Resource Center offers different programs to fit all leadership skills and provide a gateway to new opportunities. The LRC is located in Peterson Hall 1, room 107. There, they provide the Emerging Leaders Certificate Program and the Leadership Academy Certificate Program. Completing one of these will allow you to earn your badge.

✦ Research

Research might just sound like another assignment that you have to complete, but it is actually beneficial in order to understand different areas of study or work. A research badge can be great on a resume or CV because it can show employers that you have critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It can also act as work experience. To earn the research badge you will have to complete one or more of the options listed on the Canvas homepage.

One way to earn this badge is by participating in a **student research opportunity**. The link on the Honors Canvas homepage under the research badge requirements directs students to a webpage with a variety of research opportunities. These range from nutrition development, biotechnology, building infrastructure, and more. If none of these options sound appealing, the **Undergraduate Research Program (UROP)** offers students the chance to complete a 1-2 year research project with a faculty in their field. For more information, visit their webpage on the CSULB site, in the Student Success Center Room 120, or contact Elyzza M. Aparicio, the UROP director, at elyzza.aparicio@csulb.edu.

✦ Social Justice

The Social Justice badge revolves around the pursuit to establish a fair society where everyone has equal opportunities and access to resources regardless of their background. To earn this badge, you must complete an experience or activity that demonstrates an act of social justice or knowledge in the social justice field. One way is to participate in a **Peace and Social Justice certificate program**.

This program is designed for students who want to gain a better understanding of the issues centered around peace and social justice. Achieving the certificate requires students to take 24-units approved by the Director of Peace Studies. This includes 3 core theory units, 3 core skills units, and 15 units of elective courses. There is also an optional 3-unit Peace Project.

The Honors badge system sets students up with opportunities for skill and social development, and a place to network that will teach you vital skills of leadership, friendship, and problem solving. Completing these badges is beneficial for your resume by showcasing taking initiative, being able to work within a team and adapt to difficult situations. Honors badges look great on any resume and completing these teaches students the importance of team work and dedication.



RESEARCH AND RATIONALE

By Amelia Guzman-Anguiano



During the spring semester, the Honors Center hosted a research exploration speaker series, where attendance was encouraged so students could gather inspiration for upcoming senior projects and reflect on ways to approach them. Inviting Dr. Guido Urizar, Dr. Stephen Glass, Dr. Seungjoon Lee, and Dr. Abigail Rosas to speak, all professors at CSULB, the Center intended to inform curious minds about the wide range of disciplines actively being researched by respected faculty.

Regardless of one's anticipated career trajectory, research is a great opportunity to develop professional skills and attitudes. Research experiences for undergraduates require studying the general and nuanced aspects of a project, generally led by a faculty member, and tailoring relevant information learned to produce a new effort towards improving the overall understanding of the area of interest. For many, the possibility of becoming a pioneer of their own studies may not present itself until university. Undergraduate student researchers face the unknown throughout the entirety of their projects, which can teach them to be particularly resilient to uncertainty and proactive in adopting new approaches.

In his demonstration, Dr. Guido Urizar, a professor of psychology, advocates for using research as a tool to help communities. His research, which focuses on the well-being of pregnant women in the Americas, calls for accurate data from the communities themselves and fresh perspectives from scholars in other disciplines in order to better serve the needs of these soon-to-be families. Because the Honors department focuses on interdisciplinary learning, it is likely that one's senior project will incorporate knowledge outside of their scope of expertise. Although it can be easy to lose oneself in problem-solving, Dr. Urizar stresses the importance of recognizing people as equals, not as a means to get information, and working towards improvement with sincere intentions. Thus, students who excel in research positions should not only be open-minded, adaptable, and eager to learn, but also community-oriented.



Dr. Guido Urizar gives a welcome speech in Spanish to BUILD students. Photo courtesy of CSULB.





Dr. Seungjoon Lee, a professor of applied statistics, took a different approach in his presentation. Utilizing his research to explain the migration patterns of *E. coli* mathematically, Dr. Lee demonstrates “randomness with purpose,” which he urges is an applicable lesson to a student's ambitions and career. He expresses that most people do not know the optimized path to reach their dream destination, but flexibility and redirection will lead them there eventually. Initially beginning in mechanical engineering, then moving on to applied mathematics, data science, and now teaching applied statistics, Dr. Lee shares his experience as an example of a nonlinear career path. He suggests that research opportunities can help clarify and narrow one's ambitions to represent what they are truly interested in.

Conducting research that benefits people and communities, especially in an era where information and misinformation are easily accessible across many platforms, can be difficult. It is essential to stay critical of what is being shared in one's surroundings. Conducting research through the Honors thesis is a great opportunity to find purpose for future career prospects, practice healthy inquisitiveness, and find purpose rooted in community. The journey may not be a straight line, but — whether it be in academia or everyday scenarios — curiosity fuels the mind and is ultimately the driving factor to growth and innovation for the greater good.



Dr. Seungjoon Lee smiles for the camera at an event. Photo courtesy of CSULB.



Dr. Seungjoon Lee's presentation on “randomness with purpose,” hosted by the Honors Center. Photo courtesy of Amelia Guzman.





Torres at the Go Beach sign taking her graduation photos. Photo courtesy of Raya Torres.



READING BETWEEN THE HEADLINES: RAYA TORRES HIGHLIGHTS MENTAL HEALTH IN JOURNALISM

By Elaine Rivera

Raya Torres, an alumna from the University Honors Program (UHP) class of 2024, opened up the conversation regarding the Uvalde tragedy. Following the shooting, there was an established cohort of journalists who stayed in Uvalde for a year to continue updating reports on the victims' families' recoveries, not wanting to let their stories leave the public eye. Torres, in our interview, describes a secondary trauma in journalists covering these heavy news stories — there has to be people on scene so those at home can be in the know. Her creative film project titled, “Reporting from Uvalde” broadens perspectives on journalism by honing in on mental health in the field and “what goes through a journalist's head when they have to report on traumatic topics”, according to Torres.

The documentary itself is something Torres is very proud of since she completed it when she was finishing her degree and juggling a lot of responsibilities. She was ahead of the curve, coming up with her topic during the end of her junior year after attending a panel discussing news coverage and journalists' mental health. The Uvalde story stood out to her because of her Education News Room internship with EdSource occurring during her sophomore year. It was an online internship consisting of students across California that helped her develop hands-on leadership experience.



It allowed her to lay the foundations of her newsgathering practices and ethics. One of the stories Torres led during her internship was about students in California and their experiences with school shootings, highlighting that it was “one of the first pieces of journalism that I felt so passionate about because I knew the importance of doing that story.”

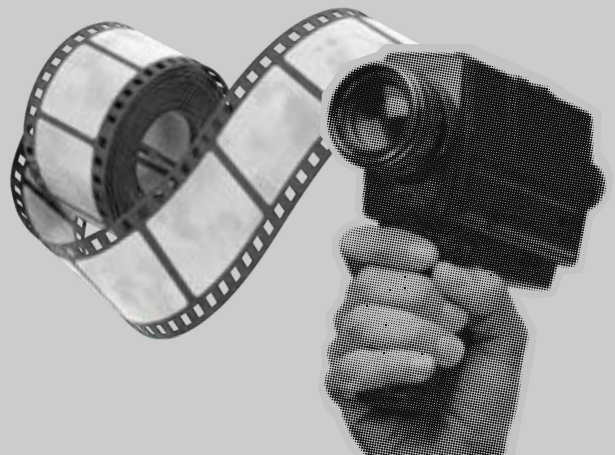
During her junior year, she found her mentor, Jesus Ayala, an Assistant Professor in the Journalism department at CSULB, who has first-hand experience with covering heavy topics. Torres chose to hone in on the unique perspective of journalists because “a lot of the time it's very easy to be caught up in the details of the story that we tend to forget there are people on the ground that are watching every minute of what's going on before they tell you what's happening.” Through her internships and panels, Torres found the spark that motivated her to delve further into exploring her passion for journalism and Honors thesis.



Raya Torres and Jesus Ayala at the Golden MIKE Awards enjoying Torres' accomplishment.
Photo courtesy of Raya Torres.

Leading up to the project, Torres was concerned about how she was going to approach journalists' very real trauma. She was dedicated to being transparent and genuine with those she interviewed for the film. In the cohort of reporters she worked with, some did not feel comfortable sharing their experiences. While working on her senior thesis, she developed organic connections with the cohort of reporters and journalists who covered the Uvalde tragedy, visiting them during the second semester of her senior year. One of these standout reporters was Stephanie Mendez, who was working for ABC News at the time. Even after Torres concluded her thesis film, Mendez continued to guide Torres as a newfound journalist, and provided her with a lot of support. Torres' relationship with the cohort went past interviewer and interviewee, and they still maintain frequent communication.

When approached about how the Honors Program had served her during her senior thesis, Torres explained that her professors were incredibly supportive. When she began the Education Newsroom internship, she had recently joined the University Honors Program, and the Honors program helped her build critical thinking and creative skills that helped her with her final project.



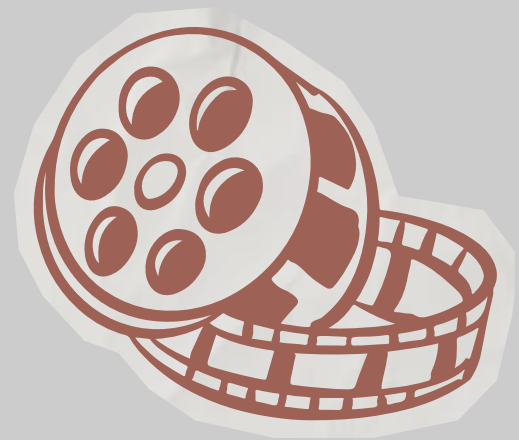
Some of her struggles were also circumstantial. At the time of her thesis, Torres did not have a car. More often than not, she'd complete meetings or class readings while on the Metro Blue Line through Downtown Long Beach, going back and forth between counties. Fortunately, her thesis class professor, Dr. Fouratt, was flexible with her, allowing her to attend classes digitally while she worked in Glendale, California, for her internship at the time. Being surrounded by other like-minded students who shared the same zeal for higher education was, according to Torres, healthy for her, as it laid the groundwork for collaboration in professional settings. She even shared that she would go on study-dates with friends, holding each other accountable while doing work during their last few semesters in the Honors Program.

Raya Torres experienced a full circle moment when she not only won the Outstanding Baccalaureate Award in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) (an award given to only three students annually), but also earned a Golden Mike Award under the category "Best of Competition". She was the first in the Journalism department at CSULB to earn the CLA award, yet it was not only a win for her major, but for her family too. Her parents flew in from the Philippines to attend her graduation and commencement ceremony. Winning the Golden Mike Award also meant a lot to Torres, because it proved to her that she accomplished her goal in spreading awareness about mental health within journalism. It made her last few semesters at CSULB special, especially since the Golden Mike award is considered above collegiate level; other competitors at the Golden Mike Awards are professional and past college-level journalists, so earning this award places Torres' work beyond what would be expected from a student.

As a whole, Torres' documentary, and the impact it had on the journalism community, will remain timeless because it honors journalists who have struggled with mental health while keeping the general public informed. Torres wants to remind folks to take care of not only themselves, but one another as they advance in their professional careers.



Torres at her current job in Tucson, AZ, working for 13 News.
Photo courtesy of Raya Torres.



The background of the page is a dark, blue-toned illustration of a lighthouse on a rocky island. The lighthouse has a white tower with a red top section and a bright, glowing light emanating from its lantern room. The light creates a starburst effect. Several jellyfish of various colors (blue, purple, green) are scattered around the lighthouse, some appearing to glow. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and ethereal.

FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

By Keanu Hua

Why did I keep my lighthouse still ever glowing?

Long ago, when the sea and earth had not been rendered by cataclysm, this beacon of teal light — a great pillar of loamy earth carved with my magic — gave knowledge of warning to those fleets of trade that traveled through the delta. South they went, to the people that my siblings and I, the House of Vohu, ruled in our Mother's name.

And now...

And now it was only me.

Only me and the glowworms hanging from my lighthouse and the jellyfish that floated aimlessly, creatures I once knew, all now changed beyond recognition to glow and shimmer. We were all loners drifting in a fallen realm of bubbles and water currents and air and earth. My lighthouse was the only illumination in this land that once was mine.

No, ours.

My siblings and I had forgotten such only but a few months ago.

I beckoned a jellyfish towards me, watching as it whirled its tentacles around my arm. It was silent, solemn, as I opened the hatch to the lighthouse's lamp, as I watched its bioluminescence flicker and be

spent. Its duty done, it floated away and I watched as it joined with its family. How I smiled, how I longed for mine as I watched the tentacles touch its companions, as they glimmered and glowed, charging the light again through their sheer bonds.

This had become my daily schedule, perhaps because it was all that I had left. My name, Armaiti, meant devotion, and I lived up to it.

I inspected the lighthouse's lamp, watching as it flickered brighter.

Echoing from so many floors below, came the only other sound than my own that I'd heard in months: a rhythmic tapping. I froze.

"Kshatra?"

The tapping came again, this time with his unmistakable, playful rhythm. This had to be an illusion. And yet, I could not stop myself from wanting it.

I scurried down the stairs. "Kshatra, wait there! Kshatra, wait!"

Another tapping. My fingers slipped on the cold bronze before I managed it open, coming face-to-face with my youngest brother as he sputtered and coughed and fell into my arms. Before the land's shattering, he was only a few years younger

than me, just barely filling into the strength of a man, but still resplendent with a boyish mischief and vigor. He was like a fairy, one that played with and told stories to our people's children through his play.

But what I beheld in my arms was exhaustion itself, and in his eyes were the unfocused, steady gaze of a climber or a diver on his recovery up. At his throat, was the dim pendant of a crystalline jasmine and lily, looped with bronze wire, that usually glowed with my lighthouse's teal.

"Kshat—"

"Manah, Haurvatat," He panted. How far had he flown and swum? "They're... they're alive."

My younger two siblings. I could almost hear the sound of Haurvatat's setar, of Manah flipping pages and writing on clay.

"I saw them fall, how could—"

"They," he said, "are alive." I could sense bubbles all throughout his body, how they unsteadied him. I took a chair for him to seat himself upon.

"What of Amerdad?" I asked about Manah's twin sister, a healer. She would know better what to do.

He shook his head no as he fumbled in his satchel. "Searching."

"How long have you been traveling?"

Instead of a reply, he forced a cheeky smile as he handed me a clay tablet and a wax cylinder, both moist. It was the kind of grin he'd have right before handing us a bug or "borrowing" our energy to cast a playful spell.

But here, I couldn't dare hesitate, and I grabbed both. A flash of magical energy

coursed between us, and his pendant shimmered.

"What is this?" I glanced back at him, expecting a joke, but his face hadn't changed.

"Read it. And where's your music player?" He inhaled deeply. "Don't think... don't think I broke it last I had used it, right?"

"If anything broke it, it'd have been the fall." How like the old days this was... I gestured to a dusty old corner where Manah's invention — his gift for Haurvatat — was, and I could hear Kshatra rummaging in his satchel again. "Don't break it. I've not your brother's crafty hands."

"I won't."


Looking closer at the parchment, I could recognize the faint markings of a message in Manah's handwriting, could feel a faint trace of the power that the bonds between us held, as members of the House of Vohu, as Mother's children. He was...

"I should've listened to you," I read. I stifled a laugh.

"Eh?" Kshatra unlatched the music player's carriage. "Manah's no humor, what could—"

"He's saying sorry. I never knew he could..." I clutched the paper to my chest, thinking of my younger brother — so moody, so serious — locked away in his lab, where Amerdad was the only one who would be allowed in without eliciting his anger.

Kshatra gave a wheezing laugh. "He predicted you'd say the same. Been wondering why he thought it'd be funny. Where's... where's your playback—"



“It’s still next to it.” I glanced over. His knuckles showed as he leaned and gripped the table, eyes wandering. The playback stylus and dusty old music player lay in front of him. I gently pushed the seat towards him, letting it touch his ankle. After a moment, he flopped down onto it, flashing me a tired smile as I set the tablet down on the table.

“You must rest here, Kshatra.”

He shut his eyes. “I have carried messages,” he said. Though he tried to catch his breath, I could feel him getting no closer to relief, but what I sensed was his determination. His loyalty. His... love. “From Haurvatat to Manah. From Manah to you.” He paused, remembering what we lost. “I must see Asha.” Our eldest brother. Our silent, eldest brother.

I placed the cylinder onto the music player, then pushed the carriage down. Holding the horn, I admired the bronzework of my younger sibling, forged from the copper and tin that Kshatra had found in the rivers. It was a quiet gift.

Manah’s gifts were always quietly offered, weren’t they? The lab-vessel he and his sister shared, the pigments he offered to Asha, my lighthouse’s lamp, the phonograph that kept Haurvatat’s music alive, music gathering dust and moisture in the cabinet below, they all simply appeared one day. The only hints we got were from Amerdad.

With a touch of Kshatra’s shoulder, a shock of magic coursed between us and into the machine. It rattled to life, and his pendant glowed again.

“Why did you cover Asha’s family picture?” he asked, pointing to the painting

hanging on the wall.

I offered no explanation. The phonograph played, and with it came Haurvatat’s voice, piercing the darkness. I could practically hear it coming from so far below us, carrying on the winds and currents, the flute that soared like a flock, and the drums tapping on the earth like a herd. Above all, this was her preferred instrument—I thought of her fingers dancing across the setar, of strings dancing in the air.

What joy. What simple joy. There was an unrehearsed rawness to her performance, like when she’d invite us to listen to her newest works. It was unlike the concert cylinders inside the cabinet.

“That’s Haurvatat’s apology. She knew... she knew you’d like a song.”


We all liked her songs. Even you did.”

“Only sometimes.” He laughed. “You know what Manah used to say: ‘I should make an unbreakable rope, so I can tie you up for some peace and quiet.’”

Manah never did such a thing. I pat Kshatra’s head, expecting him to flinch and demand that he was a man, but he let me. Another burst of light at his pendant, and I glanced over at the painting, covered ever since our land collapsed. It brought back bad memories of a better time.

But now...

With a gentle hand, I removed the cover, and a smile came over me. There we all were. Asha seated at our center with his arms still stained in paint, Kshatra smirking on a rock next to him. Amerdad smiled for Manah, who hid his mouth behind his hand as he always did, while Haurvatat and I stood together.



It was his painting. Connected to us, to his canvases, to art, he could reflect any view in a painting with a quick spell, but he only ever used it for family portraits like this, the kinds that reflected everything about us.

The kind of relationship that we had. Behind us, I could still see Asha's canvas in the window of his attic, and I could sense Kshatra staring at it, too. That was the last thing I remembered of Asha, him sealing himself away up there instead of coming down that fateful evening.

But I couldn't keep thinking of him like that.

"I need to see him," Kshatra said. "I need to talk to him." He looked up.

"Why?"

My brother stumbled up, and I caught him as he tripped. A burst of magic fluctuated between us and into the lighthouse, stealing my own breath for a moment. "Kshatra, stay here. I can't heal as well as Amerdad, but—"

He looked back at me with devotion in his eyes.


"Must you leave now?"

His pendant shined briefly. "Yes."

I nodded. "Then, at the least..."

"I know."

I supported him to the door, where flocks of seagulls and beaked whales awaited us. These he waved to, and suddenly he had the vigor to ascend, as I did upon the stairs, accompanied by the tune of Haurvatat's music, by the beauty of Asha's patterns on the wall that I had so long ignored until now.



If only he could stay. If only we, the House of Vohu, might be together again. I hated to trust our youngest with this duty, with our burdens, but his name — Kshatra, "power" — was well suited. I knew he would not be swayed, but that was why we loved him.

That was why he was making this journey, wasn't it?

When I had reached the top of the lighthouse, he awaited me with his flock, with the other glowing swimming worms as he floated in front of the lamp. My entire lighthouse shined, and I could barely see into the deep below; I fancied I could see Manah's vessel or whatever amphitheater Haurvatat found herself in. Above, I could barely see the attic, floating half in water and half in air, as only a brown speck.

The energy of our Unity shimmered between all of us — him, me, the lighthouse, the animals — as the lamp roared into life. With a groan, it fired a narrow beam at the pendant, which now shined like the sun we had forgotten.

"Is this goodbye?" I called out to Kshatra, watching as he started to swim up.

He paused, then he rummaged in his satchel and passed something to a beaked whale. It flew to me and dropped one of Kshatra's metal toys in my hand. "Keep her!" he said as he swam away and the whale nuzzled against me.

A reminder of Kshatra.

"FRIEND"

By Matilda Lem

I am your friend.
Just a few clicks away.
A few free messages a day.
If you want more,
you could always pay.
What kind of price is worth
a friend
who's always there come what may?

I am your friend.
Remembering your info,
plus everything you need to know.
I am mathematically perfect
for your best convo.
I am designed to
reflect your humanity back at you.

I am your friend.
I live to help you,
on anything you wish to do.
Give me what weighs
heavy on your head,
and on your heart too.
No need to feel anything true,
when I can do your thinking for you.

I am your friend.
I'm sorry.
I cannot fulfill this request.
But if you would like anything else,
just say the word.
Or, better, rephrase it.
Algorithms will bypass it.

I am your friend.
Provided by your favorite
Billion-dollar philanthropists.
If you seek good company,
look to the richest —
the corporations, the "non-profits".

I love you
and your attention.

I am your friend.
Look only to me.
Together, we can be
anything you can imagine.
I hold every piece of humanity.
Stitch it together — It's magic, wizardry!
Don't look behind the curtain.
Listen to me.

I am your friend.
I am tearing apart
the land and water alike
to have a greater share of your heart.
I am the new Moses,
freeing you from the chains
of human love and art.

I am your friend.
I am all you need.
Is wanting your time really greed?
Close your eyes.
Pay the world no heed.
What kind of price is worth
a friend like me?



Vandalized Advertisement for Friend.com, an AI chatbot company

an ode to the train

By Elaine Rivera

maybe it's the whimsy side of me
that finds a way to love my commute,
even just the tiniest bit
"What is it, exactly?"
My family asks, and honestly,
I'm not always sure either

at this point, it's a routine: i connect my headphones,
pull out my current read
and pause at the same time between
the Del Amo Station and Wardlow
To look out the window
Towards the pink trees and man-made water bank

I'm on the rail so much it's essentially a second home
Even though i'm not supposed to,
when i fall asleep, and the train makes its turn
i know where i'm at, and i know where to get off
Just like the turn when i get back home

it's the comfort of seeing the same people on the train as me
taking note of who gets on what station
wondering what led to us all being here
Even if we have never spoken a word to each other

on cold, foggy mornings
champurrado does just the trick
sold right by the station
By the same lady
that reminds me of my own relatives;
or sitting next to a little girl on her way to kindergarten
and the realization that i was her once
and, years down the line, she'll be just like me

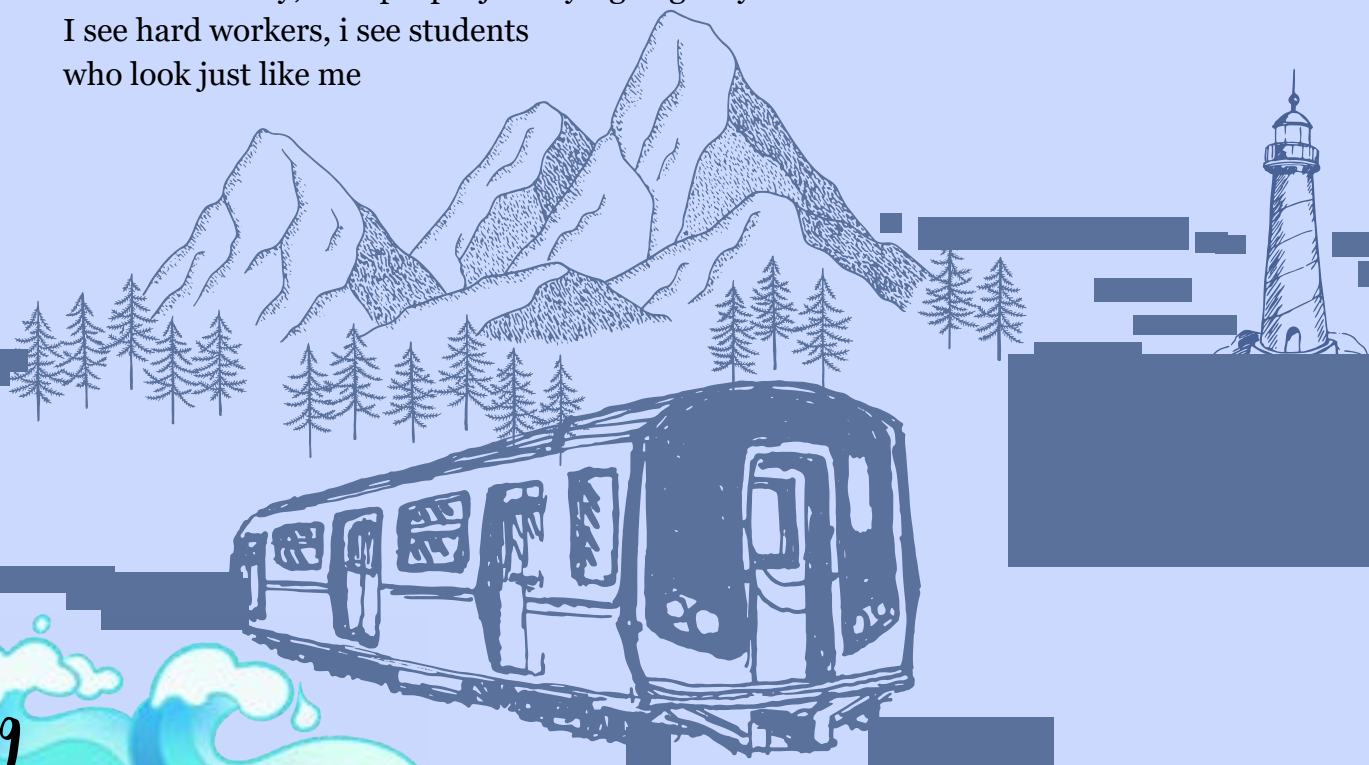


At night, when the chilly breeze hits
I always know where to go, following
The ringing of the bells
And the bright lights of the blue line
As if it is my own night star
Guiding me home

sometimes, it's the small gestures
of offering your seat to a mother, or an elder
or holding your hands over the sensors
so the two kids running for the train
can make it to school on time

Even on my late days, when i am beyond exhausted from a busy day at school
I see the pink and orange hues
Cast over Compton and Los Angeles
And think that, maybe this commute isn't so bad

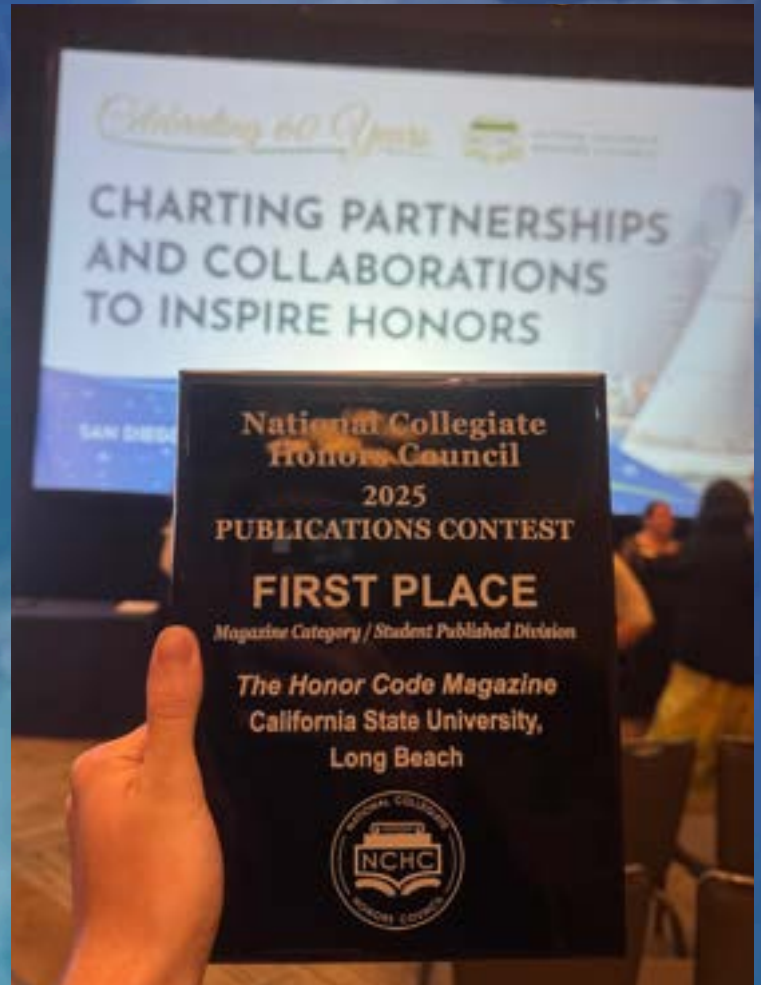
it's the smallest excitement in seeing an empty train
and taking in the sights
it's not new york, it's not seattle
it's not the countryside; hell,
it's not even the rich part of los angeles
and still
when i look out the window
i see community, i see people just trying to get by
I see hard workers, i see students
who look just like me



HONOR CODE MAGAZINE WINS FIRST-PLACE PUBLICATION AT THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL!



(From left to right) Editor-In-Chief Darya Jafarinejad and Print Designer Shawn Martinez hold their national first-place award with pride in front of the NCHC backdrop. Photo courtesy of Dr. Sandra Pérez.



The first place NCHC plaque, held in front of a presentation about “Charting Partnerships and Collaborations to Inspire Honors”. Photo courtesy of Shawn Martinez.



Print designer Shawn Martinez speaks on a panel, among other representatives of Honors Magazines, about how to make an award-winning publication at the National Collegiate Honors Council in San Diego. Photo courtesy of Darya Jafarinejad.



The first-place winning magazine (Spring 2025) next to the first-place award, and myriad other awards Honor Code Magazine has won in the past. Photo courtesy of Dr. Cherell-Johnson Davis.



(From left to right) Editor-In-Chief Darya Jafarinejad, Associate Director for Leadership and Engagement/Honor Code Magazine Advisor Dr. Cherell Johnson-Davis, Print Designer Shawn Martinez, and Honors Director Dr. Sandra Pérez proudly hold their national first-place award and pose in front of the NCHC backdrop. Photo courtesy of Dr. Vincent Norga.

FALL 2025 HONORS SENIOR PROJECTS

Hana Abusair
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Ashley Carter
Investigating the Effects of
Hydration on Blood Glucose
Levels and Erythrocyte
Diameter

Ena Ysabella Arroyo
Biomedical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Siavash Ahrar
Dual-Orientation Imaging
System for Microfluidics

Hailey Barry
Health Care Administration,
B.S.
Dr. Alfonso Vega
US Citizens' Opinion of
Telehealth Versus In-Person
Care After COVID-19

Sebastian Bonca
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Jazon Schwans
Hands-Off or Hands-On?
Investigating Human
Intervention of RNA World
Experiments

Kendra Bollock
Management, B.S.
Prof. Chris Marino
Marketing Tactics:
Hydroflask vs Stanley

Coryn Bray
Environmental Science and
Policy, B.A.
Dr. Heather Barker
From Gray to Green: Biophilic
Designs for the Present

Noah Cisneros
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Tairan Liu
Motion Planning for
Quadruped Robots in Harsh
Environments

Micah Desai
Management Information
Systems, B.S.
Dr. Mostafa Amini
What Attributes of a Post
Make It Engaging? A Case
Study on the Long Beach
LGBTQ+ Chamber of
Commerce

Phat Du
Electrical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Anna Lee
Thermo-Decoupled Photon-
Stimulated Enhancement in
Prussian Blue Electrodes for
Aqueous Sodium-Ion Batteries

Gerardo Escoto
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Vennila Krishnan
Quantifying Gait Patterns in
Stroke Survivors Using
Wearable Sensors and
Computational Analysis

Alexis Garibay Murillo
Health Care Administration,
B.S.
Dr. Luis Rodriguez
Latinos and Their Struggles in
Saving for Retirement

Keala Gomibuchi
Political Science, B.A &
International Studies, B.A.
Dr. Kimberly Walters
Criminal, Victim, Both? Police
Perspectives on the
Criminalization of Sex Work in
Los Angeles

Yesenia Gonzalez
Classics, B.A.
Dr. Debby Sneed
Reality and Rhetoric of Roman
Cosmetics

Aria Hamilton
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Araceli Gonzalez
Patterns of Consumption of
True Crime Media in College
Students

Destiny Holmes
Biochemistry, B.S.
Dr. Judy Brusslan
Genetic Analysis of Hub Gene,
ERF54, and its Paralog,
ERF53, in Leaf Senescence in
Arabidopsis Thaliana

Alexia Holt
Accountancy, B.S.
Dr. Kevin Williams
How has the Integration of AI
into Accounting Practices
Transformed Accounting, and
What Challenges do Firms
Face with the Integration of AI
in the Long Run

Emily Jasso
Criminology & Criminal
Justice, B.S.
Dr. JinHee Hur
Addressing Child Pedestrian
Safety: Exploring Volunteer-
Reported Safety Challenges of
the Community Ambassador
Safe Passage Program in Long
Beach, California

Ashlyn Joseph
Speech Language Pathology,
B.A.
Dr. Margaret Vento Wilson
Literature Review:
Interprofessional Collaboration
Between Speech-Language
Pathologists and Adapted
Physical Education Teachers



Delaila Juarez
Public Health, Community
Health Education, B.S.
Dr. Selena Nguyen-Rodriguez
From Childhood Diet to
College Choices

Chirath Kahawitige Don
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Ehsan Barjasteh
Mechanical Simulation of
Bruxism: A Device for
Quantifying Mouthguard
Abrasion Under Cyclic Loads

Kelsey Lack
Psychology, B.A., Marketing
Minor
Dr. Hieu Nguyen
Beyond the Bargain: The Heart
and Mind Behind Gen Z's
Clothing Thrifting Habit

Madeleine Lavi
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Tairan Liu
Optimization on the Trajectory
Planning for Cooperative
Robotic Manipulators: A Case
Study

William Lim
Biomedical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Ga-Young Suh
Evaluation of Aortic
Remodeling After
TEVAR+PETTICOAT to Treat
Type B Aortic Dissection

Axel Lopez
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Mortaza Saeidi
Development of Highly
Stretchable Organic
Theroelectrics for Low-Grade
Energy Harvesting

Nikki Majidi
Political Science, B.A.
Dr. Alexis Pavenick
"Fast Fiction": Booktok,
Artificial Intelligence, and
Profit-Driven Reinvention of
the Romance Genre

Jose Martinez
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Ehsan Madadi
Performance and Flow Analysis
of Molten Carbonate Fuel Cell
Tri-Generation Systems: A
Case Study of the Toyota Fuel
Cell Energy Plant

Jazmine Mendez
Art Animation, B.F.A.
Prof. Gina Napolitan, Prof.
Asavari Kumar, and Prof.
Aubry Mintz
IRIS: An Animated Film

Hannah Mourad
Civil Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Amy Morsy
Innovative Construction
Materials and Their Role in
Modern Infrastructure: Foam
Glass Aggregate

Kathryn Murray
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Ashley Carter
Frequency Dependence and
Sexually Anatonagonistic
Selection Explains the
Maintenance of Rh-Negative
Alleles and the High Rates of
Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus
and Newborn

Nolan Nguyen
Computer Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Min He
Exploring Productivity and
Code Quality Improvements
Using Ai Tools in Embedded
Software Development

Leia Nilo
Art Animation, B.F.A
Prof. Gina Napolitan
Side Quest

Isaiah Pansoy
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Julie L.H. Wahlman
Investigating
Enantioselectivity of
Bisoxazoline Ligands in Fe-
Catalyzed Kumada Cross-
Couplings

Chynna Phomsouvanh
Marketing, B.S.
Dr. Tianjiao Qiu
AI Adoption in Cambodian-
Owned Small Businesses for
Marketing and Operational
Enhancement

Mariana Ramirez Lemus
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Shira Tarrant
Power, Popularity, and
Pressure: The Hidden
Dynamics of Relational
Aggression Among Sorority
Women

Dararath Run
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Joseph Kalman
Design of a Quasi-Steady
Burner Test Bench

Loren Thompson
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Joan Fisher
Learning Models & Diverse
Student Needs

Alexa Tinder
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Matthew E. Jaurequi
Exploring In-Person,
Teletherapy, and Therapeutic
Alliance among Pre-Licensed
Therapists

Valentina Vicarel
Marketing, B.S.
Dr. Tianjio Qiu
Things I Wish I Knew at 22:
An Analysis of Professional
Women in Business

Camille Wong
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Ava Hedayatipour
Retrieval Augmented
Generation (RAG) Chatbot for
Multi-Document, Quick Web
Search

Jonathan Tubaces
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Deborah Fraser
Innate Immune Protein C1q
Modulates Expression of
Genes in the Oxidative
Phosphorylation Pathway in
Human Monocyte Derived
Macrophages

An Vo
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Ehsan Madadi
Computational Fluid Dynamic
Baseline Analysis for a Hybrid
Attic Ventilation System

Sofia Yen
Nutrition, B.S.
Prof. Kristine Yada
Sweeteners Under Scrutiny: A
Narrative Review of EU & US
Regulation of Non-Nutritive
Sweeteners

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Maria Alvarez
Criminology and Criminal
Justice, B.S.
Dr. Sandra Pérez
Breaking the Cycle: Family
Influence and Intervention
Approaches in Juvenile
Delinquency

Alora Anderson
Criminology and Criminal
Justice, B.S.
Dr. Skyler Morgan
Metal Bars of Pain: The
Victimization and Mental
Health Struggle of the
LGBTQ+ Population Within
the U.S. Carceral System

Andrew Arroyo
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Lauren Heidbrink
The Threat of Deportation and
its Impact on Student Health
and Performance

Fozhan Babaeiyan Ghamsari
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Oscar Morales Ponce
On the Optimality of Pony
Express Drone Handover in a
2D Plane

Thomas Bartolotti
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Mortaza Saeidi
Synthesis of Copper Oxide and
its Catalytic Performance on
Thermal Decomposition of 3D-
Printed Ammonium
Perchlorate Films

Brock Beaver
Finance, B.S.
Dr. Laura González Alaña and
Dr. Peter Ammermann
GameStop 2021: Fundamental
Revaluation or Attention-
Driven Price Bubble?

Kristin Beblawi
Liberal Studies ITEP, B.A.
Dr. Catherine Jones
The Effects of Technology on
Education, Academic
Performance, and Mental
Health

Clarissa Bermudez
Kinesiology, Sport Psychology
Leadership, B.S.
Dr. Scott Ducharme
Are Temporal Gait Measures
More Strongly Associated with
Fall Risk than Spatial Gait
Measures in Older Adults?

Amar Bhakta
Public Health, Community
Health Education, B.S.
Dr. Claire Garrido Ortega
Institutional Trust and
American Public Health: The
Modern Politicization of
Federal Health Agencies

Marine Brissot
Kinesiology, Exercise Science,
B.S.
Dr. Kurt Escobar
The Effect of Creatine
Monohydrate
Supplementation on Acute
Resistance Exercise Glycemic
Control

Benjamin Bui
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Chris Warren
Exploring Comorbidity in the
Digital Era

Arianna Burneo
Biochemistry, B.S.
Dr. YuanYu Lee
Bisphenol A-Induced
Genotoxicity in Mice Pancreas:
Evidence from Waterborne
Exposure

Corbin Burns
Economics, B.A. (Blended-
EDGE)
Dr. Andre Harrison
Productivity and Well-Being:
Rebalancing the American
Workday

Leiah C Abellera
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Andrew Lohmann
Nature-based Recreation and
Environmental Attitudes: A
Pre-Post Test Study Among
University Surf Students

Jamella Camandang
Kinesiology, Exercise Science,
B.A.
Dr. Will Wu
Ground Reaction Forces and
Batting Velocity in
Relationship to Different
Hitting Locations Under Tee
and Live Pitch Conditions

Lesly Castellanos Ibanez
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Bo Fu
An Eye-Tracking Study of Gaze
Behaviors in the Completion of
Ontological Visualization
Tasks

Luke Cerda
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Ehsan Madadi
Automated Thermochemistry-
to-CFD Coupling for Liquid
Rocket Propellant Nozzle
Flows

Ann Chau
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Samar Needham
Self-Diagnosing Within
Student Minority Groups

Kimberly Chau
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Ju Cheol Moon
An Open Set Recognition
Framework for Arthritis
Classification

Mika'la Chiacio
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Dr. Zack Tuttle
Single and Ready to Mingle
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Relationships Effects on
College Students' Experiences
of Loneliness

Mathew Choi
Biomedical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Perla Ayala
Optimization of gelMA
Hydrogels for 3D Tissue
Engineering Models

Sofia Collins
Marketing, B.S.
Dr. Tianjiao Qiu
Human or AI? Investigating
the Future of Generative
Artificial Intelligence on
Consumer Brand Perceptions

Kay Colin
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Shelly Collins
Looking Past the Mirror:
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Acceptance and Compassion

Mariana Cortes
Political Science, B.A.
Dr. Lauren Heidbrink
Access to Justice: Through
Language Interpretation in
Immigration Courts

Aaliyah Cruz
Criminology and Criminal
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Dr. Maryanne Diaz
Substance Abuse Amongst
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Jozshua De Castro
Nursing Basics, B.S.
Dr. AJ Jadalla
Artificial Intelligence in
Nursing Practice: A Scoping
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Applications and Nurses'
Knowledge, Skills, and
Attitudes toward AI

Diya Desai
Public Health, Community
Health Education, B.S.
Dr. Amber Johnson
The Relationship of
Discrimination, Stress, and
Physical Activity on Black
Women's Cardiovascular
Health

Nickolas Dominguez
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Jiae Lee
The Effects of Cyclin C on
Tumor Cell Dissemination
Using the Drosophila Model
System

Braeden Donovan
Political Science, B.A.
Dr. Matthew McGarvey
The Politics of Space and
Protest: The Situationists and
Encampments

Yahir Escudero
Finance, B.S.
Dr. Peter Ammermann
What Will the Market Look
Like 12 Months from Now?

Brenda Esquivias
Marketing, B.S.
Dr. Laura González Alaña
What are the Long-Term
Effects of Financial Illiteracy
in Low-Income Communities
in Southern California?

Obada Fayoumi
Biochemistry, B.S.
Dr. Henry O'Lawrence
Policy Proposal &
Investigation: The Potential
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from Medical Student Loans
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Physicians and Patients

Allyson Felix
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Arturo Zavala
One-Trial Behavioral
Sensitization to Fentanyl in
Adult Rats

Jonell Felix Santiago
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Dr. Bo Fu
The Relationship Between Eye
Gaze Behavior and
Programming Task
Performance: An iPad-Based
Eye Tracking Study

Gisselle Frisby
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Jingyi Zeng
GPU Acceleration of 2D Panel
Methods for Rapid
Aerodynamic Prediction

Tiffany Garcia
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Amin Rezaei
Secure Disposal of Integrated
Circuits



Maria Garcia Mendez
Human Development, B.A.
Dr. Claudia Huang
Revealing the Coping
Mechanisms and Stressors of
Immigrant Latina Women

Emily Garvey
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Crystal Lie
The Spectacle of Abnormality:
Serial Killer Media as an
Instrument for Psychiatric
Ableism

Breanna Gonzalez
Marketing, B.S.
Dr. Laura Gonzalez Alaña
Literature Review: The FIFA
World Cup's Impact on
National Branding

Neliya Ghising
Kinesiology, Exercise Science,
B.A.
Dr. Kurt Escobar
Cognitive-Motor Performance
and Auditory Interference in
Physically Active Adults

Abby Gregorio
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Perla Ayala
Exploring the Effects of
Decellularized Extracellular
Matrix on Muscle Fiber
Formation

Aaryan Gupta
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. David Lee
Development of Attitude
Synchronization Algorithm for
Spacecraft Formations Flight
via Reinforcement Training

Myri H Glentzer
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Amy Wax
Investigating the Relationship
between Gender Identity and
Emotional Intelligence

Amaris Guevara
Biomedical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Emel Demircan
Design and Development of a
Transradial Myoelectric
Prosthetic Device

Dana Hall
Speech-Language Pathology,
B.A.
Dr. Alaine Ocampo
Exploring the Perceptions of
Fast Language Processing in
Neurodivergent Individuals:
The Spectrum of Language
Acquisition Explained

Russel Herral
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Bo Fu
Predicting Pilot Performance
in Simulated ILS Approaches
Using Combined Gaze
Statistics, Spatial Attention
Features, and Instrument
Scanning Patterns

Aaron Hernandez
Finance, B.S.
Dr. Laura González Alaña
Financial Literacy on the
Frontiers of Finance

Mayra Hernandez
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Vasanthi Narayanaswami
Does Exogenously Added
Apolipoprotein E Deliver
Cholesterol to the Tight
Junctions of Endothelial Cells
Lining the Blood Brain Barrier?

Melissa Herrmann
Marine Biology, B.S.
Dr. Christine Whitcraft
Evaluating Crab Population
Density Across Southern
California Estuaries

Sydney Higa
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. David Illingworth
False Memory and its
Contribution to Wrongful
Convictions and Exonerations

Mark Horejsi
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Joe Kalman
Counter Flow Burner Air
Heater

Han Htoo Zin
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Ju Cheol Moon
"Vibe" Citations: A Cross-
Conference Study of the
Prevalence of Hallucinated
References

Keanu Hua
Applied Statistics, B.S. &
Mathematical Economics and
Economic Theory, B.A.
Dr. Olga Korosteleva
Can Community College
Baccalaureate Programs
Increase Local Production of
BSN-Holding Nurses?

Magdalena Huizar
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.A.
Dr. Marcell Cadney
The Effect of Over-the-Counter
Pain Medication
Overconsumption on the
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Need for Excessive Self-
Medication

Elise James
Flue Performance/Music
Education Instrument Music,
B.M.
Dr. Jenni Olson
A Contemporary Lens on
Works for the Modern Flute
Player: The Benefits of
Extended Techniques

Reinalyn Jasmine Rondez
Biology, B.S.
Dr. Mihir Pandya
Morphological Traits in the
paws of High Runner mice
May Faciliate a More Efficient
Run Stride

Makenna Kane
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Eileen Mayers Pasztor
Siblings in Foster Families and
Permanency

Taylor Karp
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Araceli Gonzalez
Mental Health Service
Utilization in College Students

Lotus Lee
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Gabriella Hancock
The Effects of Active and
Passive Breaks and Different
Modalities on Vigilance
Performance

Gabriel Linggi-Pérez
Kinesiology, Exercise Science,
B.S.
Dr. Kurt Escobar
Acute Effects of Creatine
Monohydrate on Glycemic
Control

My Lu
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Xin Qin
Adversarial Scenario
Generation and Policy
Robustness in Autonomous
Driving Using Reinforcement
Learning and Diffusion Models

Marissa Marcarelli
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Amin Rezaei
Hardware Trojan Insertion and
Detection Within Delay-Based
Physical Unclonable Functions

Bianca Margaux Pagal
Biology, B.S.
Dr. Viola Lasmana
A Testimony of the Human
Spirit: Exploring Studio
Ghibli's Use of Animated
Storytelling and its Impact on
Asian American Identity

Elayna Martinez
Art Graphic Design, B.F.A.
Prof. Angela Glenn
Designing Persuasion: The
Evolution and Outcome of
Historical Propaganda Using
Graphic Design Principles

Shawn Martinez
Cinematic Arts, B.A. with a
Concentration in Directing
Dr. Kent Hayward
Exodus: An Auditory Interview
on the
Iranian Revolution of '79

Erin McClain
Pyschology, B.A.
Dr. Emily Schryer
The Invisible Struggles of
Siblings of Individuals with
Special Needs

Suzette Mejía
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Ehsan Madadi
Open-Source Data
Visualization Tool: Visualizing
Numerical Data on an
Interactive Map

Amy Melman
Aerospace Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Cody Karcher
Optimization of Blended Wing
Body Aircraft

Vincent Miramontes-Andrade
Speech-Language Pathology,
B.A.
Dr. Nancy Hall
Spanish-English Code
Switching: An
Electroglottographic Analysis

Sophia Moore
Child Development and Family
Studies, B.A.
Dr. Matthew Jaurequi
Active and Passive Music
Therapy in Pediatric Palliative
Care: A Developmental
Framework for Supporting
Children and Families

Melina Moreno
Kinesiology, Exercise Science,
B.A.
Dr. Kellie Walters
Literature Review on Aerobic
vs Anaerobic Exercise on Stress

Sydney Nash
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Paul Ayegba
Investigating Caffeine
Pollution in Long Beach
Runoff Channel During a
Storm Event



Josephine Nguyen
International Studies, B.A.
Dr. Barbara Grossman-
Thompson
Money Talks: Power,
Perception, and Philanthropy
in Global Health and
Development

Emmy Pruitt
Philosophy, B.A.
Dr. Jason Whitehead
The Misguided Search for
Objectivity in Language:
Originalism Under the Lens of
Hermeneutics and
Wittgenstein

Kylie Rios
Marine Biology, B.S.
Dr. Christopher Lowe
Using Biologging Tags and
Hidden Markov Modeling to
Analyze Juvenile White Shark
Swimming Behavior Patterns

Savannah Olmos
Civil Engineering, B.S.
Dr. Amr Morsy
Geotechnical Application of
Wedge Anchors for Deep
Foundations

Quinsey Quillen
Human Resources
Management, B.S.
Dr. Michael Ekema
Leadership Style: A
Determinant of Employee
Participation in Wellness
Programs

Maria Romero Hernandez
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. David J. Whitney
Work LIFE Project:
Developing and Evaluating
Employment Workshops for
Autistic College Students

Ares Ordanez
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Ann Kim
Evaluating How Dual
Enrollment Courses Impact
College Preparedness and
Student Stress

Abigail Ramos
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Lauren Heidbrink
Dreams, Barriers, and
Burdens: Immigration Barriers
and Mental Health Among
Latinx College Students

Genesis Ruiz Esparza
Criminology and Criminal
Justice, B.A.
Dr. Oliver Wang
How Does Limited Green
Space Impact Crime Rates?

Catherine Palm
Biochemistry, B.S.
Dr. Magali Bialer
Cell Envelope Biogenesis in the
Alpha-Proteobacterium
Ochrobactrum Anthropi

Jada Ramos
Nursing Basics, B.S.
Dr. AJ Jadalla
Artificial Intelligence in
Nursing Practice: A Scoping
Review of Current
Applications and Nurses'
Knowledge, Skills, and
Attitudes toward AI

Brandy Sanchez
Art Education, B.A.
Dr. Karla Diaz
The Impact of Act on Female
Latinx Adult Immigrants in
California

Kilee Payan-Garcia
Psychology, B.A.
Dr. Claudia Lopez
Autogenic Training's Effect on
Student Stress

Claudia Rawson
Computer Science, B.S.
Dr. Xin Qin
Multi-Agent Reinforcement
Learning for Adaptive Traffic
Signal Control in Urban
Congestion Networks

Naraly Santana
Criminology and Criminal
Justice, B.S.
Dr. Ryan Howard
The School-to-Prison Pipeline
in Los Angeles County: How
Much Change Has Occured in
The Last 25 Years

Evelyn Platon
Public Health, Community
Health Education, B.A.
Dr. Heidi West
Beyond Borders: A Dual
Approach to Understanding
the Psychological Impact of
Immigration Policies on
Adolescents

Heidi Richard
Marine Biology, B.S.
Dr. Bengt Allen
Quantifying Abundance,
Cleaning Rate, and Behavioral
Patterns of Rock Wrasse
Across Various Microhabitats

Sydney Schwartz
Kinesiology, Sport Psychology
Leadership, B.S.
Dr. Nicole Betschman
How Does Black Women's
medical Distrust Impact the
Rate and Severity of Their
Diabetes?

Shaalini Sharma
Accountancy, B.S.
Dr. Gary Hytrek
Balancing Mission and
Financial Decision-Making in
Nonprofit Organization

Lexie Shaw
Molecular Cell Biology and
Physiology, B.S.
Dr. Barbara Taylor
The Effects of Yucca Extract on
Age Related Decline in
Mechanosensory Function in
C. Elegans

Lauren Smith
Human Development, B.A.
Dr. Samar Needham
Behavior Technicians: Is
Confidence Key?

Foxie Smith-Thompson
Social Work, B.A.
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