

LONG BEACH ♥



FALL 2021

THE HONOR CODE MAGAZINE

VENTURING FORWARD

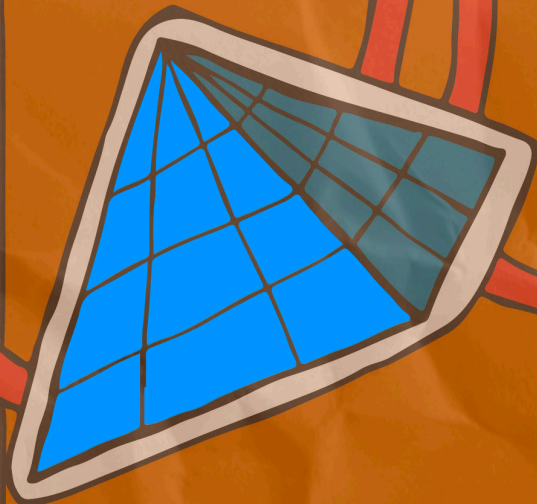


Table of Contents

Letter from the Editors.....	4
The Honor Code Team.....	5
Trip of a Lifetime by Erin.....	7
Welcoming a New Face to the Honors Community by Morgan.....	9
Back to “Normal” by Jason.....	13
A Word from Our Honors RAs by Jason.....	15
Discovering One’s Calling by Derek.....	17
Great Chemistry & Lots of Outreach by Abbas.....	19
Celeste Sanchez, a Leader in the Making by Julian.....	21
Creative Contributions.....	23

Letter from the Editors

“You have the talent and opportunity to take your learning in any direction you want to go.”

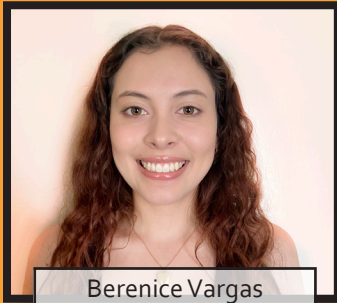
Welcoming a New Face to the Honors Community by Morgan Barragan

Over 600 days have passed since we left campus, leaving behind our community, friends, and adventures. We huddled together, waiting for our world to gradually heal. During this time, we faced many challenges and asked many questions—we sat in silence and filled our emptiness with self-reflection, doubts and hopes, tears and smiles. Perhaps we have all reached today by taking on each day as its own battle, and for that, we are resilient. Over 600 days ago and every day since then, we the students of the University Honors Program proved our commitment to achieving our goals of excellence through conducting theses research, pursuing internships, traversing changes, and exploring the world in its new normal. We’ve welcomed our new Honors Director, Dr. Sandra Perez, and we’ve said our farewell to Honors Advisor Brenda Pulido. In this edition of “The Honor Code,” we celebrate the continued resilience and triumphs our Honors students have found as they venture forward into a constantly-changing world. The horizon is endless, the sky is limitless, and our strength is forever—we hope to soon reunite with our Honors community and celebrate our excellence together.

Sincerely,

Sumaiyah and Berenice

The Honor Code Team



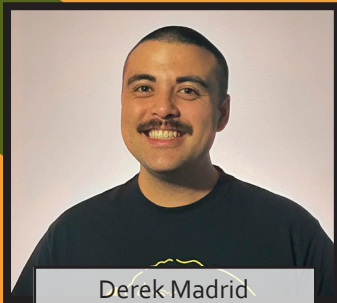
Berenice Vargas
Co-Editor-in-Chief



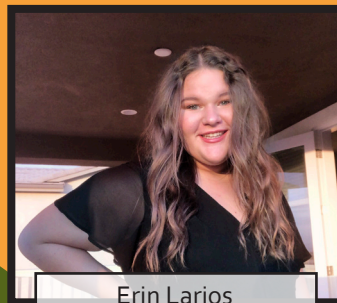
Sumaiyah Hossain
Co-Editor-in-Chief



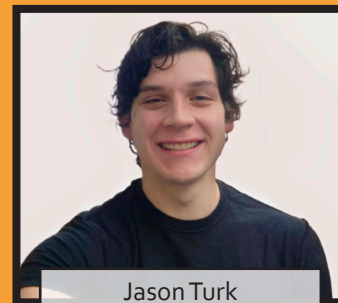
Abbas Abdulhasan
Staff Writer



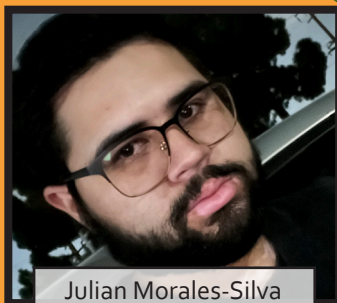
Derek Madrid
Staff Writer



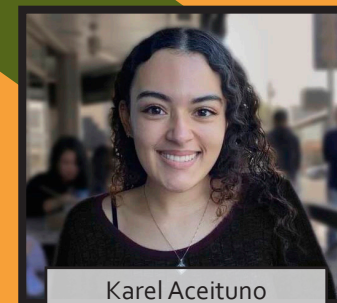
Erin Larios
Staff Writer



Jason Turk
Staff Writer



Julian Morales-Silva
Staff Writer



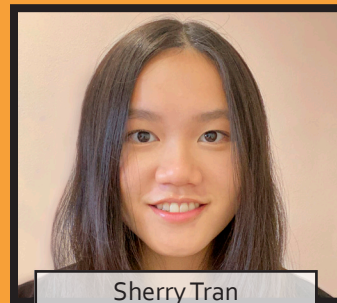
Karel Aceituno
Copy Editor



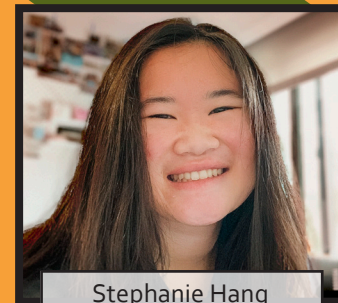
Kimberley Estrada
Copy Editor



Morgan Barragan
Staff Writer

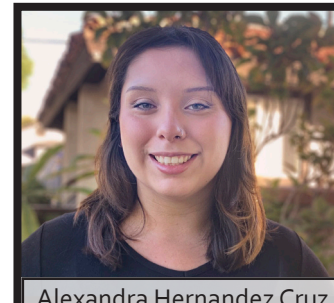


Sherry Tran
Copy Editor

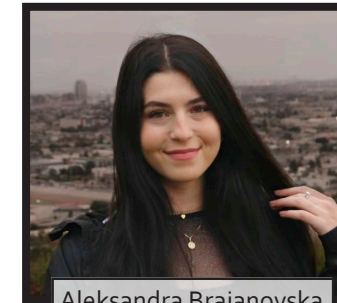


Stephanie Hang
Print Designer

Not Pictured:
Samantha Ibarra-Camacho
Print Designer



Alexandra Hernandez Cruz
Photographer



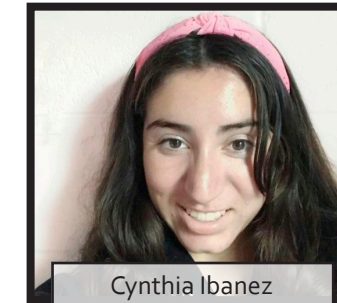
Aleksandra Brajanovska
Online Editor



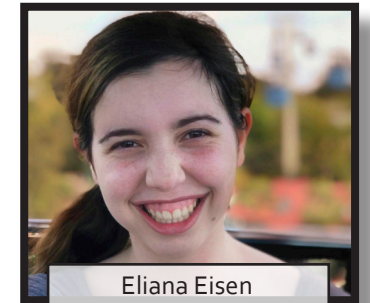
Ariel Campos
Online Writer



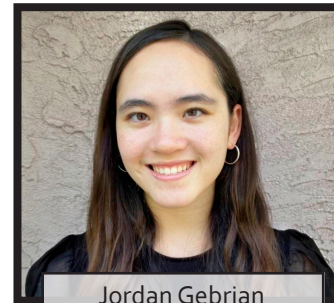
Camryn Yauchzee-Gonzalez
Lead Online Copy-Editor



Cynthia Ibanez
Photographer



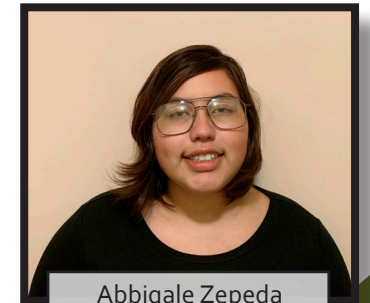
Eliana Eisen
Online Writer



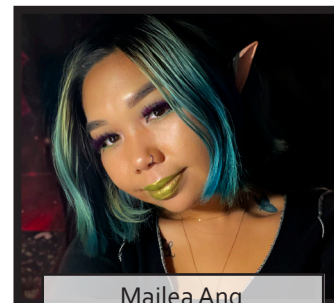
Jordan Gebrian
Online Writer



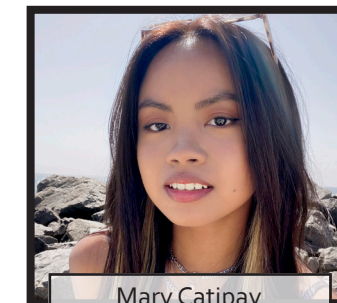
Justin Castillo
Videographer



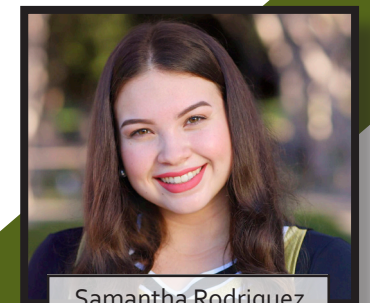
Abbigale Zepeda
Online Writer



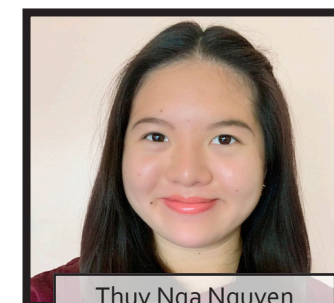
Mailea Ang
Outreach Coordinator



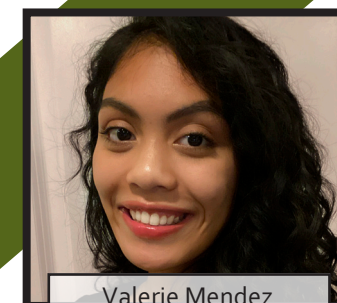
Mary Catipay
Videographer



Samantha Rodriguez
Social Media Manager



Thuy Nga Nguyen
Online Writer



Valerie Mendez
Online Writer

Trip of a Lifetime[★]

by Erin Larios

CSULB Honors Student, Chloe Haynes, explored Ireland in her study abroad experience and made invaluable memories that she will cherish for a lifetime.



Chloe at a scenic point in the Dingle Peninsula.

weeks abroad, Haynes recounts a five-day quarantine that everyone traveling internationally has to face before stepping out into the streets of Ireland. As a result of the five day isolation, the students on this trip were able to get to know each other, build connections, and establish friendships that were only strengthened over the remaining couple weeks.

After quarantine, the first city Haynes got to truly explore was Limerick. Group excursions by day and socializing by night, Limerick was a “fun blur” of lively people, astonishing historical sites, and a culture that embodied the rich history of Ireland. Most notably, the interactive museums, King John’s Castle, St. Mary’s Cathedral, and collective historical sites supplemented the enriching experience through a historical account, bringing to life both learning and participation that students got first hand. “Beautiful, beautiful” boat tours, gardens, and religious ruins also add to the scenic surroundings Limerick exhibits, and which Haynes particularly adores.

As amazing as the scenery and experience in Limerick are, the weekend trip to Galway is Hayne’s highlight of the study abroad experience. Galway has a vibrant nightlife that cultivates community and joy in this music oriented city, where tourists and residents alike enjoy social gatherings centered around celebrating life.

Finally, to round out the trip, came Dublin, which houses a compelling and historically immersed culture. Haynes recalls the long walking tours leav-



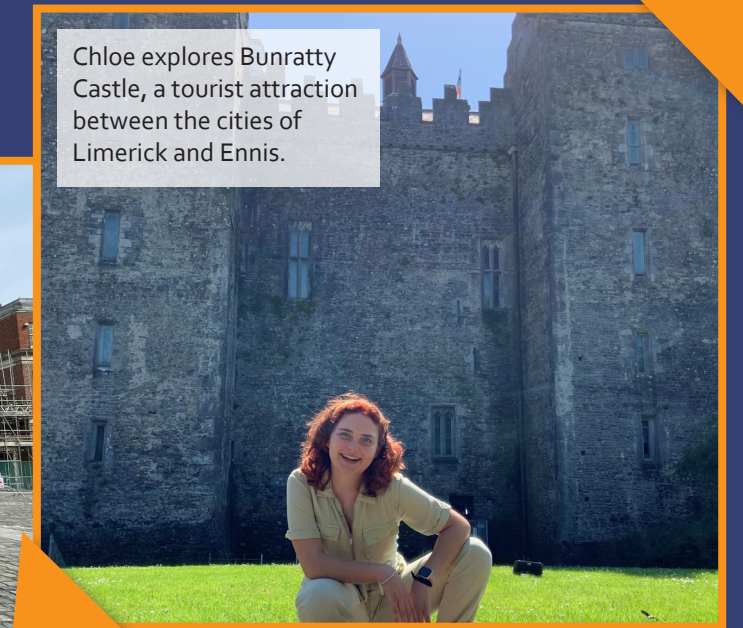
Chloe taking in the scenes at the Cliffs of Moher.

“A trip of a lifetime.” A five word phrase that sums up the incredible experience Chloe Haynes describes as her study abroad involvement in the summer of 2021. Haynes is a junior in the University Honors Program, majoring in Liberal Studies and simultaneously earning her teaching credential in the College of Education. When the option to study abroad arose, Haynes knew this was an opportunity she could not pass up. Picking Ireland as her location, she spent three weeks soaking up the eye-opening culture, history, and society this country has to offer.

Haynes underscores a unique set of difficulties that the pandemic forces everyone involved in the study abroad program to navigate. The added stress of traveling during the pandemic, however, does not detract from the overall experience that Ireland provides. In a walkthrough of the three adventurous



Chloe and her classmates gather in front of Dublin Castle.



Chloe explores Bunratty Castle, a tourist attraction between the cities of Limerick and Ennis.

ing her feet sore as she and the group roamed the lively streets of Dublin. While there, the group also ventured to Northern Ireland, specifically Belfast. Belfast maintains a rich history that demonstrates the centuries long conflict between Protestants and Catholics. This conflict has had lasting impacts and illuminates the town to this day. The consequences of the extremely polarized religious rivalry persists in the city, emphasizing how monumental religion has been in Belfast and the country as a whole.

For Haynes, the trip solidified her plans to teach, travel, and work abroad, and, when asked, she

“...the trip solidified her plans to teach, travel, and work abroad, and, when asked, she would take this opportunity again in a heartbeat.

would take this opportunity again in a heartbeat. Reaffirming her goals and passion for learning and exploration, the study abroad experience is a glimpse into some of her life plans. Although the trip was one of joy, adventure, and amazement, the class that the program centers around is structured to get students to think about history in a critical way. Engaging in this class in Ireland itself, witness-

ing primary sources from first-hand accounts, and immersing in the culture, history, and life in Ireland, culminates to the extraordinary experience Haynes describes. By looking at history through several lenses and acknowledging that there are countless different versions of history, we as a society can recognize that history is always changing. In a constantly developing world, taking in profound experiences, such as a study abroad opportunity, is imperative in making the most of a college career, but ultimately as a person and citizen of the world as well. So get out there, open your eyes, and find your “trip of a lifetime.”



Chloe at Lough Tay. “Fun fact: this lake is where the show Vikings was filmed,” says Haynes.

Welcoming a New Face to the Honors Community

by Morgan Barragan

Dr. Pérez, the new permanent UHP Director, shares insight to her own personal life and discusses her plans for the future of Honors at CSULB.

The CSULB University Honors Program (UHP) has just welcomed a shining new face to the community: Dr. Sandra Pérez! Dr. Pérez is currently serving as the new permanent director of the UHP and is already taking steps to serve its community and refine its mission.

Dr. Pérez understands the struggles and individual needs of students, as she has been a student for a great portion of her life. Describing her educational career, she notes, "I was one of those people that went [from] kindergarten to PhD—I never took a break." She states that "education is a lifestyle" and students should be granted the tools they need to "pursue their intellectual curiosity and satisfy it." Today, Dr. Pérez is a member of the board of directors of the National Collegiate Honors Council, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and the National Society for Minorities in Honors. In each of her roles within these organizations, she constantly researches and discusses with others in her field what can be done to better serve honors students, most specifically on the matters of diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

Dr. Pérez carries her educational background and social justice work with her into this new chapter of her life. One of her main goals during her time at CSULB is to "create a space that more diverse students can access." Dr. Pérez recognizes UHP as "an alternate intellectual space that is incredibly free and incredibly fun because it allows individuals in that space to pursue things that are engaging." She hopes to spread her reach to a greater student population and encourage them to join UHP. UHP, as expressed by Dr. Pérez, is a space of privilege; however, this privilege should be allowed to anyone

“You have the talent and opportunity to take your learning in any direction you want to go. We exist to support that.”

who is determined in their pursuit of knowledge.

Another goal she focuses on is cohesion. Dr. Pérez is constantly considering how the different aspects of a collegiate lifestyle can be connected to one another. Is there a way to solidify and improve the relationship between UHP and the different colleges on campus? Can an Honors pipeline be created within the Long Beach College Promise program? These are just some of the questions Dr. Pérez toys with in her mind.

Overall, Dr. Pérez simply looks forward to watching students do their thing. She says the best feeling in the world comes when she not only gets to observe but also play a role in students gaining the confidence they need to reach and achieve their goals.

Dr. Pérez's message to UHP students is this: "You're in a very special space that can help you reach your dreams. Take advantage of it. Learning is a gift. You have the talent and opportunity to take your learning in any direction you want to go. We exist to support that."

Dr. Pérez is more than excited to be able to serve CSULB Honors students!



Back to “Normal”

Feeling at home in the Honors Community Dorms.

by Jason Turk

After nearly 18 months, honors students have finally made a return to the dorms. A great deal has changed regarding the housing environment, ranging from their foundational services to the manner in which they are operated. More so, the students in the dorms have undergone their own change—after tackling classes for so long online from the comforts of their homes, they’ve been thrown into a setting which, for the most part, is purely academic. Despite the challenges faced by the newness of these environments, honors students are wholly embracing this long-awaited return to the dorms.

Upon first entering, the honors dorms appear

“They’ve done a really good job of creating events...

much less lively than one might expect. With a bevy of Covid-inspired safety measures in place, it’s naturally more difficult to casually meet and greet others than it used to be. Masks are expected to be worn everywhere outside of one’s room, and anyone who leaves the dorm area is similarly expected to com-



Dorm Kitchen Space



Hana Metka moved into the newly remodeled Honor’s housing in which the community has been great.

plete their Covid pre-screen exam. As first-floor honors resident Hana Metka notes, “it’s very quiet... there’s not a lot going on over here.” Though it seems these well-implemented safety measures may stifle student interaction, it ultimately allows for students, like Metka, to feel safer, as she states the thorough policies “give me a lot of peace of mind. They don’t bother me.”

With the return to the dorms, many honors residents have similarly made a return to in-person classes. While students are, overall, grateful to learn beyond the virtual windows of Zoom, many are still adjusting to the distinct challenges posed by in-person courses. Metka summarizes the mixed sentiment, saying “I miss being in a classroom, but at the same time, I don’t want to go over there.” Though she notes in-person courses have been much more engaging, she admits that she enjoys the convenience of being able to attend class from the comfort of her room.

One aspect which has helped students adjust to dorm life is the focus on resident-based events. These events, put on primarily by student RAs, have successfully created a strong sense of community amongst honors students. As Metka notes, “They’ve done a really good job of creating events...The first week we were here they did a whole week of



Dorm Common Area

events...as far as community, the honors community especially, it’s been great.”

Despite the struggles of transitioning back to a state of normalcy, Metka is among the students undoubtedly grateful to have the refuge of the honors dorms. She reflects that, despite feeling pangs of homesickness, she embraces the chance to “be independent and grow up a little bit.” This move towards independence, she notes, is buoyed by the welcoming nature of the honors house, where she is surrounded by students going through experiences identical to her own. Everyone, to some degree, is attempting to learn what it means to form connections and community in post-pandemic life, and though there will likely be growing pains, seeking out these connections is undoubtedly worthwhile.

A Word from Our Honors RAs

Q: How do you hope to engage student residents?

A: "As an RA I try to host engaging programs that my residents can attend. I do my best to do social activities that allow the residents to get to know one another and have a chance to socialize. I have also set up one on one meetings to have a chance to get to know each of my residents individually, as well as sending check up emails to see how they feel or if they need any help with anything."

Taya Brown-Del Biaggio

"Housing and Residential Life has designed curriculum to engage residents, and as RAs we implement the curriculum via bulletin boards and many different events. From move in day to the start of classes, we hold a week of events called Beach Days! Those events are our first opportunity to engage students, and foster a community within our village."

Margaret Jobe

Q: What has been the most challenging part of introducing students to the dorms?

A: "Residents can be busy at times, especially those in honors, so it can be difficult to have an active communication with them. We use Microsoft Teams in housing to chat with residents, but sometimes they don't respond or simply don't use Teams. I have found it can be easier to email them, and at times if I have a resident that I can't get a hold of online, I simply knock on their doors and hope they are open to having a conversation with me."

Taya Brown-Del Biaggio

"The most challenging part of introducing students to the dorms has been all of the uncertainty surrounding COVID, and ongoing construction. In the Honors building especially, there has been continuous construction since move in, as crews work to finish up the building for us. With select COVID policies in housing, there have been changes which the residents are required to quickly adapt to. Overall, residents are very patient with all of the changes occurring, and have been able to make housing their home."

Margaret Jobe

Q: What has been the best part of being an RA at Honors house?

A: "To me, the best part about being an RA is getting to meet so many different kinds of people. I know so many people, from different walks of life, with different majors and interest. I have also been blessed with amazing coworkers. The RAs this year are so much fun to get to know, and I have met some of my closest friends at this job in the past couple years."

Taya Brown-Del Biaggio

"Being an RA in Honors House is special to me because I am the RA for the part of the building I lived in my freshman year. I love the Honors community, because we are all so dedicated to our academic careers, and are respectful and mindful of one another as well. It will be my pleasure to see what my residents accomplish during their time in housing."

Margaret Jobe

Los Cerritos RAs★



Hannah



Lucas



Margaret



Ryan



Sogol



Taya

Discovering One's Calling

by Derek Madrid

Investigating the health inequality affecting one's community.

Adeline Rosales studies with her laptop at the BUILD center.



found her calling in Communication Studies, which she passionately describes as “more than just the study of how people communicate, it’s the study of how everything communicates and how it influences people.”

“...more than just the study of how people communicate, it’s the study of how everything communicates and how it influences people.”

Adeline never imagined she would conduct scholarly research, but now she is composing her own BUILD research project, “A Survey of Public-Health Data Tracking & Communication Practices for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in Southern California to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic.” She chose this topic because of her personal experience with public health services. Last December, Adeline and her family were diagnosed with COVID-19. They anxiously looked for guidance on the San Bernardino COVID-19 information webpage, but the resources they found were woefully uninformative and failed to help Adeline’s family in their time of need.

Drawing on her personal difficulties with the Southern California Health information system and the understanding that BIPOC unilaterally faces disadvantage in American Society, Adeline chose her topic and set to work. She approached her research in two phases:

Phase 1: Investigate which BIPOC groups were most affected by COVID-19 in Southern California regarding both infections and deaths.

Phase 2: Determine whether the five counties in

Southern California offer culturally relevant information and tools for the population living in that area.

Adelaine’s research demonstrates that BIPOC are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 when compared to their Asian and White counterparts in Southern California. This discrimination manifests in the lack of comprehensible, culturally accommodating COVID-19 materials on the various Southern California Counties’ health websites. Further, Adeline’s study led her to the conclusion that many white-identifying Hispanics are being counted twice in census data, inflating the population count for white people. From this, Adeline argues resources are being allocated disproportionately within the region.

Although Adeline is a hard-working individual, her research is the result of a team effort. Adeline praises her many role-models, including her BUILD mentor Melawhy Garcia who kindly guided her through the research process with striking professionalism, her personal mentor Eduardo Serafin from UC Berkeley who pushed her to view education with serious intent, and CSULB professors Dr. Jessica Russell and Dr. Luke Wagner who have offered sage advice during her time at the university. Adeline attributes her positive research experience to BUILD. The welcoming and friendly people at BUILD have had a profound impact on her education, and she recommends that people apply for the program even if they are unsure whether it is right for them. As Adeline says, “[I’m] achieving dreams that I never thought I could...because I decided to take a chance and...do something I didn’t think would be worth it...and here I am, they saw something in me”.

Adeline urges women of color to join the program and offers advice to anyone who is interested in BUILD. As one of the warmest, most clever, and well directed students at CSULB, the University Honors Program is lucky to count Adeline Rosales as part of the community.



Professor Melawhy Garcia (left), Director of the Latino Center and Adeline Rosales (right), together presenting their research at the BUILD symposium.



Adeline Rosales represents the best of what the University Honors Program has to offer. A self-proclaimed extrovert, Adeline radiates a natural warmth, attentiveness, and geniality during conversation; additionally, she boasts an impressive list of accolades. As a communications major, she holds certificates in Healthcare Administration, Media-tion, and Professional and Technical Writing. Most importantly, Adeline is engaged in health-related research through the BUILD Scholar program, an undergraduate research opportunity designed to prepare students for doctoral studies.

Prior to attending CSULB, Adeline studied at Chafey College in Rancho Cucamonga, where she soon

Great Chemistry & Lots of Outreach

by Abbas Abdulhasan

CSULB Honors alum & Ph.D. candidate, James Collins, is working on photochemistry and building a diverse community of future scientists at the University of Michigan

James Collins is a 5th-year Organic Chemistry graduate student at the University of Michigan (MICH) working in the Stephenson lab. Their lab focuses on using visible light photochemistry to catalyze all their reactions with the goal of accessing various different potential pharmaceutical scaffolds.

Collins grew up in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from CSULB in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry, during which he was part of the Honors Program, the research program MARC U*STAR, and the Schramm lab. His work in the Schramm lab entailed enhancing drug transport of serotonin and dopamine; it became the focus of his Honors thesis project and his first research publica-

“Representation is important. Growing up, nobody that I knew was doing anything similar to what I’m doing right now.”



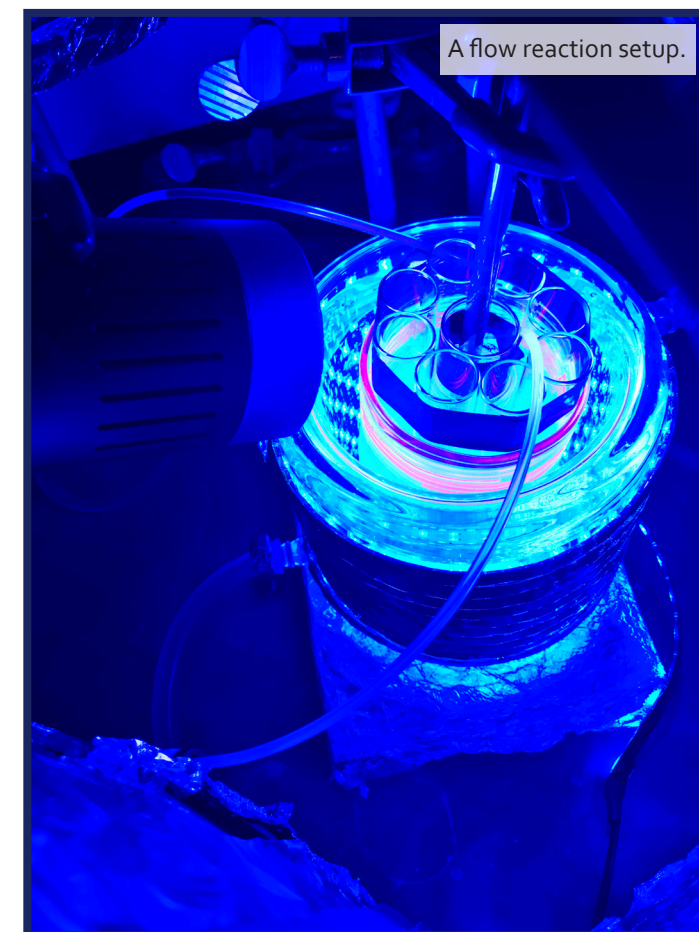
James Collins at the Stephenson lab.

tion. At the Schramm lab, he worked on synthetically modifying serotonin and dopamine to add 'choline handles' and then, through the use of U-tube experiments, would simulate how serotonin would pass through the membrane in the body. The Honors thesis and the work that went into his research project in the Schramm lab, although tough, was important in helping him learn how to work in a lab and how to push a project forward by himself. "As a grad student, all I do is work in a lab and try to get the different projects going," Collins said. "The honors thesis and the work that went into it was huge in terms of what I have been able to accomplish so far [as a 5th-year grad student]."



James Collins at the 2019 ACS conference.

During his time at CSULB, Collins was very much engaged in sharing his passion for research with others like him. He attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) and the American Chemical Society (ACS) conference where he presented his work on drug transport of serotonin and dopamine. He later went back to ACS, as a Ph.D. candidate, to inspire the new generation of young scientists to pursue their passions and not be discouraged by the lack of racial and ethnic diversity in STEM. "Representation is important. Growing up, nobody that I knew was doing anything similar to what I'm doing right now," Collins said. At CSULB, Collins strived to build a stronger chemistry community through his role in CSULB's Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS) by helping underrepresented, undergraduate students reach their educational and career goals in the fields of chemistry and biochemistry. At MICH, he continued this passion for helping minority students by joining Students of Color of Rackham where he, with the help of other passionate graduate students, focused on building a strong and vibrant community of students of color on campus. He also played a similar role as part of the



A flow reaction setup.



James Collins participating in an outreach event at MICH.

National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE). Both organizations have a focus on introducing more black and brown students into STEM and supporting them so that they stay on track in their STEM careers and fields throughout their degree at MICH and beyond. Collins has played a substantial role in recruitment events in ABRCMS and NOBCChE to bring more students of color into the chemistry department at MICH, "My journey has been focused on chemistry but also really took the initiative in trying to introduce more outreach, which I hope will leave a mark on the department when I move on," Collins said. "Having a strong and diverse community of students that support each other is critical for the success of a department."

Collins received the prestigious NIH F31 fellowship and landed an internship at Merck this summer in Rahway, NJ. He recently accepted a job at Pfizer back in SoCal, which he is really excited about because he has family there. He hopes to continue inspiring and encouraging students of color to pursue their passions for being in STEM by sharing his arduous, yet fulfilling, story and journey with them.

Celeste Sanchez, a Leader in the Making

by Julian Morales-Silva

An interview with one of the most pro-active students out there.

In a time where politics are associated with strife and gridlock, there are those that take that stigma and throw it out the window. Those who want to fix our system of democracy rather than enter it merely for a profit. There are those that truly care about the trials and tribulations of those they wish to represent.

There are those, like Celeste Sanchez

Q: What's your major here at CSULB and what year are you in?

I am a 4th year honors student double majoring in political science and business economics with a minor in Chinese Language & Culture.

Q: Politics has become a pretty intense field lately, what made you choose it?

First off, I think politics is in everything whether we like to talk about it directly or not. Politics is about making decisions that shape our life. What first brought me into politics was my passion and connection to our immigration situation in the U.S. Immigration is an area that shapes my identity as a proud daughter of immigrants and that has shaped my experience and existence overall, as well as those of my family, friends, and local community.

Q: Walk me through a day in your life as a legislative assistant.

Certain tasks vary week by week, but my main responsibility is to review and analyze each week's city council agenda primarily through the lens of my district. I summarize each agenda item and brief the Councilwoman on each item with comments and questions on how they may affect our district that she may highlight on the dais.

Q: What would you like the students who come after you to know about the field you're in? Any specific advice you'd like to give to readers?

I would say do not limit your imagination to what is out there and what is possible. When I first began interning at City Council back in high school, I had zero clue what a city council was and what it did. What I did know was there were many issues in my community, and I wanted to be among those actively and genuinely working to change that. What that meant exactly or what "career" or "job title" that [included], I had no idea. So, my biggest advice for those entering this field of activists and change makers is one: keep your values and reasons [as to] why you're doing this so close to your heart and so clear in your mind.

Q: What are your goals? Am I talking to the next mayor of Long Beach perhaps?

I know I want to end up working in the White House at some point because I dream of walking up those steps on a workday and Facetiming my mom and dad to say "¡Miren, aquí trabaja su hija!" [which means] "Look! Your daughter works here!" I am a proud daughter of immigrants and of just genuinely the best two human beings in the world. My heroes and my story is one that resembles those of so many others, and so to be able to work in the place that represents our democracy and the highest level of power in this nation is a powerful thing.

Sanchez is interning as a City Council legislative assistant.



Sanchez's passion lies in U.S. Immigration and she hopes to one day work in the White House.

Creative Contributions ☆



I thought making a piece around the saying “having your head in the clouds” was a good foundation. From there, I just trust the process.

-Maya Wyr

Cloud Nine



Flowers with Love

I have to thank my “One & Only” for introducing me to the breathtaking beauty of the still life that is within a flower. This photo collage is to her.
-Abbas Abdulhasan



Witches

This painting was made for the Halloween season.
-Rita Farag

Summer & Winter



This drawing is yin yang for two opposite seasons: the top one is winter, snow, and mountains, and the bottom is summer, beach, and sun.

-Rita Farag

proposal

A short poem on marriage

Marry me
for the tax benefits,
for a joint IRS file —
for the luxury of
silence at family events.
I don't need you
to love me every day
because I know
love is a feeling
that rarely stays.
Do I really need
to make your heart
flutter, at the sight of me?
If you had heart palpitations
every day, it'd be a medical
condition,
and we can't afford the hospi-
tal bills.
Can't it be enough to simply
tolerate me, to wake up
and live the day together?
I don't need to be
Your Soulmate, the One,
Your Only; I want
you to choose me,
every day
knowing that I'm not.
Marry me,
and I promise I'll love you
except when I don't.

Based on someone that told
me love isn't enough to make
a marriage last if I think love is
a feeling.

-Georgie Suico



California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Library, Room 507
Long Beach, CA 90840

(562) 985-1774
honors@csulb.edu
www.csulb.edu/honors