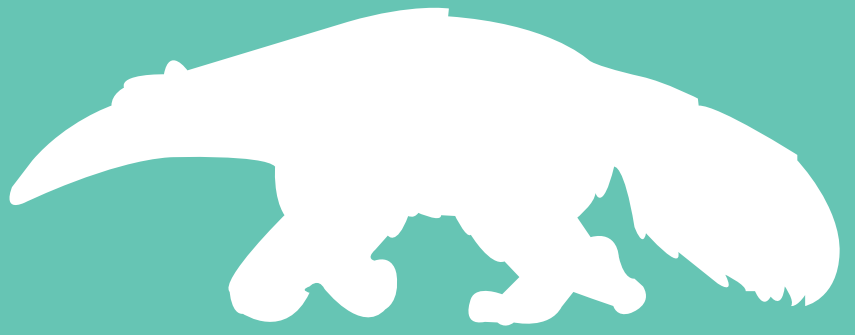


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THE GREEN VINE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

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CHESC 2014 AT SDSU

BY BRIJ PATEL

This year's California Higher Education Sustainability Conference was held in the beautiful city of San Diego, on the San Diego State University Campus. After being to only one of CHESC conference, this was one of the yearly events that can be look forward to. After arriving and settling into our dorms for the week, PowerSave interns congregated in one of the many SDSU Student Union's conference rooms for an exclusive PowerSave Conference portion of CHESC. This was a great place to understand what other campuses were doing and how the University of California Irvine campus can improve. The next few days involved workshops hosted by many different companies which talked about various different topics, from the topic of saving water bottles to finding jobs in the sustainability field. Out of all the different workshops and presentations that took place at CHESC, the green panel was the most informative. Where better to get information than from professionals that have been in the industry for multiple years and have gone through what many students in the PowerSave campuses are going through.



MEANWHILE IN PANAMA

BY JAENNA WESSLING



For the first week of summer break, I traveled to Darien, Panama with the non-profit organization Global Brigades. When in Panama, I was part of an environmental brigade consisting of nineteen other students from UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Davis, and UC Los Angeles. We focused on reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and education about permaculture and ecosystems with the native community of Embera Puru. We spent four days planting various crops in the community's field. We planted short, medium, and long-term plants for the community to teach them that they could get more nutrients into the soil through this method of permaculture, rather than their normal slash-and-burn techniques. In addition, the community could receive the benefits of the short-term and medium-term crops while waiting for the more valuable long-term crops to grow. We planted hundreds of coffee plants, plantains, and rosewood trees with the help of the people of Embera Puru.

In addition to working in the field, the brigade was split up into groups to present and create games to teach the Embera people about what ecosystems are and why they are important for life. Some activities that the students and community members participated in included folding origami animals from various ecosystems, categorizing organic and inorganic materials, and assigning members of the community to act as important parts of the ecosystem to demonstrate that everyone within the ecosystem is connected. In turn, the community taught us about their culture by sharing their traditional dances, food, showing us their homes, crafts, and so much more. It truly was a great bonding experience to plant with the community, teach them about sustainable agriculture and ecosystems, and to spend time with the community and learn so much about their culture.

OUR FOR-CREDIT INTERNS!

BILL LIANG

Hello guys! My name is Bill Liang from Los Angeles, California. I am a third year chemical engineering student at UC Irvine. A little fun fact about me is that I was a swim instructor and a lifeguard in high school. My love for swimming has helped me figure out what I want to do in life. I am very passionate about energy efficiency and water conservation and when I found out about the Power Save Campus program, I knew it would be a great opportunity for me. Aside from school, I enjoy working out at the gym, playing sports with my friends, and trying out different kinds of food. I am a very easygoing guy and I love a good challenge. If you tell me to eat something, chances are I'll eat it.



GRACE JUNG

Hello, my name is Grace Jung and I'm pursuing a degree in Environmental Science and a double minor in Urban Studies and Political Science because it is the most pressing issue of our age. I strive to learn how to be knowledgeable about the scientific, social, political, economic, and policy aspects of environmental issues in order to help the world balance humanity's needs with the needs of our environment. I'm excited to work with the PowerSave Campus team because I'm highly interested in getting more involved on campus by facilitating initiatives to improve energy efficiency and even increasing awareness on it, since I've always had a passion for environmental sustainability.

Besides environmental issues, I immensely enjoy psychology, sociology, and criminology. On my free time, I enjoy introspecting, looking at the color red, watching psychological thrillers, collecting quotes, listening to music, doodling, organizing, and watching videos of pandas and other cute animals.



BRYANT PHUNG

Hi there! My name is Bryant Phung, and I am currently studying Earth System Science. I am originally from Milpitas, which is in Northern California. Some things I love doing is walking on the beach, traveling, and relaxing. My favorite color is green. One of the reason my favorite color is green is because my favorite superhero is Green Lantern. I love watching sports! 49ers are my team. I bleed red and gold! On my spare time, I enjoy lifting weights and playing sports. For on campus activities, I am currently in a fraternity. Being from Northern California and moving down to Irvine was quite the change, but it is a great experience. I love being close to the beach; it is such a beautiful and mystical place to be at. Beaches at night are even more beautiful than beaches in the day-time in my opinion. In the future, my goal is to help the world be more aware of environmental concerns. I hope to get into environmental consulting in the near future as a job.

MEGAN CRAWFORD

My name is Megan Crawford and I will be starting my fourth year at UCI in the Fall. I am an Earth System Science major with minors in Global Sustainability and Biological Sciences. I was born and raised in the nearby city of Huntington Beach where I still reside. In addition to living a more sustainable life, I think it is important to promote this type of lifestyle among others in the community.

I am a student employee of the UCI Police Department, a volunteer for the Costa Mesa Police Department, and a member of the Earth System Science Club on campus. I will also begin a research-based internship with the Center for Environmental Biology in the Fall. My hobbies and interests include outdoor and thrill-seeking activities, country music, traveling and exploring new places, watching The Walking Dead, visiting museums/aquariums/zoos, and trying new or foreign foods. I look forward to the new experiences that will come from working with the PowerSave Campus team this summer!

