

# AC<sup>2</sup> NEWSLETTER

## Director Nunes

Hello everyone and welcome back to campus for the spring 2013 term.

You may remember that over the break we held a 2 day workshop for students interested in including a study and/or research abroad experience in their UG program. The Center for International Programs did a great job of helping us to understand how to fit in an abroad experience as STEM majors, explaining the components and timeline of the application process, showing us how to find out what programs are out there and what opportunities exist for scholarship support and explaining the strategies for winning applications. I think everyone came away with a reasonably concrete plan and most had started their applications to abroad programs and scholarships.

We had a panel to present and discuss research opportunities abroad. I was struck by the rich and varied programs that are available for UG's to do research outside the US. And, of course, there are many opportunities within the US. So, I want to remind you that applications for summer research experiences are due in the early to mid-spring. If you are interested in taking part in a program off campus this summer, now is the time to be researching opportunities and preparing your applications. Reena is continually sending you e-mails containing information about upcoming programs and she posts the information on Blackboard. Both of us are happy to meet with you individually or in groups to talk about how to get started or to give you assistance with your applications. When I was a student I spent a summer at Lawrence Livermore Lab, a national laboratory in California. It changed my life. I hope you will consider doing it.

### Congratulations to our December Graduates!

Carlos Anglas, Computer Engineering; Jessica Basso, Biology; Crystal Garcia, Math Education; Sheena Henry, Chemistry

"Education is our passport to the future,  
for tomorrow belongs to the people who  
prepare for it today."  
~ Malcolm X

### In This Issue

Ivan Vivar	2
Carlos Anglas	3
Research & Study Abroad	4
ACTIVITIES	5

### Upcoming Activities

- ◇ **Engineers Week Banquet Feb. 26, 2013**
- ◇ **Field trip to Challenger Center Airmont, NY TBA**
- ◇ **CSTEP Conference @ Sagamore NY Apr. 12-14**
- ◇ **Regional CSTEP-STEP Conference May 11, 2013**

## RESEARCH & STUDY ABROAD SYMPOSIUM

During intercession we hosted a 3-day pilot program for students to identify programs abroad and thoughtfully prepare application materials. Staff from the Center for International Programs facilitated the workshops.



To the right: Panelists Dr. Fernando Nieto (SUNY Old Westbury), Dr. Shashi Kanbur (SUNY Oswego) and Kirali Genao (UAlbany, SUNY student) talked about their research experiences abroad and the programs that offer these opportunities (SUNY MHIRT & SUNY Global Laboratory).

Below are the participants in our first SUNY LSAMP Research & Study Abroad Symposium . From New Paltz are Ivan Vivar, Assistant Director Reena DePaolo, Francly Hernandez, Maria Ortiz and Director, Dr. Stacie Nunes. From Old Westbury are Sean Challenger, Adil Afridi ,and Joyce Jahnke.



Also From New Paltz are Shrabani Naha, and 2012 alumna Brittany Dennis. Both served as Peer Assistants during the program and presented on their own experiences studying abroad.

## IVAN VIVAR- COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Hi, My name is Ivan Vivar and I am a Computer Engineer major at SUNY New Paltz. I joined the AMP/CSTEP community my sophomore year in college. Since then, AMP/CSTEP has given me multiple opportunities that have led to my personal growth. A goal of mine has always been to help others, through AMP/CSTEP and the opportunities they have provided for me, I have been able to do just that. Some of these opportunities include working with middle school and high school students in STEP and allowing them to develop an interest in Engineering, becoming a calculus tutor and meeting extraordinary individuals.

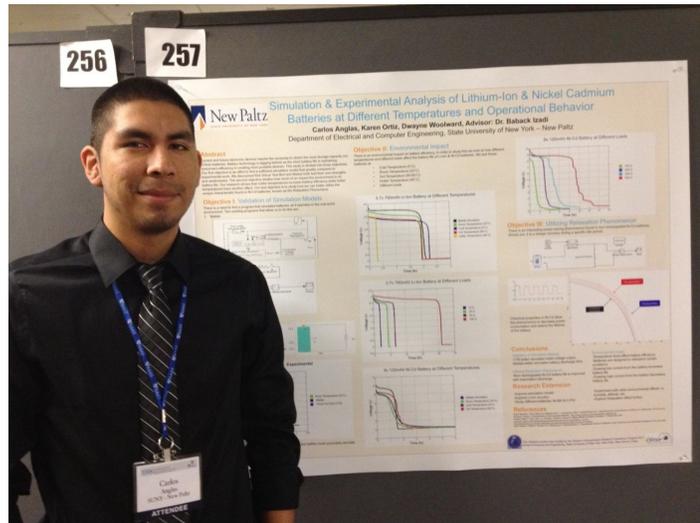


Through these experiences my passion for Engineering and other areas in the STEM fields were confirmed. While working with middle school and high school students, I was able to teach them fundamental aspects of Engineering including circuits and architectural design. This was accomplished through the use of PowerPoint presentations and interactive activities. Presented in a way that was easy for the students to feel engaged but still learn fundamental aspects of Engineering. Becoming a Calculus tutor has allowed me to individually help fellow students. I truly love helping others when they need it, especially when it comes to academics. Being a tutor is just one of many ways that I like to be there for others.

Throughout my experience with AMP/CSTEP, the aspect I have cherished the most since I joined my sophomore year is meeting extraordinary individuals. I have met individuals that have motivated me to keep pursuing my major no matter how difficult it might become. I have met individuals such as Brittany Dennis, Jessica Basso, Devonte, and Alvaro Rodriguez. They have all inspired me and motivated me to become a student who excels in academics and also be the best person I can be, not only for myself but for others as well, and to look out for others and always lend a helping hand. I am a junior now at SUNY New Paltz, and my experience with AMP/CSTEP have taught me that we are family and we help each other out as much as possible. One year after joining AMP/CSTEP with two more years left to complete my degree in Computer Engineering, I look forward to meeting and helping future generations of AMP/CSTEP members, to continue to build and share relationships with professional, intelligent, and successful individuals.

## Carlos Anglas- Computer Engineering

My name is Carlos Anglas, a Computer Engineering major and a December 2012 SUNY New Paltz graduate. I have excelled during my time at New Paltz and a lot of it is thanks to AMP/CSTEP. I have been involved in a couple of research experiences; from working on an algorithm to convert non-negative



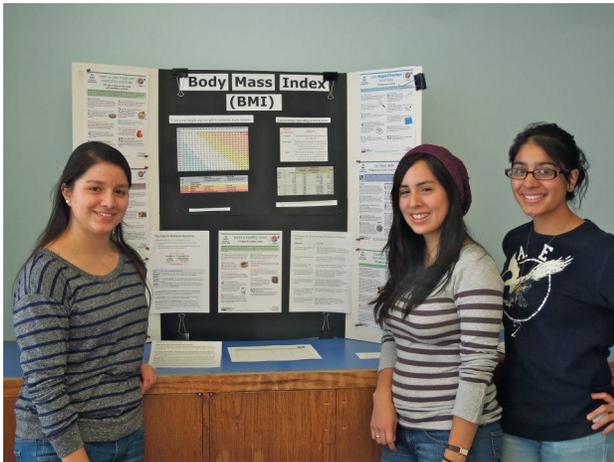
polynomials into a sum of two squares to researching Lithium-Ion batteries. The latter, consisted of research being done throughout my previous two summers with Dr. Baback Izadi, where I worked with different lab partners, new equipment, and learned new techniques. The experience was very rewarding, taking me places such as the annual CSTEP Statewide conference on Lake George and even Atlanta, GA for the Emerging Researchers National Conference (ERN)!

Towards the end of this past summer, I was also fortunate to partake in my very first internship: The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) in Kingston, NY. I spent 5 weeks there, soaking in as much information and first-hand experience as I possibly could. I learned how professional engineers and companies communicate and work together as well as the impact that clean solar energy can have on New York. As part of my internship, I researched a new technology called Graphene and wrote a review article, *Graphene, the New Silicon*. The name says it all, as an emerging new material Graphene with outstanding electronic properties can possibly be a replacement for silicon in the future, improving modern technology.

I'm very grateful for the opportunities that AMP/CSTEP provides for its students. With research and internship experience now under my belt, I am extremely satisfied with my time at SUNY New Paltz and I am ready to continue my education as I will be pursuing a Master's of Science at University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

Minority Association of Pre- Medical Students

During the fall semester MAPS held a series of four programs on nutrition, sex education, first aid and mental health. Pre-health students can take advantage of their regular MCAT study sessions, field trips and other programs.



Francy Hernandez, Lucia Milla and Nicole Gaucher



MAPS Members practicing meditation techniques

Wadsworth Center Albany NY

On September 26, 2012 a group of SUNY New Paltz AMP/CSTEP and Dutchess Community College CSTEP students traveled to Albany, NY to visit the Wadsworth Center, a research-intensive public health laboratory. Students learned about summer research opportunities, met with researchers and toured the facilities.



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