



# Cal Teach News

UC Science Mathematics Initiative @ UCSC

~Gearing up for fall 2008~

September 2008

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Cal Teach internship schedule for the 2008-09 academic year:

Fall 2008: CaT1, CaT2  
 Winter 2009: CaT1, CaT3  
 Spring 2009: CaT2

## WELCOME NEW INTERNS!

- **New Intern Orientation (required) will take place on Friday, September 26, 4-6 p.m. in Thimann 391**
- We are still accepting applications for fall CaT1 and CaT2 ~Tell your friends!~
- Previous interns needed to help with orientation! Contact Pat (pkent@ucsc.edu) if you can help.



## Benefits for Cal Teach Students:

- Interns may be reimbursed for the cost of the CBEST exam (after CaT1), the CSET exam (after CaT2) and the required fingerprinting for entering a credential program (after CaT3).
- Through the **Mark Bruce Fellowships** and (new for 2009!!) the **National Science Foundation Noyce Scholarships**, Cal Teach interns are eligible to apply for over \$650,000 in scholarships to be distributed over the next five years to attend UCSC's MA/credential program. Applicants **MUST** have completed at least CaT1 by the fall of their senior year.
- The student lounge in Thimann 361 is still an excellent place for studying and computer use, with many resources for prospective teachers. Cold drinks are available for 25 cents each.

## Planning to take the CBEST or CSET this fall?

Here are the fall test dates:

CBEST

CSET

Oct. 4 (late reg. by Sept. 23)

Sept. 13 (emergency reg. by Sept. 9)

Dec. 6 (register by Nov. 7)

Nov. 1 (register by Oct. 3)

\*Contact the Cal Teach office, calteach@ucsc.edu if you are interested in attending a reading or writing workshop (free of charge) to prepare for the CBEST, or in carpooling to a test.

## Upcoming Events:

- September 26: New Intern Orientation, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Thimann 391
- Oct. 30-Nov. 2: CA Science Education Conference, San Jose - Contact Pat (pkent@ucsc.edu) if interested in attending.
- Nov. 24: Priority deadline for winter '09 CaT1 applications

## Cal Teach Contact Information:

(Check out our website for up-to-date info: <http://calteach.ucsc.edu>)

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## ~CAL TEACH STUDENTS IN UCSC'S MA/CREDENTIAL PROGRAM~

Ten Cal Teach graduates are now enrolled in UCSC's MA/credential program and make up exactly half of the math/science cohort. Six of the ten, Gaby Iniguez, David Leopold, Monica May, Jemmalyn Peralta, Binh Pham, and Veronica Vasquez shared their experiences with us. So far, they have finished their summer classes and begun their first placements. What led them to teaching? What is the program like? Where do they see themselves in a year? Let's find out!

### Becoming a teacher

Motivations for becoming a teacher vary from "destiny" (Gaby) to good teachers (Jemmalyn) or bad teachers (Binh) they've had in the past, to helping reduce our impact on the planet through teaching (Veronica). Monica writes, "When I was in the classroom I felt as though I could really make a difference, and really help people, which is what I have always wanted in a job." Jemmalyn says that as a teacher, "you are always continuously learning." According to David, teaching is "fun and rewarding... and I really enjoy working with students," and, Veronica says, "Once I started taking education courses as an undergraduate, I started learning of all the injustices in our education system in its current state, and became even more dedicated to teaching so that I can help all those students who are doing so poorly in schools." For many devoted teachers, the benefits of teaching far outweigh the challenges.



### Impressions of the MA/credential program at UCSC

"So far, it hasn't been different from my expectations. I knew I had to work hard, but I also knew that it would be enjoyable and adventurous." (Binh) The general consensus seems to be that the program is intensive and that "there is more focus on personal reflection and theory" (Monica). David agrees that, "...the classes are very theory heavy," and adds, "This is balanced by real experience in the placement." Several mentioned that they were ready for the type of classes they've been taking. Gaby says, "Cal Teach and Education classes really prepare you for the MA/credential program here at UCSC." As far as succeeding in the rigorous program, Veronica suggests, "Don't put things off. Don't let yourself get behind early because it will be hard to catch up." and David further suggests, "Don't stress. It will seem like a whole lot at first, but if you deal with one assignment at a time, it's not too hard to manage."



### In the classroom and future plans

These students are currently starting their student teaching at Pajaro M.S., Pajaro Valley H.S., E.A. Hall M.S., and Alianza Charter School in Watsonville and San Lorenzo Valley M.S. Monica plans to teach high school biology, hopefully at a school in Southern California; Veronica, also pursuing a BCLAD, hopes to be teaching science next year, either back home (Santa Rosa) or near Santa Cruz; Binh also hopes to return to her home community (Stockton) to teach middle school math. Jemmalyn hopes to teach math in a larger city such as San Francisco or San Jose; Gaby plans to teach math back home in El Centro; and David expects to "teach high school geometry at the school of my choice. (Math teachers are in high demand!)"



### We'll leave you with a last piece of advice for inspiration:

Gaby writes, "There is a Mexican saying which goes: 'El que persevera alcanza.' which means, 'Those that persevere will reach their goals.' That's the best advice that I can give: never quit and always try your best."

Thanks everyone for sharing your experiences, and best of luck with the rest of the program!