



# Revelations

OFFICIAL REVELLE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER, UC SAN DIEGO

**Why I Write**

**Valentine's Day**

**Video Games**

**A Travel Through Taste**

**Bring on the Rain**

**Russell's "Hustle": A Dive into Desire**

**Humanities: First Impressions**

**Welcome, Provost Paul Yu!**

**International Championship  
of Collegiate A Cappella**

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# WELCOME, PROVOST PAUL YU!

BY: AUSTIN BACONG

As you may or may not know, the search for a new Provost for Revelle College had taken place for some time since the stepping down of former Provost Don Wayne in Spring Quarter of last year. During the entire selection process, former provost of Eleanor Roosevelt College Ann Craig served as Revelle's Interim Provost. Now, effective January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Professor Paul Yu of UCSD's Computer Engineering Department will become Revelle College's new Provost.

Professor Yu is very decorated from his numerous accolades over the entirety of his career. He completed his doctoral program at Caltech and has been a part of the Revelle Community since 1983. Regarding his research and study, Paul Yu has worked to enhance fiber optic network performance via the development of various optoelectronic and electronic devices. Additionally, alternative work on advanced semiconductor materials and components have contributed to advancements in higher digital fiber-optic transmission data rates.

Professor Yu's work is not only limited to academics. Within the UCSD community, Paul Yu has carried out the position of both Vice-Chair and Department Chair for Electrical and Computer Engineering, spanning the years of 2002-2007. He chaired the Faculty Equity Advisory Committee between 2007 and 2012. On top of the above listed, Professor Yu has also served as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Initiatives, working within the University level and abroad. While his accomplishments go on and on, a final note pertinent to some UCSD students is his launching of the URP (Undergraduate Research Portal) for students seeking research and internship opportunities.



Professor Paul Yu has been a part of the Revelle College community since 1983. He has published over 100 papers in the area of photonics and has been recognized with numerous distinctions throughout the course of his career.

From a letter sent out from Suresh Subramani, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, "I am delighted that [Paul] has accepted this important and challenging leadership position, and ask that you join me in offering him best wishes and support in his new role". As a student who has worked closely with Professor Yu in the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Revelle College, I am confident in Professor Yu's abilities. From my latest meeting with him, Professor Yu expressed his gratitude to the committee, stating "Together, we will make progress."





## The Closest Real Life Can Get to Pitch Perfect

By: Johanna Wu

When I first saw the flyer for the quarterfinal round of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), aka the competitions that the Barden Bellas and the Treblemakers competed in in the movie *Pitch Perfect*, I just knew that I had to attend it.

The top two winning groups of this round, which was hosted by UCSD's Tritones, will advance to semifinals and then the international finals in New York City. The ICCA tournament took place on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Mandeville Auditorium, and the room was filled to its capacity, with tons of audience members standing in the aisles; over three hundred people were turned away because of the limited seating.

The competitors for the night were University of Southern California's Asli Baat, a South Asian performance group, UC Riverside's Not So Sharp, Brigham Young University's all-female Noteworthy, and three groups from UCSD: The Beat, the all-female Daughters of Triton, and the all-male Frequency.

There was definitely a wide variety of performances, from Frequency's fun mash up of Pokémon and Miley Cyrus' Wrecking Ball, to the Beat's soulful cover of Alicia Keys's Falling, to Noteworthy's cover of One Republic's Feel Again. Having listened to covers from *Glee*, *Pitch Perfect*, and Pentatonix, I fool-

ishly thought I knew what to expect from the competitors, but I was actually blown away by everyone's performances that night; live performances, while not always perfect, have a different ambience compared to watching or listening to something through a phone or computer. I couldn't even tell my friends which group I liked the most because everyone sang at least one song I really enjoyed. And then there was the beat boxing...

I personally thought that the female beat boxer from Asli Baat rightfully deserved her award for best beat boxer, but everyone was certainly spectacular. There were so many times while listening to everyone singing that I would suddenly remember that I was at an A cappella concert, and that the low bass and solid percussion were actually being done by people's mouths.

Although the Tritones could not compete because they were hosting the event, they actually sang the most songs out of everyone; they were the opening act, and were also the filling act while we were waiting for the judges' result, and they certainly kept the crowd entertained with fun renditions like the tune from Folger Coffee's commercial.

After the Tritones' last song, it was announced that the Daughters of Tritons and BYU's Noteworthy were third and second place respectively, and that UCSD's the Beat was first place. Both the Beat and Noteworthy will advance to the semifinal round, where they will compete for Regional Championships. One of my favorite moments from the concert was just seeing the reactions of the members in the Beat; their happiness was palpable. I can only imagine how much time and work everyone has dedicated, and to see that it paid off for the Beat was very special and heartwarming. So best of luck to the Beat, and I hope that they do well in the semifinals!





## *Hum 1: First impressions*

### *By: Tyler Jakemoto*

It's the one thing that all incoming freshman hear about when they land in Revelle College—the 24-unit 5-course series that will define our existence for the next few years.

Yes, I'm talking about Humanities.

For those not in the know (seriously, do you live under a rock?) the Humanities sequence is one of Revelle College's numerous General Education requirements. The Humanities courses are writing intensive and synthesize elements of history, philosophy, and literature to give us a well-rounded and interdisciplinary background.

Like most first-years in Revelle, I am currently enrolled in Hum 1: The Foundations of Western Civilization. Before enrolling in the course, I had already heard many things about the Humanities sequence. From upperclassmen describing it as “death” to educators describing it as “wonderful” (I've begun to suspect the two words are synonymous), everyone seemed to have a different perspective.

Two weeks into Dr. Cox's Hum 1 class, I still don't think I've formed much of a personal opinion. So far, we've finished reading the *Odyssey* and submitted our first essays. While the amount of reading seemed to daunt some of my peers, I think we can all agree that it was manageable. The essay was ungraded, so our stress levels and caffeine-to-blood ratios stayed fairly low. Overall, it seemed quite ordinary, especially for someone who took both AP English and AP Literature in high school.

After a bit of contemplation, I decided that this perceived normality could mean one of two things:

1. The “normality” is simply the calm before the storm. I am grossly underestimating Hum 1 and all hell is going to break loose as the quarter progresses.

2. Hum classes actually aren't that tough. When upperclassmen lament the existence of the Hum series, they're just trying to scare us and/or they're only really upset about the fact that the series is so freaking long and takes up so many units.

Whichever turns out to be the case, I think I'll just follow a wait-and-see approach. You'll be hearing from me again toward the end of the quarter. Try not to smile too smugly when my follow-up article is about my new-found coffee addiction and my periodic trips to a psychological trauma facility.

Until then, I need to get caught up on my Bible reading. Wish me luck.





## VIDEO GAMES at UCSD

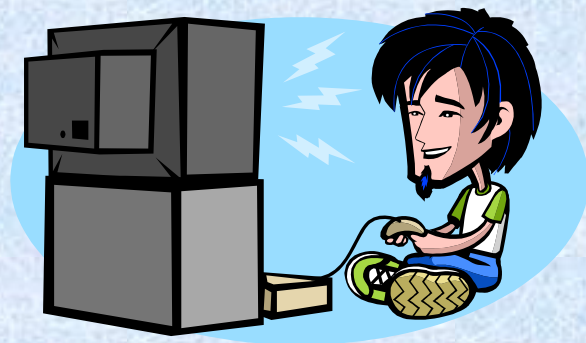
**BY: Punit Patel**

I'm sure a majority of students at UCSD have had some video gaming experience either growing up as kids or now as teens and adults, and this activity seems to be prevalent amongst many UCSD college students living in the resident halls.

**Why not?** Its an easy stress-reliever and a convenient way to bond with fellow suite mates and friends, while simultaneously enjoying the experience of gaming. I think this is a plausible explanation for why most of us at UCSD play video games. But a lot of us (including me) sometimes seem to forget about our sense of time while playing games. 1 hour becomes 2, 2 hours become 3 and this may go on for several hours at a time. This is the biggest drawback of video-gaming in college, as you tend to lose your sense of responsibility, and valuable time is wasted which could be spent doing something more productive.

**But are there any advantages of video gaming?** Fortunately, my answer to this question is yes. Research conducted by professors have shown that there are in fact several advantages of video-gaming. Campaign games such as "World of Warcraft" enable students to "delegate responsibility, promote teamwork and steer groups of people toward a common goal". Dr. Kornel from WebMD.com also supports the idea that certain games can improve hand-eye coordination, reaction times and even boost auditory perception. Surprisingly, a study published in the 'Archives of surgery' has also found advantages of video-gaming in the medical field. Surgeons who play video games performed better in carrying out laparoscopic surgery<sup>1</sup>.

So we notice that there are several benefits that video games can bring to college students, so it would be unreasonable to ask students to completely stop playing video games at UCSD. However, having said that, I think it is our responsibility as college students to manage our time wisely while at college and set ourselves limits as to how much time we should allow ourselves to play video games. Its needless to say that you don't want to sacrifice getting good grades, for playing video games.



<sup>1</sup> Scott Steinberg, The benefits of Video games,  
<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/technology/2011/12/the-benefits-of-video-games/>, 01/13/14



## Winter Break: A Travel Through Taste

### By: Sheng Lim

What does it mean to travel? Is it to see different sights, meet new people, or, be immersed in another culture? Over the winter, my travels brought me to North Carolina, Maryland and New York. And, when I close my eyes, my recollections are highly gustatory.

I was introduced to 'Bojangles', a Southeastern fast food chain in North Carolina. They served buttermilk biscuits: crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. It tasted like the dream child of bread and biscuit. Next, a hidden jewel within Biltmore Village, 'Figs' restaurant served amazing cheese quiche, made of Gruyere, Emmental Swiss and White Cheddar. It was light and fluff hence pleasing to the taste buds. And last, nothing warmed my heart more than my friend's home-cooked ABC soup, a typical Chinese Malaysian dish. The taste of carrots, potatoes, radishes infused in the pork ribs broth reminded me too much of home.

When I first arrived in Maryland, my host surprised me with *Hokkien Mee*; a kind of Malaysian Chinese noodles drenched in a spicy, prawn based soup. It's the kind of street food that is hard to duplicate. Throughout the week, my host kept surprising me with one kind of Malaysian meal after another. I felt humbled that even so far away from home, I could taste these familiar flavours. To me, Maryland gave me a taste of home. The neighbourhood, people and landscape were altogether pleasant. It was a place I would consider settling down in the future. Besides our home-cooked Malaysian meal, on an extremely cold and windy day, my travel buddy and I had savoury crepes from a food truck. It was heavenly biting into the layers of crepe intermingling with the spinach, tomatoes and chicken as we headed towards The Capitol.

Lastly, New York City tasted like heaven. I made it a goal to hunt for good Panna Cotta, an Italian dessert. I first had it at an Italian restaurant called Aurora. It was simply the best I've had in my life. The pudding-like dessert was light and thick at the same time and the berry sauce complemented the vanilla flavour. On the same day at Eataly, an Italian food market, I had the dessert again. Though, it was lighter and drenched in vanilla and liquor. My food adventures also brought me to Chinatown where I had some much-craved dumplings. Every day, my ventures in the city were punctuated with the wonderful meals I had in between. Truly, NYC was a city of dreams, dreams that I am perfectly capable of shaping. That was what I liked about the city; the opportunity. From catching the Nutcracker by the New York City Ballet to cruising towards Liberty Island to catch a glimpse of the Statue of Liberty.

I have left behind a trail of flavours surrounding the different sights of NC, MA and NY and shared between old and new faces. Perhaps, when I revisit these places, I would walk down a similar trail or create new ones. Lastly, in response to others, I can't decide which city I liked best, they each had their own unique flavours. Like the Panna Cottas I had, the taste in them, I can only find in the specific places I went. Similarly, I can't find a New York City in downtown San Diego.





## *Valentine's Day*

### *By: Johanna Wu*

Valentine's Day, or for my fellow single readers, Singles Awareness Day, is upon us once again, evident with all the decorations that pop up immediately after Christmas.

Named after Saint Valentine, Valentine's Day's origin is a little bit unclear, though the stories all regard Valentine as a heroic and romantic figure. One legend claims that Valentine was a priest who continued performing marriages for young couples despite an edict outlawing marriage for young men, and another legend claims that Valentine liberated Christians from Roman prisons. Some even say that the tradition started from when Valentine himself wrote a love letter to his jailor's daughter, and signed it "from your Valentine".

Though not an official holiday, Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, from the Americas to Europe to Asia. The United States tradition, which most countries follow, usually involves the males giving the females sweets like chocolate and flowers, whereas in Japan, the tradition is the opposite: the females give their male coworkers chocolate. It is expected that a month later, on March 14, also known as "White Day," Japanese males are then supposed to return the favor with gifts that are two to three times the value of what they received, because giving a gift of equal value implies that they want to cut off ties with their coworkers. Unsurprisingly, Valentine's Day and White day account for half the annual profit for Japanese chocolate companies.

Similar to Japan, South Korea, women give chocolate on Valentine's Day and the males reciprocate on White Day. The South Koreans, however, have another tradition on April 14<sup>th</sup>, also known as "Black Day," in which people who did not receive anything on either the 14<sup>th</sup> of February or March go to a restaurant and eat *jajangmyeon* (black noodles) to mourn their single lives.

I am pretty sure this is my cynical single self talking, but why limit your appreciation for your loved ones to one day when you could be doing the same thing for the other 364 days? Despite its history, Valentine's Day has become a Hallmark holiday, meaning that its sole existence

is more for commercial purposes than for actual significance. After all, Valentine's Day is the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, according to the Greeting Card Association. And even if I celebrated Valentine's Day, I would prefer the tradition in Finland and Estonia, where Valentine's Day is more about remembering your friends instead of only your significant others.

So if you are single (or not) like me, do not mope about or eat *jajangmyeon*, and either treat Valentine's day as an ordinary day, or use it as an opportunity to tell everyone how much you appreciate having them in your life! And if you have a boyfriend or girlfriend...good for you.







## ***Bring on the Rain***

### ***By: Stella Raedecker***

#### There's Actually a Drought Going On

Yes, it has been unusually warm this winter here in So-Cal, for those of you who may be new to the area. I mean, in January, it's usually a little... cold. It drops down to the 50's and 60's or maybe even the 30's and 40's, the Californian equivalent of some kind of massive blizzard. So what is happening? Is the sun god smiling in anticipation for his concert series? Is it the apocalypse? Or, as a less unlikely explanation, global warming?

But here is what we do know- there is actually a drought going on. Did everyone know this? Governor Brown declared a state of emergency on January 17th.

"State of emergency?" I thought "beach weather" was a more accurate description. I mean, I've been enjoying this. I don't like the cold, humidity, or having to wear big poofy jackets. This has been a good month for me. I mean sure, rainy weather may be a little more conducive to reading large chunks of the Good Book for humanities class, but you can't have your cake and eat it too. And who wants to drive in the rain anyway? I'm pretty sure I don't remember how it's done.

But, it's no picnic for everyone. My dad, a California native, declared, "I'm pretty sure this is the hottest [and driest] year that anyone remembers." So there you have it, it's pretty darn dry out there. A long and destructive fire season is looming. On January 16th, the "Colby Fire" began in the hills of Glendora, and it has claimed five homes. Besides the fire danger, the drought presents a number of other problems: water shortages, crop yield decreases, and yes, rising food prices may be in the future.

How did all this even happen? How can such nice weather have such serious consequences. I can't believe I'm saying this- bring on the rain.





## Russell's "Hustle": A Dive into Desire

By: Johan Sevilla



Boasting a 93% on the Tomatometer, a 7.7/10 rating on IMDB, and 10 Oscar nominations, David O. Russell's *American Hustle* will surely take home a shiny trophy or two. But let's face it, do we really care about what a movie receives, be it ratings or awards? (Not really...hopefully) We care about what it gives; and from brilliant costuming to astute social commentary, *American Hustle* gives us a lot.

*Hustle* dramatizes an actual sting operation (deceptive ploy to catch criminals red-handed) that took place in the late 70's and early 80's. Irving Rosenfield (Christian Bale) and Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) are con artists who are caught by Richie Dimasio (Bradley Cooper), an FBI agent. Richie forces the two to devise an elaborate plan to expose greedy and corrupt politicians. However, lucrative transactions and interpersonal business and love relationships get messy in the set up and execution of the con artists' elaborate scheme. As the plot unfolds, so does the exposition of human desire.

Although the characters in this film are difficult to hate, they are equally difficult to love, which is a problem. Despite the fancy costumes, crazy hair styles, and tastefully satirical portrayals of the time period, the movie lacks emotion. Although the audience can care about the characters, it seems that David O. Russell cared about them a bit too much: for the duration of the film, the characters never really seemed to be in danger. The stakes were never very high for very long, and the conflicts in the movie were resolved too smoothly to be emotionally moving. To me, the beauty of this film lies more in the insights and reflections of humanity, rather than the momentum and excitement of the plot.

The story is driven by each character's greed and manipulation, and as such, it highlights the values that dominate the financial and political giants that run this country. *American Hustle* is a jab at the American Dream. It is a criticism of the relentless pursuit for fame, riches, and power

that has consumed the upper echelons of American society. It satirizes the American practice of maintaining a beautiful exterior to hide the ugly motives within. *Hustle* explores the intersection of human morality and ambition, and leaves us with a bitter observation: to get what you want in America, you need to "hustle", to act quickly and deceptively, to do whatever it takes to amass wealth or recognition, even if it entails the destruction of trust and relationships. If there is a lesson to this movie, it is that the reckless intensity of our desires will produce equally chaotic consequences. Just as the flashy hair styles and classy costumes clothe the vices of each character, the caricatures brought out by each compelling performance wrap up a pessimistic undertone and analysis of human nature. The result is a smart, entertaining, and thought provoking movie worth watching twice.





# Join a Revelle organization!

## Revelle Transfer Student Network

RTSN (Revelle Transfer Student Network) is a Revelle College student organization founded on the principle that a typical transfer student's college experience is different than those that came in as freshmen. RTSN provide networking opportunities to meet other Revelle transfer students and the general UCSD population. Come join the meetings to meet friends, eat candy and have fun! Winter 2014 meetings: Friday at 1:00pm in the Revelle Administration building For more information, contact reo-intern@ucsd.edu

## Why I Write

By: *Kyra Hendrickson*

When people ask me why I write poetry  
I can never give them a good reason  
Perhaps it is because

I find inspiration  
In a passing breeze  
In the conversations of strangers

I see hope  
In the dawn of a new day  
In the rain drops on leaves

I get lost  
In the absence of time  
In a fleeting moment

I don't write my poems

The poems are already written  
In the colors of a sunset  
On the faces of my friends  
In the continuous rhythmic universal breath that is life

I merely put words on a page

## STAFF



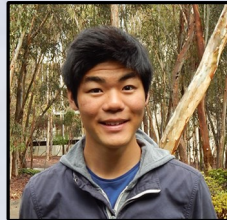
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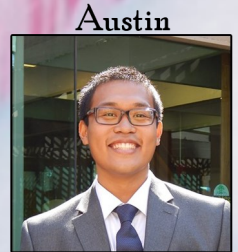
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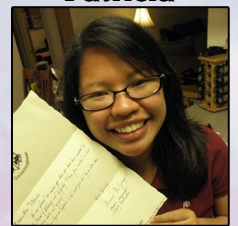
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