

Congratulations CCS Class of 2021!

Dear Class of 2021,

Inside these pages filled with your achievements, you will find an incredible record of your personalities. In typical CCS fashion, you shared with us a snapshot of the spirit that makes you—and by proxy, our College—so unique. We thank you for opening yourself up to us and to each other for this album. We will continue to treasure it as part of your legacy and as proof of how much you have changed in your time here.

It is in our most momentous occasions that we remember how much has changed in the last four years. For those of you who participated in the Grad Walk on campus, you no doubt pictured something quite different when you envisioned your Commencement ceremony. Some of you have had to choose between having your parents or your grandparents be present for this celebration, others have not even been able to enter the country, and some of you may be feeling keen losses of the loved ones you would have invited, including those who are no longer with us. We also feel the bitter sting of losing Sara Sterphone, the advisor who welcomed you to CCS at the Chancellor's Reception, at your Orientation to UCSB, and even as you walked in the building simply looking for a yellow slip. Our hearts are heavy with the losses felt in this otherwise joyous occasion.

CCS is often compared to many things—a home, an anchor, a portal. All of these comparisons remind us of connections—pathways to futures beyond our small building, but ultimately tied together by the invisible strings of our bonds. As you weave the tapestries of your future, we hope you fondly remember the threads in your present moment here at the College of Creative Studies.

With warmest wishes,

The CCS Staff,

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

Dean, Gerardo Aldana

Associate Dean, Leroy E. Laverman

Contents

CCS Class of 2021

- 4 Meet the CCS Class of 2021 and learn about some of their achievements and future plans

Senior Quotes

- 23 Learn about the CCS experience from graduating students

Photos

- 26 2017-2018
- 28 2018-2019
- 30 2019-2020
- 32 2020-2021

More Resources

- 34 Stay connected with CCS

Madeleine Q. Almond

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Professional Editing Minor



Achievements

- Publishing "It's Only a Tree Branch" and "Mountain of Old Things" in literary journals.
- Completing a SURF Fellowship in writing studies.
- Being on the Editorial Staff for Spectrum volumes 61 and 62, Editor-in-Chief for volume 63.

Future Plans

I'm planning to work in media or communications with the ultimate goal of publishing my original work for a living.

Xally N Avalos Nunez

CCS Biology and L&S Education Minor



Achievements

- Making my parents' sacrifices worth it for me to get a better education.
- Being a part of and at one point Co-chair of IDEAS, an organization that works to advocate and support undocumented students on campus.
- Graduating against all odds for a first-generation, undocumented, queer person of color.

Future Plans

I want to work educating young scientists out in the field, not in the classroom for a grade.

Trevor Anderberg

CCS Physics



Future Plans

University of Chicago

Angelique Ausejo

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry



Achievements

- Worked at a marine science lab analyzing the amounts of urea found in coral reefs.
- Learned how to read, write and speak in Arabic.
- Went surfing in Isla Vista and climbed rocks in Santa Ynez.

Future Plans

Pharmacy school

Sean Benevedes

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Conducted research in theoretical particle physics with Professor Nathaniel Craig.
- Mentored first-year students through a variety of initiatives, including the CCS Peer Mentorship Program.
- Organized a panel discussion of Physics professors intended for an audience of first-generation college students.

Future Plans

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Physics PhD

Haley Bjursten

CCS Biology



Achievements

- Participating in two field studies programs in Big Sur, CA (2018) and Alaska (2020) to conduct research in field ecology and marine microbiology.
- Receiving SURF during Summer 2020 and presenting a poster at RACACON about environmental influences on the perception of COVID-19.
- Researching coral reefs as socioecological systems in Mo'orea, French Polynesia with the Stier Lab.

Future Plans

I plan on applying to graduate schools to become a Nurse Practitioner over the next year. More immediately, I will be staying in Santa Barbara working as a Pediatric Medical Assistant/Lab Technician. I hope to take everything I have learned in CCS Biology and incorporate my socio-ecological research experiences into studying and practicing health equity throughout my career.

Scott Bowers

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

- I made many friendships which I treasure.
- I was able to gain valuable work experience while still an undergrad leading to full-time employment at the company.
- I survived multiple wildfires, a blackout, and a pandemic in my four years.

Future Plans

Working for Juniper Networks

Mira N. Brynjegard-Bialik

CCS Biology and L&S Religious Studies Minor



Achievements

- Volunteer at the Santa Barbara Sea Center.
- Presented a poster at URCA 2019.

Future Plans

I will be looking for work in informal science education, such as in an aquarium.

Alec Jiahua Cao

CCS Physics



Achievements

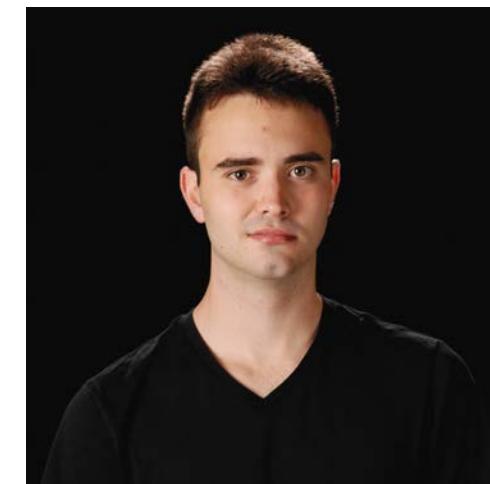
- Multiple publications on original quantum dynamics research.
- Awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship.
- Awarded NSF, GRFP and NDSEG.

Future Plans

1-year Churchill Scholarship at Cambridge University, then PhD at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Nicholas George Capsimalis

CCS Music Composition and L&S Technology Management Program Minor



Achievements

- I had a piece of music premiered in Vienna, Austria.
- I rowed for four years and earned a silver medal at the national championships during my freshman year.
- I scored an entire short film in seven days.

Future Plans

I will be working at a music production firm I started with three fellow CCS alumni.

Heitor C. Megale

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Participating in Rockefeller University Summer Program.
- Publishing my Research.
- Doing aikido during the summer.

Future Plans

Harvard, Applied Physics

Michelle W. Chiu

CCS Biology



Achievements

- Being a UC LEADS Scholar. Presenting my research twice at RACA-CON. Getting through tough biochemistry courses!
- Working at CCS during Orientation and later, as a Student Affairs Assistant. Being involved in the CCS community. Knowing Sara Sterphone.
- Spending lots of time with great friends. Meeting funny, brilliant, and kind people, especially in Pendola and the CCS Reading Room.

Future Plans

Biophysical Sciences PhD Program at the University of Chicago

Marielle Cooper

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry



Achievements

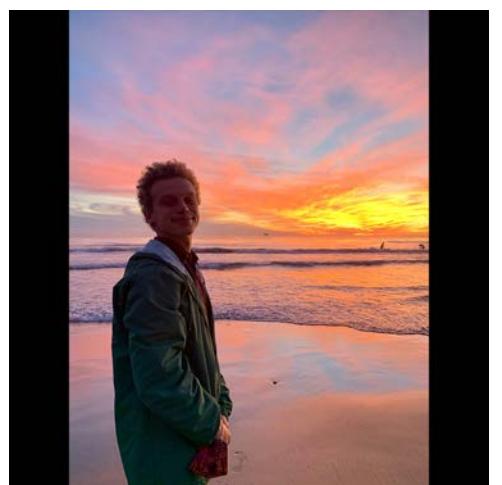
- I presented my summer 2019 REU research on Titan's airglow at the AGU 2019 Fall Meeting.
- I started playing piano again for fun.
- I finished my second bachelor's with grades I'm proud of and some student research, pushing past anxiety and a difficult first quarter.

Future Plans

I am taking a year or two to work before returning to graduate school to combine my love of chemistry and earth sciences.

Alistair Lyle Dobson

CCS Biology



Achievements

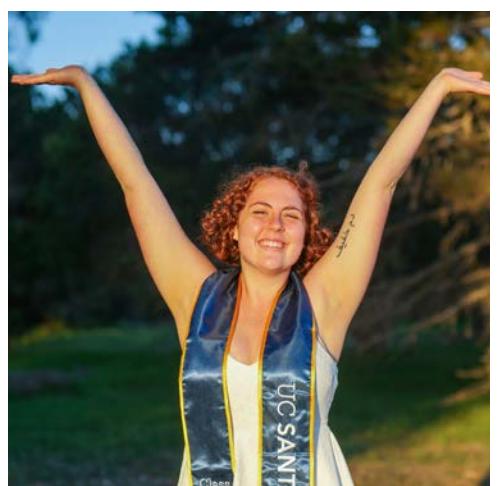
- Worked with CCBER as an ecological restoration technician, and researched small vertebrate responses to restoration around campus.
- Explored California's wonderful ecosystems in the NRS Ecology and Conservation Field Course and spent two summers researching amphibians in Yosemite.
- Rode, raced, and captained the UCSB Mountain Bike Team. I'm so stoked to have explored our amazing local trails with these awesome people!

Future Plans

I plan on taking a gap year or two before applying for a PhD. I'm excited to squeeze in a few epic adventures and explore career paths in wildlife conservation during this time!

Shahira Ellaboudy

CCS Biology



Achievements

- I conducted three and half years of independent research, which was largely self-taught and scary, in addition to being fun and exciting.
- I assembled and trained my own team for this research, learning certain managerial and pedagogical skills that came very unnaturally at first.
- With the help of my two collaborators, I wrote a NIH R21 grant that is up for review this summer.

Future Plans

I will continue my undergraduate research as a full-time researcher until publication is complete and will attend a PhD program after 2 gap years.

Sarah Evenson

CCS Physics and L&S Music Minor

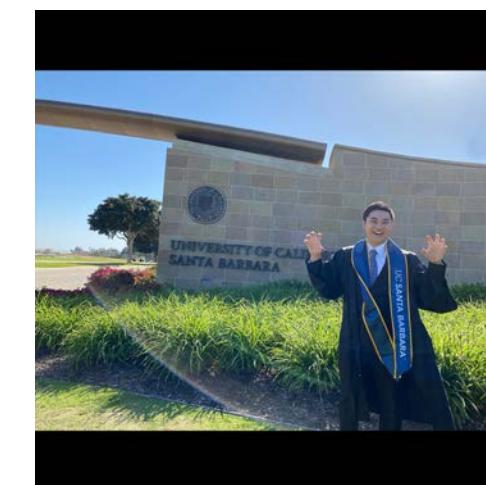


Future Plans

This summer I will be backpacking the John Muir Trail (220 miles from Yosemite to Mount Whitney) and then continuing to travel in the Western US.

Weiheng Fu

CCS Physics



Achievements

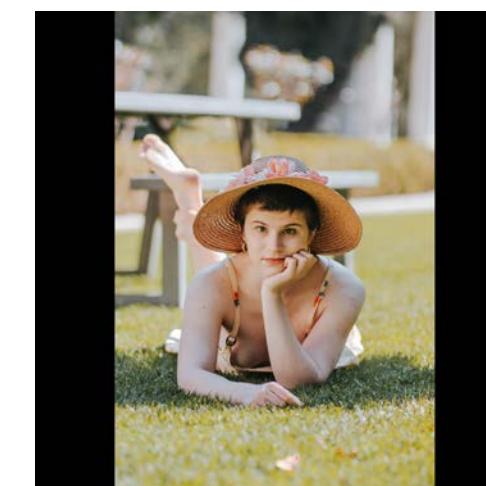
- Made a bunch of close friends in CCS!
- Found a great lab and stayed the whole time.
- Did a lot of absolutely meaningless but fun things like coding games, and making resin artworks.

Future Plans

Princeton ECE

Delenn Jadzia Ganyo

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry and CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Anthropology



Achievements

- Worked simultaneously in the Menard Green Chemistry Lab and the VanDerwarker Archaeology Lab.
- Produced an 8-song original musical film, *Homebrewed: A Musical Quest*.
- Was recipient of both the URCA grant and the Raab Writing Fellowship for two years in a row.

Ana I. Gonzalez

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Spanish Minor



Achievements

- ¡Mi fluidez en español ha sobresalido! My Spanish fluency has excelled! I am proud to include the study on my diploma.
- I have had the privilege of being mentored by Maestra Cherrie Moraga. Our time together will be cherished through my professional development.
- My time studying abroad in Madrid was a childhood dream come true. I am eagerly making preparations to return.

Future Plans

At this time, I am molding my career to reflect the growing up I have done in the past four years. My only wish for the future is continue seeking experiences, not just professional opportunities.

Allison Julia Hale

CCS Art (Book Arts)



Achievements

- Leading the chants at the Women's March in Rome.
- Self-publishing several books of poetry.
- Made denim paper out of repurposed jeans.

Future Plans

I plan to continue working as admin and graphic designer for Golden State Canna.

Jonas Kaare-Rasmussen

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry and L&S Earth Science Minor



Achievements

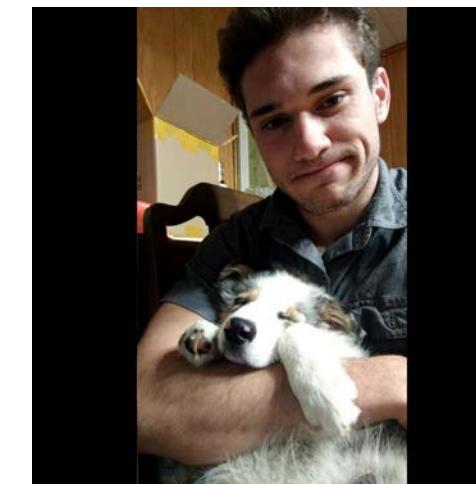
- Made outstanding friends, whom I will cherish for the rest of my life.
- Climbed a lot of big rocks and even bigger mountains.
- Conducted research both in the lab and out in the mountains, thanks to CCS SURF funding.

Future Plans

MIT-WHOI Joint Program PhD Program

Brian Kent

CCS Physics



Achievements

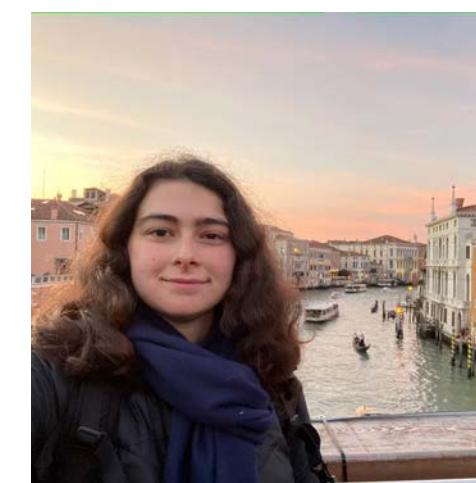
- President of UCSB Men's Club Water Polo.
- Raised a puppy.

Future Plans

University of Texas at Austin

California Victoria Kromelow

CCS Writing & Literature



Achievements

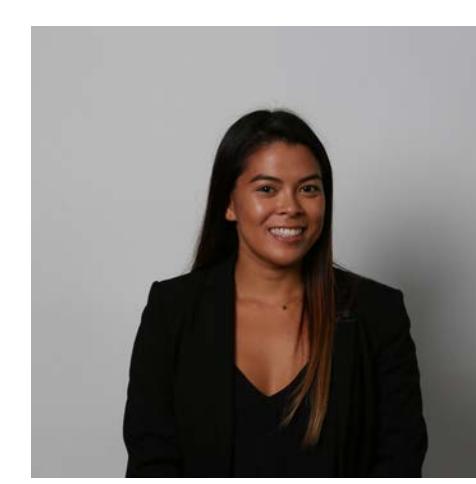
- Achievement unlocked: "Prolific Writer." Wrote many poems, a few videogames, three books, and working on a fourth.
- Achievement unlocked: "World Traveler." Petted sheep in a Danish Meadow. Got discounts from my "Prosciutto guy" in an Italian neighborhood market.
- Achievement unlocked: "The Student Has Become the Teacher." Volunteered as a poetry teacher in Santa Barbara and an English teacher in Rome.

Future Plans

To pursue storytelling while avoiding starvation.

Renee Labutay

CCS Computing and L&S Technology Management Program Minor



Achievements

- Upholding leadership positions in Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity.
- Developing a video conferencing platform that improves communication for autistic people.
- Completing an internship in Fall 2020.

Future Plans

Software Application Engineer at Workday

Emma Lennen

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

- I did the UCSB Directed Reading Program three years in a row on Lens Spaces, the McKay Correspondence, and the "27 lines on a cubic surface" theorem.
- Using CCS TURF, I presented research at the Joint Mathematics Meetings 2019 and advocated for women in math with the national AWM to Senators in DC.
- I made comics. Some published, two in *The Bottom Line*, another in *Starting Lines*, and a portrait for AWM's Notable Women in Math Playing Cards.

Future Plans

I will be starting my PhD in Mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania to study algebraic geometry.

Jiasheng David Lin

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

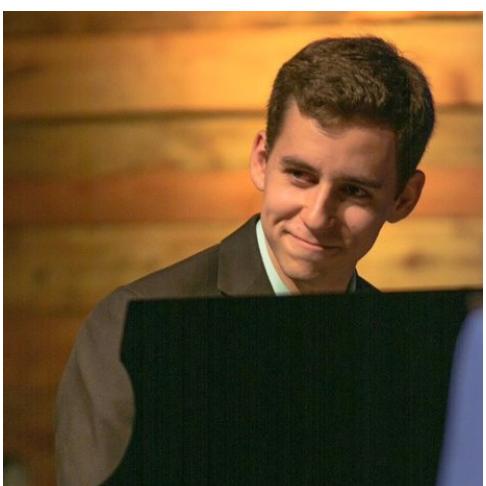
- Travelled to many US cities by myself. Skydived, skied, walked on a glacier, observed comet and meteor showers.
- Made friends with many Math professors.
- Made friends with many young physicists.

Future Plans

Second year master at the University of Paris, France, studying pure mathematics.

Evan Losoya

CCS Music Composition and L&S Linguistics Minor



Achievements

- Composed a score for a Buster Keaton silent film which was performed live by an orchestra inside a movie theater.
- Performed as 1st chair oboist with the UCSB chamber orchestra and wind ensemble.
- Travelled abroad in China, studying modern and classical Chinese.

Future Plans

MFA in Performer - Composer at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts)

Michael A. Lum

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry



Achievements

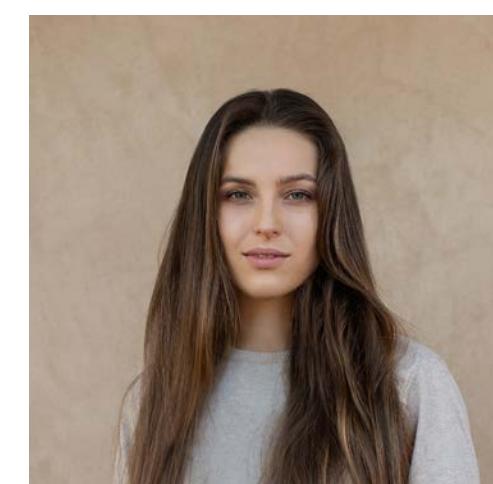
- Partnered in opening a new company - The Leading Edge College and Career Pathways for high school students interested in engineering and aviation.
- Accepted for graduate study in UCR's Environmental Science department under Dr. Ying Hsuan Lin.
- Rescued and adopted out many stray cats!

Future Plans

Environmental Science PhD program at UCR

Daria Mileeva

CCS Mathematics



Achievements

- Conducted research with Maribel Bueno and with Nils Detering.
- Got accepted to my top choice graduate program.
- Traveled around California to some pretty places such as Death Valley.

Future Plans

Will be pursuing MS in Financial Mathematics at the University of Chicago.

Jacob Miller

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Built a circuit board for my research in the Mazin Lab.
- Presented a talk and poster at RACA-CON and wrote a research paper.
- Made special memories with amazing friends.

Future Plans

Physics PhD Program at the University of Chicago

Hannah Z. Morley

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Professional Writing Minor: Journalism Track



Achievements

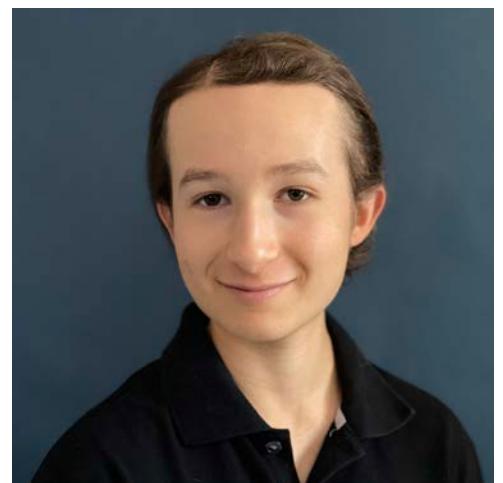
- I co-wrote/directed *Homebrewed: A Musical Quest*, a film about table top games and LGBT+ teens. We received funding from UCSB's RAAB and URCA grants.
- My poetry was published in *Laurel Moon*, Brandeis University's literary journal.
- I was the co-writer for *Shake on It* as a first year. This musical was funded by CCS and was the product of a year-long course and 20 college minds.

Future Plans

I plan on entering the workforce and trying to be a part of a writer's room for either video game narratives or for streaming services such as Netflix or Hulu.

Seamus Morrison

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Spanish



Achievements

- Publication of poem in *Vagabond* - 2020.
- Winner of Public Anthropology Award - 2019.
- Poem upcoming in *Spectrum* - 2021.

Meredith Neyer

CCS Physics



Achievements

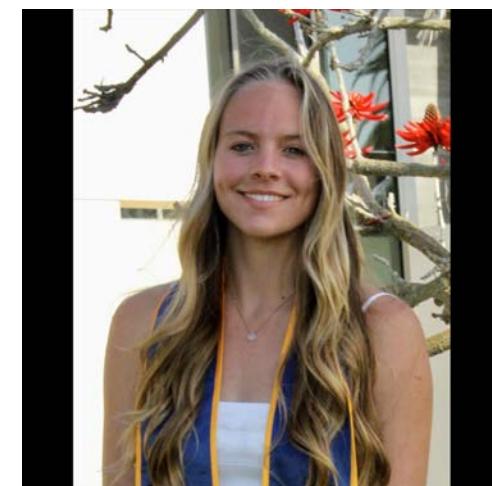
- Conducted research in both observational and theoretical astrophysics at UCSB.
- Presented my research and won a poster award at the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics.
- Participated in outreach activities including Physics Circus, science project advising, and mentorship programs.

Future Plans

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Physics PhD

Cassiel Nortier-Tilly

CCS Biology



Achievements

- Received the CCS SURF and presented my work mentored by Dr. Armand Kuris on changes of parasite densities in senescent octopuses at RACA-CON 2020.
- Studied abroad in Australia during my 3rd year and conducted field research at Heron Island on Great Barrier Reef and in Moreton Bay.
- Learned that my fascination with parasites, types of slime from intertidal worms, and Paralytic Shellfish Syndrome are not dinner conversation.

Future Plans

I plan to pursue a PhD in Parasitology or Marine Ecology. Currently, I am looking forward to taking a year to gain further experience in these fields as well as work on ecological restoration projects.

Ashley Danielle Petrie

CCS Music Composition, L&S Exercise and Sports Studies, Group Fitness Certification



Achievements

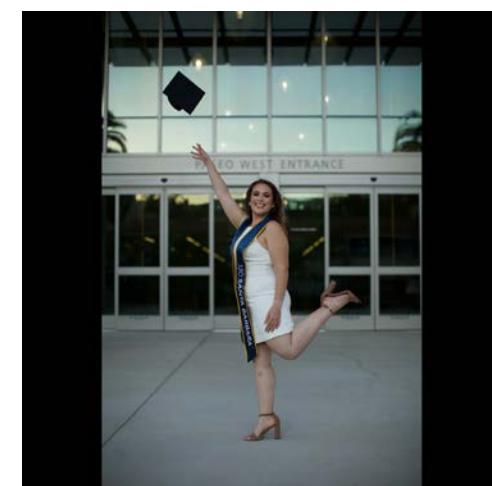
- In my first year I participated in writing and producing the CSS All-Original-TV-Musical, and had two of my songs make it to the final version!
- In my second year, I got to do a master class with one of my greatest inspirations, and some of the best songwriters I know, The Weepies.
- One year, I organized the CSS Music addition to the Art Walk. I performed a set of my own music, and sang a duet with one of my dearest friends.

Future Plans

After graduating from my time as a Gaucho, I'll be moving on to begin my time as Bulldog! In Fall 2021, I will be attending the University of Redlands to study Orchestral Conducting. While pursuing my master's degree, I hope to put my group fitness certification to use and teach at a gym, and will also be working for the university as a graduate assistant.

Angelina Picazo

CCS Music Composition and L&S Education Minor



Achievements

- Participated in the Music Cognition Research Lab under Dr. Bourne, focusing on how both musicians and non-musicians perceive music in various modes.
- Performed with the Santa Barbara Symphony at the Granada Theater in December 2019.
- Presented a comprehensive virtual Senior Recital which required virtual rehearsals and countless hours of work behind the scenes.

Future Plans

I will be shadowing and volunteering as a conductor at San Marcos High School in Santa Barbara before applying to Master's programs in either Music Education or Choral Conducting.

Max L. Prichard

CCS Physics



Achievements

- NSF Graduate Research Fellow.
- Goldwater Scholar.
- Co-Founded Math Workshops for Physics Majors.

Future Plans

Princeton University

Danielle (Dani) Punsal

CCS Biology



Achievements

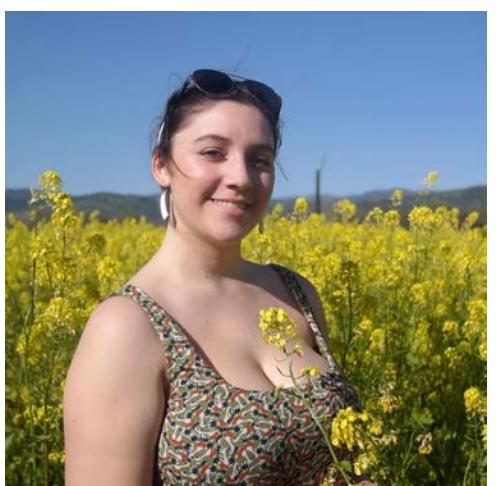
- Experience I gained in various research labs and research projects during my time in college
- Dancing in several UCSB dance-performances
- Constantly putting myself out there & trying things I normally wouldn't. I didn't succeed in everything but I learned a lot & gained many friends

Future Plans

Currently looking for jobs and hoping to start grad school after a gap year.

Sofia Quiñones

CCS Writing & Literature

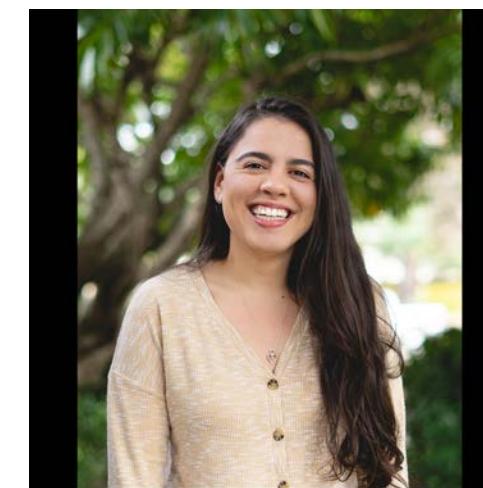


Future Plans

I plan to go abroad and pursue an MFA in screenwriting.

Adriana Ramirez Negron

CCS Biology and L&S Professional Writing in Science Communication Track Minor



Achievements

- Awarded the NIH MARC Scholarship.
- Joined the Arias lab and Iglesias-Rodriguez lab.
- Joined Black Reign dance team and became Vice Captain.

Future Plans

I will be attending the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Graduate School, pursuing a PhD in Biomedical Sciences.

Diego J. Reyes

CCS Biology



Achievements

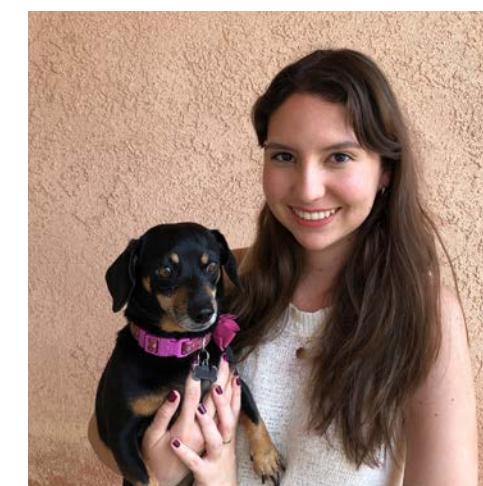
- National Institute of Health MARC Scholar at UCSB.
- Found my passion as an science educator through education initiatives like SciTrek and CalTeach.
- Played a large role in destigmatizing conversations around interpersonal violence and normalizing a culture of consent as a CARE Peer Educator.

Future Plans

After graduation, I will be working with a Los Angeles-based teaching organization called Think Together where I will serve as a teaching assistant in a classroom. I plan on applying to Master's of Education degree programs within the next couple of years!

Amelia Rodriguez

CCS Writing & Literature



Achievements

- Writing a full-length poetry collection.
- Presenting my research at the Conference on College Composition & Communication and the Macksey Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium.
- Heading a student-led colloquium on the politics of translation and retelling (and getting people excited about *Beowulf* in the process!).

Future Plans

I plan on working as an editor, volunteering as a creative writing teacher and essay coach, and honing my Spanish skills while applying to PhD programs in Literature.

Robert Allen Scott

CCS Mathematics



Tyra Sondergaard

CCS Writing & Literature



Achievements

- I spent two and a half years working with students, practicing compassion and radical love in the classroom while teaching literature.
- My time teaching culminated in a graphic novel, *Meet the Teacher*, that I hope will become a resource for educators looking to teach in new ways.
- Most important are the communities I built in CCS, Dolores Co-Op, and with friends. I cherish, thank, and carry them and their lessons with me always.

Future Plans

I will be staying in Los Angeles for a few years, working in education. Eventually, I will move to Denmark permanently to teach there.

Natalia Spritzer

CCS Art (Painting) and L&S Applied Psychology, Education Minors



Future Plans

RISD Teaching and Learning in Art and Design

Michael Straus

CCS Physics



Future Plans

I am heading to the University of Maryland, College Park for a Physics PhD.

Alanna Stull

CCS Biology



Achievements

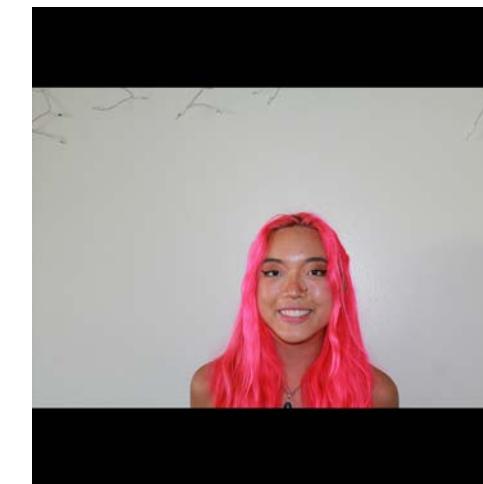
- Publishing my research in ACS Biomaterials Science and Engineering.
- Becoming an NIH MARC Scholar.
- Learning the art of pole sports and dance.

Future Plans

Synthetic Biology PhD program at Rice University

Brenda Tan

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S English & History of Art and Architecture



Achievements

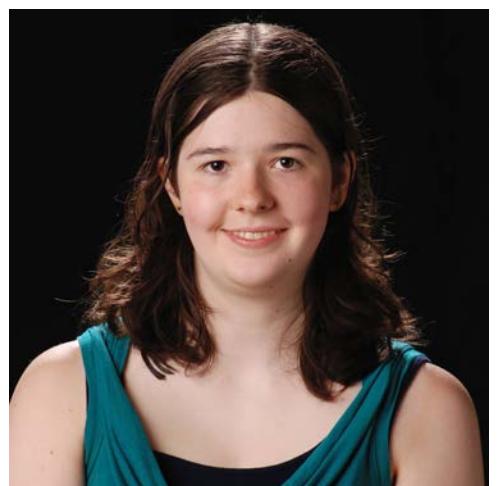
- I am proud to have published my art reviews with LUM art zine, Santa Barbara's only contemporary art zine.
- I have been involved in numerous academic research projects in the English department and feel grateful to have contributed my own original work.
- I am currently working on my senior thesis with Professor Maurizia Boscagli on language and subjectivity in contemporary literature.

Future Plans

I will be taking a year to work on my graduate school apps and read whatever I want without an assigned syllabus.

Hayley Tice

CCS Writing & Literature and L&S Religious Studies



Achievements

- Serving as data editor for the *Daily Nexus*.
- Receiving the Porzucki Prize in Jewish Studies.
- Working on the *Spectrum* editorial team as web and social media editor.

Future Plans

I will be serving with City Year in Miami during the 2021-22 school year and then plan to apply to law school!

Menghang (David) Wang

CCS Physics



Achievements

- Became a particle physics researcher, which I dreamed about during my summer at UCSB and contributed to the research for future Muon colliders.
- Chased the Northern lights in Alaska among snowy mountains.
- Lived a splendid college life which I love and will never regret!

Future Plans

I am going to pursue a PhD in Applied Physics at Harvard University.

Matthew Tyler Valdiviezo

CCS Chemistry/Biochemistry



Achievements

- Became an undergraduate researcher in the Materials Research Laboratory.
- Was accepted into a PhD program at Colorado State University.
- Made lifelong friends and memories along the way.

Future Plans

Attending PhD program at Colorado State University.

Sven Witthaus

CCS Physics



Achievements

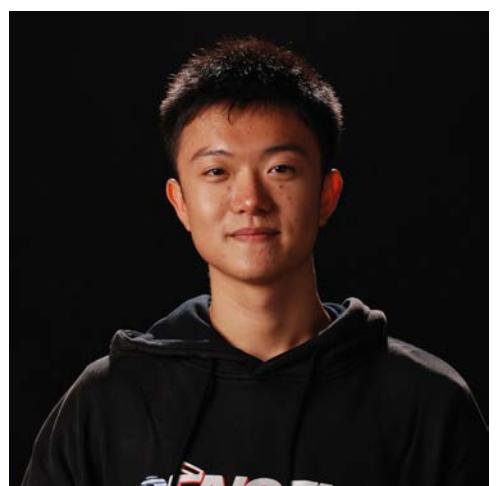
- Surviving a pandemic.
- Surviving wildfires.
- Surviving in general.

Future Plans

Yale Graduate School

Yiying Wan

CCS Computing



Achievements

- I (second author) recently submitted a computer architecture paper under Professor Sherwood and my graduate mentor Alvin.

Future Plans

I will be attending UC San Diego for a Master's in Computer Science.

Erin Woo

CCS Computing



Achievements

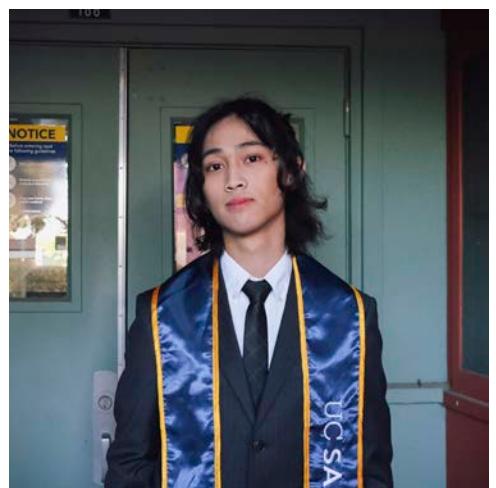
- Adopted a cat.
- Worked on some really cool features on the Microsoft Teams Android app while it was at its peak growth during the pandemic.
- Currently in the process of learning how to write and produce electronic music.

Future Plans

I will be starting my full-time role as a software engineer at Microsoft in the fall. In the meantime, I will be working as an instructor for the Girls Who Code summer immersion program where I will be teaching high school girls how to code.

Arash Ye

CCS Computing



Achievements

- Happily developed some useless web apps with friends.
- Learned to ride a motorbike and sped to 100mph on route 217.
- In love with LuuMao.

Future Plans

Just got a job as coder at TikTok in China. Next April, I'll go to Japan to study interactive art.

Erfan Zeyaei

CCS Biology



Achievements

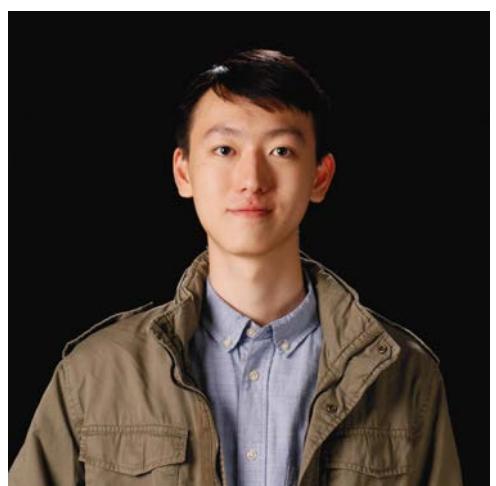
- I was part of the Gorman Scholars Program, and through that I gained so many connections Note: This is how I even met Dr. Foltz and joined the CCS family.
- I founded two of my favorite organizations on our campus, Biology Journal Club (BJC) and Global Medical Training (GMT).
- I was the first undergraduate researcher at Max Wilson's lab. I was also the last undergraduate researcher at Doug Thrower's lab.

Future Plans

I plan on applying to medical schools (MD-PhD) after taking a gap year. During my gap year, I hope to work either in a clinical lab setting or find a job in the medical field.

Tingyu (Mark) Zhao

CCS Physics and L&S Statistics and Data Science



Achievements

- Constantly searching for where my academic and career passion really lies. Never afraid of stepping out of my comfort zone and trying out new things.
- Establishing connections with amazing faculty. Receiving wonderful mentorships whose essence will positively impact me for a lifetime.
- Getting to know and bond with students coming from all around the world. Gaining a global perspective. Enjoying every shared moment of happiness.

Future Plans

Northwestern University - PhD in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences

66

In CCS, I finally found a community where everyone enjoyed exploring and learning just as much as I did. These past four years, I've grown, found myself, and grown again beyond what I could have imagined, and thanks to CCS I'm soaring into my next chapter!

99

Yash Chitgopekar '21
CCS Mathematics

“ I am so thankful for the community at CCS. I have grown immensely as a composer and as a person thanks to the support of the CCS students and faculty. It is so hard to say goodbye! ”

Angelina Picazo '21
CCS Music Composition and
L&S Education Minor



2017-2018



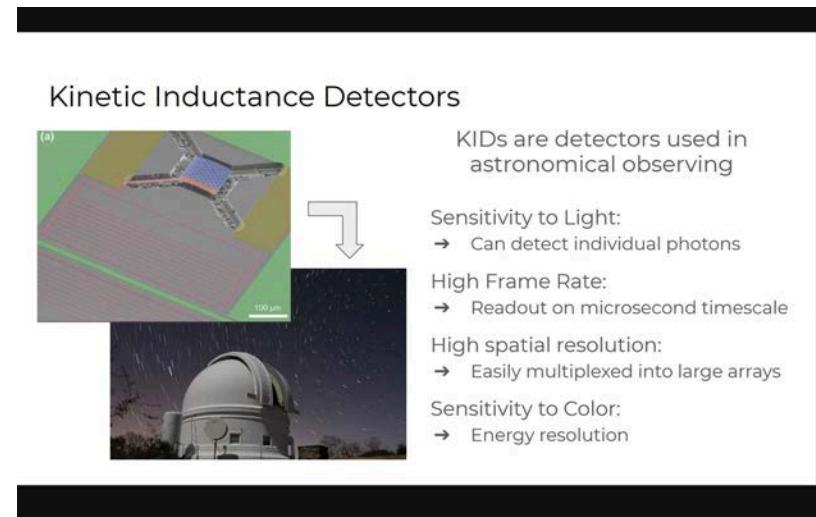
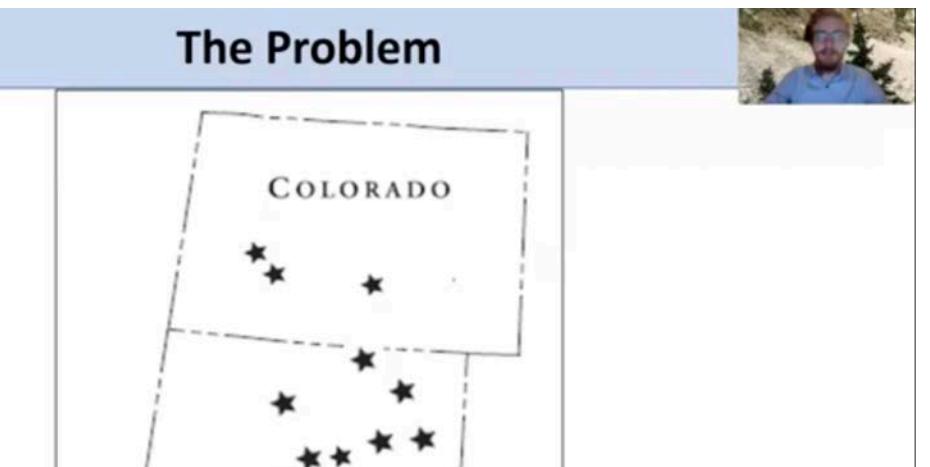
2018-2019



2019-2020



2020-2021



More Resources

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



@collegeofcreativedstudies



@UCSB_CCS



@ucsb_ccs

- Come back to visit during the All Gaucho Reunion weekend
- Let us know how you are doing, submit an alumni story at <https://ccs.ucsb.edu/forms/ccs-story>



