

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

**2015**

# **PHI THETA KAPPA**

All-California Community College  
Academic Team Awards





# 2015 Phi Theta Kappa

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## All-California Community College Academic Team Awards

### Luncheon Program

- Music, American River College Jazz Collective
- Introductions
- Recognition of the All-California Academic First, Second and Third Teams
- Award Presentations
- Closing

#### **About Phi Theta Kappa**

##### *All-California Community College Academic Team Program*

Building on the success of the national All-USA Team Program, Phi Theta Kappa launched the All-State Academic Team Program. The purpose of this program is to provide recognition at the state level for these top community college students.

This year, 30 California community college students were selected for the All-California Academic First Team, 31 students for the Second Team and 31 students for the Third Team. The Community College League of California is proud to sponsor this award ceremony at which all team members receive medallions of honor and a certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

Grades, leadership and community service determine selection to the All-California first, second and third teams. The selection for the All-California teams was determined by the scores nominees received from Phi Theta Kappa judges at the national level selecting winners for the national academic teams. These 91 students represent some of the best of the two million students enrolled in California's 112 community colleges. California's community colleges underwrite their students' success daily. The most diverse student body in higher education succeeds every day by completing associate degrees and certificate programs; getting jobs; transferring to baccalaureate programs; or furthering a lifelong habit of learning. Even though community college funding is limited – and funding per student is less than any other higher education institution in the state – dedicated and professional community college faculty and staff keep service to students their number one priority.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM



## **IBRAHIM AL SINAFI**

*American River College*

*Age: 27*

*GPA: 4 • Major: Computer Science*

Ibrahim Al Sinafi was born and raised in Baghdad, Iraq. He moved to the United States of America in 2010. Currently, Ibrahim holds three volunteer jobs:

math tutor in Qoba Foundation, physics tutor at American River College (ARC), and an information technology (IT) specialist at Saha Health Center. Being an IT specialist is an opportunity that he had to take in order to apply for what he's learning at school in real-life situations. Ibrahim received three Highest Honors certificates and won the golden trophy and a certification in Grammar Bowl at ARC. Being an active member in PTK, he has received a Preeminent Representative certificate from Beta Zeta Pi Chapter. Ibrahim has received a scholarship and a certification of appreciation from CSU Sacramento in recognition of his academic achievements. He is planning to transfer in fall 2015 to one of three universities: Stanford University, UC Berkeley, or Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.



## **JAYSON BARKER**

*Fullerton College*

*Age: 30*

*GPA: 3.53 • Major: Physics*

A former union carpenter, Jayson Barker is a full-time student majoring in physics. He is a former vice president of the Beta Kappa Tau chapter of the Phi Theta

Kappa International Honor Society and serves as one of two honors student coordinators for the Honors Program at Fullerton College. Jayson has excelled in both positions because his interpersonal skills allow him to thrive in a team-oriented environment. He is also a Level 1 English and Composition tutor on campus. His tutoring experience has been invaluable, as it has allowed Jayson to work with individuals of many different educational and cultural backgrounds. He chose a major in physics because, with a knowledge of the physical laws of the universe, everyday objects and events become beautiful orchestrations of nature that seem equally content to be in perfect harmony on one scale and simultaneously existing in wild unpredictability on another.



## **JAMIE ATCHINSON**

*Las Positas College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.68 • Major: Biology*

Jamie Atchinson is a biology major and plans on transferring this fall. Her ultimate educational goal is to attend medical school. She is the vice president

of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, where she serves on various community service drives and helps organize club events and community service outreach. She is a member of the Honors Transfer program, the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, the Biology Club, and the Chemistry Club. Outside of school, Jamie spends time volunteering with various organizations including Kaiser Permanente and the Open Heart Kitchen. During her free time she tutors high school students in math, science, and Spanish. Tutoring has confirmed how much she enjoys helping others, and has strengthened her resolve for becoming a doctor. Eventually she wants to expand her positive influence on the world by becoming a doctor with Doctor without Borders and volunteering her time and medical training overseas.



## **ALECIA BARNES**

*Merritt College*

*Age: 50*

*GPA: 3.82*

*Major: Nutrition Sciences*

Alecia Barnes is a re-entry student currently attending Merritt College, where she is studying nutrition, with the

intent of transferring to UC Berkeley to major in nutritional sciences, with an emphasis on biomedical research. Alecia is the vice president of membership for the Beta Theta Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Alecia also serves as social media director for the Oakland Teen Empowerment Pageant, a "brainy" pageant focused on building the self-esteem of teen girl victims of domestic violence and trafficking. In addition, Alecia is a regular volunteer for the Courageous Women Association, an organization offering support and resources to women and child victims and survivors of domestic violence, homelessness, addiction, human trafficking/prostitution and incarceration. Alecia's ultimate goal is to earn a postgraduate degree, with the desire to return to the Bay Area to teach at the college level.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM



## AUSTIN BARRAZA

*Norco College*

*Age: 21*

*GPA: 4 • Major: Political Science*

Austin Barraza's community college experience has been immensely rewarding but began quite unexpectedly. Initially, he started his college experience

at UC San Diego but withdrew towards the end of freshman year due to financial concerns and a lack of academic direction. As a first generation college student, leaving a four-year university was immensely disheartening to both himself and his parents. Thankfully, Norco College provided Austin with a wealth of opportunities. In addition to being a member of Phi Theta Kappa, he serves as vice president of the Honors Program. Through Honors, Austin discovered a passion for academic research and presented at multiple research conferences, including the statewide HTCC Conference at UC Irvine, where he was honored with the Exemplary Achievement Award. After graduation, Austin plans to transfer to either UCLA or UC Berkeley to finish his BA in political science and work his way towards a doctorate.



## KYLIE GARDNER

*Mt. San Jacinto College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.8 • Major: Psychology*

In her past three years at Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC), Kylie Gardner has grown tremendously both personally and academically. Prior to her college

experience, Kylie was often shy and outspoken and never dreamt of becoming the leaders she is today. Her involvement with the Honors Program motivated, encouraged and prepared her for all future endeavors. Since initiating her participation in the program, Kylie has become an active student on campus serving as an honors mentor, vice president of the Phi Theta Kappa Beta Delta Omega chapter, president of the MSJC Psychology Club, a peer tutor, and a supplemental instruction (SI) leader. All of these programs have helped her in a multitude of ways and she is confident in continuing her education to eventually receive a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. As a psychologist, Kylie hopes to serve her area while advocating for suicide prevention and awareness.



## RYAN DAUBENMIRE

*Las Positas College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: English*

Ryan is currently a sophomore at Las Positas College, where he is majoring in English. He hopes to transfer to UC Berkeley in the fall of 2015, and has

been passionate about Literature since he was very young, a time in which he spent a great amount of time writing and playing hockey — two things he still very much enjoys to this day. When he attended Venture, the independent high school in San Ramon, he began taking community college classes concurrently. Years later, he is now an active member of Las Positas College, participating in both the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society and the Psi Beta Honor Society. Today, he continues to follow his passions, as he both coaches hockey, assisting children of various backgrounds in their exploration of the game he loves, and tutors students in numerous different aspects of English. In addition, he is the assistant coach of a competitive travel hockey team of 14-year-olds.



## EVELYN GUTIERREZ

*Cuyamaca College*

*Age: 27*

*GPA: 4.0*

*Major: Business Administration & Communication*

Evelyn Gutierrez is a single mother to an eight-year-old adorable girl and trying

to be a role model to everyone she surrounds. Despite all the struggles she has faced and the daily challenge of commuting approximately 65 miles each day, Evelyn has been able to surpass her own goals. Thanks to all the organizations that have chosen her as a scholarship recipient, she will be able to earn an Associate's Degree in business administration and communication along with a business office technology or computer informational science certificate. Evelyn hopes to transfer to San Diego State University to specialize in human resources. No matter what department she chooses to work for, she will dedicate her life to be the pillar everyone needs when battling through an adversity. Finally, Evelyn will greatly enjoy providing free counseling services to low-income families, minorities, and of course, to her favorite group of human beings—the disabled.



# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM



## **CALEB HENDERSON**

*Southwestern College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 3.58 • Major: Biology*

*(emphasis in Holistic Health Science)*

Caleb Henderson is an honor student at Southwestern College. He plans to

transfer to Stanford University or Bastyr University to study medicine. He has membership in several campus clubs, such as the Arduino Inventors and Robotics Club, the Black Student Union, Biology Club, the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society: Alpha Pi Epsilon Chapter and several more. Caleb is the recipient of several prestigious awards such as the Student of Distinction Award (SODA), the LIPP Family Foundation: Biology Award, the ASO Campus Involvement Scholarship, and the Le Roy Olsen: Biology Award. Last summer, he completed a UCSD internship, where he researched the integration of TCM and glycolytic and non-glycolytic enzymes to study the inhibition of cancer. In the near future, Caleb aspires to become a naturopathic doctor and specialize in the studies of integrated health science and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).



## **RUCHI JARIWALA**

*Mt. San Jacinto College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 3.791 • Major: Biology*

Ever since Ruchi Jariwala was young, she has always been curious about how life works. The developing scientist in her was less concerned about abstract

questions like, "What is the meaning of life? Why are we here?" and more concerned with how this inconceivably complex organization of inanimate molecules has the ability to create joy, pain, pleasure, love, and life. Naturally, Ruchi was destined to study biology and, ultimately, medical science. However, there is more to academia than one specific discipline. Since beginning her journey of higher education, she has immersed herself in many different fields and one of them is joining the Honors Program. Ruchi has participated in research studying the antibiotic effects of colloidal silver on human cells, studied the humanities such as music, history, and philosophy, and had the pleasure of being a tutor for multiple subjects. She is confident she has adequately prepared herself for the competitive atmosphere of studying at the university level.



## **JUDITH JAIME**

*San Diego Mesa College*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Biology*

I am a full time student, and proud PTK member, at San Diego Mesa College majoring in Biological Sciences. I never had the opportunity to attend High school, and that might be the reason why

I enjoy learning, literally, everything that comes my way. I have taken honor's courses in Spanish, English, and now Mathematics for one reason, to strengthen my weaknesses and to become a better tutor for my children. I am looking forward to transfer to UCSD, but I am open to go to any university anywhere in the world. I have recently acquired a tutoring position at Mesa College, and I am delighted to be part of the change I want to see in my community. I am also a social activist and I actively advocate for homeless women since the day I became one. My success is nothing but the evidence of my strong support system.



## **JULIANNA KILPATRICK**

*Norco College*

*Age: 40*

*GPA: 3.95*

*Major: Pre-Medicine Exercise Sports & Science*

After successfully battling stage 3 cancer, Julianna Kilpatrick returned to

college to seek out her dream of becoming a physician's assistant in sports medicine. As a single mother of two children with a learning disability and a first generation college student, she has overcome many great obstacles. Thankfully Julianna made a great choice in choosing Norco College to begin her college journey, as she found the support and community desperately needed to find success. In becoming engaged on campus with student government, Phi Theta Kappa, and veterans, she was able to give back to her community by becoming an advocate for students. Life is not about personal accomplishments, it is about the impact you have on others and the world. Julianna is grateful to have found fulfillment in helping others and make a definitive difference in the world.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM



## **DALIA LOPEZ**

*Folsom Lake College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 3.78 • Major: Biology*

Dalia Lopez started working at a dental office when she was 11 years old. The office often treated underrepresented persons and, through this, she knew she wanted to service her fellow neighbors. Dalia started her volunteer opportunities in high school when she joined the Key Club. Then she started the Regional Occupations Program-Dental, where she had the chance to help others in the dental field. Dalia is currently in the Student Activities Club helping a variety of people, from students to senior citizens. She also joined Phi Theta Kappa because of the impact of their opportunities. She continues in the dental field with events including Smiles for Kids and CDA CARES, both free-of-charge dental work. Dalia plans on transferring to a 4-year university and obtain her Bachelor's in biology. After which she hopes to go to dental school and assist people in that form.



## **LAWRENCE LOVE**

*Los Angeles Southwest College*

*Age: 35*

*GPA: 3.465 • Major: Music*

Lawrence Love was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. He attended San Fernando Valley Academy high school and is currently completing an Associates Degree at Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) in liberal arts. He has the goal of completing his education in the Music Industry program at Cal Poly Pomona. Throughout Lawrence's time at LASC, his goal has been to achieve the best academic experience in and outside of the classroom. He has been privileged to serve in such positions as vice president of Associated Students and, currently, president of the Honor Society, Phi Theta Beta. All the while, he has a strong passion for the music industry. Lawrence's main career goal is to become an Artist & Repertoire (A&R). He aspires to be the one who recognizes the next popular artist or sound, and then facilitate as the broker of a deal between the record label company and the artist. He will take advantage of any internship offers or working opportunities that will bring him closer to this goal with companies like MTV, Sony, Universal Records, and Columbia Records. Naturally, he is pursuing a higher education in the music industry because of his love for music and the way it influences the minds and moods of people. For so much of his life, Lawrence has thought about how he would leave a legacy. He is confident he can do so with music because it has been powerful since the beginning of time. It touches people no matter what culture they are a part of, what they believe, or where they are at in life.



## **THUY NGUYEN**

*Cosumnes River College*

*Age: 23*

*GPA: 3.9 • Major: Biology*

Thuy Nguyen's educational goal is to finish her Bachelor Degree in biology after four years and continue on to graduate school. To her, school is a privilege. Being born in a family in which most of her family members don't have as many opportunities to finish their school as the others, always makes her be aware of the significance of education in life. Therefore, Thuy always puts a lot of effort in studying, not only to satisfy her parents' hope but also to reach her dream. Of course, things always appear to be difficult at first, but as a hard-working and self-motivated student, Thuy has faith she can be able to achieve her educational goal.



## **KAYLA ORLINSKY**

*Irvine Valley College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Mathematics*

Kayla Orlinsky is a 20-year-old mathematics major with a passion for animals, art, and research. Last fall, she began running a series of workshops designed to promote undergraduate research at the college. She was able to watch students previously unaware of their own potential, blossom to fully-fledged researchers presenting alongside their peers from universities across California. Having the privilege of meeting and working with so many brave and intelligent people has inspired her to further explore her own major. Seven months ago, Kayla began working on a research project that involves mathematically modeling the current Ebola virus epidemic in Guinea. She would like to thank her family members for their encouragement; professors for their guidance; honors director, Kay Ryals, for giving her the opportunity to grow as a leader; and the members of her research team, most notably Rahil Hamza whose support and friendship made their workshops impactful.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM



## **RILEY PREDUM**

*Berkeley City College*

*Age: 23*

*GPA: 3.9*

*Major: Anthropology/Linguistics*

Riley Predum is a student at Berkeley City College in his last semester before transferring. He hopes to get admitted

to UC Berkeley where he will study anthropology and linguistics with a minor in education to better understand the impact of language and culture on students and their academic performance. Additionally, the Japanese language has always fascinated Riley and this is one of the languages he has been focusing on for the last year. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he would like to live and work in Japan for some time, perhaps as an English teacher. He is interested in obtaining a Ph.D. in anthropology or linguistics, with an emphasis on language acquisition to explore how educational technologies can be implemented to increase the exposure children have to language in their critically important youth. This avenue will help develop a more globally-minded generation!



## **CAREN SCOTT**

*Oxnard College*

*Age: 23*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: History*

In addition to being a student, Caren Scott is military spouse and an avid animal lover. She is president of the school's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa,

as well as an officer and member of the Oxnard College Cheer Squad. As a history major, she hopes to pursue an education and obtain a master's degree in history or education so she might be able to teach at the college level. In her free time, Caren volunteers for multiple animal shelters and rescues, is an active member of the military community, and participates in numerous community events. Her goal as a Phi Theta Kappa leader is to encourage fellow community college students to never let obstacles stand in the way of completing an education and following dreams.



## **URSULA SIMONOSKI**

*Mt. San Jacinto College*

*GPA: 3.97*

*Major: Nutritional Sciences*

Ursula Simonoski was born in Peru and was studying to become a doctor. She was short two years of completing a degree when she came to the United

States. Moving to the United States was a decision that truly changed her life and does not regret it, as it helped her mature and become the person she is today. Fifteen years later, Ursula has a husband, two kids, and a different perspective on life. She decided to go back to school and pursue her goal of becoming a physician to help improve the health of the community. Currently, she is a student and honors mentor at Mt. San Jacinto College and is getting ready to transfer this fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences and then apply to medical school.



## **CURTIS SMITH**

*Mt. San Jacinto College*

*Age: 50*

*GPA: 3.4*

*Major: Electrical Engineering*

Curtis Smith is a 50-year-old electrical engineering student from Puyallup,

Washington. After the Navy he moved to

Orlando, Florida for 20 years. He is just now continuing his education. This is because he has schizophrenia. Curtis is very happy he was able to succeed this far in college and has been published several times for honors coursework. He is active in many school organizations. He has failed high school and college courses but never let that stop him. Curtis continues to persevere. There was a time he had no hope and now he has much to live for. As he prepares to move on to Harvey Mudd or a UC and pursue a career in academic research, Curtis looks forward to the many exciting times he will encounter and new friends he will make.



# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM



## **SARAH TAHA**

*San Diego Mesa College*

*Age: 26*

*GPA: 4.0*

*Major: Business Administration*

Sarah Taha's short-term goal is to transfer to UC Berkeley and finish my bachelor's degree in business administration. Her long-term goal is to get a master's degree in finance, and finally, pursue a Ph.D. in accounting. In terms of a career, Sarah's short-term goal is to open a social enterprise that imports tea grown only in Iraq and other Persian Gulf countries, thus helping bolster those communities. Her long-term goal is to pursue a career as a social entrepreneur who is determined to find creative solutions to ongoing social and economic problems, like poverty and children health. In terms of volunteerism and social work, Sarah's short-term goal is to continue raising awareness and funds for needy and neglected Iraqi children who are dying of birth defects and other war pollution related diseases. Her long-term goal is to register the nonprofit organization she works for, ICARE, legally in the U.S.



## **WORLDMAKER**

*Moorpark College*

*GPA: 3.9*

*Major: City and Regional Planning Systems*

The state of California estimates it will take more than \$300 billion to fix its transportation and environmental problems. Therefore, over the next few years, WORLDMAKER will be planning and designing for the implementation of California's new mass transportation system in order to alleviate the crisis. His interests in planning and designing large-scale infrastructure and community systems began when he was seven years old. At school, he would always be found building multiethnic societies made from Legos. Even as a young child, he knew that someday he would actually be in a position to help the state of California solve its most egregious environmental problems. And since returning to college, that burning desire got even more intense to turn his childhood vision into reality: designing California's new public transit system at one of the finest city and regional planning programs and institutions in the world.



## **MONICA TEMPLE**

*Palomar College*

*Age: 30*

*GPA: 3.957*

*Major: Business Administration*

Monica Temple is a proud veteran of our armed forces, first-generation college student, and a Certified Public Accountant in the making. After serving her country ten years she returned to school. She participated as the vice president of leadership in Alpha Omega Rho chapter at Palomar College where, pushing past several boundaries, she successfully led the College Project advocating the completion of higher education at Palomar and Mission Middle School. Recently receiving associate degrees in university studies and general studies, Monica continues to pursue a bookkeeping certificate of proficiency and associate in accounting while waiting to transfer to UC Riverside where she'll earn a bachelor's degree in business administration and an MBA. Her goal is to find employment in bookkeeping gaining experience to assist in obtaining a CPA position in later years meanwhile working toward getting recruited by one of the major accounting firms as an intern to later be hired permanently.



## **VARVARA YEFYMENKO**

*College of the Sequoias*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 4.0*

*Major: Psychology/Communication Studies*

Varvara Yefymenko was born and raised in Ukraine. Two and a half years ago family circumstances brought her to the USA. The process of adaptation to new life has not been easy. Nevertheless, in May of 2015 she is graduating from College of the Sequoias. Since May 2013 she has been on the President's List at the college, recognized as a motivated student who performs academic excellence and participates in community activities. Varvara is pursuing two transfer degrees in psychology and communication studies, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Her passion is psychology and wants to devote her life to it. Being a communication major helps her contribute to modern society. Varvara is fluent in three languages. She is energetic and socially aware and possesses creativity and courage. She is interested in arts and interpersonal communications. Her life plan is to grow and develop both professionally and personally.

## ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM



### **Wafa Zeidan**

*Skyline College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.98 • Major: Biology*

Wafa is majoring in Biology at Skyline College. Her goal is to earn a medical degree, and continue to do research throughout her career. Wafa plans to

transfer to a four-year university in Fall 2015 to complete her undergraduate studies. During her time at Skyline College, she conducted independent research to determine the antimicrobial action of a plant. She presented her research at the 2014 SACNAS conference and plans to continue her research. In addition to doing research, she is an active volunteer at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. Wafa also taught senior citizens through her Phi Theta Kappa chapter program entitled Computer Literacy and Internet Competency for Seniors.

## ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM



### **Tanishq Abraham**

*American River College*

*Age: 11*

*GPA: 4.0*

*Major: General Science, Math & Physical Science, Language Studies*

On graduating from ARC, Tanishq Abraham plans to transfer for his

bachelor's in bio-medical engineering. After which, he would like to do a MD-PhD program. Since he enjoys all fields of sciences, particularly biological and engineering, Tanishq hopes to encompass that in his research field for new inventions to help humanity. Along with private agencies and individuals, several government officials, like President Obama, Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Mayor Kevin Johnson, honored him for his achievements, contributions and inspiration to others. Although he is a college student, Tanishq is still a kid and enjoys what other 11-year-olds like to do. He enjoys playing the Wii; sports like tennis, table tennis and swimming; watching TV and movies; playing with friends and younger sister (who is also my college class-mate). He enjoys music and was a chorister for five years with the San Francisco Boys Chorus.



### **Anush Ambartsumyan**

*Los Angeles Valley College*

*Age: 21*

*GPA: 3.6 • Major: Political Science*

Anush Ambartsumyan enjoys watching political debates and reading magazines and newspapers about politics. Her major is political science and wants to

dedicate herself to public service. It takes politics to make a huge change for the benefit of society, and that is what inspires her to study this field as a professional aspiration. In terms of public service Anush has always been involved in volunteer activities on campus. First she served as a vice president of Tau Alpha Epsilon, an honors society club and PTK. After year of serving as a VP, she participated in elections for Associated Student Union (ASU) and was elected treasurer. Each week Anush spends about 8 hours volunteering and representing interests of students. She is transferring this year to a four-year college and wants to obtain a bachelor's degree in political science.



### **Victoria Bryant**

*Shasta College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Social Sciences*

## ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM



### **TROY CASTILLO**

*Porterville College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.77 • Major: Kinesiology*

Troy is a sophomore at Porterville College who plans to graduate in May with two associates' degrees: an AS in biological and physical science, and an

AA in social science. He is currently the secretary of Phi Theta Kappa's Alpha Chi Mu chapter and has been on the President's Honor List every semester at Porterville College. He plans to transfer to a CSU in the fall and eventually earn a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. After obtaining his bachelor's, Troy plans to enter into a doctorate program and become a physical therapist.



### **FANNYA CORDOVA**

*Citrus College*

*GPA: 3.6 • Major: Economics*

Fannya Cordova is a member of the Beta Nu Eta Chapter from Citrus College in Glendora, California. She is majoring in economics and is a tutor for philosophy and economics. Fannya is a writer for

her school's newspaper the Clarion, and has won awards for best editorial and best opinion articles. She has also participated in her school's outreach program as a student ambassador and is part of the Honors Program and UCLA's CCCP Scholars Program. She has presented in the UCI Honors research conference. She plans to transfer to UCLA or Cal Berkeley and hopes to attend graduate school abroad.



### **LINETT CAZARES MADRIGAL**

*Porterville College*

*Age: 32*

*GPA: 3.91 • Major: Nutrition*

Linnett Cazares Madrigal has been attending Porterville College since spring 2012. She has been on the President's Honor List every year and

Limited Dean's List in the summer of 2013. She was also awarded the California Edison Scholarship in 2013 and 2014. When Linnett graduates Porterville College she plans to transfer to Fresno State University and complete a bachelor of science in food & nutritional sciences. She wants to become a dietitian and work at a hospital. She has been married for 12 years and has three boys. She has been a volunteer at her son's school since 2009. She enjoys having a family that supports her in every aspect of her education. She wants to give a special thanks to her husband for the support and encouragement to always do her best.



### **TANNER DE BERRY**

*Orange Coast College*

*Age: 21*

*GPA: 3.71*

*Major: Business Administration (Marketing and Entrepreneurship)*

Tanner De Berry has been actively involved at Orange Coast College

through a variety of committees: Associated Students Fiscal Affairs Council, Phi Theta Kappa, Food Riders, Recycling Committee, College Budget Committee, Marine Science Honors' Society, and Accounting Society. He appreciates his ability to articulate ideas and having his words listened to. The result has been seeing a number of his ideas adopted on campus. Tanner foresees a future where he earns both bachelor's and master's degree from a UC, construct his own company—to be his own boss, have a loving family, and a world where he can give back to the community each and every day. One way he will accomplish this is by being a professor, because after all, learning is a life-long process enhanced by one's relationship with society, one's dedicated state of mind, and most importantly, one's family.



### **EMILY COLBY**

*Skyline College*

*GPA: 3.9*

*Major: International Relations*

Emily Colby is a student at Skyline College. She lives in Millbrae, California with her parents and her dog and cat.

She hopes to transfer to a four-year

university to study international relations. At school she stays involved through participation in the Honors Club and Skyline College Model United Nations. She also works at her school's Student Life and Leadership office. Emily is proud to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa and an honors student. Someday Emily plans to pursue international diplomacy and/or law. She is passionate about travel, art, culture and learning. She is thankful to her family and friends who encourage her to try her best while taking care of herself.



# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM

## MARTIN DEEB

*Los Angeles Valley College*

*Age: 42*

*GPA: 3.9 • Major: History/Anthropology*

Martin Deeb hopes to do research; so many fascinating questions to ask. He is currently president of both honor societies on campus and earned several awards and scholarships. Martin has been around the world, working with musicians, and as a documentary filmmaker. Yet he most enjoys working on independent academic projects that trace the influence of historical figures in modern cultures. He is considering several universities as transfer destinations, and plans to apply to all of them and let the chips fall where they may. He is sure to run into some of you from time-to-time in the future, and looks forward to doing so!



## JAIMEE DEEGAN

*Fullerton College*

*Age: 23*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Sociology*

Jaimee is a Southern California native and has spent all of her life in Orange County, California. She started her college career at Fullerton College in spring of 2013. Since then she has become the president of a local non-profit preschool and also volunteers as a teacher on a weekly basis at that same school. She has been a member of Phi Theta Kappa since fall 2014 and expresses it has been an extremely rewarding experience. Because of her involvement with Phi Theta Kappa, she was introduced to an organization called Hope Center for the Arts, formerly known as Hope University, where she has spent many hours helping the program provide art therapy for adults with intellectual disabilities. Jaimee intends to transfer to Chapman University in the fall as an Integrated Educational Studies major with hopes of becoming a teacher.



## YAOHUA (TERESA) FAN

*De Anza College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.76*

*Major: Communication Studies*

Teresa Fan is an international student from the South of China and has studied in the US for more than two years. Her major is communication studies and hopes to transfer to a four-year institution for deepening her interest in interdisciplinary curriculum. After graduation, Teresa plans to pursue a media and communication career and hopes to inform the public with accurate and positive messages.



## MICHELLE HERNANDEZ

*Santa Ana College*

*Age: 22*

*GPA: 3.88*

*Major: Psychiatric Nursing*

Currently, Michelle Hernandez is a full-time student at Santa Ana College aspiring towards obtaining a master's of science degree in psychiatric and mental health nursing. After fulfilling her goal of gaining a bachelor's of science degree in nursing at San Diego State University, she plans to attend graduate school at the University of California, Irvine. As the first member of her family to attend a college institution, accomplishing these educational goals is of the upmost importance and believes her achievements are a reflection of this. In addition to receiving various community service awards for involvement at local retirement homes and mental health facilities, Michelle is also an honorary Phi Theta Kappa member. While proud to say that in the fall of 2015 she will be transferring with three associates' degrees, she looks forward to seeing what more she is capable of accomplishing in the future.



## MICHAEL LEWITTER

*Saddleback College*

*Age: 30*

*GPA: 3.56*

*Major: Communication Studies*

Michael Lewitter is part of Phi Theta Kappa at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, California. He will be graduating Saddleback College after this spring semester and transferring to California State University, Fullerton in fall 2015. His major is communication studies. He will be graduating from Saddleback College with a 3.56 GPA and will be on the Honor Roll, Dean's List and a lifetime member of Phi Theta Kappa.

## ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM



### **NATHAN MARTINEZ**

*Irvine Valley College*

*GPA: 3.9*

*Major: Electrical Engineering*

Nathan Martinez is a pre-engineering student at Irvine Valley College (IVC). Before re-enrolling in community college, Nathan worked as a restaurant manager

and short order cook, and now works as a math tutor. At IVC, he has taken an active role in his education. He has worked his way up from introductory algebra up to the highest levels of math offered, while also participating in several clubs, most notably as the vice president of scholarship with Phi Theta Kappa. With Phi Theta Kappa, Nathan led a research team and presented a project on the feasibility of using superconductor technology in the power grid at Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research and The IVC Research Symposium. He will likely attend either Cal Poly or UC Berkeley in fall 2015 and plans to major in electrical engineering with a focus in power generation and transmission, with the goal of designing green power technology.



### **LILA MULLINS**

*College of Marin*

*Age: 33*

*GPA: 3.54 • Major: Drama*

Lila Mullins is thrilled to participate in the PTK honors program! She is a theater major, having come from a theatrical family in the Bay Area. Specializing in

directing, playwriting, and stage management, Lila hopes to transfer to the University of California at Berkeley in the fall of 2015 to study technical theater and production. For the past three years, Lila has volunteered with the Richmond/Ermet Foundation in San Francisco as an assistant stage manager, working in conjunction with Broadway cares and the casts of Book of Mormon, Jersey Boys, Newsies, and Lion King, to name a few. An active participant in the drama department at the College of Marin, Lila has written and directed short plays, organized fundraisers, and received the Denise Kirschner scholarship. Future goals include working with Disney on Broadway; writing, directing and producing her own plays for the stage; and not having to bartend anymore!



### **ELIZABETH MILLS**

*Sacramento City College*

*Age: 24*

*GPA: 3.642 • Major: Psychology*

At community college Elizabeth Mills has explored various areas of interests including early childhood education, mathematics/statistics and psychology.

She has also mastered a few fears such as public speaking. Community college has provided Elizabeth with the opportunity to broaden her spectrum of knowledge. She has learned about things she had no previous interest in like political science. Throughout all the courses she has developed valuable time management skills. At her school, Elizabeth is a mathematics tutor and learned excellent study, leadership, and communication skills. Tutoring forced her to solidify complicated mathematics concepts she would not have otherwise. Elizabeth loves working with people and wants to be equipped to help those who need it most; this is why she chose to pursue psychology. She is transferring to CSU Sacramento in the fall and hopes to be a psychologist one day.



### **FERNANDO NAVARRO**

*Berkeley City College*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Mathematics*

Fernando Navarro used to be concerned only with him and whatever objective was going on at the moment. This shaped him into a person that lacked commitment and a sense of purpose.

In 2013, during a night of deep reflection, it became clear to Fernando that if he kept going this way, he would be committing to a life he couldn't feel proud of. He realized that some areas of life needed to be recalibrated in order to seek balance. He decided to pursue a profession he could love, and to start living in ways that could enrich both him and others. Fernando sees great progress in both areas. He has outstanding academic performance, tutors mathematics, coordinates the tours for college visitors, and has the wonderful opportunity to volunteer as the mentor of a great kid from Oakland through the Big Brother program.



# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM

**FOUAD OUCHMAME**

*Sacramento City College*

*Age: 34*

*GPA: 3.91*

*Major: Electrical Engineering*

Fouad Ouchmame is originally from North Africa. He was born and raised in Morocco. After a rupture of over a decade, he decided to return to school to fulfill his dream of becoming a researcher. He is transferring next semester to a four-year university and begin a new phase of his academic journey. For the last two semesters, Fouad received Sacramento City College president's highest honors for averaging over twenty units per semester while keeping a high academic performance. He is a regular volunteer at AIS school and tutors math, physics, French, and Arabic. His ultimate goal is to become a scientist and help find solutions to some of the world's challenges. Fouad also wants to teach engineering to pass his knowledge on to the next generation.

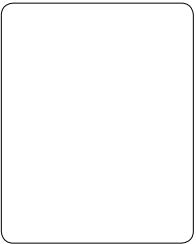
**JOCELYN RODRIGUES**

*Merced College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Nursing*

Currently, Jocelyn Rodrigues works as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Emanuel Medical Center twenty-four hours a week. She also maintains a 4.0 GPA while taking fourteen units. She is planning on transferring CSU Stanislaus in the fall with the goal to attend the nursing program. The medical field is what Jocelyn always sought to endeavor into. With her parent's support, she can pursue a master's in nursing. The medical field has seized my heart. However, the lifestyle of a doctor is not for her, despite an overwhelming drive to be an overachiever. She realized that her drive was to make people happy and be there for patients. Her existence will not be minute; she craves to make a difference. When people see Jocelyn as their nurse, she wants them to be smiling. When people go to the hospital she doesn't want them to feel distant, she wants them to know whom she is and that she's there to help. The medical field is not for the faint-hearted. It's not that she doesn't have the capability of becoming a doctor; she's just meant to be a nurse. Watching her stepmom accomplish the RN program, Jocelyn witnessed personally what being a nurse represents: diligence and compassion. These are two traits she wants to be known for.

**[NAME REMOVED]**

*Saddleback College*

*Age:*

*GPA: 3.71*

*Major: Computer Maintenance*

*Technology and Business Administration*

[NAME REMOVED] a 31-year-old, single Iranian man who grew up in a poor family with six siblings; life was very difficult. At age 15, he worked twelve hours a day. He graduated from high school, but could not go to a university because he did not have time or money. He ran a small computer business at the age of 22. In 2012, after five years of applying for the US green card lottery, he won and came to the US alone. He enrolled in Saddleback College in 2013. He has ten years work experience in the computer field. He is a full-time student with a double major in computer maintenance technology and business administration. His cumulative GPA is 3.71. He was admitted to both CSUF & CSULB for the fall 2015. He had 23.25 credits from the fall semester with a 4.0 GPA.

**ANTHONY SALAZAR**

*Solano Community College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 3.6*

*Major: Materials Science and Engineering*

Anthony Salazar is one of six kids who grew up in the family home in Fairfield, California. As a child, he loved to learn new things whether it was swimming, riding a bike or roller-skating. What others accomplished with ease, inspired him to try even harder to excel. He is really hard on himself because Anthony is the first in his family to go to college wants to set an example. Thanks to the mentorship he received at Solano from Dr. Lutz, Anthony found a passion for materials science. Through his experience participating in an NSF-funded research internship, he has decided to pursue this field into research. He will be participating in another internship this summer at the materials science research and engineering center at Northwestern University and plans to transfer to UC Berkeley. Ultimately Anthony would like to become a research professor in materials science.

## ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM



### AUSTIN SIBOLE

*Barstow Community College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.67 • Major: Business*

Austin Sibole moved from Montana to Barstow, California six years ago and is still adjusting to the change. He comes from a family of six where his parents

always told them to do their best. All through grade school Austin strived for A's and achieved them. Wherever his family goes, they become involved in the community. Being Christian isn't the main reason for getting involved and pitching in, but it has instilled in his family values that has pushed them in that direction. As a college student he strives to be the best he can and help others to do the same. Austin is currently president of two clubs and volunteers around campus and church. He was president of two community organizations, the Junior Fair Board and 4-H. Unfortunately and fortunately, Austin has a hard time saying no when asked for help.



### EMILY SWIFT

*Butte College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.86 • Major: Business Finance*

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) helped Emily Swift grow in unimaginable ways over this past year. Stepping up to be president of the PTK chapter during the fall semester has allowed her to become extremely active in all campus activities and around the community. Emily has managed all projects from HIA and College Project to fellowship events and fundraisers. She has kept the main focus of the chapter to be teamwork and communication. Since becoming PTK president, Emily helped the chapter get involved in multiple fundraisers, volunteer events such as galas and Relay For Life, chapters united events, recruitment, and hallmark and regional awards. Her team became a five star chapter again this past year. She plans to move on to CSU Chico majoring in business finance and then moving on to a UC to earn a master's degree. Emily's hope is to start a career in financial advising.



### COLIN SKINNER

*San Diego Miramar College*

*Age: 30*

*GPA: 4.0*

*Major: Biomedical Engineering*

Colin Skinner is from San Diego, California. Although he spent most of his life in San Diego and high school in

Yokosuka, Japan. A major contributing factor directing his life's course is a neuromuscular disease called Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT), which he was born with. Colin originally never planned to continue his education after high school, but eventually a love for science and mathematics and my desire to make an impact in the search for treatment for neuromuscular diseases like CMT, drove him back to school to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. In the fall he will be transferring to the University of California to complete a bachelor's program and hopes to subsequently begin a Ph.D. program at Stanford University. Ultimately, he hopes to work in research in biomedical engineering.

### MACKENZIE THURSTON



*College of the Canyons*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Psychobiology*

Mackenzie Thurston is currently involved with Special Olympics as an assistant coach for three sports (volleyball, basketball, and Young Athletes program), an intern, as well as, a member of the

recruitment committee for UCLA Clinical Care Extenders, and a college assistant tutoring English. She recently received the honor of being selected for the AAUW 2014-2015 Women in STEM scholarship. Mackenzie is planning on transferring to UCLA or UCSB as a psychobiology major in fall 2016 with associates' degrees in mathematics and biology. Her career goal is to become a pediatric surgeon and treat children in developing countries. She truly believes that each person was put on this earth to help others in a unique way that only they can do best, and that is what she is pursuing.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 3<sup>RD</sup> TEAM

## FADI ABOUT SYRIANI

*Cañada College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.97 • Major: Cell Biology*

Fadi About Syriani was born and raised in Syria for the last eighteen years. Due to intensified war, Fadi had to leave home, family, and friends to start a new chapter of life in the United States. Since the first day, Fadi was determined to keep the hard work. Fadi had the honor to be invited to the Honor Society after maintaining 4.0 transfer GPA and was an officer at the Pre-Health society. Fadi was awarded the NSF and Yanni Chen Fund scholarships, which helped to pay part of tuitions. Fadi volunteers during free time in the ER at Kaiser and with Reading Partners. Fadi is transferring to UC Davis next fall and planning on obtaining a bachelor's degree, and then get a Ph.D. and a couple years of research to increase scientific knowledge. After that, Fadi's main goal will be being a surgeon or a pediatrician.



## ANTONELLA CAMMAROTA

*Oxnard College*

*Age: 38*

*GPA: 4.0*

*Major: Computer Networking/IT*

Antonella Cammarota's life at Oxnard College is amazing compared to the world she knew only five years ago. As

the oldest of four children, her parents could not afford to send her to college upon high school graduation. She is finally realizing her dream to pursue a higher education; Antonella, consequently, will be graduating with Highest Honors this May 2015 and receive an Associate of Science degree in computer networking and information technology. She will be transferring to California State University, Channel Islands in fall 2015 to continue her education and obtain a Master of Science degree in computer science. While at Oxnard College, she has been on the Dean's List each semester. Additionally, she enjoyed participating with the Associated Student Government as its secretary and as a member of PTK. Antonella spends free time with her 3-year-old daughter and parents. She cannot wait to see what the future holds.



## KIRAN CHAGGAN

*Santa Monica College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 3.76*

*Major: Business Administration*

Kiran Chaggan, born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, lived a luxurious lifestyle until she moved to Los Angeles.

After recreating her life in a new city, she successfully finished high school, enrolled in Santa Monica College and became the director of fundraising for the largest chapter of Phi Theta Kappa called Beta Kappa Delta. After receiving her associate's degree, she plans to transfer to the University of Southern California majoring in business administration. She plans to work as a financial analyst or own a franchise for Kumon Math and Reading Center where she has been working for three years and was promoted as a chief assistant. She enjoys watching the workings of the young interactive minds of her students. She manages the center with a 180 student coming in and out every week. She awaits her next chapter of life in a 4-year university this fall 2015.



## KACEE CLYNE

*Modesto Junior College*

*Age: 26*

*GPA: 3.67 • Major: Nursing*

Kacee Clyne has been vice president of the Beta Mu Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa since fall 2013. Kacee was a 2013 eQuality Scholar/Kaiser

Permanente Nursing Scholar recipient. In December 2014, Kacee graduated from Modesto Junior College's Associate Degree Nursing program with honors. Kacee also has AS degrees in business administration, accounting, and supervisory management, all with honors from Modesto Junior College. Kacee is the first person from in the family to graduate from college. Kacee applied to attend CSU Stanislaus starting in fall 2015 for the RN to BSN program. Kacee aspires to receive a master's degree in nursing from UCSF. Kacee's career goal is to be a pediatric nurse.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 3<sup>RD</sup> TEAM



## **JOSH DELANO**

*Fresno City College / CSU Fresno*

*Age: 32*

*GPA: 3.63*

*Major: Electrical Engineering*

Josh Delano has been deployed with the U.S. Navy four times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and The Global

War on Terrorism. He provided relief to tsunami victims in Indonesia in 2004 and again in Japan in 2011. Last semester, he served as vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa Beta chapter of Fresno City College. This semester he has transferred to California State University, Fresno and is now a pledge for the Omega Delta Sigma National Veterans Fraternity. He also does work study at the Veterans Association Hospital where he provides company to convalescent veterans with out families. As a returning student of electrical engineering and father of two daughters, he plans to go into clean energy to one day be on the front lines of research and implementation of the next new fuel source for our planet.



## **CANDICE HANDJOJO**

*Mt. San Antonio College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 3.94 • Major: Sociology*

Candice Handjojo is a second-year student at Mt. San Antonio College. She consistently makes the President's List by achieving a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Candice plans to transfer to UC Berkeley in the fall of 2015, major in sociology and minor in education. Since high school, she pursued her hobby to sing and participated in the Mt. San Antonio College Choir and performed at her local church. As a volunteer tutor, she works with the homeless youths of Southern California to work on homework assignments and encourage academic plans for the future. Subsequently, she plans to obtain her master's degree from Columbia University and work in the United States school system as a professor, school counselor, or in school administration. Candice would like to work at the community college level to assist first-generation and low-income students pursue higher education.



## **PATRICK GORE**

*Long Beach City College*

*Age: 56*

*GPA: 3.95*

*Major: Human Services/Alcohol and Drug Studies*

Patrick Gore is a 56-year-old native Californian who, before coming to Long

Beach City College, was an international flight attendant. Patrick was injured on the job. Instead of living a life on disability payments, he decided to return to school to get a certificate of achievement in alcohol and drug studies, which he received. Then Patrick had a growing hunger for more education. He is now on the road to achieve an AA degree and eventually plans to get a master's degree in social work. He wants to help people and be self-sufficient at the same time. Patrick would like to specialize in alcohol and drug treatment, because he feels there is a growing need for such. Patrick is very honored to receive such an award. Thank you to God, Phi Theta Kappa and all his professors.

## **YI TING (JOY) LIU**

*Citrus College*

*Age: 21*

*GPA: 3.83 • Major: Psychology*

Yi Ting (Joy) Liu is an honors student, vice president of communications of the Beta Nu Eta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She helped create an Honors Ambassador program at Citrus College, volunteered with THINKtogether.org. She plans to transfer to UC Berkeley or the University of Washington to study psychology with hopes of becoming a substance abuse counselor.



# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 3<sup>RD</sup> TEAM



## **MAURICIO MARQUEZ PALENCIA**

*San Diego City College*

*Age: 21*

*GPA: 3.74 • Major: Microbiology*

Mauricio Marquez Palencia was born and raised in Tijuana, Mexico. He moved to the United States in the fall of 2011.

He is currently a third-year student at

San Diego City College (SDCC) majoring in microbiology and on track to transfer to a four-year university. Mauricio is the founder and current member of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) chapter at SDCC, a member of the Mathematics, Engineering, Science, and Achievement (MESA) program, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the Price Scholarship Program. He volunteers as an English/Spanish interpreter for doctors and patients at the UCSD Run Free Clinic. His career goal is to earn a M.D.-Ph.D. with an emphasis in hematology. Mauricio previously conducted cancer research at the UCSD Moores Cancer Center. Currently, he has been accepted to a summer internship at the Medical Science Training Program at UCSD for students pursuing a M.D.-Ph.D. for summer 2015.



## **EVAN MARTINEZ**

*Santa Monica College*

*Age: 30*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Physics*

Coming from Santa Monica College, Evan Martinez has hopes (or more appropriately, dreams) of transferring to Brown University in Rhode Island

to study physics with an English minor. It is his goal to combine both the empirical sciences with the humanities to have a better understanding of the world we live in, and possibly his place within that. When Evan is not studying you can find him playing ultimate Frisbee or at The Blank Theatre, where he has been producing professional theatre for the last 5 years.



## **NAOKI MATSUMOTO**

*Feather River College*

*Age: 21*

*GPA: 3.88 • Major: Business*

*Administration: Accounting*

Naoki Matsumoto is currently a student at Feather River College in Quincy, California, and part of the Enactus

Organization as the director of finance. Naoki was recently appointed on behalf of his college to represent their Enactus Chapter in Miami, as part of the Clinton Global Initiative. He received The Rose Cortez Memorial Scholarship and The Feather River College Faculty Union Scholarship, and he was also selected as the Outstanding Business Student in spring 2014. Naoki has made the Dean's List every semester and is currently the treasurer of the Alpha Psi Zeta chapter. He will transfer to California State University, Chico in fall 2015 and major in business administration: accounting.



## **EUNICE MOLINA**

*MiraCosta College*

*Age: 58*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Nursing*

Eunice Molina was born in Mexico and moved to San Diego at the age of six. Her first challenge in life was learning the English language, which blessed her

with becoming bilingual. Her ultimate goal is to become an operating room nurse, assisting the doctor during surgery. Having bilingual abilities will enable Eunice to help the Spanish-speaking patients to better understand their diagnosis, prognosis, and everything in between. She is a student at MiraCosta College and has completed 46 units while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. After receiving an associate's degree this spring, she plans to continue her education by transferring to a four-year university to obtain a bachelor's degree. Today, Eunice lives and cares for her mother, who is recovering from lymphoma. Caring for others truly fulfills her heart.



# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 3<sup>RD</sup> TEAM



## GERALD MORLIDGE

*Cañada College*

*Age: 27*

*GPA: 3.93 • Major: History*

Gerald has been a student at Cañada College since 2012 and has associates' degrees in both interdisciplinary studies and history. Absolutely devoted to the

study of history, he is the type of person who can spit out historical facts at a moment's notice and does own a full collection of bowties. In addition to taking classes, he has been a tutor at his school since 2014 and can help students in a diverse range of subjects. He also serves as a member of his school's Honors Transfer program advisory committee and is co-president of his Phi Theta Kappa chapter. After he transfers in the fall, he hopes to earn his bachelor's degree in history and then enter graduate school to get his doctorate. His goal is to become a college history professor and hopefully return to Cañada College to teach.

## ANDREW PASTOR

*Mt. San Antonio College*

*Age: 20*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Public Health*

Andrew Pastor is an honors and pre-med student at Mt. San Antonio College. He plans on transferring to UC Irvine or UC Berkeley in the fall of 2015 as a public health major. Andrew has been actively involved at his college in providing underserved students with information on how to obtain affordable health insurance through his role as a health outreach specialist. He has additionally volunteered with Gerinet Health as a hospice volunteer and at UC Irvine Medical Center as a patient experience intern. Since graduating from high school, Andrew has pursued his hobby as a percussionist through performing with the Mt. San Antonio College Wind Ensemble and the independent world-class drum line, Pow Percussion. Andrew's long term plans include earning a master's degree in public health followed by an MD. Andrew aspires to, one day, work on the global health front to develop health infrastructure in developing regions.



## JEFFREY NAVARRO

*Chaffey College*

*Age: 25*

*GPA: 3.9*

*Major: Electrical Engineering and Minor in Aerospace Engineering*

Jeffrey Navarro is president of the Advance Math and Physics Club. In

which, he hosts discussions of theoretical and real-life applications of mathematics and physics and thereby provide a framework within which to shape exemplary, science-oriented leaders. He hosts community outreach events—school visits, mathematics and physics competitions—so to encourage in young people both critical thinking and competitive, inquisitive spirits. Jeffrey volunteers as a math tutor for the "Upward Bound Program," and his tutoring experience and desire to help others who struggle in science, inspired him to compete against all Phi Theta Kappa students in the Khan Academy Tutor Challenge, in which I placed in the top five, nationwide. Currently, he is still pursuing a dream to become an astronaut, but also planning to attend Caltech next fall because of a desire to do research and continue the works of Albert Einstein's in hopes of producing a unified theorem to establish a link between the forces of gravity and electromagnetism.



## RUBEN RAFAYELIAN

*Fresno City College*

*Age: 28*

*GPA: 3.583*

*Major: Neuropsychology*

Ruben Rafayelyan plans to obtain a bachelor's degree from UCLA or UC Berkeley and then move onto a Ph.D.

from Stanford University. His career goal is to work as a neuropsychologist at UCLA's Resnick Neuropsychiatric hospital. He wants to help people with mental illness lead a less symptomatic and more functional life. Ruben cares deeply about the cause.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 3<sup>RD</sup> TEAM



## **OLEG SALAMATOV**

*Los Angeles City College*

*Age: 25*

*GPA: 3.77*

*Major: International Relations*

Oleg Salamatov was born in a small Turkmen town, Chardzhou, to a Russian-speaking family. He lived

in a multicultural society surrounded by many different nationalities and religions. A single mother who is a librarian raised Oleg. She revealed the power of reading to him. The books ignited an interest in human rights and cultural differences. He noticed inequality and discrimination in education in his country and objected to them. Unfortunately, Oleg had to leave the dictatorial regime. It wasn't safe to stay there. He claimed political asylum in the USA in 2010. His interest in human rights is still alive and intends to major in peace and conflict studies. His dream school is UC Berkeley. He would like to work for the UN Commission for Refugees and become involved in educational programs within the refugee camps in the Middle East.

## **ALEX STEPANIUK**

*Cosumnes River College*

*Age: 37*

*GPA: 3.8 • Major: Social Worker*

Alex Stepaniuk chose to major in social work because he likes to help people. He likes that being a social worker is a unique profession because a social worker can help people solve problems with big challenges in life such as poverty, stress, addiction, mental problems, family problems, and abuse. He received honors certifications from the EOPS program at Cosumnes River College (CRC), especially from the CRC Library and Mutual Housing California. He transferred to CSU Sacramento to earn a bachelor's degree in social work. His goal is to earn a Ph.D. in social work.



## **JESUS TORRES**

*Santa Ana College*

*Age: 30*

*GPA: 3.94 • Major: Psychology*

As Jesus Torres continues his education, his passion to get a degree in psychology grows. The world of counseling and therapy has been a major part of his

life. Being a survivor of hard trials as a child, Jesus was introduced to therapy after a suicide attempt at the age of 16. From the time he was a young teenager the concept of understanding human behavior and the questions of why people do certain things has always interested him. With his life experiences and a dedication to apply his education to help others as his strongest quality, it is Jesus' mission to continue a path to success and turn trials into assets. He started classes at Santa Ana College (SAC) in the fall of 2012. At the time he wasn't really sure where he was headed with education but just knew he needed to get a foot in the door. Since then, Jesus has worked with a counselor and laid out a plan to get an associate of arts degree in psychology and then transfer into a master's program. He has worked hard in his studies and stayed on track with the education plan, maintaining a 3.94 throughout his time at SAC. In the fall of 2013 he became a member of Phi Theta Kappa and at the end of spring 2014, he was elected president of the chapter. He has also had the great pleasure of working the front desk at the SAC library. Over the last 3 years, Jesus has volunteered at the Orange County Health Department with an organization called R.E.A.C.H. There he co-facilitated workshops called Healthy Relationships designed to provide tools for better communication and disclosure to people living with HIV. He has taken on a leadership role by organizing and recruiting for these workshops and dedicated to his education in the pursuit to give back by becoming a drug and alcohol counselor or a therapist to troubled kids.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC 3<sup>RD</sup> TEAM



## NIKITA TSVETKOV

*Long Beach City College*

*Age: 21*

*GPA: 3.747*

*Major: Computer Science*

A student from Long Beach City College, Nikita Tsvetkov will receive his AS degree in computer science and transfer

to computer science and engineering undergraduate program at UC Irvine. Academically, he is interested in math, physics and programming. He is passionate about computer technologies and innovations that keep evolving not only technically but also hold infinite scope for creativity and logic. During his studies at community college, he acquired an overall perspective of this scientific discipline. His love for programming, combined with his desire to dig deeper into the working process of various applications, helped him to develop good academic skills. In recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement, he was awarded several scholarship awards. While pursuing his degree, Nikita works part-time at Jackie Robinson K-8 Academy in the Long Beach Unified School District. He trains students in the use of computers and software and offers technical assistance to faculty members.



## DUNG VO

*Long Beach City College*

*Age: 25*

*GPA: 3.8 • Major: BioEngineering*

Dung Vo is a current student at Long Beach City College and, this June, will graduate with the distinction Associate Degree of Math. Then, she will transfer

to the University of California, Irvine in the fall semester. Her most favorite subjects are math and medical science. That is why she wants to become a bioengineer who can work with other medical experts to create the most advanced medical devices to improve human health. On top of that, she wants to further her education by achieving a master degree of nanotechnology applications, specifying in cardiovascular treatments. In addition to her classes, Dung joined the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society to widen her social network and improve her social skills.

## KRISTIN WRIGHT

*Feather River College*

*Age: 19*

*GPA: 3.8 • Major: Kinesiology*

Coming from a small town has never narrowed Kristin Wright's ambitions. She has always understood that nothing can be gained without hard work, commitment, and dedication. She learned this as a student-athlete and worker. Kristin has worked exceptionally hard to achieve a cumulative 3.8 GPA at Feather River College; currently carrying a full-academic course load while managing to work in two part-time jobs. She is a proud member of the Alpha Psi Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and is graduating in May with an AA-T in kinesiology. After completing her bachelor's degree, Kristin plans to become an athletic trainer and help young athletes attain their dreams.



## CHRISTOPHER YAMAS

*Moorpark College*

*Age: 22*

*GPA: 4.0 • Major: Political Science*

After avidly engaging himself in student government as a freshman at University of the West, Chris was selected as interim president during his second semester. In this capacity he realized his passion for public service, and decided to transfer to Moorpark College to prepare for a degree in political economy. At Moorpark, Chris won state and national awards as a member of the Speech and Debate Team. His most award-winning debate case focused on one of his interests, boosting youth voter turnout. Chris was therefore thrilled to work as a campus organizer during the 2014 elections, registering thousands of new voters on college campuses. Today, he serves as an intern in the district office of Congresswoman Julia Brownley, and will intern on Capitol Hill this summer. Currently involved in a project to connect low-income families with affordable options for college, Chris plans on graduate school and a career in public policy.







