

# Revelations

OFFICIAL REVELLE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER, UCSAN DIEGO



True Detective

Alternative Breaks

Quarter-life Crises

My Love Affair

Commuting:  
Stereotypes & Semantics

**2014**  
**TRITON DAY**

2014  
Spring  
Quarter  
Issue 1

Check out the full version at:  
<http://revelations.ucsd.edu>



# ReveLED

By: Punit Patel

## ELP’s upcoming “ReveLED” event

The Emerging Leaders’ program is hosting a promising ‘20th annual event’ this quarter at Revelle Plaza called ‘ReveLED’. Our ELP cohort put in a lot of time and effort into organizing this large-scale event, which not only is unique in its theme and publicity, but which also promises a memorable night for the Revelle student body. The event will commence on Friday, May 2nd, at 8:00pm and will end around midnight.

### **What does ‘ReveLED’ consist of?**

ReveLED is unified by the central LED lighting theme. These forms of entertainment include live music with a DJ, oxygen bars, black light mini-golf and light up frisbees.

### **What about food options?**

We’ve arranged for a variety of food-trucks catering for appetizers through dessert. These include the ‘New Orleans Cuisine&Catering’, ‘Delicioso Food truck’, and ‘li’ miss shortcake!’ We realized that food may be of particular concern to those attending our event. So the cohort has organized a variety of food options which cater for everyone’s taste (including vegetarians and vegans). We will be providing FREE nachos for everyone who attends the event as well.

### **What about cost of attending and dress-code?**

The purpose of our event is for the Revelle student body to come out on Friday night and have fun, so it would be unreasonable to charge students for the event. So its FREE and open for all Revelle students. Yes, I’ve said it all!

On behalf of the ELP cohort, I hope to see you all on Friday night (May 2nd).





Page 3

Spring 2014	
Spring Quarter begins	Thursday, March 27
Sanchez Holiday	Friday, March 28
Instruction begins	Monday, March 31
Memorial Day Observance	Monday, May 26
Instruction ends	Friday, June 6
Final Exams	Saturday, June 7 <sup>am</sup> - 13
Spring Quarter ends	Friday, June 13
Commencement	Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15
	- 49 Days of Instruction -
	- 57 Days in Quarter -



Revelations

**QUARTER-LIFE CRISES**

By: Johanna Wu

Every once in a while, I have what I call “quarter-life crises,” which are essentially frequent mid-life crises. Why do I call them “quarter-life crises”? I don’t like the idea that I’ve reached “mid-life” at the tender age of 18, and these crises happen every quarter.

You know what exactly these are. Those long nights when you try to reevaluate everything in your life but never manage to come to any finite conclusions about anything, or those stressful moments when you feel like there’s drama everywhere and all you are trying to do is scrape by in your classes.

I can’t speak for most of my fellow first years, but around this time last year, everything was very hectic: I was trying to make the most of second semester senior year with my friends, frantically trying to finish writing my senior papers the nights before, and also stressing out about my AP classes, which were in the midst of AP test preparation. Now that I think about it...compared to what I had to balance in senior year, college is pretty much the same. But why does everything feel more overwhelming?

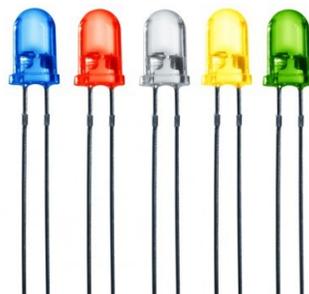
At the first American Medical Student Association (AMSA) general body meeting, there was a guest speaker, Dr. Hui Xue, who spoke about her experiences in the medicine educational system. Having gone to college on a full scholarship, Dr. Xue later finished her residency and fellowship at Duke University School of Medicine. To say the least, hearing her talk not only made me feel discouraged but also made me disappointed in myself...What am I doing to achieve my dream of pursuing medicine? Am I putting more than 100% into everything that I do? Do I even still want to go into that field? Back in high school, I could easily answer all of

these questions in the affirmative, but now? I just feel off track. I think that’s the part that makes me angriest and most confused: knowing from high school that I have the potential and the work ethic to achieve anything and everything, but simply cannot access either in college. Did the dearth of parental freedom get to me, or did my life priorities change?

To be honest, just like I currently do not know where my life is headed, I also do not know where I am going with this reflection. Maybe it was to let all of you who are reading this know that you are not the only one who feels like there are never enough hours in the day to do everything you want and need. You are not the only one who is questioning what the point of all this is. You are not alone. If there is anything I have learned the past two quarters, it is that now, more than ever, we need to realize that we are never alone, no matter how different the circumstances are.

I apologize for getting all sentimental and cliché, but it’s true. The only thing that has pulled me from these mid-life crises is commiserating with friends about college and how we have no idea what our futures entail.

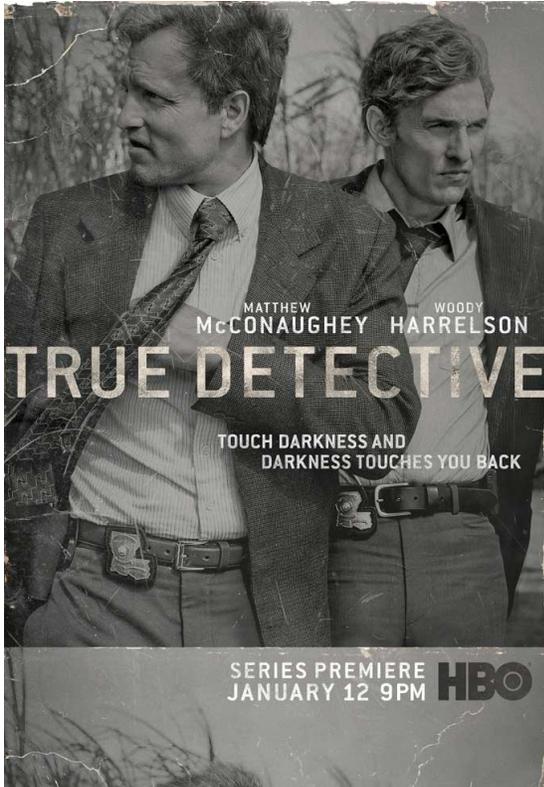
As midterms and finals approach us and stress levels rise, I encourage everyone to make space in their schedules for personal time to relax and self-reflect. And if you find yourself in the middle of a quarter-life crisis, just remember that you are definitely not alone. In fact, you should talk to your friends about it, and maybe a beautiful and closer friendship will develop, because there’s nothing that misery loves more than company.





# True Detective

By: Johann Sevilla



Humanities professor, Antony Lyon, said to me “I do think we are in a golden era of television”, a statement that I could not agree with more. As more television series are created, writers and directors seem to work harder to make their shows uniquely captivating. They have been paying much more attention to the details, making sure from episode to episode that the culmination of thematic intricacies not only makes you feel, but makes you think. I recently finished watching *True Detective*, a crime drama HBO series, and must say that IMDB’s 9.4 rating and Rotten Tomatoes’s 87% rating are reasonably accurate representations of such an exciting and deep TV series.

*True Detective* is unlike other TV shows in that its entirety fits in 8 episodes. Too often have we watched a series that began by amazing us, but ended with episodes that were difficult to watch. It’s too common for a great TV series to slowly degenerate into a subpar money-milking project. Nic Pizzolatto, the show’s writer, avoids this sorry fate for *True Detective*; he preserves the integrity of the story, maintains the well thought out character arcs, and as a result, produces something tasty and digestible to the artistic palate.

This modern Western follows two detective partners, Rust Cohle (Matthew McConaughey) and Marty Hart (Woody Harrelson), who work the case of a ritualistic serial killer and the circle of disturbing mysteries that surround him. As the detectives delve deeper into their investigation, their discoveries grow more eerie and suggest a problem that is more complex and dangerous than just a maniac on a killing spree. This mystery crime show is filled not only with suspense and sharp dialogue, but also with a profoundly deep message about the darkness in the world.

For me, the most beautiful aspect of the show is the depth of its philosophical ponderings. The show is riddled with Rust Cohle’s stingingly pessimistic monologues, as well as expositions of Marty Hart’s scandalous hypocrisy. The thematic center of the show focuses on Cohle’s nihilism; it explores the darkness of murder and other crimes, and questions the point of living in a world so infected by depravity. As the show chillingly states on its posters, “Touch darkness and darkness will touch you back.”

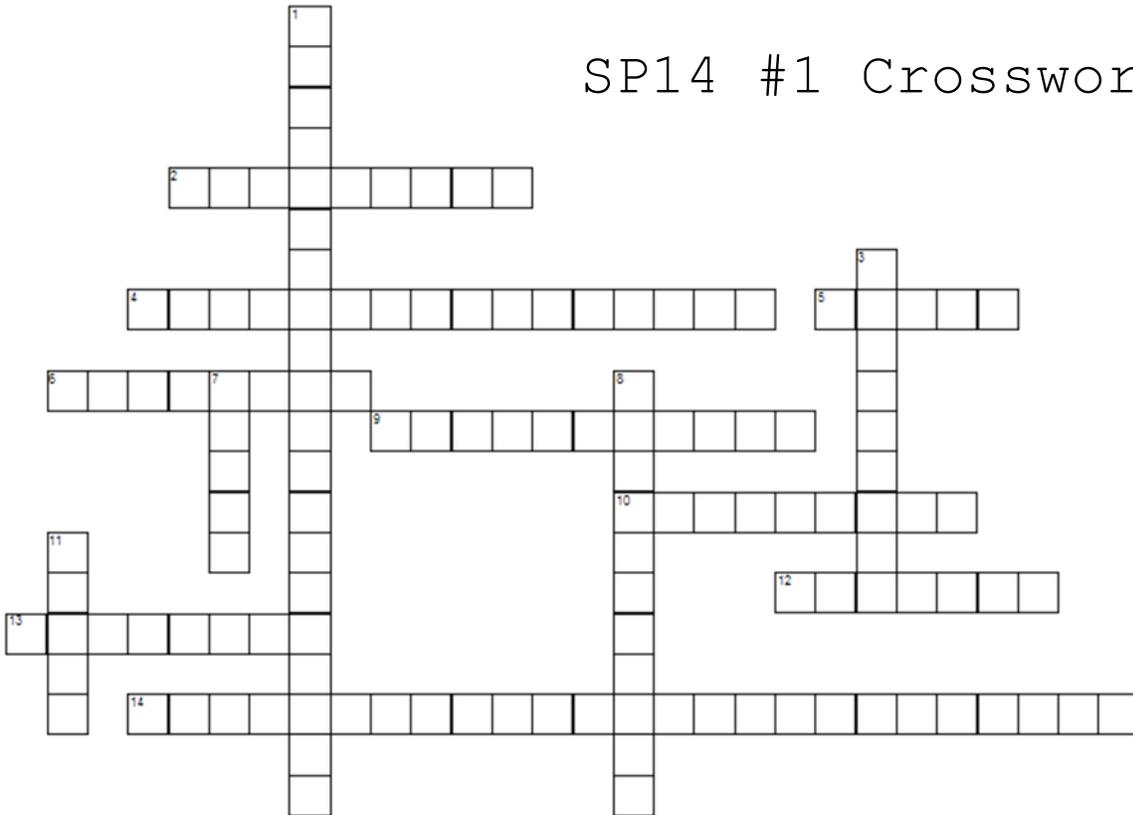


# OH THE HUMANITIES

“For if you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners to be corrupted from their infancy, and then punish them for those crimes to which their first education disposed them, what else is to be concluded from this, but that you first make thieves and then punish them.”

-Thomas Moore HUM 3

## SP14 #1 Crossword



### ACROSS

- 2 Niche's viewpoint on God
- 4 "I sing of arms and of a man"
- 5 A valorized quality for Greeks
- 6 Authored the famous quote "this is the best of all possible worlds"
- 9 The door that Aeneas goes through to exit hell
- 10 Ancient Roman practice of using animal organs in divination
- 12 One of the four gospels of the Christian bible
- 13 The meaning of gospel
- 14 "Perhaps someday it will have helped to remember even these things"

### DOWN

- 1 Virgil's name in Latin
- 3 Social class subject to Bourgeoisie
- 7 Where Odysseus dies
- 8 A specific time during the week a student may use to write their essays for an upcoming deadline
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Aeneas





## AN ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK BY: AUSTIN BACONG

Across the United States, spring breaks tend to be reenergizing, much needed time for college students to rest, relax, and refocus for one final push until summer vacation. Going back home to visit family, seeing your significant other after months of being apart, and catching up with friends are all things many take advantage of during spring break. Though I missed out on such activities, I ended up spending my spring break a little differently than most: an alternative spring break in South America with a service organization working with UCSD known as Alternative Breaks.

“What is Alternative Breaks?” you might be asking? Alternative Breaks is a non-profit organization aiming to “cultivate socially active and globally conscious leaders” through national and international service learning trips alongside partnering non-profit organizations to address a wide-variety of social justice issues. Under the larger national non-profit organization known as Break Away, Alternative Breaks applies the umbrella organization’s eight quality components of an Alternative Breaks trip to leave students with a lifelong lasting impactful experience. Service that Alternative Breaks participants provide varies depending on the social justice issue their respective trip attempts to alleviate. Students accepted into the program spend nearly half a year with about a dozen others preparing for their respective trips during spring break; the student Site Leaders who lead the journey for participants spend over a year’s worth of preparation. Joining the thousands of students before me who participated on Alternative Breaks, I was lucky enough this past spring break to work on the social justice issue of health and homelessness in the country of Guyana in South America with the non-profit organization International Children’s Outreach (ICO).

In the half year prior to this past spring break, my group prepared ourselves every week on top of our other co-curricular activities, commitments, work, and classes. While we learned so much about the country of Guyana’s geographic, historic, political, economic, and cultural relationship to health care and the disparities in health systems across the world, learning about those various topics could not compare to being in the country itself to experience them firsthand. Alongside International Children’s Outreach, I receive a taste of the depth of Guyanese life that the natives embraced every day. From their living conditions in the village to their system of transportation, eating normal local foods to working alongside them, those seven days gave me something I could not have gained simply continuing my normal routine here in the states.

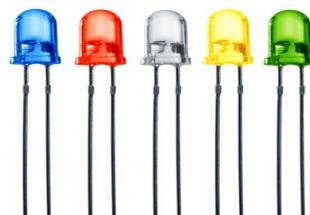
In terms of our service, our efforts focused on four areas of the community: the local orphanage, the future community center construction site, the hospital, and all around the village of Craig. Each area conducted different activities; briefly, I’ll explain each. Within the local orphanage, we played alongside the kids, repainted their entire bathing room, tutored, and cooked some of their favorite meals. At the future community center, we learned about the vision our non-profit had for the facility and assisted the local contractors with building a firm foundation of the center that will hopefully be fully functional by the end of the year. For the hospital, we received a personal tour from one of the local doctors working there to learn about the reality of conditions they faced there, then returned in the evening after hours to repaint several of the worn down hallways. Finally at the village, we conducted community outreach, walking along several roads of the neighborhood to distribute supplies to families and toys for the children.

Continued on next page....

# Alternative Breaks @ UCSD

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." –

Margaret Mead.





Though my descriptions gave a brief snapshot of the service performed within the small community of Craig, they don't truly capture what happened this past spring break. I could easily say the service at the community was great for everyone. And though I would love to say that the work done that week made a significant sustainable impact on them that would be a lie to myself. Nearly a month later in the present, I can't say that the children at the orphanage are still studying hard after working so much with them; that the construction site has made any more visible progress than how we left it; or that the hospital hallways' mold grew back to blemish fresh coats of paint applied weeks ago. But I can say this with full-fledged confidence: the people of Guyana and the experiences created during those seven days *changed my life*. There's something about being immersed in an environment to experience and witness a social justice issue firsthand that opened my eyes. That, combined with reflecting with a group of people that cared as much (if not more) as I did, allowed me to grow. Before going on this trip, I believed that I had cared about my community, but now I can say caring about my community is a priority for me, it's a part of my lifestyle; it is something that is a part of who I am. It is hard for me to sit idly by doing nothing while there are others around me in the world suffering. I realize that it is hard to help others in this grand sense, especially after returning to my daily lifestyle of school and work. Realistically, it is impossible to help everyone. But if you can help one person and provide experiences and knowledge that changes their life in a way that makes them also want to make a difference, you can start a movement that will help benefit all of humanity. That is the mission of Alternative Breaks, and I believe positive change can and will occur.





## My Love Affair

By: Sheng Hui Lim

This is a story of my love affair with L.E.O.  
L.E.O. taught me a lot during my trip to Selma, Alabama.  
L.E.O is a concept: Lifestyle, Exchange and Option.

Let me begin on how I met L.E.O. Picture this scenario. You see a classic southern house, with humble white trims on the exterior. As you walk up the stairs to enter the doors, the owners welcome you wholeheartedly. You are not a guest, but a part of their lives. Inside this house, you see volunteers of a non-profit organization, Freedom Foundation, the local community, and visitors like yourself. I witness this scenario personally in Selma. I chose this image because it is a statement of the volunteers' involvement with the local community. It shows how they adopt their work as a lifestyle. They believe the youths of Selma can be given hope for a bright future. They trust that the cultivation of the next generation will break the cycle of poverty and racial inequality. And, they have committed their lives to a cause that they believe in with absolute passion.

In 2013, Gallup Inc., an American research-based, global consulting company surveyed 230,000 full time and part-time workers in 142 countries. It was reported that 87% of these workers were, I quote 'emotionally disconnected from their workplaces'. It is always a wonder and an inspiration to see people engaged in their work, and in turn find fulfillment in it. Hence, I fell in love with this concept of adopting your work as a lifestyle.

Then in my interaction with L.E.O, I found *Exchange*. In the environment created by our non-profit, the volunteers empower the local community. This relationship does not just work one-way. The local community empowers the volunteers just as much. I truly understood this exchange on my last day in Selma, when some of the youths came to send us off. As usual, we were greeted with hugs and 'How are you?'s. It hit me then, how in the past week, these youths have been so open to us even. We were mere strangers in the beginning, but they opened up their hearts and lives without reserve. And through that, I have felt cared and blessed. It dawned on me the importance of this two-way relationship, I wasn't just there to empower the youths of Selma, I was there to be empowered by them.

My affair with L.E.O progresses with *Option*. I'd like to share the story of one of the youths of Selma that grew under the wings of the non-profit who was raised by her single mother in poverty. According to statistics, herself and her sister would not make it to college or even be living in a house. Well, what is statistics, really? Today, she is in college and one of the most passionate, fearless and open-minded person that I have met. I quote her, 'I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for my mom pushing past all the negative things that can be in a town like Selma or a town anywhere.' She is an embodiment of choice. Whatever our given circumstances, given the opportunity, we can choose to carve our future.

So, why am I in love with L.E.O? Well, through the lifestyle, exchange and option of the people that I've met in Selma, I realized that they have adopted a lifestyle because it is valuable to them. I found that the volunteers and locals engage in exchanges because it is valuable to them. And last, I discovered that the youths chose to be with the non-profit, chose to go to college, and chose to commit their life to the betterment of their community, because it is valuable to them. In the end, L.E.O has taught me that what matters most is living a life of value, where value is dictated by the worth of your actions, to yourself and your community. I end with a quote from Albert Einstein, 'Try not to be a success, but rather to be a value'. Thank you.





# Commuting: Stereotypes and Semantics

By: Stella Raedeker

What is the commuter? What is the essence of commuting? These questions must precede a thorough discussion of commuting; what it really means, and how one must approach the commuting individual in our community.

First, a simple and broad definition, from the Free Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

com·mut·er noun \kə-'myū-tər\

1: a person who commutes (as between a suburb and a city)

On the surface, this definition seems perfectly relevant to our context. A commuter, in the most general sense of the word, is anyone who commutes to UCSD from an off-campus location, whether by driving, carpooling, bussing, bicycling, etc. This describes a large portion of the student body, especially third and fourth-year students. Yet our question somehow remains unanswered. What is a commuter? Does everyone who, in all technicality, commutes to school consider himself/herself to be a commuter? Would they necessarily mention that they are a commuter by way of introduction, or think in those terms? Do people who commute from farther distances identify with the term to a greater extent? Is there, then, such a thing as degrees of commuter-ness?

To help answer this most pressing question, stereotypes must be addressed. What are the connotations of commuting? What ideas and images are associated with the word? The commuter is often thought of as someone who is very detached from campus life, who drives at least an hour round-trip every day, and comes primarily to attend lectures and take tests. Perhaps the commuter is even antisocial or, at least, appears that way because they are constantly unnerved by having endured rush hour.

Yet maybe the word carries positive connotations and associations as well. In other words, more than one stereotype can exist. The commuter may very well be someone who is living at home; who can spend time with their family, high school friends, while, at the same time, attending college. In that sense, the commuter may have “the best of both worlds.” The

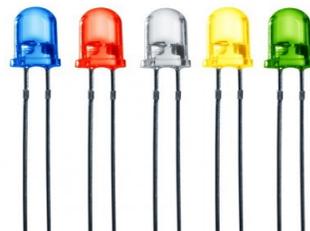
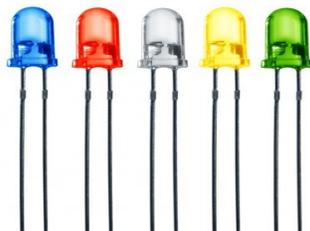
commuter may also be someone who has a car; and we would imagine that they have the capacity to freely roam about the city without getting tied down to campus. Or maybe the commuter is someone who lives in an off-campus apartment with three of their closest friends, far away from home, but not too far from school.

Which of these images dominates the popular imagination? Which situation best describes the largest portion of actual students? Is it possible to answer such questions? If so, is it useful to answer such questions? Would it succeed in anything more than solidifying existing stereotypes, which are counterproductive to human interaction? Yet before we can find out what commuting is, we must first decide who the aggregate commuter is. And whoever is that?

Therefore, I am not equipped to explain the true essence of commuting. It is, apparently, different for each individual. I will, however, rise to the challenge of explaining what commuting is to me; what special insights I have gained in my nearly two and a half quarters of commuting to UCSD from Fallbrook (which is about 50 miles North of La Jolla).

This is not even a simple proposition. How can I, in simple words, explain what exactly commuting is? Like anything in life, it is ripe with contradictions and complexities. Just as Tim O’Brien struggles to generalize war in *The Things They Carried*, so I struggle to generalize commuting. It is many things. It is boring; it is action-packed. It is always the same; it is always different. It is a privilege and a weight to be carried. It is isolation and belonging, a waste of time and time well spent, frustrating and joyous, arduous and effortless. That is what commuting is to me.

Each commuter will have his/her own experiences, whether with freeways, highways, carpools, shuttles, public transportation, parking lots, bike routes, or the like. Therefore, the necessity to define commuting and characterize commuters diminishes. At the end of the day, the commuter is a person, and must be understood and treated as such.





By: Tyler Takemoto

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 was Triton Day. Scores of admitted students converged upon UC San Diego to take in the atmosphere and decide whether our campus should be their home for the next four years. I clearly remember Triton Day 2013: driving down to La Jolla on a Saturday morning with my parents, not quite sure what to expect. This year, I talked to some students and their families in a similar situation.

By 9:30 am, a line of admitted students was queuing up in Revelle Plaza for the second Revelle College Overview Session. Kevin Nguyen, an admitted Biochemistry major, waited in line excitedly with his parents and sister.

“This is the first college campus I’m visiting,” he said. “I’m also planning on visiting UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, and Cal Poly Pomona, but I’m pretty sure I’ll go to UCSD.” When asked what stood out to him most so far, he answered, “The students helping out are really friendly and enthusiastic. It seems like they’re having a lot of fun.”

Rachel Simon, an admitted Psychology Major from San Diego, was less thrilled.

“Revelle College wasn’t even my first choice,” she said. “I wanted to go to Muir College because I heard it’s easier. I don’t know why I didn’t get in. I don’t think I’m even going to go to UCSD anyway. I’m just visiting because I live nearby.” Rachel said she will most likely be attending Drexel University instead. When I asked for the reason, she replied, “Drexel is far more individualized than UCSD. I don’t want to deal with classes of hundreds of peo-

ple and professors who just [focus on] their research.” She also mentioned that she wanted to travel out of state for college.

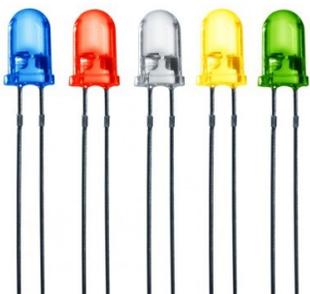
Later in the day, I visited the student org fair and talked to a few of the families on library walk. Allen Karpowski, an admitted Electrical Engineering student in Sixth College, answered a few questions about student organizations.

“There are so many to choose from,” he said. “There are a lot of culture clubs that don’t really interest me, but there are also a lot of interesting research and career clubs that seem pretty cool.”

Alan’s father was also interested in the different student organizations at UCSD. “When I was in college, I was part of a community service organization,” he said. “[It] was a really valuable experience. I hope that UC San Diego has something similar.”

When I asked Alan what excited him most about UCSD, he had to think for a few moments before answering. “Certainly not the dorms,” he said. “The free popsicles are great, though. If UCSD treats its students to free food [like this] every day, then I’ll have a lot of fun here.”

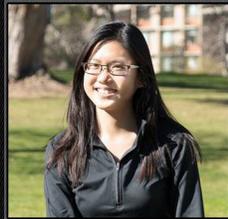
Overall, a wide variety of students visited UC San Diego on Triton Day. The vast majority of those I talked to were already planning on submitting their SIR. Many were happy with the energy and enthusiasm demonstrated by faculty and students on campus. While there were also students who felt lukewarm about UC San Diego, it seems like Triton Day as a whole was a great success.



# Staff



ZZ



Sheng



Konto



Tyler



Austin



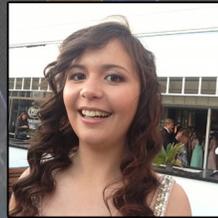
Patricia



Punit



Kyra



Stella



Johanna



Kenny



Johann

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

Revellations is published quarterly by Revelle College, at the University of California, San Diego. 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093. None of the statements contained in this publication necessarily reflect the views of the University administration.