



STAYING COMMITTED AND CONNECTED  
2017

MAY 1,

## Physics and Engineering Students Win Prestigious NSF Internships

Dr. Melanie Lutz of the Physics and Engineering Departments is happy to report on the success that three SCC students have recently had in obtaining summer research internships. Michael Lostica, Hunter Martin, and Erin Nebel have each been awarded a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) internship. These highly competitive internships, which pay a stipend of \$5000, will allow the students to conduct a ten-week scientific research project, working within research groups at leading research universities.

*Michael Lostica* will work with Prof. Bing Xu in the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center at Brandeis University. Michael's research will be on the heterotypic self-assembly of peptides. These materials have shown promise to have potential use in anticancer therapy and drug delivery. Michael says that he "is looking forward to be immersed full-time in a research setting, and to connect with my mentor, the students in my cohort, and other Brandeis students. Research aside, I look forward to biking along the Charles River to Cambridge, visiting Boston's Museum of Fine Art, and eating oblivion-seeking heaps of falafel." Michael will be transferring to UC Berkeley in the Fall of 2017, with a major in Chemistry.



*Hunter Martin* will work with Prof. David Wittman in the observational cosmology group at UC Davis. His research will utilize the Fisher Information Matrix, a mathematical tool that allows one to predict the value of an experiment, and determine how much one could potentially learn from it, before it is conducted. According to Hunter, "I can utilize the Fisher Information Matrix in one of two projects: analyzing the value of measuring the velocity of a cluster of galaxies with respect to the sky, or analyzing the value of a new method of measuring the bending of light due to gravity as it travels through space". Hunter will be transferring to UC Berkeley in the Fall of 2017, with a

Math/Physics double major.



*Erin Nebel* will be working with Prof. Charles Werth at the University of Texas in Austin, on the exciting new technology of geological carbon sequestration. Carbon dioxide is one of the primary greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, and being able to store it safely underground would greatly mitigate this problem. Erin explains that "the objectives of the project include determining the effects of carbon dioxide injection on the rock formation's permeability and other physical properties. The project will involve laboratory experimentation, with an interdisciplinary approach that makes use of concepts and techniques from geochemistry, materials science, and civil engineering." Erin will be transferring to the Colorado School of Mines in the Fall of 2017, with a major in Civil and Environmental Engineering.



## Solano Student Selected Speaker at CMC3 Conference

Congratulations to SCC student Gabe Fredericks who was selected as the student speaker at the California Mathematics Council, Community Colleges (CMC3) Spring Conference at Lake Tahoe recently.

His presentation was entitled, "*Practical and Theoretical Significance of L-*

*Functions.*" Students from the entire CMC3 service area which includes 57 community colleges in northern and central California are eligible to compete for this honor. This is the first time a Solano student has been the student speaker, although Gabe also had placed in the top three along with two other Solano students, Mark Delarosa and Hunter Martin, at the annual student poster session held at the fall conference in Monterey which extended a long history of Solano successes in the poster competition.

## EMT Program Receives Donation From Vacaville Fire Department

The EMT program was fortunate to receive a donation from the Vacaville Fire Department (**Fire Chief Chris Concepcion**) for our EMT Program. EMT faculty John Jansen and Jim Zuniga picked up the donation over the spring break. The EMT program will receive:

- 2 newer gurneys - these will replace two that we currently have. They are much newer than our current gurneys.
- EMS CPAP - we received 6 CPAP devices and numerous kits to go along with it. We have never had a CPAP machine and always just had to show the slides. This will allow for hands on demonstration.
- Nasal Cannulas - we have received over 700 nasal cannulas with CO2 monitors on them. Although they look a little odd they are placed on the patient the exact same way. These will last us a long time.
- C-collars & head beds - we have received a case of c-collars and head beds for our c-spine supply.
- Stethoscopes - we received about a dozen brand new stethoscopes on the box.
- Misc - bandaging supplies

The donation is worth a few thousand dollars and will continue to make our program better.

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## SCC Music Department Symphony & Chorus Concert



The SCC Music Department presented a symphony and chorus performance on Friday, April 28 at Our Lady of Carmel Church in Fairfield. The concert featured SCC music students and professional musicians

performing together in Symphony of Northern California (SONC) and the Solano Choral Society (SCS), led by SCC music faculty Kristy Juliano and Jonathan Knight. The program featured John Rutter's *Gloria* and *Magnificat*, and Gabriel Faure's *Suite from Pelléas et Mélisande* and *Pavane*.

SCC student Nalani Certeza said after the concert: "Singing with SCC is a wonderful experience on its own and Friday night made every rehearsal more than worth it! The songs performed with the orchestra were challenging but fun and made for a magical night. I'm 100% returning to sing next semester."

The concert was made possible through a generous grant from Kitchell CEM to Solano Community College. The Kitchell contribution supports the SCC Music department with the establishment of the Symphony Orchestra of Northern California at SCC. In SONC, SCC orchestra class students are mentored by professional musicians from the Bay Area and Sacramento.

The Solano Choral Society has been affiliated with Solano Community College since 1973 as a college credit class and nonprofit organization, attracting members and students from all parts of Solano County and adjoining counties.

New musicians interested in performing with the orchestra and the choir are welcome to join

the ensembles in Fall 2017.

*Photo courtesy of Peter Lichy.*

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## **SCC Employee Finds A Way**

Laura Scott in Purchasing was able to find a way to help out our fire tech students. The program needed hay bales to use in their exercises, but payment couldn't be made through regular district procedures, so Laura found a free alternative that led to both the donation of what was needed, and connected a volunteer fireman with our fire training faculty in a way that will likely be positive for years to come.

Professor Brian Preciado said Laura was able to contact a local farmer with not only a willingness to help, but a volunteer fireman as well. He donated five bales of hay.

Preciado said, "Laura's efforts are a refreshing reminder that employees are here to serve the students in whatever capacity. By going out of her way for our program like this is extremely beneficial to our fire academy students, thank you so very much!"

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## **SCC Student A "Hero Among Us" in *People Magazine***



**A Friend in Blue**  
 "Everything he did for me has been life-changing," says Duncan (right) with Cpl. Keffer—and his new 2003 VW Passat.

boxes for a nutritional-supplement company to his home in Vallejo. Keffer offered the teen a ride home and on the way learned that Duncan was working to help his parents and earn money to go to college. "When he got out of the car, I just had to shake his hand," Keffer, 45, recalls. "I told him I admired his work ethic and there was nothing he couldn't accomplish."

But Keffer wanted to do more too. "It's not always about crime and punishment," he says. "We're out to improve people's quality of life whenever we can." Two days later the 11-year law-enforcement veteran and several of his fellow officers showed up at Duncan's workplace with a \$500 mountain bike they'd purchased to make his commute easier. "I was stunned and flabbergasted," says Duncan. The officers also launched a GoFundMe page to help raise money for college tuition and to repair Duncan's car. Within three days \$10,000 had poured in—and the amount now stands at \$47,000. "A lot of people have been thanking me," says Keffer. "It reminds me why I got into this job in the first place."

In January Duncan, who hopes to someday become a member of the California Highway Patrol, began taking criminal-justice classes at Solano Community College. He's also used some of the GoFundMe money to buy a 2003 VW Passat. "I still can't believe any of this," says Duncan. "All this just makes me want to push myself even harder to make people proud." ●

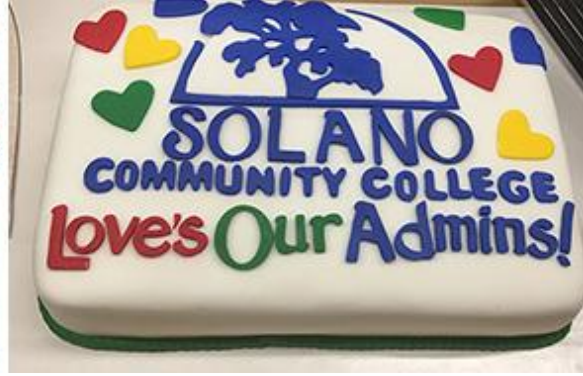
**People** HEROES AMONG US

# An Officer's Good Deed

THANKS TO POLICE CORPORAL KIRK KEFFER, A ROUTINE PEDESTRIAN STOP BECAME A LIFE-CHANGING MOMENT FOR JOURDAN DUNCAN  
 By JOHNNY DODD

Jordan Duncan worried he "was in trouble" late one night last September when he turned around to find a police cruiser pulling up behind him on a deserted street in Benicia, Calif. "Where you walking to?" Benicia police corporal Kirk Keffer asked. Duncan, then 18, explained that he was doing what he did every night: walking the seven miles from his job packing

## Admins Recognized During Administrative Professionals Day



The administrative support staff would like to thank the Management Team for the wonderful celebration on Administrative Professionals Day. The Superintendent-President, Vice Presidents and Deans treated the support staff to breakfast, gift cards, and a special cake made by Dean Lamba's wife!

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