A history of the events, achievements, volunteer services and various recreational activities that captivated the STEM community at

College of the Sequoias

for the 2013-2014 school year.

Yearbook Developed by: Jasmin Ramos-Physics, UC Santa Cruz
Our STEM Community:

The College of the Sequoias Science, Math and Engineering Division has a dedicated staff and faculty who work extremely hard to create a welcoming learning environment for our students.

Robert Urtecho, Ph.D.

Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Urtecho, the division has developed excellent support services through the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program, The Promoting Achievement and Scholarship through Enrichment Opportunities (PASEO) Program and the new Student Undergraduate Research Group Experience (SURGE) Program.

Faculty members challenge their students and ensure that when they transfer to universities they are ready to thrive academically. COS faculty members are engaged with their students outside of class by participating in field trips, professional conferences and club meetings. They share their educational experiences, research and are excellent mentors. Many faculty give research presentations at SETA and BioFORGE club meetings. They take pride in helping students with recommendation letters and helping select students for scholarship awards.

The MESA Center provides a friendly, student-oriented study center with tutoring and supplemental instruction provided by the MESA and PASEO programs. In the center, students study with friends, eat and socialize in the back room and work with the MESA/PASEO coordinators and the STEM counselor. Officers and members of the four campus science clubs meet there to discuss and plan club activities.

Participation in the programs and clubs allows student opportunities to make friends, visit Universities, attend conferences, help with community service activities, and, most importantly, join the COS STEM family.
Duane Goodwin
MESA Director & SHPE Chapter Advisor

“It has been an honor to work with a wonderful group of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math majors. Students have been involved in more volunteer projects, program activities, and professional development than any other past years. We have had students awarded internships expanding across the country and through our new SURGE grant we have created research opportunities on the COS campus. Our list of transferring students is impressive; students are going to UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, CSU Fresno and other great institutions. Through MESA, PASEO and SURGE COS Students have created a culture of success, collaboration and inclusion. This has led to both professional and academic acceleration. It is awesome to help guide and lead a great group of young adults and emerging professional and future leaders. I have gotten to know many students personally through university visits, conferences, lab tours or their time spent in the MESA Center. I am extremely excited for students that are transferring; but also saddened because they are like my children moving away from home. As I continue to work with current and incoming students, those students that are leaving will truly be missed.”

Charles Rush
PASEO Activity Lead & SHPE Chapter Advisor

“The 2013-14 year has been a memorable one for PASEO as we welcomed in many great new students who have immersed themselves into the STEM community here at COS and as we worked together to advance many PASEO veterans students to their transfer schools. It’s a year that we can celebrate for many accomplishments: scholarships; internships; tons of community service; new clubs, and, of course, lots of hard work to advance academically. I am so proud of what we have done this year for the next generation of college students through Noche de Ciencias, Expanding Your

Dr. Larry Owens
Engineering and Physics Instructor & SETA Club Advisor

“It’s amazing how far we have come in the last 10 years! SETA was started when we didn’t have a MESA program or a MESA center at COS. Our meetings were attended by about 10-12 students - 3 pizzas was enough to feed everyone! It is exciting to see how SETA has grown to meetings of 70-100 students, how our STEM programs now include MESA, PASEO and SURGE, and how we are adding new clubs for specific interests. Most importantly, we now have a critical mass of students that are engaged in their studies, help each other succeed, and are reaching out to the community to inspire the next group of scientists, mathematicians and engineers. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with such an awesome group of students!

Dr. Shannamar Dewey
Assistant Professor, Anatomy and Physiology & BioFORGE Club Advisor

“2014-2015 was the inaugural year for BioFORGE, the new club on campus emphasizing research in the biological sciences. Meetings consisted of presentations from COS professors as well as several visiting professors from nearby universities including UC Merced. Fascinating presentations have included a range of research spanning from the relatively recent anthropological conundrum of a smart hominid with a small skull to proteins that regulate a circadian rhythm by changing three dimensional shapes in oscillating, slowly consistent 12 hour cycles. I feel like I have mostly been invited along for the ride while these motivated students have leapt at the chance to create their vision but I have been happy to use my resources and connections in research to further their goals and exposure. I look forward to supporting these students and helping to shape the future of BioFORGE!”
2013-2014 College of the Sequoias

STEM Community Members

Alex Hendren  Andren Bardone  Anthony Guzman  Antonio Villaseñor
Ashley Salgado  Brandon Lenz  Brian Padilla  Cesar Monarrez
Christian Acosta  Cinthya Tovar  David Hang  Dhruv Patel
Sir Duane Goodwin  Edward Sandoval  Eduardo Lozada  Eric Wright
Erika Estrada  Esther Joy Ang  Evelin Muñoz  Freddy Flores
Graham Frazier  Ian Qualls  Isis Frausto  Jagroop Singh
Victor Arevalo
Vylen Valdez
Wyndom Wescott
Xavier Castañeda

Zachary Jurbina

Not Pictured:
A couple hundred more
STEM community
members at COS
Our STEM Clubs

SETA Club
SHPE Chapter
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

BioFORGE Club
Future Of Research and Genetic Engineering
Fall 2013

College Night

SACNAS National Conference
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

San Antonio, Texas
MESA Leadership Retreat
PG&E, San Diego

Expanding Your Horizons

UC Santa Barbara Tour
& Camping Trip
SETA Corn Maze Scare-a-thon!

SETA Holiday Party
Spring 2014

Pi Day
Math Conference

Pepperdine University

Latino Youth Leadership
MESA Leadership Retreat
Happy Valley, Santa Cruz

SHPE Cal Poly
Tour & Camping

Getty Museum
Thank you to our MESA & PASEO staff!

Our STEM Community will miss you!
Have a great retirement

Dave Bird
Chemistry Instructor

Sharon Black
MESA Counselor

MESA Awards Ceremony
Notes~Signatures~Memories
Notes~Signatures~Memories
Notes~Signatures~Memories