



sdmesa.edu/conexiones

Monthly Newsletter

STEM CENTER

May 2018

LRC 115

(619)388-5660

Summer Hours: M–Th 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

STEM COMMUNITY SCHOLARS FIELD TRIPS

- SDG&E
- Padre Dam
- Scripps Institute of Oceanography
- Sanford Burham Prebys

STEM STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

College Acceptance

STEM LECTURE SERIES:

Utility in Truth and Model Design

MEET OUR TEAM

Catherine Cannock



STEM COMMUNITY SCHOLARS FIELD TRIPS

SDG&E

Padre Dam

"At SDG&E Sempra Innovation Center it was interesting to see all the different careers that one could have in a company. It was also refreshing to see how the company is working so hard to be environmentally friendly."
-Taylor Sandate



"The Padre Dam expanded my knowledge of the future of reusable water for all. The tour gave me the chance to see how the purification of water happens and how it's been supporting the surrounding areas of San Diego already."
- Intera Suadprathon



San Diego Gas and Electric



Padre Dam



Sanford Burnham Prebys

"San Diego is a hub for biotech and this institute is at the forefront.



With 60 labs, they research various topics and offer internships. After seeing the facilities we saw some of the researchers present their current work."

- Naylynn Tañón Reyes

Scripps Institute

"Although, I am not a Marine Biology major, I retained a lot of interesting information, and was able to ask questions about graduate programs.



Wiley, a first year PhD student gave us a tour of the pier. He helps build machines that are sent out to collect data. One of the projects, Sea Phox, is a play on words PH + Ox because the device measures PH and Oxygen levels in the ocean. "

- Katherine Solchaga

MEET OUR TEAM:

Catherine Cannock

Catherine Cannock was promoted internally within our team to STEM Instructional Assistant in May 2017. While a Project Assistant with our Title III-HSI Grant, Catherine was integral in shaping Mesa's STEM Center into a student-focused learning environment.

Her efforts have helped support key STEM Programs on campus including STEM tutoring, counseling, and mentoring, Mathletics, and our student technology check-out program. Catherine's energy and enthusiasm has left a lasting impression on the students, staff, and faculty whom she has supported in the STEM Center.

Prior to joining the Title III-HSI grant team in Fall 2017, Catherine worked at Mesa as an instructional assistant with both Allied Health and Library Services.



STEM STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Lauren Arriola
UCLA acceptance
Undergraduate
Psychology



Vanessa Cervantes
UCSD acceptance
Undergraduate
Cognitive Science



Alex Casison
UCSD acceptance
Undergraduate Human
Biology



Shawn Cvetezar
UCI Acceptance
Undergraduate
Mechanical/Aerospace
Engineering

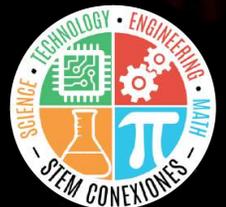


Victor Tran
UCSD Acceptance
Undergraduate
Computer Science



Tell us about your recent awards or college acceptance and be featured in the STEM Center Newsletter and STEM Center #STEM Student Spotlight!

Contact Tahmina Habibzada at thabibzada@sdccd.edu for more information.



STEM LECTURE SERIES: UTILITY IN TRUTH AND MODEL DESIGN

By: FARHEEN AHKTER KHAN

On May 10th, Physics Professor Claude Mona at San Diego Mesa College gave a lecture on the nature of scientific models. Mona completed his undergraduate degrees in Physics and Art, along with minors in Math and Psychology. His graduate studies focused on Nuclear Physics.



His lecture emphasized that a model which has utility, regardless of if its 'true' or 'false', is precious to science. Throughout his lecture, he shared quite a few thought provoking quotes the first of which was, "There's a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure truth," by Maya Angelou.

He looked at how scientists interpret evidence-based constructs and argues that the goal of science is not necessarily discovering the truth, but finding utility in what is discovered. As examples, he used the Bohr's model, molecular model, and the electron gas model to state that they aren't true, but they're useful so they work.



It opens up the idea that we look at the world based on evidence that's before us, but it may be absolutely false. He further says that finding the truth is not the goal, and refers to the idea that we must get to the truth as 'truthiness'. He also shares the idea that "It's important we don't get too dogmatic about our own dogma," since dogma dies under its own weight.

SUMMER STEM CENTER TUTORING

STEM Center walk-in tutoring is available Monday through Thursday this summer.*

Monday: up to Math 252, CISC 190, Geology 100, Bio 107, 210A, 210B, up to Chem 200, Physics 195

Tuesday: up to Math 255, Chem 100,152, up to Physics 197, Stats, Bio 210A

Wednesday: up to Math 151, ENGE 200, Chem 100, 152, CISC 190

Thursday: up to Math 150, ENGE 200, Phys 125, 126, 195, CISC 190, Bio 107, 210A, 210B, up to Chem 200

For a detailed list of subjects offered per hour, please visit the STEM Center front desk.

*Disciplines subject to change.

SUMMER HOURS

M-TH: 9:00am-5:30pm

STUDENT RESOURCES

- Laptops for check-out
- Models & equipment for study
- Certified STEM tutors
- Lounge area
- Desktop computers with STEM software
- Graphing calculators for check-out
- Course textbooks for check-out
- Group study tables & white boards



Questions about the STEM Conexiones?

CONTACT US!

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