

Revelations

OFFICIAL REVELLE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER, UCSAN DIEGO

**GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN**

Sweet AS

GRAVITY

2013
Fall
Quarter
Issue 1

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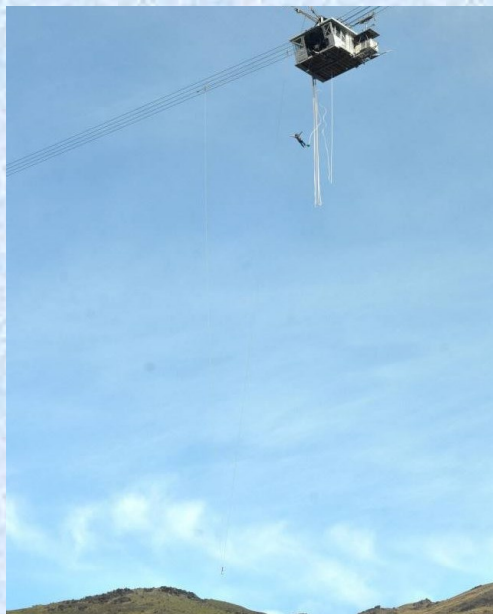
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“Sweet as”
An American’s Travels in Kiwi Land
 By: ZZ Shimei

This past summer I had the opportunity to intern abroad as a veterinarian in New Zealand. I will readily tell anyone that it was the best time of my life. I’ve always wanted to visit the country since 7th grade, and no it’s not because of Lord of the Rings. I was granted the chance by the program Globalinks Learning Abroad, which helps students study, intern, or work abroad.

In 7th grade my assigned seat was against the wall, next to a map of the world. Every morning I would sit down and at eye level was the town Westport, New Zealand. I was always curious about it, wondering how it compared to the Westport we had in Connecticut. Eight years later, I can confirm that they are nothing alike. However, it was this spark of curiosity that brought me to applying to the Globalinks program. It was more of a whim than anything else—I didn’t seriously think I’d get accepted into an internship at a Veterinary clinic. I visited the study abroad office back in fall of my junior year and spoke to the specialist on New Zealand/Australia. I couldn’t study abroad for the semester due to my restrictions as a student athlete on the Fencing team. Thus it was down to work, interning, or volunteering abroad. I was happy to do any of these three so long as it included animals. I got a few pamphlets for programs, but the options were slim. Globalinks was the perfect fit in the end, between cost, application date, and availability. I applied and one of their members took my resume and gave it out to various Vet clinics throughout New Zealand. I had mentioned that I wanted to be somewhere near Westport, but considering its size (~6,000), I figured it was a long shot. Finally in March I was told that I had been accepted into a single clinic, one that just happened to be in Westport. It felt surreal. All of a sudden, my far-fetched fantasy of working in a vet clinic in Westport had become a reality.

On June 27th I departed for a week long orientation in Wellington. A worker from Globalinks, Richard, met with me and the other interns (10 of us) and introduced us to the country.



Bungee jumping off the Nevis Ledge—at 143m it’s the 3rd highest in the world.

There wasn’t too much of a culture shock—they spoke English and had mostly British influence—it was more of adjusting to the 18 hour time difference. By July 3rd I was in Westport, the biggest town in the Buller district on the “wild” west coast of the south island. I was picked up by a rushed new Vet working at Buller Vets—Belinda. She and her partner Eric were going to be my host “family” for the next 10 weeks. There wasn’t much time for introductions since Belinda had to get back to the clinic to check up on George, our feline in-patient for the weekend. George was having lung issues and had trouble breathing. I didn’t even have a chance to unload my luggage before I was introduced to the clinic. Belinda asked me to assist her in drawing blood by raising the vein. This is a technique used to draw blood from the (check name) vein of the forelimb of cats and dogs. I had no idea how to do this, but she explained it to me and I attempted it. It was a miserable failure (though I later learned that the Vet nurses also had this problem so it

wasn't just me). Regardless, it was an exhilarating start to my internship there.

It didn't take me long to feel at home. Kiwis (New Zealanders) are a very hospitable bunch, particularly those on the west coast. They're like the Minnesotans of New Zealand—a self-sufficient, strong, warm bunch of people. I would switch days between staying in the clinic to help with patients or shadow Vets during surgeries to running out on large animal calls. At two different points, I took a week off to travel the south and north islands on my own via the Kiwi Experience. It's a hop-on, hop-off bus tour that allows you to regulate how long you want to stay at each destination. In case you were wondering, New Zealand is even more epic than shown in LOTR and the Hobbit, which were almost exclusively filmed in New Zealand. Even in the dead of winter the hills were lush with grass, flowers were in bloom, the crystal lakes showed perfect reflections, and volcanoes stood stoically in the distance (Mt. Doom included). I also got to meet many other young adults during my travels. I was amazed to learn that some would take six months off just to travel. They had just come from a month in Thailand or Indonesia, backpacking through to see the sights and experience the culture. It all sounded so amazing. I feel like Americans don't think that way—to just pack up and backpack from country to country without worry. In New Zealand they have something called an overseas experience (OE). After they graduate high school, they'll take a few years to travel the world, working abroad for a few months before heading somewhere new. Then once they're done, they're happy to come back and can appreciate home. This sort of philanthropy makes so much sense to me, that I wish I had done it instead of jumping into undergrad like everyone else.

I got to do so many things while abroad, both while traveling and while working. I took x-rays of a dog with five fishhooks in its intestines. When we went to remove them, we found that the fishing line had ripped through part of the small intestine and the tissue had started to die. So we removed about a meter of small intestine! But hey, you only need about 1/3 of it really. I also got to assist in a C-section of a cow at 11pm at night. Man it was cold that night, but the cow's uterus was so warm. Calving season (when all the cows give birth) happened from about the 23rd of July to September 10th, so we were constantly getting calls. In New Zealand, they only calve once a year, within that 10 week period, so it can get pretty intense. Usually the cows are fine to birth on their own, but it's when a cow is having problems that after a day the farmer will call in a Vet. I was luckily enough that the head Vet also co-owned a large farm. So I got to work on the farm on weekends to help with tagging, calving, milking, and feeding the calves. I even had my very own calf—Betsy I called her. She was my lucky #17. When she saw me in the morning she'd always greet me with a nice long



Visiting Bilbo's door in Hobbiton.



My darling little Betsy, the morning after she was born.

she'd always greet me with a nice long

“moooooooooooooooooo” and come over to suckle on my fingers. I already miss her.

Away from the farm and clinic I pushed my limits of comfort and did everything and anything that caught my eye. I flew a plane and did loops in it. I jumped off several bridges—including the Nevi bungy, the 3rd highest in the world at 143 meters. I hiked up a snowy mountain in sneakers (and then slid back down it). I rolled down a hill in a giant hamster ball. At the end of my internship, my family came to visit and I went around New Zealand again



Feeding baby kangaroos, wallabies, and emus at the Featherdale wildlife park in Sydney

and also visited Sydney and Cairns in Australia. I saw Tales of the South Pacific in the Sydney Opera House. I hugged a koala and baby kangaroo. I swam the Great Barrier Reef. I ate everything that I didn't recognize—from all sorts of pies (mince pies are the best though) to hokey pokey, kangaroo burgers, and ALL the lollies (sweets). I didn't even gain any weight since I tramped (hiked) everywhere I went.

Sufficient to say, I had a blast in New Zealand. In the total time of 12 weeks I spent there, it had become my home. So many of the problems I had with capitalistic America were nowhere to be found there. Every day I woke up excited to work, to see what cases would come in that day. I constantly observed and asked questions. I learned so much from the crew, not just about Veterinary things but about life as well. I was enveloped in the warmth of the culture. So I recommend to anyone who might be questioning their studies, their beliefs, or their identity to take a bag and travel somewhere. Immerse yourself in someone else's culture. Try out the work you think you want to do. Discover what you truly love. We are so young and this is the time to take advantage of it. Don't be afraid to take that leap, because once your feet are off the ground, it's the most exhilarating thing you'll ever experience. I am so grateful to Globalinks for setting up this experience for me, because it has helped to shape me into the “me I want to be”. I can't wait to get started on my Veterinary studies so that I can do what I love. My future is looking sweet as.

**To check out the Globalinks program, check out their website at:
<http://www.globalinksabroad.org/>**



What will you discover?
GLOBALINKS LEARNING ABROAD

Getting Around Town

By: Austin Bacong

Are you a new or returning student/staff member to UCSD? Making the trip from Pepper Canyon to York Hall or Revelle to ERC in 10 minutes have you bogged down? Know of an off campus place you want to visit, but don't know the means of getting there? Do you want to pull your hair out because of all the chaos waiting at bus routes in lines longer than some roller coaster attractions? Fear not fellow Tritons, this article is a means for synthesizing all the 'ins-n-outs' of getting around at UCSD.

As a commuter student myself, one of my biggest concerns every day is "How do I get to/from campus?" A very easy independent solution is merely driving to school in a single occupant vehicle (SOV) a.k.a your own car! Logistically, this also means depending on if you have 8AM's, you might have to get up as early as 6:00AM to leave the house by 6:30AM in order to avoid traffic and pick up an illustrious parking spot (either on or off campus), as well as possibly grab breakfast and walk to class, all within a timespan of about an hour and a half... not too appealing to the night owl right? If you would rather have a more "by-the-book" schedule, you can always try your hand at the our very own Public Transportation System/UCSD Bus Zone Programs. The UCSD Shuttle is free to staff/students who have the year specific bus sticker. Currently, last year's gold stickers will remain valid through the end of the month (10/31/13). The Campus Parking Office has the new blue metallic stickers offered to students; it will continue providing service through December (12/31/13). These stickers also provide service for the following routes around La Jolla: 30, 41,101,150,201/202 SuperLoop, 921,3, and 10. The set date of expiration for the stickers accounts for the current financial deficit Transportation Services, where upon the expiration a new policy is to be implemented (To provide input on these changes, attend the various Town Hall meetings on Transportation held throughout the quarter, take the various online surveys provided by Associated Students UCSD, or even email/contact TPS directly). According to an interview Revelle Senator Soren Nelson had with the Director of Auxiliary Services and the Associate Director of Transportation:

"There will be no changes made to the UCSD city shuttles this quarter. There will, in fact, be no major changes to transportation policy even announced until after winter break, by which time students will have had a chance to put our proposed solution to a vote. Depending on what solution is reached (a referendum, user-based fees, etc), any changes to shuttles would be a transition designed to allow students and MTS adequate time to adjust. No substantive changes would likely be made before next summer."

UCSD also offers a wide variety of other commuting alternatives and services. They include the Campus Bike Shop, Carpools, Zipcar Program, Holiday airport shuttle, Pedal Club, Transit/Coaster Club, Triton Bikes Program, and the UCSD ride-matching service. Although not all the programs are free, each various service offers discounts and paying methods for community members here at UCSD.

Regarding actually getting around campus, there are several methods all students use. Most common of course, is a brisk walking pace. But if you need to get to class even faster, you can surely expedite the process by skateboarding, scootering, biking, and even rollerblading. While all items can be bought, UCSD's Triton Bike Program allows students to rent bikes free of charge to use in 2 day periods!

So if you're ever in need for some extra speed, or convenience over grievance, utilize the various transportation resources at your disposal!

For more information, visit <http://blink.ucsd.edu/sponsor/trans-services/>

The Food Truck

By: Tyler Takemoto

With its bold design and perpetual line of hungry students, the new food truck in Revelle Plaza is hard to miss. Introduced this quarter to make up for the closure of Plaza Café, the food truck features a selection of breakfast and lunch foods. Each item follows a single cardinal rule: everything is served in bowls.

“Bowls, bowls, Incredi-Bowls that Roll. You get the point we serve the menu in bowls,” reads the food truck’s description on the HDH website.

Situated strategically near Revelle’s residential blocks and lecture halls, the food truck provides a good pit stop before or after a noon class. Unfortunately, the line can grow very long during peak times, making it an impractical venue for between-class meals. Also, the lack of dinner offerings limits the truck’s usefulness. The breakfast selection is available from 7:30 am to 10:00 am and the lunch selection is available from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The truck is closed after 2:00 pm on weekdays and closed on the weekends, making it much less convenient than a trip to Roger’s or a walk to Pines.

Each bowl costs \$5.95 and the truck offers different menus on a rotating basis. Both of the menus feature four to five items for breakfast and lunch. The offerings range from Westernized Asian fusion to sausage and macaroni. Unlike entrees from dining halls, each order from the food truck contains a relatively generous serving of vegetables or fruit salad. Additionally, the cooks who staff the truck are willing to make ratio adjustments to accommodate for those who prefer more (or less) vegetables, or crave a few extra waffle fries.



The food truck sits on the edge of Revelle Plaza, sporting a column of edgy colloquialisms.

Some students are dissatisfied with the food truck. Alvin Yi, a first-year from Muir who walked to Revelle to sample the selection, was unhappy with his experience.

“It was slightly disappointing,” Yi said, “it definitely wasn’t worth the walk or the wait, but it was still nice to try something new.”

While the food truck does have its shortcomings, it adds variety to on-campus life at Revelle. It certainly beats having no fresh food options whatsoever.



National Novel Writing Month

NANOWRIMO

BY: PATRICIA TAN

One time during class--and it's *always* during class, it was very likely a lecture--you stopped taking notes for a moment because your professor was going over some interesting anecdote that you don't quite need to write down. And perhaps they were taking a little too long on that anecdote, and you glance off to the side and you begin to daydream. Daydreaming is the easiest thing; if we didn't have the internet to amuse, we would probably be daydreaming more. And maybe one of those daydreams might just stick with you later, because it was perhaps more interesting than that anecdote or more shocking than anything else you think about on your spare time. But the point is, it stuck.

There's a quote by Toni Morrison that says, "If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." This quote best describes the ideas that just stick, that stay ripe in your head for days, or weeks even. Perhaps the best plot twist in the life of a reader--and you're *always* reading, reading Humanities, reading Chemistry--is when the reader writes. After everything you've come across in the short life you've lived, there's always something that only you can make; there's no such thing as an uncreative person. There's always an opportunity to do so, even if one can make the excuse that there's no time to do it or no place to write it or no person to read it.

But there is a rather unconventional solution for those who "will write a book some day" and especially those who "don't have time right now". November is National Novel Writing Month, stylized as NaNoWriMo, and the rules are easier read than done: 50,000 words in one month. That's approxi-

mately the length of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Although these terms may be simple, the logistics are more complicated: 50,000 words in one month amounts to 1,667 words per day in the month of November, which is equivalent to writing one five-page Humanities essay every day for 30 days straight. The challenge will seem considerably more daunting because of this fact, since the Humanities essay is perhaps the most tedious assignment for most Revelle students.

But NaNoWriMo isn't *about* writing Humanities essay after Humanities essay; rather, it's simply a means to motivate and inspire creativity by offering a challenge. Keep in mind that there is no prompt given, just the ridiculous word count. As their FAQ states, "If you believe you're writing a novel, we believe you're writing a novel too." There is no better time in your life to do something so spontaneous and insane than *now*. What is it that *you* want to write about? What ideas have been sitting in *your* mind? Or better yet, what ideas can *you* come up with? Out of all of this madness, you will have come up with something that's truly your own--after all, as their website says, "The world needs your novel."

If you are interested in writing this November, please visit <http://nanowrimo.org/> for more information. Make sure to email revellations@ucsd.edu and tell us about your experience!

“A Not Very Good Poem”

By: Kyra Hendrickson

2.9 years
34.7 months
151 weeks
1057 days

I don't like change.
Because it's the feeling of rough sand against your skin
when it gets trapped in your clothes
after a day at the beach.

Because it's wearing wet jeans
which got soaked in a surprise downpour
that, of course,
caught you without your umbrella.

Because it's standing in a crowded elevator with a bunch of strangers
and you're all touching, arm to arm, shoulder to shoulder,
but no one speaks a word.

It is uncomfortable.
1058 days.

For almost 5 years we shared each others' stories, each others' memories, our laughs, our tears, our breaths -
our lives.

We shared each other for half a century, but now it's nothing more
than residual inklings of a dream
when you awake and rub the sleep out of your eyes.

For a second it's real
and your heart beats fast and the thoughts are swirling
and you're frantically grasping for it,
to hold onto something
but it slips away
and it takes you a moment to realize
that it was never there to begin with.

It is a delusion.
1059 days.

The memories are padlocked to a gate,
the combination long lost,
a lonely bike rusting in the drizzle and scorching sun
of a lazy summer.

They're coins dropped as you hurry to pay for your morning coffee,
but you're in too much of a rush to care
and they roll across the floor and under the counter
and there they'll stay.

They are promises made in passing
with no substance behind them,
merely words that leave the lips to dance in the wind.
I'll call you tomorrow.
We'll go there someday.
Yes, I promise.

They are forgotten.
1060 days.

When we see each other
a third person observer with no knowledge of our circumstances
would not be able to tell
that our lives had once been so tightly intertwined.

Sometimes you don't even wave.
Sometimes you don't even look at me.
All times I pretend not to care.

Quickly averted eyes are
our most intimate contact
and forced, cold greetings are exchanged
when we're trapped
and there's no way to pretend that we didn't see one another.

We are strangers.
1061 days.

The tears I cry all taste like pain
and I'm sitting here thinking about you and writing this poem
and I just need to stop
because it's been 1062, 1063, 1064 days
and I should really give up.

Because I'm pretty sure
that you're not counting the 1066 days it's been
since our friendship ended
and I'm quite positive
that you don't think to yourself,
"I wonder how she's doing, what she's up to,"
and I know that you
don't
care anymore about what I do with my life.

1067 days
1068 days
1069 days
1070 days

So why should I care about yours?
I shouldn't.
But I can't stop caring
and I'm going to continue trying
and it will be the end of me and
everyone
will
know
it.

Movie Review: *Gravity*

By: Patricia Tan

Upon seeing the previews, *Gravity* was something I did not want to watch. The preview itself was good--it drew my attention in the two minutes I was forced to watch it in when waiting for *Pacific Rim*--but once those two minutes were gone, the premise past the action-packed preview wasn't a movie that I was particularly interested in seeing. Was there really a movie created about people stranded in space, waiting to be saved? (To be honest, the ending was quite predictable; why would any filmmaker end the movie with all the characters dead? How could that resolve any of the frustration in the viewer if the only point in the film was to watch people float around helplessly?) If anyone were stuck in space, there would be no way to return to earth, and as interesting as it is to watch movies about the "final frontier", the fact that a movie was made about the inability for two people to save themselves was, to me, a ridiculous idea.

The plot could be summarized and easily predicted as "a delusional woman in space". One of the most difficult aspects of watching this movie was empathy for Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock). Understandably, her position was dire: she was a first time astronaut with a destroyed ship and, by the end of the movie, the lone survivor of her crew. Although Sandra Bullock was able to express the stress typical of anyone in a life-or-death plot, her character was too emotionally distraught to see her survival as a heroic fight against the odds. The film did well in characterizing her, giving the audience some insight as to her background. However, it was difficult to root for Stone when, during one point in the movie, she had decided to turn off her oxygen and die in the escape pod when the escape pod had no fuel to send her back to earth. Although the film provided a realistic point of view into Stone's loneliness, the lack of determination in the main character towards survival, even in a situation so hopeless, made it much more difficult for the audience to care when she does survive.



Despite the lack of action in the movie, which was concentrated in the first and last fifteen minutes, the visual effects made up for a lacking plot. When Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) says the line, "You can't beat the view," the camera pans over the earth as the sun peeks from behind. However, the most striking effect was how the physics of space was portrayed with a large degree of accuracy. The lack of control in the characters' movements added more of a challenge to the issue the characters had to deal with. It is interesting to note that Alfonso Cuarón had to wait for the technology to produce this movie, and it truly shows how far the movie industry has come.

Gravity was a movie I would not have bothered to go see myself--it was only because I just happened to be at the right place at the right time. I still stand by the statement about the premise: it still is not convincing enough for me to watch, even for a second time. However, it wasn't a total flop, in my opinion. Although Stone herself was not a heroic character, the fact of the matter was that she was able to rescue herself somehow. It was just a relief to see that she had some sort of plan--and made some sort of attempt to live--during the last half hour of the film.

My Experience as a Team Member During ELP Retreat

By: Punit Patel

I was really delighted to have been accepted into the “Emerging Leaders Program” for 2013-2014 year. ELP, as stated in its mission statement “aims to guide, challenge, and inspire the development of student leadership skills through experiential learning.” The nerve-wrecking and seemingly overwhelming process of interviewing applicants since my first interview was completed the previous week and now it was time for us to take a break from the hustle and bustle of university life and treat ourselves to a two day “retreat”.

At first I was confused as to why we had to go on some “outdoor adventure”, as a member of ELP. Like some of you, I was under the assumption that the club is really professional, where we would only be conducting ourselves in a professional and serious manner, similar to a business-type situation. However, I soon got to realize that this was not entirely true.

During the “ELP retreat”, I was given an opportunity to broaden the horizon of my perspective of the club. All of us as ELP cohort members were introduced to many activities where we all got to know each other better. We began our “retreat” at the “high ropes” course where we undertook many interactive activities. These included the epic “rock, paper and scissors” game, personality games, team-building games such as the “island/water” game and then finally the high ropes challenge course. The “Island/water” game involved us standing on several blocks, each representing an island and each time the number of blocks were reduced. I found out it really fascinating how we all, starting off far away from each other, were able to come close to each other and stand on a few “islands” without any of us stepping in “water”. Through such games, I soon realized that leadership is not only about how you conduct yourself individually, it’s also about how you coordinate and communicate with others. This is exemplified by the “water/island” game; if you’re drowning in trouble you can always reach out to other “islands”.

We ended our “retreat” at the YMCA camp. Here, we engaged ourselves in several activities where we all got to know and understand each other at more intricate levels. I really enjoyed this part of the “retreat” as we were given space to freely express our thoughts and emotions. I think that this was also an essential part of the “retreat”, and leadership in general. I believe that as effective leaders, you have to be cognizant of others’ problems and you may have to think from the perspective of someone else at times. This can help you in choosing the correct approach or finding the right solution during a problem.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the “ELP retreat” and wouldn’t mind repeating it one more time but with the same people I went with on the 5th and 6th of October. Finally, I have to thank Melina, Austin and Mariana for supporting and encouraging us the whole way through and for making the “ELP retreat” as memorable as it is for the ELP!!

Grass on the Other Side, ELP Graduate Program Perspective by: Austin Bacong



The Emerging Leaders Program is a yearlong leadership program that “aims to guide, challenge, and inspire the development of student leadership through experiential learning.” Students in each cohort not only learn of different aspects of leadership in weekly workshops hosted by different key faculty members, but they also apply their newfound knowledge in hands on experiences; One such project being a massive programming event thrown for Revelle College, and even the University as a whole. Before all this begins however, the cohort goes on a weekend retreat focused on the development of each member relative to one another with the hope that the frame-

work of a strong group dynamic is fostered for success throughout the year.

As a graduate of the program Class of 2011-2012, I appreciated the experience so immensely that I decided to come back to give back to the program as a Team Leader. Going on the retreat in the beginning of October was very nostalgic, but also enlightening to see it from more experienced eyes: from a different perspective. Prior to the retreat beginning, as a Leadership Team (3-4 Team Leaders, 1 Sr. Team Leader, 1 Program Director), promoting the program, determining eligibility requirements, creating the interview process/interviewing the applicants, deliberating on the cohort, planning the retreat, holding the first workshop, and preparing for the rest of the year must be completed: all over the time span of some work throughout the summer with heavy emphasis on the zero/first weeks of Fall Quarter. These are all details applicants accepted into the program do not consciously think about. After that is all said and done, when the retreat actually begins, the cohort meets early on a Saturday morning in order to fit every detail planned for the weekend. Seeing the retreat we personally prepared unfold before my eyes was slightly different than experiencing it first hand. The so-called “Icebreakers” that I sometimes dreaded as a first year made so much more sense in my head after realizing the small, but significant effects they would have for the year ahead. From the various challenges at the UCSD Odyssey Ropes Course to the different theme-centered miniature workshops at the camp in Julian; the simpler activities like enjoying a slice of MOM’s Apple Pie or general recreation to the extremely long days, it never ceases to amaze me the significant growth the cohort makes with one another, especially over merely two days.

As a Team Leader reflecting back on my own retreat two years ago, I feel a greater appreciation for what the Leadership Team did for my cohort. It is very gratifying to know that I have been able to do the same thus far, with the year just barely beginning. I’m very thankful that I was able to come back to such a strong program committed to serving and helping students grow not only as leaders, but personally as well. Though the hours may be long at times, reminding myself of the difference I am able to create with such a supportive team makes the end of each day very rewarding. I am definitely looking forward to experiencing and influencing how the rest of the year will turn out!

A Shutdown What-down???
Clarification on the 2013 Government Shutdown.
By: Konto Southisombath

On Tuesday, October 1st of this year, the U.S. government did something it hasn't done in 17 years. It shut down. How does this happen? What constitutes as a shut down? What does that mean for the people? These are some questions you might have running through your head. However, have no fear, for everything you need to know about the government shutdown is just down below.

What is a government shutdown?

Although it sounds serious, a government shutdown doesn't necessarily mean that the government is *shut down*, per se. However, it does mean that certain government functions and federal agencies will not be running. This affects places such as national parks and museums as well as programs such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

What led to the government shutdown?

Every year, Congress is in charge of setting spending priorities and agreeing on passing a certain number of bills in order to fund the federal agencies. However, this year the Senate (Democratic-controlled) and the House of Representatives (Republican-controlled) couldn't agree on the funding for Obamacare. The House wanted to fund a bill that repealed a tax on medical devices and overall delay Obamacare for another year, but the Senate rejected it. After numerous times voting on it, the outcome was the same. Congress's inability to agree on how to fund this bill is what ultimately led to the government shutdown.

Who is most affected by a government shutdown?

People who work for the "non-essential" federal agencies are affected the most. For example, U.S. tourist agencies are heavily impacted by a government shutdown due to the fact that they have to turn away millions of dollars in revenue due to the parks and museums shutting down. This in turn, affects those who work for these types of agencies and many of the times, they are sent home for the duration of the shutdown. Depending on whether or not congress decides to sign a bill granting retroactive pay for these workers, they may not get paid during this time.

Also, if you are someone who is looking to get a visa or a passport renewed, now might not be a great time to do so. According to the State Department, passport agencies will only stay open as long as it has the resources to so. Visa applications will also still be processed, albeit at a much slower rate than usual.

Veterans are also affected by the government shutdown. The Veterans' Benefits Administration will not be able to attend to many education and rehabilitation benefits and depending on how long the government shutdown lasts, the Department of Veterans' Affairs may not have enough money to send out pension payments and pay disability claims.

American military commissaries, which sell various household goods and groceries to active-duty military personnel, are also temporarily closed during the government shutdown. The closure of American military commissaries means that military families that live on base are required to drive a much farther distance to pick up necessary groceries in order to feed their family.

**How does the government shutdown end?**

The government shutdown will end once the Senate and the House of Representatives comes to a consensus on how they are going to fund Obamacare and the President has to sign it. After that's done, the government will no longer be shut down.

UPDATE: The end of the government shutdown.

On October 17th, 2013, President Obama signed a bill that ended the sixteen-day long, government shutdown. This *temporary* solution re-opens the government and funds it until January 15th, 2014. This means that the Senate and the House of Representatives have roughly around 3 months to come up with and agree on a plan to fund Obamacare or the US will be facing another government shutdown in the near future.

For more detailed information on this subject, please visit:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/10/01/whats-affected-government-shutdown>

A Cup of Culture

An International First-year Student's Perspective

“Assalamualaikum”, that is how some people greet each other in my home country: Malaysia. When it comes to distance, I dare say I travelled further than the majority of the freshmen population in UCSD. I've been told that it's so cool that I came all the way from here. But, what does this 'coolness' mean for me? Let's start with the obvious differences. I was hit by the scent of a different culture the moment I stepped out of the plane. I saw people of different ethnicities, heard the same language but in a different accent. Long story short, the colours of my physical surroundings were different and therefore I had to perceive them differently.

How I wish I could place my home country in a glass bottle to show you what I mean. Perhaps some words on a blank piece of paper could replace this glass bottle.

In terms of size, I was completely overwhelmed by the many structures that I found here. I saw highways with 5 lanes for the first time, shopping malls so large I can hardly get my essentials without getting distracted, and I never once finished my food. Food portions back home are, on an average, half of what you get here. How generous, I thought. Yes, I have eaten at TGIFs in Malaysia but getting a taste of one culture is a complete different experience from getting a plateful, both literally and metaphorically speaking. My brain buzzes at the fact that I can't get what I want from one place. On a typical day back home, I would hop into my car, drive half an hour to the best mall and I'd find almost everything I want there. What surprised me most was how a simple chocolate malt drink (Milo) more commonly consumed back home became such a prized possession here. Just so you know, I didn't bring any.

Then, we have physical appearances. People get confused a lot because they expect me to be from China. I'd always have to jump into a long explanation of how I'm Chinese Malaysian, which, by the way, is still confusing. At first, I struggled to answer because you take your culture for granted when you're immersed in it. How odd that I had to explain something I'd never had to for the past 20 years.

Enough said about the physicals, it's about time I dive into the cream between the layers of cake. I'm sorry if you don't like cream. At the core of things, I'm not that different from those you that are from San Diego, China, Oregon, UK, or anywhere. We all miss home to some varying degrees, or at least I hope so. I think we'd all agree that eating in a dining hall is vastly different from eating home. A startling number of us are proud owners of Facebook accounts. We Skype our friends and family members from home telling them about our new adventure. If there's one thing that I share with you, it is this adventure. No matter what you expect of it: falling in love under the 'non-existent' stars on the rooftop deck in Keeling Apartment, being active in a crazy conglomeration of orgs, diving with passion into your studies, or a combination of everything, an adventure awaits. Once you peel away the physical layers between the most exotic person that you meet, you'd realize that they're not as exotic as you thought. That Chinese looking girl from Malaysia becomes your friend who looks like your friend. That boy from Colorado becomes Bruce.

By the way, if you have never had Milo in your life. We could always *berjamu selera*, that is to dine together. I dare you to try it.

Theme Contest

Theme: **Change**

Submit your printable media (photography, words, drawings, etc) by **Sunday, December 1st** to revellations.revelle@gmail.com. Winners will receive a prize as well as have their work featured in Revellations!



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Sheng



Konto



Tyler



Jinky

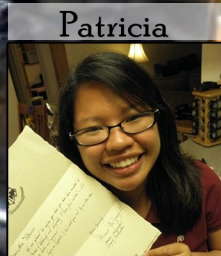
MEET THE STAFF!



Kenny



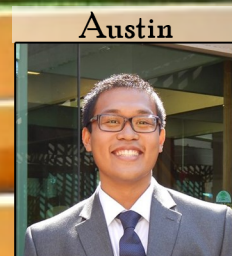
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Want to Join?

We are dedicated to informing the community about world/university-wide events and programs while providing students with an outlet for self-expression. Members not only benefit as growing leaders, but also through their service in empowering and entertaining the community with a wide variety of news. Meeting times Fall Quarter 2013: Fridays at 1PM in the Revelle Administration building. Feel free to contact us at revellations.ucsd.edu

Revellations is advised by Liora Kian-Gutierrez, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. Sponsored by RCC.

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