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- **Beth Ellis**: justifies all text, to make up for those that don't stay in line.
- **Alison Ernst**: likes wearing sweaters with animals on them.
- **Ben Huynh**: is currently being shipped to the West in a shoebox.
- **Sierra Patheal**: is currently battling her addiction to semicolons; she has not yet been successful.
- **Meagan Meylor**: refuses to type in Times New Roman.
- **Peter Matatics**: is a manner police to the grammar police.
- **Sage Overoye**: has pre-ordered all 27 Nancy Drew computer games.

- **Laura Tanimoto**: doesn't need shades because she's already got ND filters.
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The California budget has affected everyone within the CSU system faculty. Many have helped to keep costs and university programs, such as Cal State Long Beach's University Honors Program. According to UHP Assistant Director Terri Iler, the Program has had to adapt to stricter course enrollment requirements. Although the Program’s total membership has not been significantly affected, Iler said there’s more pressure now to fill UHP classes as compared to years past. “There’s less justification to have the liberty to close off our classes to non-Honors students,” she explained. Previously the Program could hold a class of ten Honors students, but it’s now much harder to rationalize such a small class and prohibit non-Honors students from joining. Only five years ago, UHP offered almost double the number of courses it has available for the 2012-13 academic year due to these reasons.

Students	 seemed 	 satisfied 	 and 	 motivated
The discussion opened with recognition of Honors Board’s most recent annual report on college costs and student aid, Trends in College Pricing, revealed that, “in 2011-12, the average published price for state tuition and fees for full-time public four-year undergraduate students in the nation was $8,244” per year. Iler said Honors students have told her of anxieties to find jobs and finish school in four years so their families can afford the cost of college. These rises in tuition have also seen parallels in federal grant and tax credit increases for students, which have helped to keep costs and fees for families relatively low. Some argue that while the government may have helped students in this way, it has not done much to keep tuition low. “The states cut budgets, the price of college goes up,” Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, told the Long Beach Press Telegram. “For 25 years we’ve been moving more and more money into financial aid, and tuition keeps going up. We’re on a national treadmill.”

The national average price of state tuition and fees at four-year universities increased by another $631 in the Fall 2011 semester, or 8.3 percent, from what it was a year prior. Leading the way in this jump was the state of California with a 23 percent tuition increase, the largest of any state. This Fall, students were reprieved due to the passage of Proposition 30, preventing California State Universities from receiving an additional $250 million budget cut. With the passing of Proposition 30 came a student fee reduction; the campuses, subsequently, reimbursed each student with a $249 refund. Cal State Long Beach carefully planned to ensure the accommodation of the 2012-2013 Schedule of Classes.

Budget prioritizing within the CSU has also created tension among faculty, resulting in the California Faculty Association’s one-day strike on Nov. 17, 2011, at CSU Dominguez Hills and CSU East Bay. The union wanted to bring attention to the problems it sees in the CSU’s prioritizing of certain budget items. However, CSU spokesperson, Erik Fallis, said such energy should be recentered on the state. “We really need to focus our collective energy on making sure the state reconsiders its budget with the price [of college] goes up,” Fallis said. “We’re not going to get out of this cycle unless we have the resources to provide a quality education and serve the students the best way we can.”

CSULB and the California State University system are also creating greater opportunities for Honors students to explore similar ways of building academic credit or learning experiences in groups. CSULB is home to a number of education programs and initiatives with a focus on global studies and cross-cultural understanding. Center for International Education (CIE) representatives shared about their work with students and faculty, and the opportunities they offer to international experiences. Long term and short term study abroad, internships, and scholarships.

Notes from Nele
Dear UHP Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends,
It gives me great pleasure to write a few words from the Director’s desk. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to this year’s Honor Code editorial staff for its hard work on this issue of the UHP newsletter. I am sure that Honor Code readers will marvel with me at the professional design and the in-depth reporting that informs every single page of this publication!

I am particularly happy to see that our Honors Program’s events initiatives—which are all geared towards delivering invaluable on- and off-campus resources to our Honors students—are starting to bear fruit: There is nothing more gratifying in my profession as a CSULB faculty member than seeing students succeed in obtaining prestigious internships, winning highly-competitive scholarships and awards, or gaining entry into the graduate school program of their choice. This Honor Code highlights the many forms student success can take in the hope that it may inspire other Honors students to explore similar ways of building a bright future for themselves.

As our recent UHP Self-Study indicates, our Program graduates more and more students every year with Honors Certificates and we are exceeding proudly of our students’ perseverance and achievements. In the spirit of many more great things to come, Go Geek!

Dr. Nele Hempel-Lamer
University Honors Program, Director
attended this event on the last day of classes of the Fall 2012 semester. For a synopsis of his research, visit his website at www.atrazineowers.com.
The golden ticket
by Heather Friedman

As another semester gets underway, the "big question" may be surfacing for several juniors and seniors: What follows graduation? A majority of graduates will find their way into the workforce, while others may have their sights set on graduate school. If you are currently a junior or senior, it is now time to begin preparing for your future: Audit Intern for KPMG, I will be auditing the financial statements of some of the most well-known companies in the world. I have been actively involved in many programs and activities to better prepare myself for the future. This summer I will get my first taste of what it means to begin working towards my future as an audit intern. I will be interacting with individuals from KPMG, including partners and supervisors inside and outside of my major departments. They can provide you with support, advice, and encouragement to help you achieve your career goals.

This past semester I have been attending the lab meetings of Dr. Gharkhaniyan, whose lab studies emotions and the neural mechanisms underlying their function. She uses these studies to understand more about what causes changes in mood and to possibly develop anti-cancer drugs. Currently, I am learning about the lab's work until I take more classes and, later, I will be able to assist with research. Next semester I will be volunteering in The Institute for Integrated Research in Materials, Environments, and Society (IIMES) science lab on campus. There I will assist in research on organic and proteomic materials. Both of these opportunities are helping me to stride for my ultimate career goal of being a clinical pediatric oncology researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a dream I have had since I was seven years old.

This semester I have taken advantage of two unique research opportunities: one in the Independent Research Internship (SIRI) Program at NASA, and the other in the Undergraduate Research Programs (UHP) at my university. This is a wonderful time to explore your options and decide what you want to do with your life. As you decide on your course of action, be sure to consider your career interests.

This summer I will be interning at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, as a Research Intern for the Space Science Division. I began my internship program a few years ago in the Nano-optics Lab in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. In short, I analyzed nanoscopic images of the solid acids Carbon Dioxide and Hydrogen Sulfate in order to optimize the design of solar cells. Since January 2012, I have interned at JPL and have had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. Some of my interests include high performance computing, machine learning, and astrophysics. I have also had the chance to work with amazing mentors and colleagues.

As advice to those unsure about their future, it is important to explore all of your options before deciding on a specific career path. The University of California, Los Angeles offers many opportunities for students to gain experience in various fields. Whether you are interested in research, education, or industry, there is a program for you. As you continue to explore your options, be sure to keep an open mind and be willing to try new things. This will help you to find the "right fit" for you.

As you begin your job search, remember that it is important to network with professionals in your field. This will help you to gain valuable insights into the industry and will also help you to find job opportunities. As you continue to explore your options, be sure to keep an open mind and be willing to try new things. This will help you to find the "right fit" for you. If you are interested in engineering, you may want to consider enrolling in a prep course such as those offered by CSULB's College of Continuing and Professional Education (e.g., the COPE offers a Graduate Records Examination prep course for $450) or buying a book online to study independently. It is important to approach your job search with a confident attitude, whether that is employment or graduate school and remember this: The Hollywood office is all about how you feel about your Bachelor's and gaining work experience.

For those of you who are still unsure about their career path, I encourage you to explore your interests through internships and other opportunities. This will help you to gain valuable experience and will also help you to find the "right fit" for you. As you continue to explore your options, be sure to keep an open mind and be willing to try new things. This will help you to find the "right fit" for you. If you are interested in engineering, you may want to consider enrolling in a prep course such as those offered by CSULB's College of Continuing and Professional Education (e.g., the COPE offers a Graduate Records Examination prep course for $450) or buying a book online to study independently. It is important to approach your job search with a confident attitude, whether that is employment or graduate school and remember this: The Hollywood office is all about how you feel about your Bachelor's and gaining work experience.

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Cassandra Durian decided that she needed a change of scenery and a break from her CSULB routine. What better way than to take a semester to study a language she had never been introduced to! She decided to go to Jinan, China, entirely new to her! GlobaLinks Learning Abroad gave her that chance and spirited her away to the Far East in the Spring of 2012, where she studied Mandarin at Minzu University in Beijing. It is “indescribable,” was, in a word, Cassandra’s summary of her experience in China. From meeting fellow international students from Ireland, France, Kazakhstan, and Japan to studying “one of the hardest subjects [she] has ever attempted.” Cassandra had an unforgettable four months in Beijing. In fact, upon completing her semester at Minzu, she realized that she would not really go home and moved to an apartment in Jinan, capital of Shandong province. A friend was currently teaching English there and suggested that Cassandra attempt to do the same. Following her arrival, Cassandra was given an interview at a local private school and was hired on a probationary basis, giving her the opportunity to prove herself as an English teacher. After a few weeks, her superiors taught her the basics of a foreign country. “I’m definitely going back to China to teach. It may be a little nerve-wracking at first, but you are teaching students English on the weekends. On average, she would usually teach classes that ranged from 20 to 25 students. The time spent teaching is very rewarding, and a lot of the people who reach out to her are truly interested in learning Chinese. Cassandra would go on to teach at a bunch of different places, including the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Southern California. She described the experience as invaluable and a great way to meet new people and learn about Chinese culture. The sun crept across the sky, casting a golden glow over the city of Jinan. Cassandra boarded a train to Beijing, eager to explore the bustling metropolis and immerse herself in Chinese culture. The train ride was long and arduous, but Cassandra was determined to make the most of her time in China. She arrived in Beijing late at night, exhausted but excited. Cassandra decided to take a walk to explore the city, and as she strolled through the streets, she couldn’t help but marvel at the towering skyscrapers and vibrant energy of the city. She was filled with a sense of curiosity and wonder, eager to learn more about China and its rich history. Cassandra spent the next few days exploring the city, visiting famous landmarks such as the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China. She also tried some of the local cuisine, savoring the flavors of Sichuan peppercorns and a variety of other spices and flavors. Cassandra knew that her time in China was limited, but she was determined to make the most of it. She felt truly alive and invigorated, as if she had discovered a new world of possibilities within herself. Cassandra thought about all the experiences she had had during her six-month stay and realized that she had grown so much. Her understanding of Chinese culture had deepened, and she had a newfound appreciation for the country’s rich history and traditions. She knew that her time in China was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and she was grateful for every moment of it. Cassandra felt excited to share her stories and experiences with others, eager to inspire them to explore new horizons and embrace the beauty of diversity. She knew that her time in China had been a true learning experience, and she was determined to carry these lessons with her for the rest of her life. Cassandra thought about all the experiences she had had during her six-month stay and realized that she had grown so much. Her understanding of Chinese culture had deepened, and she had a newfound appreciation for the country’s rich history and traditions. She knew that her time in China was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and she was grateful for every moment of it. Cassandra felt excited to share her stories and experiences with others, eager to inspire them to explore new horizons and embrace the beauty of diversity. She knew that her time in China had been a true learning experience, and she was determined to carry these lessons with her for the rest of her life.
Amelia Benavente Blanco loves films and she loves making films even more. During the summer before entering college, Amelia was given the opportunity to pursue her passions by applying to a summer internship making to good use: she landed an audiovisual internship at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

It was not easy for Amelia to find a summer internship. "I began to realize that all, or most of [the internships], specifically stated that they preferred a junior or senior in college, if not a graduate, and I was not yet a freshman," said Amelia. As the application process continued, Amelia found herself becoming more and more discouraged. However, Amelia found encouragement from her mother, who stood behind the idea of never knowing what will happen when you take risks. After talking with her mom, Amelia decided not to allow the preferred college year dissuade her schools in other states to teach them about marine animals and the aquarium itself. "It is incredibly beneficial and of use in applications. Philip soon found that those accepted to this CSU program were considered a valuable commodity by the Sac State political science department.

"As our nation's capital, Washington D.C. is important political figure there. His workload began with simple clerical duties, but she got to attend meetings with the Speaker of the House and even worked on a research project that benefited the entire non-profit that she was working for. For instance, Environmental Science and Policy is an opportunity is open to students from all majors. The site on which she decided was the Local Initiatives Support Organization. According to Rangel, this was an area that she was more interested in, as she explained to me, "with various political actors in the capitol. As a result of these experiences, she was encouraged to continue her career in the capitol after graduation, as she certainly has built a firm foundation for it.

As our nation's capital, Washington D.C. is internship, Victoria found full of many hardworking that the experience was a and eager professional who always looking to get ahead the professional skills she in the world. This past summer, Victorina Palace got to join them. As a junior majoring in Sociology with a minor in Political Science, Victoria was interested in pursuing policy work to deal with the climate change issue. After attending an internship presentation co-hosted by the University Honors Program and the Career Development Center, she decided on a program that sounded interesting: The Washington Center. Although she had a full schedule of 700 people.

"The project [research paper on Congressional elections, and redistricting, which supplements what I have learned in Political Science] is really motivating," she explained to me. According to Victoria, the process was [this]; you tell them what you’re interested in, they have a whole group of internship placements call you, and then you interview the company, and then either you accept the job or you don’t. As our nation's capitol, Washington D.C. is internship, Victoria believed in her experience in D.C. has given her a lot more confidence in the field of politics.

"Having a tough boss, Victoria learned how to be a skilled professional and how to put herself out there. Being placed in a challenging situation allowed her to grow, said Victoria. "When Philip started going to hearings and the floor, he could now recognize many of the faces. He knew their names, positions, and political histories and how to deal with a politician. When even when a politician gave a speech, he could hear that with an understanding of the speaker's context.

Eventually Philip was given meator to work through writing policy reports: he would be giving an issue that was coming up and was asked to write an in-depth review of it. This meant that he was researching plenty of facts in the Public Policy Institute, going to hearings to pick up relevant data, and even having interviews with various political actors in the capitol.

As policy spans all topics, this internship opportunity is open to students from all majors. For instance, Environmental Science and Policy majors may find it interesting that Net Energy Metering was a big issue during Philip's spring internship. Environmentalists and the energy corporations, such as PG&E, are making sure their concerns are protected in new legislation until the process can be set up to be more financially beneficial to both parties. Throughout this internship Philip learned a lot.

By the end of the session he was familiar with how a variety of factors can impact the energy market.
You might be asking yourself, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Right? But is your answer the same the day throughout the years? Most likely not. Even though many people may have been born with the intrinsic knowledge of what they would like to do with their lives, many of us are not. So where should one start searching?

Lizette Alvarez is a sweet and compassionate student here at CSULB and has been a University Honors Program (UHP) member ever since she was a freshman. Year after year, she has shown in her undergraduate studies by getting involved in activities and organizations like Japan Club and an internship at St. Mary’s Medical Center from 2009 to 2011, as well as working at the Learning Assistance Center as a tutor and trainer for other tutors. In 2010, she became the Community Outreach Officer on the UHP Student Association Executive Board. By the end of her term, she had set many event precedent, organizing fundraisers and beach clearups, putting together social events and planning the AIDS Walk, which raised almost a thousand dollars under her leadership in 2011. In addition to all of this, she also rocked her Honors thesis after finding a major she was truly passionate about.

Her journey to this major was no cakewalk, considering she changed it many times. Just like many students on this campus, she found herself discontented with the first few majors she chose. But unlike many others, she was unafraid to change her major. She went from being biochemistry, to art, then hotel management, pre-nursing, and, as a junior in 2010, she finally became a Spanish major. In the end, she found what she really liked and this great discovery has taken her to new heights.

One of her most notable achievements is her Honors thesis entitled “Indigenous Languages in Contemporary Mexico: Preservation, Restoration, and Cultural Identity.” It was written under the guidance of Dr. Rita Ruffino. Lizette feels that college has so much to offer and that many students don’t know that there are indigenous languages in Mexico, and adds that studying indigenous languages is important because “the general perception is that Mexican languages Spanish only.” Indigenous languages go unnoticed because some are only spoken, but through her research, she discovered that a few of the languages are in the process of being preserved in writing. Lizette’s thesis was selected to receive the highly regarded “Best UPH Thesis Award” for 2011. She says, “I didn’t see it coming!” and notes that she almost did not attend the awards ceremony, citing passion because she had a final right afterwards. She recalls Dr. Nele Hempel-Lammer hinting that she should attend. She was definitely glad she went.

Lizette’s resilience and her tenacity to find a passion has led her to where she is today: a graduate student at CSULB, pursuing her Masters in linguistics and has been an active member of the CSULB Language and Literature Club, and an active member of the CSULB Hispanic Student Association, and UHP. She is now considering her next steps in graduate school.

In the course description for Communication Studies 344, you cite communication skills as being extremely important for applicants. Is there any way for students to improve those skills?

Many employers say that communication is the top skill that they’re looking for. People can refine their skills by being more aware of their communication, both written and verbal, and how other people might be interpreting that. You should try to adapt to your audience. If they’re looking for someone to be more formal, then act that way. If they’re looking for someone to be more casual, then do your best to cater to that. Many employers say that communication is the top skill that they’re looking for. People can refine their skills by being more aware of their communication, both written and verbal, and how other people might be interpreting that. You should try to adapt to your audience. If they’re looking for someone to be more formal, then act that way. If they’re looking for someone to be more casual, then do your best to cater to that.

Communication skills employers are looking for:

To help improve your skills, there are several books that highlight some of the basic communication skills employers are looking for. Taking even one communication class while you’re in school can really help.

How can students differentiate themselves in the interview process, specifically when the application is online?

With an online application, there is the resume and cover letter as well as the actual interview. The principle to separate yourself is the same as you realize, and one neglected area is your coursework as well as classes. You worked with teams, you worked for both. One of my recommendations is to make yourself more memorable by giving concrete examples to illustrate your skills. Many people make the mistake of listing the top 5-10 adjectives that describe them.

Are there any keywords that employers look for on a resume/cover letter?

There aren’t keywords that I look for that will help someone get an interview. When employers look at the stack, they first look for who’s going in their “No” pile. Having inconsistent use of space and minor things, like not proofreading, being too generic or too vague, can sit you in that pile.

Another common mistake that I often see on resumes is that people describe their duties at a particular job very generally, as opposed to what they brought to that position. That’s something that will get you weeded out, because employers don’t know enough about you to make a determination.

How do you feel about employers using Facebook as a method to screen applicants?

Be prepared to know things about the organization to which you are applying. One of the weed-out questions that I ask people is, “Do you know about our organization?” If you do your research, it makes you look like you’re being more of a critical consumer. You are going to take any job, but have you researched it and this seemed like a good fit for you?

Be sure to practice answer questions out loud, because how you think you’re going to answer a question doesn’t always come out that way. You can Google 50 most commonly asked interview questions and use those for practice.

My last piece of advice is to send a thank you note. Only about ten percent of job applicants send any kind of thank you. It’s a good opportunity to stand out and refresh the employer’s memory of who you are. Even if they don’t offer you the job now, they may remember you and save your information or refer you to a friend. You never know how it can help you.

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