

CCS Class of 2020



Graduate Album

Congratulations CCS Class of 2020!

Dear CCS Class of 2020,

Charles Dickens began *A Tale of Two Cities* with a juxtaposition: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." With the arrival of the graduation of the Class of 2020, it seems only fitting to acknowledge the same juxtaposition in this moment. We wish we could be together to celebrate as we had planned, but the Universe had other plans. While staff and faculty remain behind in Santa Barbara, you might be elsewhere, celebrating with a smaller group of friends and family than you expected. It is difficult to summon the same unabashed joy we would have shared as a group of 900 smiling people in Campbell Hall. Even so, we are thrilled to celebrate you as you prepare for your next journey in life. As we read through your achievements and your plans featured in this year's unique Graduate Album, we got to know you even better, to laugh at your jokes, and to delight in your accomplishments. We are so proud of all of you. We hope to see you in June 2021 to celebrate the best of times together at our future postponed Commencement.

The CCS Staff,

Lynn Clark, Jen Johansen, Marianne Morris, Christin Palmstrom, Savannah Parison, Megan Peterson, Frank Bauman

Interim Dean, Bruce H. Tiffney

Dean Designate, Gerardo Aldana

Associate Dean, Leroy E. Laverman

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Ansuman Chandra Bardalai

CCS Mathematics



Future Plans

Cambridge University - Part III of the Mathematical Tripos

Jenny S. Bardwell

CCS Writing & Literature



Achievements

- Throughout my time at UCSB, I became very invested in community. Joining the women's ultimate team was the best decision I ever made as an undergrad.
- I have never before been part of something so powerful and long lasting. My team is my home.
- My teammates inspire me every day and I never thought I would learn more leaving than I did staying.

Future Plans

Due to the unexpected economic downturn, my future plans have fallen through and I plan to fulfill the writer's trope of writing bad poetry, drinking red wine, and living on my parents' couch

Reno S. Behnken

CCS Biology



Achievements

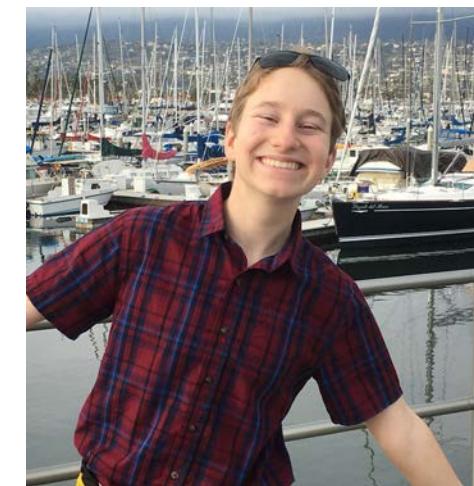
- Creating a detailed poster for geologic cross-section in Field Geology
- Co-directing a concert dedicated to the music of Frank Zappa at Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall
- Hosting well-attended backyard concerts at my house in IV, including original compositions

Future Plans

Hope to work in science communication at natural history or science museums; aspire to be a professional musician

Haley S. Bowden

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Assisted in the organization of the 2019 APS Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics
- Awarded the 2019 Goldwater Scholarship
- Presented research at the 235th meeting of the American Astronomical Society

Future Plans

University of Arizona, Department of Astronomy

Joshua Ethan Burgos-Ponce

CCS Biology



Achievements

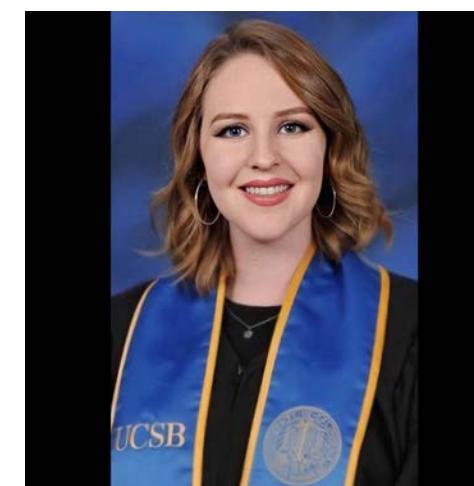
- Participated in offshore ocean research aboard the RV Atlantis under the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Studied polycystic kidney disease under the Early Undergraduate Research Experiences and Knowledge Acquisition (EUREKA) internship program
- Conducted research on anaerobic microbial degradation on giant kelp under the California Alliance for Minority Partnership (CAMP) internship program

Future Plans

I will work in industry for a year and then I will apply to a graduate program.

Roshelle Carlson

CCS Art (Book Arts)



Achievements

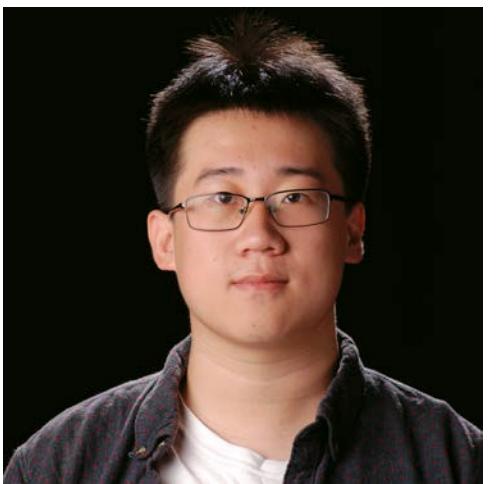
- Awarded the Penland Prize ('19) to attend Penland School of Craft, NC for a two week summer printmaking residency, presented at RACA-CON
- Awarded the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Grant ('19-'20) to create a printmaking/research project about Woodland, CA Victorian homes
- Appointed Student Coordinator in her 3rd year of working at the AS Pardall Center; nominated for AS Student Staff of the Year Award ('19-'20)

Future Plans

I will be staying in Santa Barbara during the summer post-grad, to work one final quarter as the Student Coordinator of the Associated Students Pardall Center, as well as complete an internship with my advisor, Linda Ekstrom. After that, I'm hoping to find a full-time job.

Zhe Chen

CCS Biology and L&S Statistics and Data Science



Achievements

- Researched the property of cell apoptosis and attend the RACA-CON session with the poster and presented my research work to the sponsor of my lab
- Studied and improved a deep learning algorithm in classification of various cell structures
- Learning how to kendo

Future Plans

Columbia University

Alex Cicconi-Kasper

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Winning Startup Weekend 2018 with +Charge
- Designing a 60 GHz 5G homodyne receiver chain with 20.3 dB cascade gain, 1.1 dB IIP3, 80.8 dB sensitivity, and 54.6 dB SFDR
- Doubling my money during the 2020 stock market crash buying put options on cruise lines and airlines and call options on the volatility index and SDOW

Future Plans

I plan to work as an RF Engineer at Apple or Qualcomm while continuing to build my startup +Charge. Then, after gaining more experience as an RF engineer, making connections, and saving money, I plan to leave Apple to start a wireless energy company after successfully exiting +Charge with an acquisition by a public company.

Jason Corbin

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Sleeping more senior year
- Reducing my coffee intake to 2 cups per day
- 한국어 조금 배웠어 :)

Future Plans

Stanford

Gabby E. Dolgonos

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry



Achievements

- Creating my first ever zine!
- Becoming a CLAS tutor and realizing how much I love teaching
- Making and presenting my first research poster

Future Plans

I'm planning to pursue a PhD in Chemistry

Kayla Duffey

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Film and Media Studies

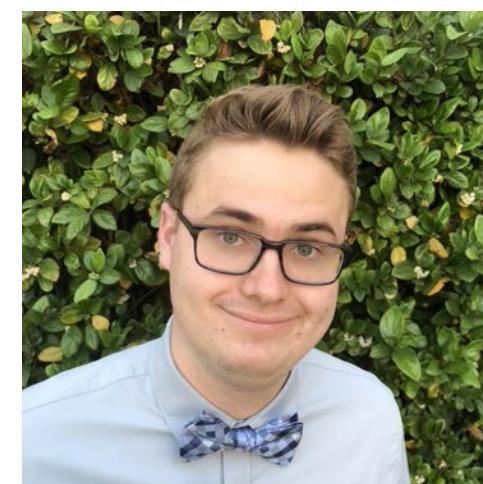


Achievements

- Being involved in a CCS musical and multiple student films
- Becoming one of the presidents of Writer's Room, a screenwriting club on campus, and coordinating our annual screenwriting conference Word Farm
- Finishing a feature length screenplay

Ethan Nicholas Epperly

CCS Mathematics and CCS Computing



Achievements

- Taking 23 graduate-level courses in 7 different academic departments
- Publishing two papers in peer-reviewed academic journals and being recognized with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research
- Being chosen as a Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellow and a Hertz Foundation Fellowship finalist

Future Plans

Getting a PhD in Applied and Computational Mathematics in the Department of Computing and Mathematical Sciences at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech)

Sophia Anne Fleming

CCS Art (Painting)



Achievements

- Being in a show at 10 West Gallery in Santa Barbara
- Studying abroad in Iceland

Future Plans

Travelling while continuing to learn and make art!

Catherine Grace Holland

CCS Art (Painting)



Achievements

- Creating a substantial body of artwork for my Mid-Residency and Senior Thesis Exhibitions
- Completing UCSB's Technology Management Certificate
- Participating in the Art Department's Honors Program

Andy Alex Garcia

CCS Biology



Achievements

- Participated in the Harvard Stem Cell Institute Internship Program, investigating the efficacy of a new method of stem cell differentiation
- Participated in the Stanford Summer Research Program as an Amgen Scholar where I investigated the molecular mechanisms and timing of coral bleaching
- Presented a poster about my research from Stanford at a conference called ABRCMS and won an award for an outstanding poster presentation

Future Plans

I will be going to graduate school at Stanford University for a PhD in Earth Systems Science. I will be doing research in the lab of Dr. Paula Welander, studying the origin of eukaryotes.

Taozhi Guo

CCS Physics

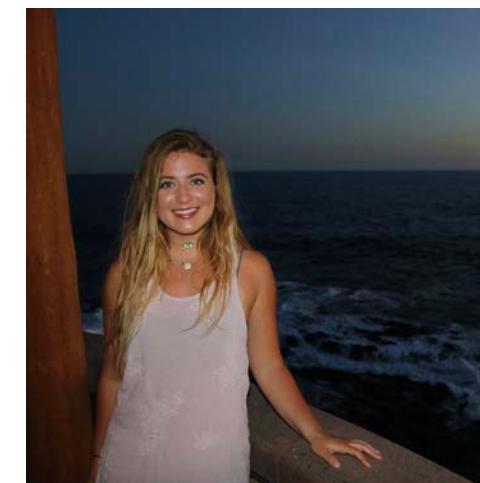


Future Plans

Graduate school 2020-2021

Elizabeth E. Jahn

CCS Biology



Achievements

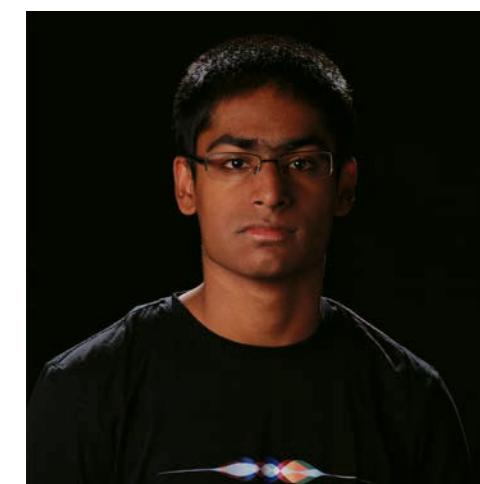
- I received the Worster Award to fund my field season in Mo'orea, French Polynesia as a research assistant studying fish schooling behavior.
- I completed my Scientific Diving certification.
- I became a certified yoga instructor and started teaching at CorePower Yoga.

Future Plans

I will be continuing my research in the Stier Lab, where I am studying coral reef ecology. I will also be continuing to teach yoga at CorePower Yoga!

Saagar Jha

CCS Computing



Achievements

- Shipping software to billions of people
- Finding my voice online
- Broadening my horizons

Future Plans

Taking a short break to pursue various intellectual pursuits

Kailyn Kausen

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Professional Writing Minor



Achievements

- Received a Raab Writing Fellowship
- Was Editor-in-Chief of the Spectrum Literary Journal
- Co-authored and published an academic article, "Deconstructing Authority for Truly Collaborative Mentorship in Creative Writing"

Future Plans

Stony Brook University

Yurim Lee

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Drinking a lot of Starbucks
- Passing
- 가족들과 떨어졌지만 좋은 친구들을 만나서 이겨낸 것

Future Plans

Graduate school 2020-2021

Kristen Nordstjerne Klitgaard

CCS Biology



Achievements

- Co-authored "Sex-specific floral attraction traits in a sequentially hermaphroditic species", published in Ecology and Evolution in February, 2020
- Presented my research at the NIMBioS Undergraduate Research Conference at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics in Knoxville, TN
- Learned and led for four years as a member of Cru's Real Life movement

Future Plans

I will be working as a Junior Agronomist at Beeflow, a company trying to bring science into the pollination of food crops!

Thomas Lenihan

CCS Biology



Nathan Kruse

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

- Helped put the compost bin in CCS
- Taught student-led colloquium on axiomatization and set theory in Fall 2019
- Ranked 5th best in Super Smash Bros: Melee at UCSB in Spring 2019

Hangqi Liang

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

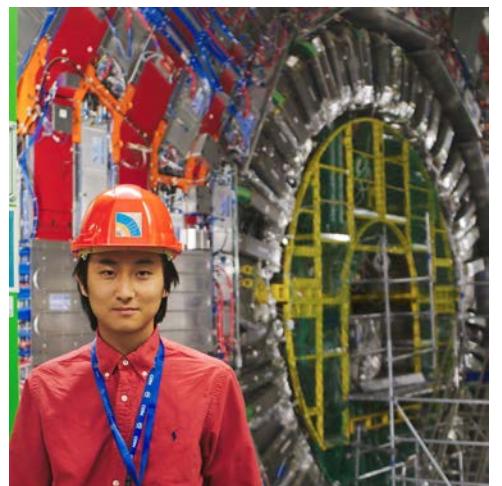
- Writing a thesis in field of analysis (Although still in progress for now)

Future Plans

Master of Science in UChicago

Jerry Ling

CCS Physics



Future Plans

Ph.D. program in High Energy Physics at Harvard University

Belle Machado

CCS Writing & Literature



Achievements

- I finished the rough draft my fantasy manuscript and finished my first round of edits
- I founded Prose and Cons (writing club)
- I published pieces in WORD magazine and The Catalyst

Future Plans

I plan to apply to UC Davis as a candidate for their Literature PhD program

Malire Lozada

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Global Studies



Achievements

- Studied abroad in Shanghai without knowing any Chinese
- Was a Raab Writing Fellow, doing a research piece on naming and the significance of names among immigrant communities

Future Plans

I plan on working in a marketing position in Santa Barbara for a year before entering grad school for a Master's in either Communications or International Relations

Lizbeth Martinez Vargas

CCS Biology and L&S History of Art and Architecture

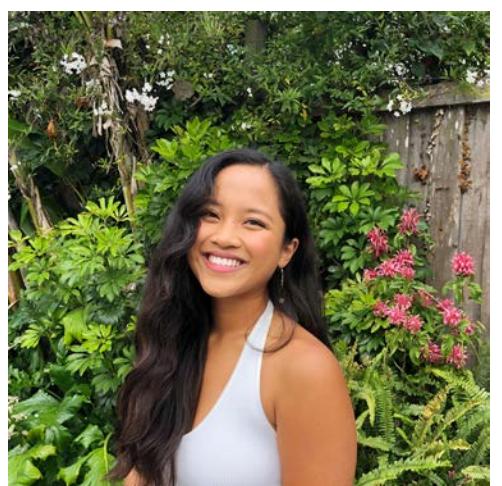


Achievements

- The opportunity to study abroad in Mexico to conduct independent research on Chagas disease for 6 months for free!
- Finding my passion for vector-borne and zoonotic diseases!
- Finding a supportive community through the Latinx student population at UCSB

Vianna Cecilia Bansuan Mabanag

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Multimedia Professional Writing Minor



Achievements

- Fell in love with the outdoors, lived in a different place each quarter for a year to meet new people and try new things, studied abroad in Europe
- Wrote an essay collection funded by the RAAB Fellowship: <http://viannacecilia.name/writing/>
- Finding CCS <3

Future Plans

I will attend grad school for an M.F.A. sometime in the near future. As of right now, I am focused on working, writing and becoming a better citizen for the impending revolution. I will write a bestseller one day, and #BlackLivesMatter.

Kayla Matzek

CCS Writing & Literature



Achievements

- I am proud of my work as a Humanities and Fine Arts Social Media and Website intern where I published a total of 11 news stories on the HFA website.
- I enjoyed being a part of UCSB's National Society of Leadership and Success chapter as a member, the Community Service Chair, and the Vice President.
- I am the most proud of my improvement in my writing by being in CCS and being able to explore many different types of writing.

Future Plans

I will be attending California State University Channel Islands to complete my teaching credential.

Charlie Moffatt

CCS Biology



Achievements

- Designing my own experiments as a student researcher in the Kosik Lab
- Placing second overall in the women's standings in the Western Collegiate Cycling Conference
- Interning for two summers in the Sussel lab at University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Future Plans

Molecular Biology PhD Program at University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Sophie Arango Nebeker

CCS Biology and CCS Art (Sculpture)



Achievements

- Learning how to cast bronze
- Exhibiting three solo shows in UCSB gallery spaces
- Designing scientific illustrations and figures published in multiple biology journals

Future Plans

I'll pursue either a MFA or a MS in Ecology, I'm letting future Sophie decide that one...maybe both?

Umut C. Oktem

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Conducted research on particle physics with an esteemed Professor
- Performed in a concert
- Hiked the Inca Trail

Future Plans

UC Davis

Aaron P. Peng

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Research abroad at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland through the Cooperative International Science and Engineering Internships program
- Conducting two years of research in professor Luke Theagarajan's biomimetic circuitry group, starting with the CCS SURF after sophomore year
- Being a Learning Assistant in the UCSB physics department

Yanelyn T. Perez

CCS Biology



Achievements

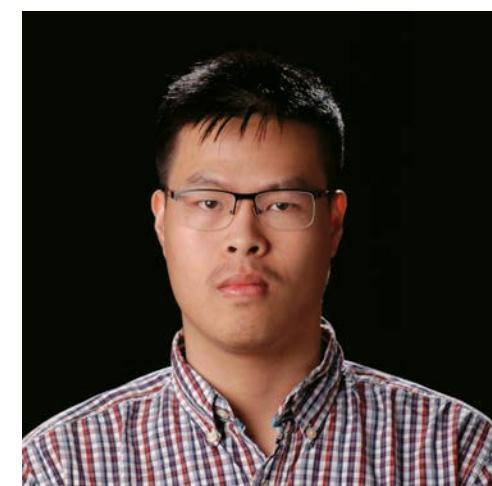
- Worked in the Briggs Lab for 3 years studying the frog killing fungus as a research assistant in many different projects!
- Studied abroad in Costa Rica during my 3rd year and did field research in Northern California the following summer!
- Worked at the REEF for 3 years and taught over 1,000 kids about local marine ecosystems in total!

Future Plans

University of Maryland College Park, Biological Sciences PhD program

Supavit Pokawanvit

CCS Physics

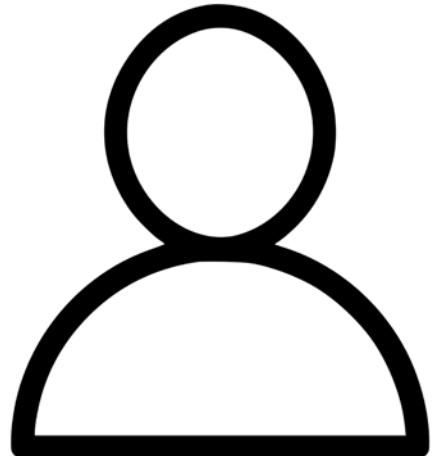


Future Plans

Stanford University, Applied Physics

Nandeye Quintero

CCS Biology

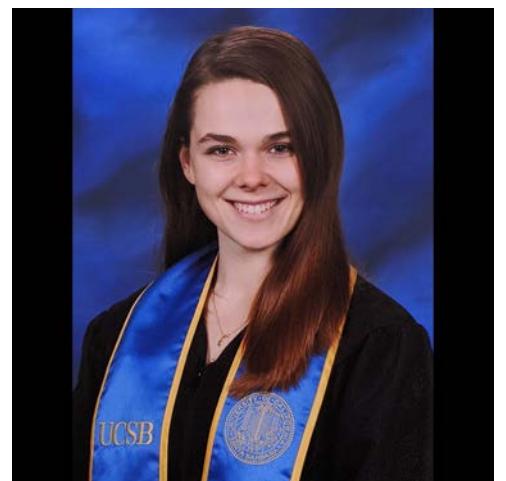


Future Plans

Starting my career in a Wildlife Conservation Organization

Samantha Rankin

CCS Art (Painting)



Achievements

- Organizing and putting on a Glassbox Gallery show presenting student comic work. It was very gratifying to curate the work of seven talented artists.
- The SURF Fellowship I received in 2019 gave me the chance to explore a new series of work under the mentorship of Hank Pitcher.
- I served as Art Director of the UCSB Daily Nexus newspaper from 2019-2020. In the process, I gained skills as a leader, artist, and designer.

Future Plans

I am hoping to attend Cal Poly for an M.S. in Psychology in the Fall of 2021. In the meantime, I hope to pursue work in the fields of art and psychology.

Amani Zacharia Rodriguez

CCS Biology and L&S Art Minor



Achievements

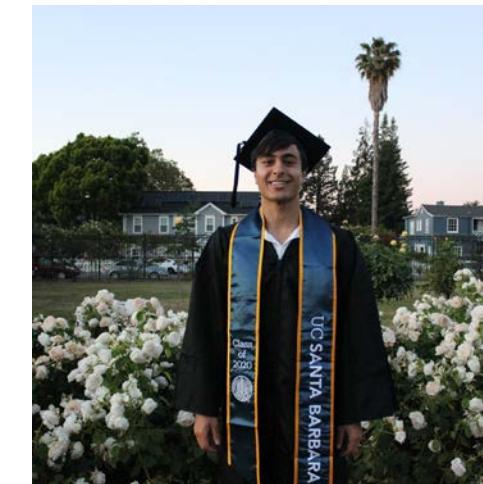
- Improved my French and Arabic while studying in France and Lebanon, and volunteered at a medical clinic in Nicaragua
- Received an URCA grant and presented a poster on cortical imaging techniques for visual short-term memory research in mice at the URCA colloquium
- Established and managed a work-experience program for houseless individuals in Isla Vista through my term as an AmeriCorps member

Future Plans

I plan on applying for a Master's Degree after taking a couple years off of school to work and practice more art (specifically printmaking). Most immediately, I plan on traveling through California and Oregon working on organic farms (WWOOFing) for a few months starting this fall.

Ryan Sadjadi

CCS Biology



Achievements

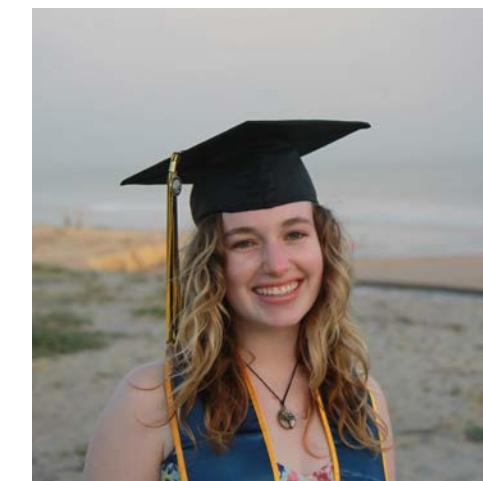
- Barry Goldwater Scholarship National Award Recipient
- Published Author, Nature Publishing Group, Vascular Changes in Diabetic Retinopathy
- Undergraduate Research Slam Finalist & People's Choice Winner

Future Plans

University of Cambridge, UK, Master of Philosophy in Public Health

Geneva Schlaflly

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

- Published research that I conducted while studying at the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics
- Played on the National University of Singapore varsity canoe polo team
- Started the UCSB Math Circle to introduce abstract math concepts to middle school girls

Future Plans

PhD in Medical Physics at the University of Chicago

Sandy Schoettler

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

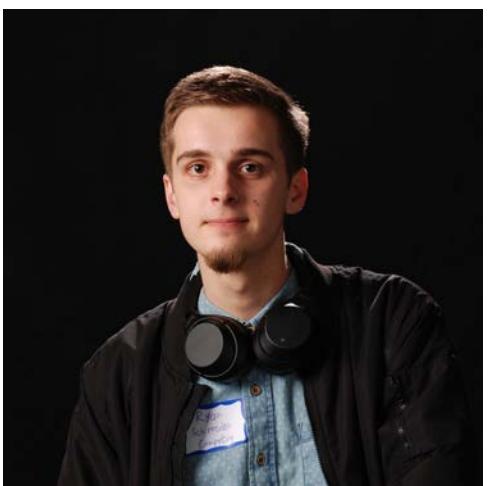
- I began using Mathematica freshman year to visualize myriad concepts in math; now I'm an expert. My latest project was a model of a 4d torus.
- I joined the Systems and Networking Lab in Computer Science and started a team around an Internet of Things security project, pending publication.
- I started climbing rocks.

Future Plans

I plan to earn a master's degree in computer science, learn continuously, and find a career that applies my skills to help people and the planet.

Ryan Schroeder

CCS Computing



Achievements

- Over the summer of 2017 I interned with The Lion King (2019), managing a VR landscape made by the art department for scouting out shot locations.
- I was hired by a local company, Opus Logica, in January of 2019 and am still working there as a consultant.

Future Plans

UCSB's BS/MS Computer Science program

Youssef E. Sibih

CCS Biology



Achievements

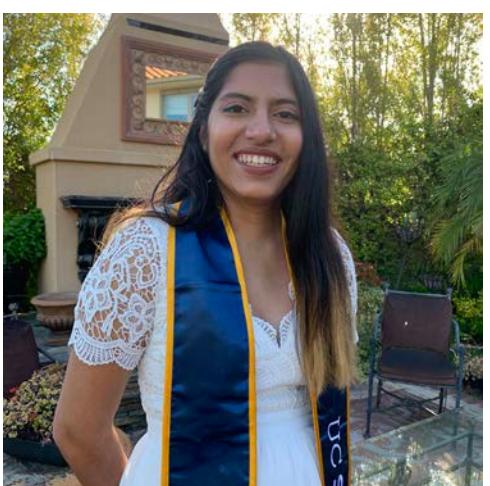
- Co-author of manuscript published in Nature (4/1/2020, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2156-5?proof=trueIn>)
- Co-author of manuscript published in Science Translational Medicine (3/27/2019, <https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/11/485/eaat3005/tab-article-info>)
- CCS Summer Research Undergraduate Fellowship (SURF) in June 2018. Getting the opportunity to present my poster at the colloquium.

Future Plans

Applied to medical school this month! I will be living in Santa Barbara during my gap year to continue working as a medical scribe in the emergency department at Cottage Hospital.

Komal Surani

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Film and Media Studies



Achievements

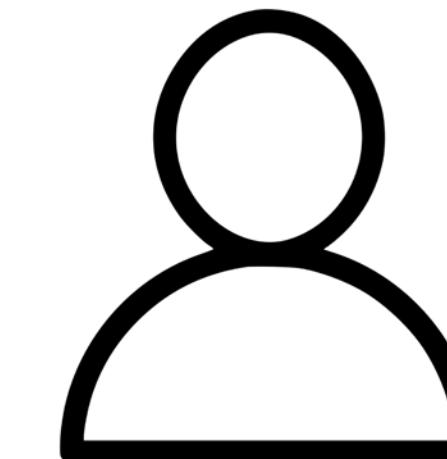
- I directed Alia, a film I wrote. Alia is about a young Pakistani woman who stands up to her family so that she can pursue her love of art.
- My poems were published on the Poetry Super Highway website.
- I taught a student led colloquium to my peers in my freshman year.

Future Plans

New York University - Tisch Dramatic Writing

David Suslik

CCS Physics



Sharon Tamir

CCS Biology



Achievements

- Published in Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians
- Won Emeriti Award at UCSB Undergraduate Slam 2018
- Researched melanoma, measles, heart disease, and complex behavior!

Future Plans

I am applying to MD/PhD programs!

Bryan Tan

CCS Computing



Future Plans

UCSB's BS/MS Computer Science program

Samantha Leigh Teemant

CCS Music Composition



Future Plans

I'm in the process of releasing an EP and working on an experimental video-album, I plan on composing and performing to the day I die

Veronica A. Torres

CCS Biology and L&S LGBTQ Studies Minor



Achievements

- I started my first research manuscript, of which I am the primary author. It is about the parasites of a tropical fish known as the convict tang.
- In the past four years, I have been to New Orleans, Vancouver, Washington, Portland, Atlanta, Virginia, Colorado, Mexico, and Costa Rica.
- I came out, and in doing so have been able to experience things I never dreamed of in high school, like doing drag and marching in a pride parade.

Future Plans

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Sheila Tran

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Asian American Studies, Professional Editing Minors



Achievements

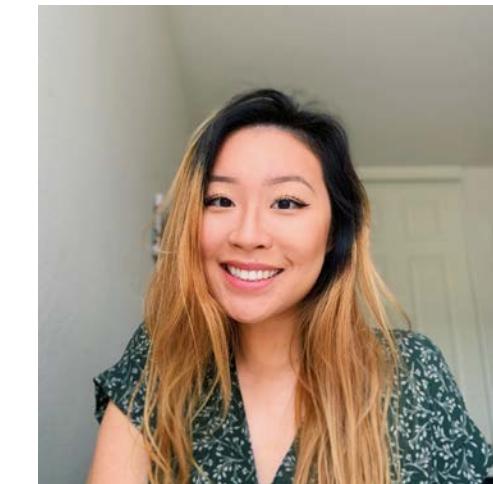
- Completing a year-long term as the UCSB Vietnamese Student Association's Vietnamese Culture Night Director. Wrote and directed a 2-hour cultural play!
- Being awarded the Raab Writing Fellowship to fund a project to document the 40-yr history of collegiate Vietnamese Culture Night shows in California
- Becoming the spring 2020 Food & Drink Intern at the Santa Barbara Independent

Future Plans

Technical Writer at Apex Semiconductor

Sophia K. Uemura

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry



Achievements

- Raising nearly \$1k from a Phi Sigma Rho (sorority) philanthropic fundraiser I created from scratch
- With the support of MRL's CISEI program, I held a summer internship abroad where I conducted research at Chalmer University in Sweden.
- Being elected CCS AS Senator where I was given a platform to voice out the concerns of our community

Future Plans

Graduate school after taking a year off (gap year)

Colin Dirk Unger

CCS Computing and L&S Physics Minor



Achievements

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow
- Instructor for CMPSC 595G (F19, W20)
- iCTF 2019 and 2020 Lead Organizer

Future Plans

Stanford University

Ziyi Xie

CCS Physics and L&S PSTAT Minor

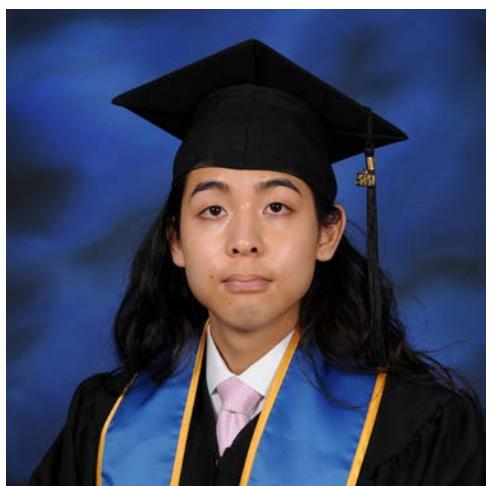


Future Plans

New York University: Master of Science in Data Science

Timothy Xu

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

- Learned more about myself than I ever could have imagined
- For a couple of years managed to do more music than mathematics
- After five years, still enjoy mathematics enough to do a master's in it

Future Plans

Imperial College London or New York University or Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (undecided)

Lia Yeh

CCS Computing and CCS Physics



Achievements

- Bringing <https://www.womxnhacks.com> - an annual hackathon for womxn college students of all levels of programming experience (esp. none) - to life!
- Summer '19: Quantum Undergraduate Research at IBM and Princeton, led to ACM Student Research Competition at MICRO 1st place, undergraduate category
- Ran a CCS student-led seminar, Full-Stack Quantum Computation! It'll be open-sourced at fullstackquantumcomputation.tech this summer :)

Future Plans

Computer Science DPhil, Quantum Group, University of Oxford on a Clarendon Fellowship

Andrew Zhang

CCS Computing



Achievements

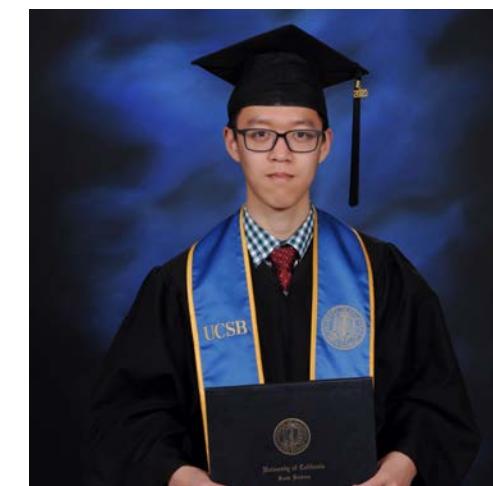
- Qualified for nationals with UCSB Club Tennis
- Got a Costco membership
- Completed an internship at NASA JPL

Future Plans

UCSB's BS/MS Computer Science program

Zhehao Zhang

CCS Mathematics and L&S Statistical Science



Achievements

- Going to Fields Institute in Toronto for summer REU
- Presenting my research on diabetes analysis during URCA colloquium
- Finishing a thesis on Shrinkage estimators

Future Plans

University of Washington Statistics PhD

Yunkai Zhang

CCS Mathematics and CCS Computing



Future Plans

PhD in Operations Research at UC Berkeley

Please note this does not include all CCS Class of 2020 graduates.

I have been so lucky to be a part of the College of Creative Studies. They have given me so much - from funding for my short film to an advisor who has helped me figure out so much about myself and what kind of writer I want to be. I will always be so grateful for the opportunities and support and the unique experience. I was always told that CCS was not a normal college experience, but I wouldn't exchange it for anything.

Komal Surani
CCS Writing & Literature
and L&S Film and Media Studies '20

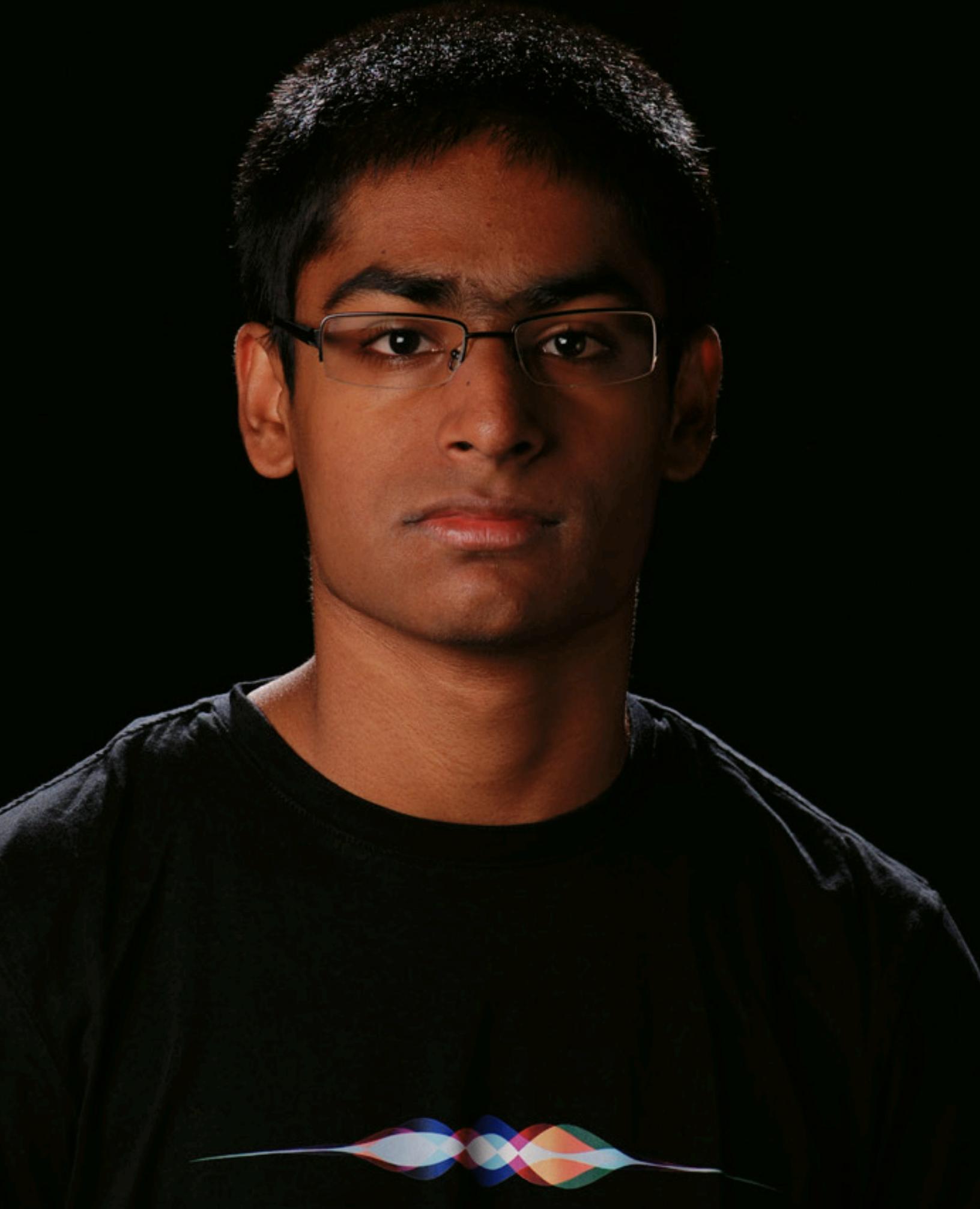


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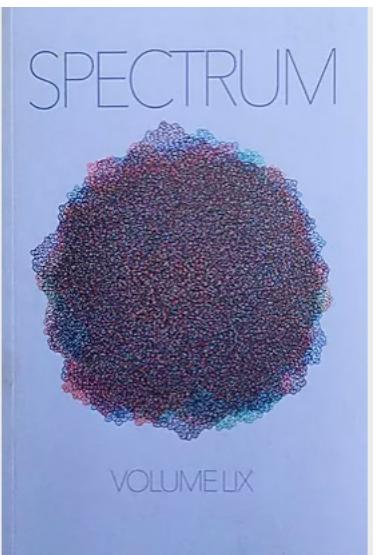
CCS gave me the freedom to explore what I was interested in and the resources with which to do so. More than that, it let me meet and work with extremely smart and driven people in an environment where I could learn and succeed.

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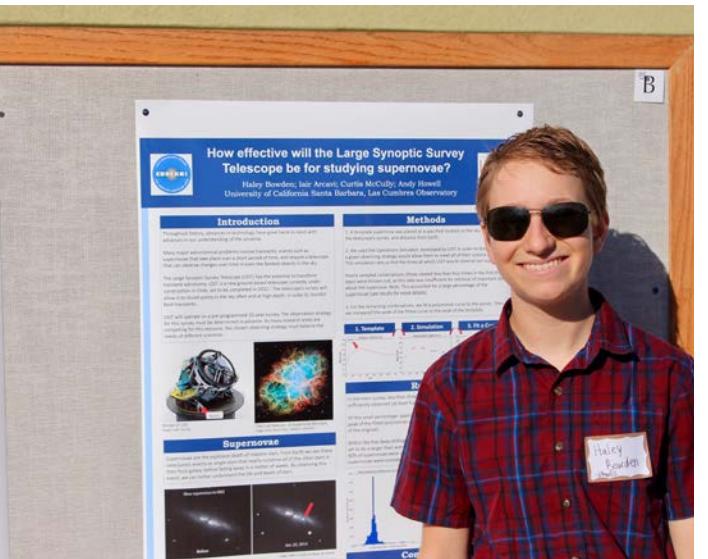
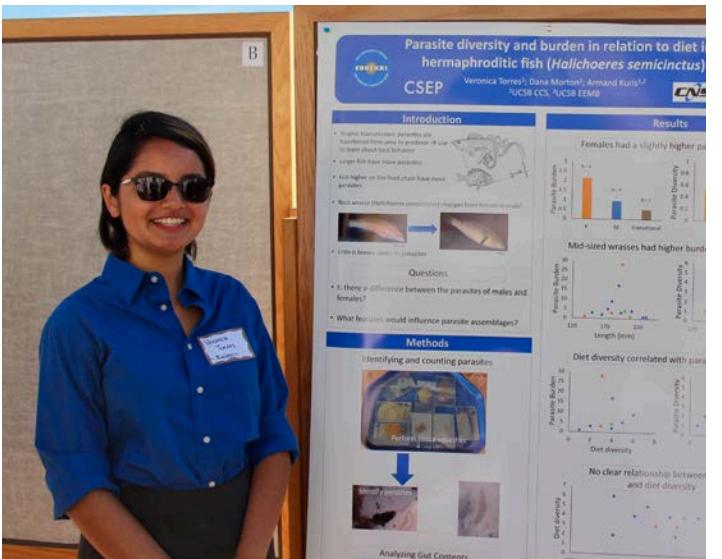
Saagar Jha
CCS Computing '20



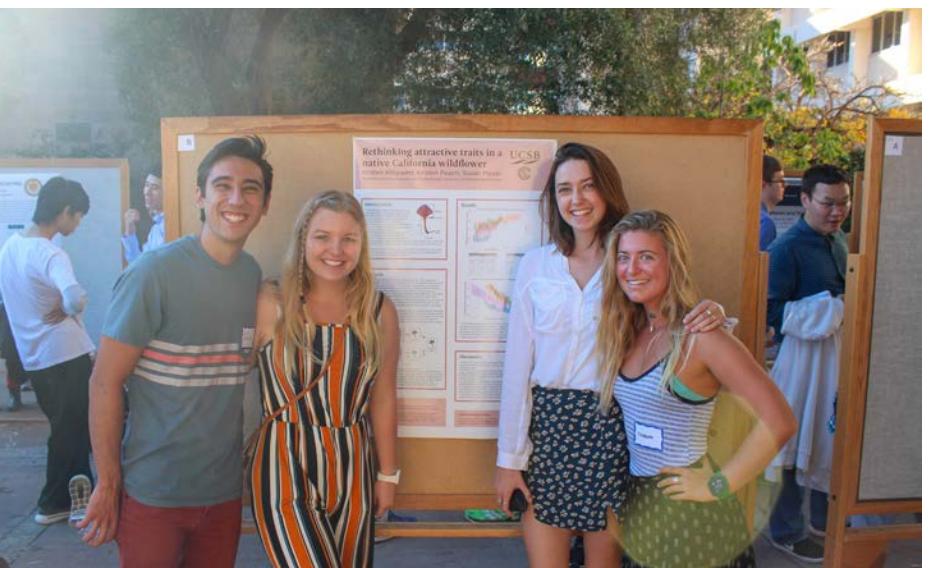
2016-2017



2017-2018



2018-2019



2019-2020



More Resources

Continue Celebrating Online

- Visit <https://www.ucsb.edu/2020-virtual-celebration> for a variety of UCSB's digital activities to mark this special occasion including a pre-recorded campus-wide Class of 2020 Virtual Celebration
- Find more CCS celebration materials online at grad2020.ccs.ucsb.edu including student speeches by Vianna Mabanag and Sophia Uemura as well as a short address by the Dean

Stay Connected with CCS

Though you are leaving the CCS building, you will always be a part of the CCS Alumni community. Here are some ways you can stay connected with CCS

- Sign up for the CCS newsletter mailing list at <https://ccs.ucsb.edu/forms/mailing-list>
- Visit the CCS Community page at <https://ccs.ucsb.edu/community>
- Follow CCS on social media
- Come back to visit during the All Gaucho Reunion weekend
- Let us know how you are doing, submit your alumni story at <https://ccs.ucsb.edu/forms/ccs-story>



