

THE MUDDRAKER

vol. 28, issue 1 october 2017



NEW BEGINNINGS

photograph by Max Maleno



pg. 4,5

read our seniors vs
frosh center spread!



pg. 7

check out our feature
of CMS soccer play-
er, Justin Gadalla!



pg. 8

read our PROFile on
Professor Zachary
Dodds!

MEET OUR STAFF :)

Have you met the members of *The Muddraker*? Now is your chance to get to know our awesome team!

Thomas Martinez '21

I love taking photographs for *The Muddraker*. In my free time, I love collecting hot sauce, trying new foods, and finding new music.

William Teav '19

My guilty pleasures are eating butter and making ice cream sandwiches out of sourdough. I'm also a part-time squirrel whisperer.

Priyanka Agarwal '20

I love doing photography, and am excited I get to do photography for *The Muddraker*. In my free time, I enjoy swimming, singing, and dancing.

Hannah Larson '20

I love theatre and country music! In my free time I enjoy obsessively checking *The Muddraker* subscription spreadsheet, reading all of Rick Riordan's books, and teaching myself Danish.

Mary Celestin '21

In my free time, I run sprints for CMS, do work with ASCE, play my viola, write, read, and listen all sorts of music--especially prolific rap music that makes you want to throw something. Don't ask me why it's necessary to my life. It just is.

Rachel Schibler '20

A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Hi there! We're excited to share the newest edition of *The Muddraker* with you! Last year was emotionally charged and quite difficult for the community as a whole, but because of our Mudd family we were able to persevere and come out stronger. For this reason, our first issue of the new school year is dedicated to starting anew. We want to share stories from members of our community to highlight exactly what makes Mudd awesome; however, eight pages is not nearly enough to cover all the incredible people we interact with each day. So, we challenge you to go out and talk to new people in the greater Mudd community to fill in the pages of your own Mudd story. We look forward to sharing more stories with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Rachel and Tiffany

Zayra Lobo '18

I've been writing for *The Muddraker* since my first semester at Mudd, and I love doing it! Other things I love include robots, woodworking, dogs, filmmaking, playing guitar, and dogs.

Zoe Ryan '20

When I'm not working on problem sets and getting tutored, I enjoy overeating, playing lacrosse, making my friends go on hikes, petting other people's dogs, and talking about Colorado!

Sophia Cheng '21

I am passionate about classical music and theatre. I sometimes sing too loud in the shower. I enjoy volunteering with Red Cross, writing, playing tennis, and meditating.

Max Maleno '20

I could live solely (but not healthily) off of sushi, ice cream, and M&M's. I also love taking photos, being outdoors, the stars, and my friends. Get off campus; explore!

Aom Pongpiriyakarn '20

I love meeting new people, eating spicy food, and pulling all-nighters. I take every opportunity I get to travel.

Amelia Otto-Cutting '20

I just started writing for *The Muddraker*. While not in class or busy studying, I like being outside and participating in CMS Track and Field. This past summer, I climbed Mt. Whitney.

Tiffany Madruga '20

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The Evolution of Jhene Aiko

When Jhene Aiko first came onto my feed, I immediately fell in love with her sound. As a Kendrick and Gambino fan, I stumbled across her in 2013 with the release of her EP, “Sail Out”, on which they were both featured. Rich and soothing, Jhene’s vocals echo over rhythmic bass lines and snare drums, every word carrying its full weight. Unlike a lot of R&B today, Jhene’s lyrics are completely biographical--generally the result of her personal journal. As I began to listen to more and more of her music, inclusive of her 2011 mixtape, *Sailing Soul(s)*, and her first studio album, *Souled Out* (2014), the pieces of her story began to fall into place. Jhene is a self-proclaimed sailing soul; she’s the definition of a wanderer and her music is reflective of that.

From discussing her heartache after her brother’s death to the trials and triumphs of being a young mother, Jhene doesn’t sugarcoat any of her experiences, holding incredible range in her subject matter. One minute she’s delving into her sexual exploits on “Maniac”, the next she’s lamenting on “Pressure” about the struggle to maintain balance, and then she’s expressing her philosophical ideals about managing life’s purpose and struggles over “W.A.Y.S.” Regardless the topic, Jhene is always consistent in content. But beyond her poetic power with words, Jhene likes to push the boundaries of her genre, dabbling in intricate electronic sounds alongside a variety of orchestral additives. Some examples including the major-key oriented guitar riffs on “Spotless Mind” and the minor-chord progressions of an assortment of brass instruments at the end of “Oblivion”.



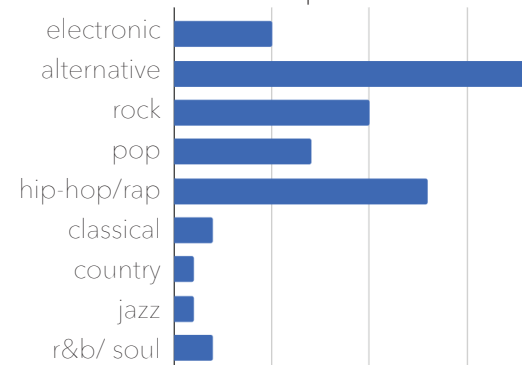
photo:
Kayla Johnson
Flickr 2015

And together, Jhene’s beautiful lyrics coupled with excellent and elaborate production, create a complete experience for listeners.

A complete experience that builds continually upon itself recursively, her past experiences--and thus her past work--bleeds through into her new pieces. So when she released her second studio album, *Trip*, on September 21, 2017, although it was an unannounced surprise, the content was anything but; it fit with all that Jhene had revealed herself to be over the years. A 22 song album, shared alongside an associated short-film and poetry book, *Trip* really lives up to its name. As a listener, you are brought along for the ride as Jhene catalogs all the emotions she’s felt since entering the world of music. From the energetic and optimistic “OLLA (Only Lover’s Left Alive)” to the bitter yet removed “Never Call Me”, Jhene’s range continues to shine through. And even if you don’t vibe with every single song, odds have it that at least one of Jhene’s plethora of emotions is bound to click with you. Filled with voiceovers and musical lulls, Jhene doesn’t just keep the album running with hard-hitting pieces; she allows the empty space to speak for itself, thus explaining how trips aren’t always excitement. There is beauty in the quiet and wonder in the calm, an inner peace that Jhene not only embraces but embodies. All in all, Jhene has definitely made her mark. Whether it’s featuring with artists like Drake or The Chainsmokers, collaborating with Big Sean to form Twenty88, or blessing our feeds with *Trip*, Jhene’s sweet and sensitive sound reigns supreme in the mellow undergrounds of the R&B scene.

What's In?

Music poll



Top 2017 Album Picks

Scan to See Your Classmates Favorites!



A Fresh(man) Look At Mudd's Musicians



photo: Mary Celestin

VARUN SINGH | VIOLINIST

I love playing my violin because it is relaxing and I can focus on one thing and not be concerned with the rest of my busy and complicated life. Playing in an orchestra is also a lot of fun because I get to be a part of an organism larger than myself and contribute to the amazing sound that we produce. Though there are many songs for the violin, it’s just impossible to get anywhere close to the range of sounds of an orchestra, and that gives all the more possibilities for music. Orchestra music is more dramatic, richer in tone, and requires me to pay attention to everyone around me to blend my sound into that of my section, but also balance the voices of sections to get the right voice and sound.



photo: Priyanka Agarwal

KATHYRN CHAN | GUITARIST

I think [the connection between music and STEM] really clicked when I got into ViHart’s videos on YouTube. She does fun math stuff, but also writes random songs (some are about math... some aren’t). Tom Lehrer is also really great — he wrote that one version of the Elements Song. They’re both mathemusicians (ViHart used that term), and I really admire them for being able to keep both math and music in their lives. And I think writing hilarious songs about math and other STEM subjects is a great way to reach people who wouldn’t normally learn some of these random sciencey facts. Knowledge can be a lot more entertaining when written well in song form.



photo: Priyanka Agarwal

TREVOR NOGUES | PIANIST

My favorite memory that involves the piano was during my cousin’s high school graduation party. I used to be very shy about playing, and would not perform in front of large audiences before this. So at some point during the party, I went into the piano room and played a song by myself. One of the waitresses heard me playing and turned on an audio system. My extended family was astonished at how well I could play, since some of them had never heard me before. This was an event that gave me a lot more confidence. In hindsight, this moment provided a huge boost of confidence that allowed me to become comfortable with performing in front of large groups.

Q&A:

We bumped into a few freshmen and seniors and asked them to answer some questions relating to their Mudd experience.

What are your thoughts on the first-chem-test rule?

A South Frosh

"If you're going to date someone, you're going to date them anyway, so I don't really think it matters."

An Anonymous Senior

"I didn't follow it ... twice. Once as a frosh and once as an upperclassman."

A North Senior

"I think it's a great rule because you shouldn't start dating someone that early -- you've only know them for a month and a half so you shouldn't start dating them because they're lost -- they still haven't found their way."

How often do you call your parents?

An Anonymous Frosh

"Whenever my parents call me."

A Sontag Senior

"Twice a week."

A North Frosh

"Every other week."

A Linde Senior

"Once a week."

What was your favorite pass/fail memory?

An East Frosh

"We all went to Jay's place to play pool and stayed up until 2 am talking about potatoes."

A South Frosh

"Jumping onto a huge pile of mattresses from second floor south during frosh prank"

An Anonymous Senior

"I don't really remember much from pass/fail. Epsilon-Delta proofs?"

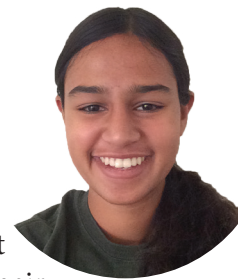
An Sontag Senior

"Inner Tube Water Polo!"

seniors.

leaving our sMUDDge: a reflection on senior year

by Zayra Lobo



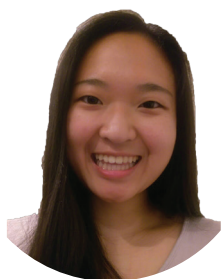
"Hey, do mine next!" My senior friends eagerly cram around my classmate, who has learned a bit about palm reading for our art class. They shove their palms towards her face, laughing about what their hands allegedly predict about their future and personality traits. Though they know better than to take the length of their life line and the size of their thumb divisions seriously, hearing some prediction about the future is comforting to a Mudd senior at this point in the school year. Many of us have no job to go to yet after graduation, and graduate school applications are still a work in progress. Having no plan for post-graduate life scares me, and I know many others who are uncomfortable with this great, unknown future too. Mudd seemed to be an unending experience that we inched our way through, but now that we are so close to the end, it feels like we're sprinting at c.

In spite of the terror that post-grad life inspires in some, many seniors have already begun interviewing for post-grad jobs, and Dean Bassman hosts a weekly graduate school workshop for those of us engineering majors who want to spend even more time in school. For the seniors who are jumping straight into a career, leisure time and real-world adult life await. "I'll probably have more free time after Mudd to do the things I want to do," commented senior Sangheetha Naidu, a Computer Science major with dreams of moving to New York to start her illustrious coding career. Nonetheless, adult life also means no Mudd dining hall to rely on for food, lots of bills to attend to, more living space to clean, and more money to manage. Mudd students who will attend grad school next fall will also face some aspects of adult life, though they will probably not have the benefit of bountiful leisure time. I know seniors from almost every major who are applying to grad school, so there are plenty of people to swap personal statement tips and cram for the GRE with.

Because the future of most Mudd seniors is still uncertain, nostalgia has become even more comforting. Though we have much to still look forward to in life, there are many aspects of Mudd life that we seniors will miss. "It's nice being in dorms with people," reflects senior Nancy Wei, a fellow engineering major hoping to have a job working with digital and electrical systems next year. Residential life is a treasured part of our time at Mudd, and we will probably never live with all of our classmates and friends again. Though I do not identify as a "party person", I will actually miss the blaring music from North and West, and I hope post-grad life doesn't get too lonely without all of my friends a few footsteps outside of my door. Nancy also notes that being Mudd students granted us access to a wide variety of classes, teaching us everything from engineering and biology to photography and geocaching. "I'll miss free access to a library with a lot of good non-fiction books," adds Sangheetha, commenting on a resource that Mudd students use for literature review for papers, research for essays, and, for those who have time, leisure reading.

With our last first semester of Mudd about halfway complete, I wish I could freeze time but also know what the future holds. Clearly, I have mixed feelings about the precipice before us, but some, like senior Varsha Kishore, have stronger, more certain feelings: "I'm going to miss everything! I don't want to graduate!" Regardless of such feelings, graduation will continue to charge towards us like a length-contracting rhinoceros, so we have to make the most of the time we have left here. I hope we all take advantage of these last few classes, make time to be with our friends, eat our last quiches, and say our last "what's up what's ups" (only at Mudd can you have such inside jokes for an entire class). This is it, Class of 2018.

Make it count.



a new family: meeting the class of 2021

by Sophia Cheng

As I sat down in the lounge with aching muscles half expecting my mom to pick me up from this fieldtrip-like first day at Mudd, it was then that I realized that I would not be going home. At least not on the first night.

Long before coming to Mudd, many of us had envisioned what life at Mudd would entail. From the congratulatory pre-orientation emails to the gong that welcomed us as we first arrived on campus, we hunted for clues to convince ourselves that Mudd would be our new home. For me, the sense of belonging settled in instantly starting from the moment I took a hot shower after my orientation adventure and climbed onto my lofted bed. Apparently the contrast between the dorm mattress and the sleeping bag that I had slept in the night before was all that was needed to subside my homesickness.

As the days went by, my classmates also began to unveil their talents. They shared their wide-ranging abilities such as beatboxing and chugging down a bottle of water in less than 3 seconds. Not only did Mudd connect these talented frosh, it also reunited long-lost best friends - several frosh from Seattle have found their elementary school friends at Mudd. Mudders who come from different corners of the world have also found friends and camaraderie here. Rakia Segev, a well-traveled international frosh, shared that her favorite part about Mudd is "the supportive environment" and "people's willingness to work together." There are always groups of Mudders solving problems together somewhere on campus. Their eagerness to learn and build is omnipresent: you can always find a group having a lunchtime discussion about a way to prove, for example, how every surface at Mudd has been used for one particular activity, or bedtime questions about special relativity, or dorm tables having a stacking-the-table-tents competition at Hoch.

Through these discussions and activities, we began to see where we fit in. Alice Chi from California came together with a group of friends who are passionate about drawing to take on the Inktober challenge everyday in October. Autumn Herness from Wisconsin decided to join the rugby team, and she was pleasantly surprised to find how she was able to become friends with everyone the minute she met them, or as Autumn put it: "You just know that you belong there."

Mudd is such a quirky community that you can't help but fall in love with it. These engineers, mathematicians, and scientists of the class of 2021 have more in store for Mudd and for each other waiting to be shared in the next few years.

seniors vs frosh

@hmc

COMPARING THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

1. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS AS A PASS/FAIL FROSH?

Over half of both seniors and freshman said that Computer Science was their favorite class, followed by Special Relativity.

2. WHAT WAS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE CLASS?

FROSH

FROSH CHEM

WRIT 1

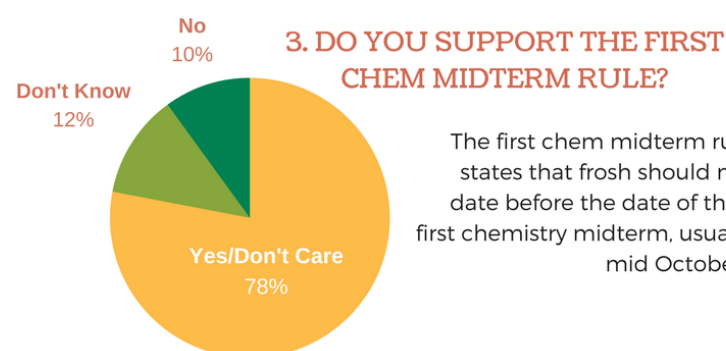
CHEM LAB

SENIORS

1 WRIT 1

2 PHYSICS LAB

3 FROSH CHEM



4. WHERE TO EAT AT THE 5CS?

FROSH

HOCH (HMC)

MCCONNELL (PZ)

FRANK (POM)

SENIORS

1 MCCONNELL (PZ)

2 HOCH (HMC)

3 MALOTT (SC)

advice to freshmen:

do...

get to know people in other dorms

It's easy to stay involved with the people closest to you, but you never know if your soulmate or best friend is out there and you just haven't met them yet. And it's always better to widen your horizons.

be extra friendly with the staff members

Get to know your dorm attendants who are among the nicest, hardworking, and caring people on this campus. Also say hi and get to know the baristas at the cafe, Jay's Place, and the chefs at the Hoch, you never know who can sneak you an extra serving of avocado or whose day you might brighten.

don't...

stay in on Saturday night to do homework

Don't forget the life in work-life-balance. It'll be worth your time to go out, play some games, eat some snacks, hang out with friends, watch a movie, and take a break! These college years will go by faster than you think, and the most memorable moments will not be those two hours you spent on a problem set.

be afraid to talk to upperclassmen about anything

It's more than a 100% likely that they've gone through the same shit, and are more than eager to talk to you about literally anything.

sincerely,
a senior

SO MANY CLUBS, SO MUCH FOOD

by Amelia Otto Cutting



During the second week of school, the Harvey Mudd College club fair introduced students to different opportunities all over campus. With clubs ranging from outdoor adventure to combat robotics, there is something for everyone. Especially if you are a fan of food; there are many different clubs catering to your exact taste. The Muddraker staff caught up with the presidents of five different food clubs to figure out why there are so many, and when they all started. Some food clubs, such as the Cheese Club, have been on campus for a while. “[Cheese Club] started exactly 7 years ago because the Cheese Cave, where we get all of our cheese from, opened,” said Senior Kimberly Joly, one of the three co-presidents of the Cheese Club.

Two years ago, beerSHMC was started. One of the founders and the current president, Senior Moira Dillon, said that “Patrick Scalise (the other founder) and I are very intrigued by the process of how beer is made. We wanted to share our interest and love for beer with others.” Since beerSHMC serves beer, an alcoholic beverage, members pay dues so that the club can get a variety for people to taste.

Last fall, both the Ice Cream Club and the Chocolate Society started. Senior Isabel King, co-president of the Chocolate Society said that the club was started because “who doesn’t want chocolate?” Beyond that, “it improves the quality of everyone’s day for a few minutes.” Senior Jacey Conniff, president and co-founder of the Ice Cream Club, started the club because there are “many cool places in and around LA... to try different kinds of ice cream. So we decided to start Ice Cream Club so that we could taste more of them!”



Photo printed with permission by Kim Tran

Even just this year, more clubs are being made. Along with beerSHMC, Dillon is also a co-founder (along with Sophomore Isaac Zinda) and co-president of KombuchaSHMC. “Isaac Zinda and I co-founded KombuchaSHMC because we both absolutely love kombucha,” said Dillon. “We started the club so that we could share or appreciation of kombucha with others.”



Photograph by Tiffany Madruga

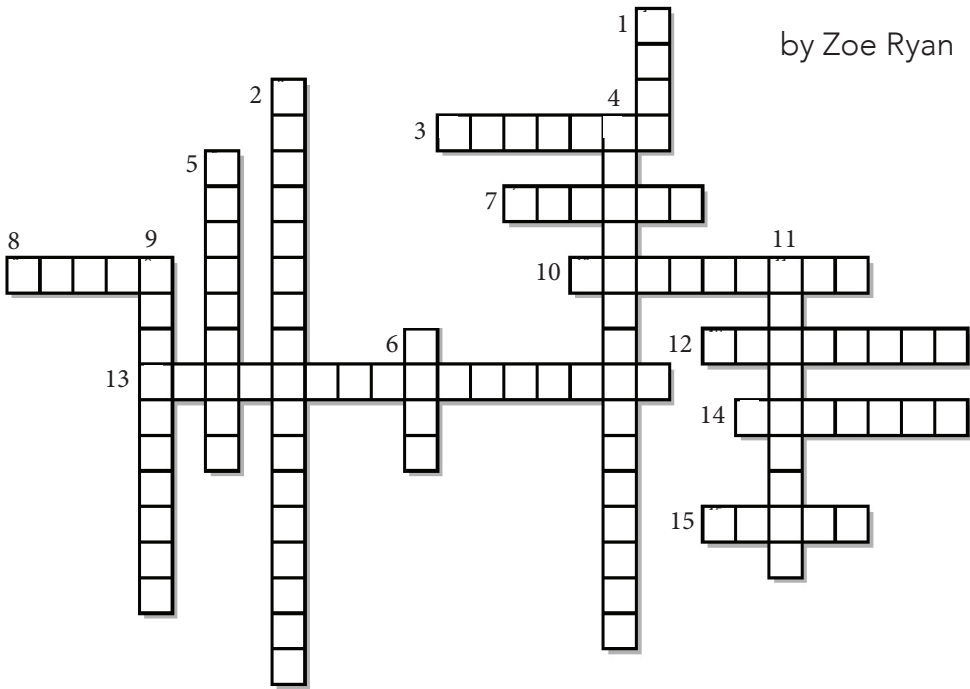
With membership numbers in the hundreds (over three hundred for both Cheese Club and the Chocolate Society), many students are members of food clubs. But, very few of the members on the mailing lists actually come to meetings. “Forty people show up to the meetings,” King said.

“Three hundred and twenty five people are on the mailing list.”

If you are interested in joining a food club, check out the ones that are already on campus. If you are passionate about a food that currently does not have a dedicated food club, feel free to start your own!

CROSSWORD: How well do you know Harvey Mudd College?

by Zoe Ryan



DOWN:

- 1 This subject area requires you to take 6 rigorous core classes in three semesters.
- 2 This introductory class uses Rhinoceroses and exploding stars to makes you question everything you thought you knew about space and time.
- 4 This major went from graduating a class of 15% women in 2005 to graduating a class 55% women in the year 2017.
- 5 This late night hang out spot helps Mudders fuel their late night studying.
- 6 The unofficial mascot of HMC is Wally the _____.
- 9 “Harvey Mudd College seeks to educate engineers, scientists and mathematicians well versed in all of these areas and in the _____ and social sciences ...”
- 11 This fosters a community where students are trusted to take tests in their room and access academic buildings at all hours.

ACROSS:

- 3 In 1986 Mudders hijacked a canon from this college.
- 7 In E4, prospective engineering majors are put to the test by having to build this tool.
- 8 The northernmost inner dorm.
- 10 This student led group hosts the annual crib races.
- 12 This professor performs as a “mathemagician” and gave a TED talk that has over 8 million views.
- 13 Lots of Mudders will receive one of these after failing a test.
- 14 These dedicated students help grade and tutor for computer science classes.
- 15 This computer science professor specializes in computer vision for robotics and has a 5.0 star rating on ratemyprofessor.com



MUDD LIBS

A FISHY HONOR BOARD CASE

_____ (Person’s Name) drank from the _____ (posse-
sive animal) _____ (body of water) with a _____ (noun) in front of
_____ (famous person), and then self-reported because they felt they
had set a _____ (adjective) example of conduct.

Fall Athletics: *Just-in* A Minute

*Catching up with soccer-star
Justin Gadalla '20*

Story and photos by Max Maleno '20





Hometown: San Diego, CA
Major: Computer Science
Dorm: North
Position: Striker

Fast Facts

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO PLAYING SOCCER? DID OTHER SPORTS PIQUE YOUR INTEREST GROWING UP?

“I started out playing soccer when I was about 3 years old, just in a little rec league in San Diego, nothing too competitive. I began playing competitive club soccer around age 8, and continued to do so all the way through high school. During middle school and high school I also ran cross country and track and field.”

THAT’S A LONG TIME TO BE PLAYING - ANY NOTABLE INJURIES?

“Thankfully no notable injuries.” [knocks on wood]

DID YOU HAVE ANY ATHLETIC IDOLS GROWING UP? HAS YOUR IDOL CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

“One huge idol I had growing up was my sister. She’s five years older than I am, and has played soccer from a young age as well. I remember always going to watch her soccer games and wanting to be as good at soccer as she was. Although she no longer plays soccer, she continues to be an idol for me today.”

HOW DID YOU REALIZE THAT YOU WANTED TO PLAY COLLEGE BALL? WHAT WAS THAT PROCESS LIKE?

“I knew I wanted to play college soccer probably since I knew what college was. [laughs] I loved soccer so much as a kid and never gave any thought to a time when I wouldn’t be playing it so I guess college ball was always assumed, not to be cocky though like obviously I knew I had to work super hard to get there.”

YOU PLAY STRIKER FOR CMS NOW - HAVE YOU ALWAYS PLAYED THIS POSITION?

“I’ve actually alternated a lot between playing striker and center mid throughout my career, and consider myself no stranger to either one.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT WITH THE STAGS SO FAR?

“Probably the first time I met all the people I would soon be able to call my family.”



HOW IS IT NOW THAT THERE ARE MORE MUDDERS ON THE TEAM?

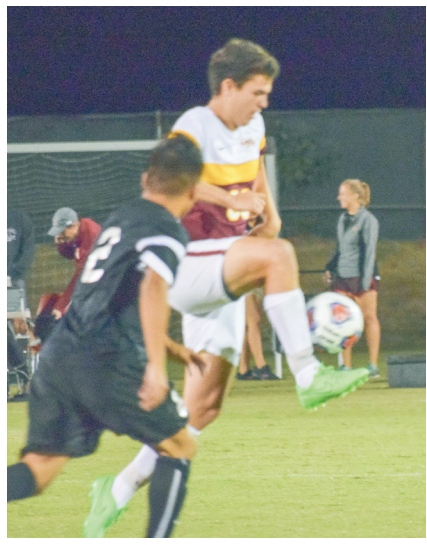
“Honestly I love it. Our coach has always been super active in recruiting highly academic people, and the fact that the college itself is allowing more athletes to be accepted is phenomenal. I really feel it brings a new element of diversity to the team, which has been largely dominated by a CMC-centric culture.”

DURING THE FALL SEASON, HOW DO YOU MANAGE MULTIPLE HOURS OF SOCCER A DAY AND NEVER-ENDING HOMEWORK?

“It’s a struggle sometimes. From day one there is no real time to adjust. You are just thrown into the thick of things, expected to balance it all. You get used to it though. You find a pattern of when to do work and you stick to it. Probably the most difficult times are during midterms when you have to balance everything on top of studying for midterms.”

HOW DOES THE SPRING SEMESTER COMPARE WITH THE FALL SEMESTER? WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT LIKE OFF-SEASON?

“Honestly there isn’t that much of a difference between spring and fall seasons. We train everyday still, albeit on our own rather than with our coach, it’s just more relaxed and we have slightly more free time, although it doesn’t feel like it sometimes with the Mudd workload. We’re still expected to be as committed to the program in the off season as we are in season.”



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS? DO YOU SEE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN YOUR EXPERIENCES IN CLASS AND ON THE FIELD?

“Definitely anything CS related. I do see some similarities in the two, especially in regards to the way you think about things. Soccer requires you to think outside of the box a lot, to analyze a situation and create a way to accomplish what you want to accomplish, similar to the way you would create a program. There is no one right way to create a program, just like there is no one right way to play soccer, which is one reason I love soccer and CS.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOCH [MUDD DINING HALL] MEAL? ANY OFF-CAMPUS MEALS THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND?

“Best Hoch meal would have to be wet burrito night on Sundays. Would also highly highly recommend wing Wednesday at Pitzer.”

IF YOU WERE ANYONE IN THE WORLD FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD YOU BE AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

“Anyone not at Mudd, so that I might get a respite from problem sets.”

Be sure to check out the Muddraker website, Facebook, and Instagram for more sports features in the future!

System.out.println("PROFiles: Professor Dodds");

by Amelia Otto Cutting

Professor Zachary Dodds is a professor of Computer Science (CS) at Harvey Mudd College. He specializes in Computer Science education and curriculum design, along with computer vision for robots. Around the campus, he is known for teaching a high energy intro to CS class and loving Starbucks coffee.



Prof. Dodds holding Picobot (left) and the three-eyed alien (right) photographed by Thomas Martinez.

However, Professor Dodds, one of the most well known professors across the 5C's did not plan on teaching at the collegiate level...

"I wanted to be a high school teacher, and I taught math for a couple of years. After a couple of years my position evaporated, which is sort of a euphemism for saying I was no longer employed. So I was at a crossroads, so I was like 'what am I going to do?' So I applied to graduate school both in math, which is the field I identify with, and computer science because as a high school teacher I was volun-told (which is parallel to volunteer) to teach a computer science class, which I had never done before. But I really enjoyed it and enjoyed working with the students in it. So I was like 'ah, I'll just apply to grad school in math and CS,' and the decision was made for me, because the math schools all said no and the CS schools said yes."

Like many high school students, Prof. Dodds worked the luxurious, or as Dodds says, "really important," job of a camp counselor...

"I very much value my experience as a camp counselor. I remember starkly the realization, I was probably 16 or 17, in that transition from being a camper to being a counselor, and I had really enjoyed the camp as a camper, and being a counselor was like walking behind the curtain on a stage and realizing that no one really knows what's going on on the other side of the curtain. All of the stuff you thought was well organized and enjoyable, it was enjoyable, but it was not well organized. In fact, organized is a word that shouldn't even be used. So, that experience was very formative. It forced me to, the extent that I can, embrace that it is not always as organized as it can be. And 'it' is basically everything."



Photographed by Thomas Martinez. Visit our website to watch an online exclusive video of Prof. Dodds' office tour.

Prof. Dodds always tries to memorize all of his students' names, which may sound like an easy feat until you realize he teaches around 500 students per semester...

"I just try, and try and try and try. I make it a goal to make sure I know everyone by Fall Break, which I usually do. And then Fall Break comes and I forget half of them. It's very depressing for me. So I just, through the article, want to thank everyone for their patience and forbearance, as I call them the wrong name anytime."

Each of Prof. Dodds' lectures contains a plethora of three-eyed aliens (pictured left)...

"The three-eyed alien is actually an evolutionary mutation from Prof. Ran's one-eyed alien.* That was the original alien, to the best of my knowledge, although it could have come from one of Prof. Ran's predecessors in the department like Prof. Mike may have had his own alien that is lost to us. However, I remember arriving at Mudd and Prof. Ran was very generous and said 'oh yeah, use all of my materials' and I really liked the one-eyed alien. But I felt bad taking the one-eyed alien, so I created a sibling alien which is the three-eyed alien."

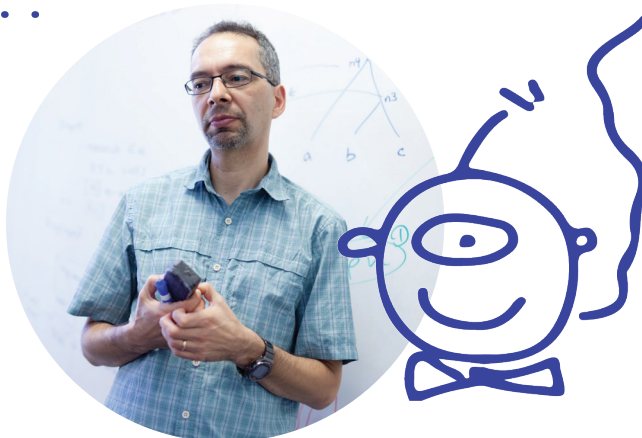
His lectures also contain references to Pop-Tarts, SPAM, and the number 42...

"Those are just long term favorites of mine. Mostly the Pop-Tarts. The SPAM and 42 were already in the departmental identity. In fact, 42 seems to be more than just a departmental identity, it may even be Mudd. Maybe it's the department, maybe it's Mudd. But it is true that I've always loved Pop-Tarts, so I feel like I can add something to the department."

*Behind the alien...

Every Computer Science student at Mudd is familiar with an alien, each with varying number of eyes, that pops up from time to time to assist with lecture concepts. The Mud-draker Staff reached out to Professor Ran Libeskind-Hadas, who kindly provided us with an excerpt on its history:

"In the mid-1990's I was teaching a computer graphics course and I decided to teach the material as if we were building a video game. That is, all of the material was motivated by features in this mythical game. I called the game 'Attack of the One-Eyed Smiling Aliens' and I had this alien icon in my slides (I was using overhead transpar-



Photograph (above right) printed with permission by Ran Libeskind-Hadas

ency slides in those days!).

The next semester, I was teaching two other courses and students asked why the alien wasn't in those course slides. So, pretty soon, the one-eyed alien permeated its way into all of my courses. When

Prof. Dodds and I started teaching the new version of CS 5, that course got its own aliens - CS 5 'Gold' (the section that Prof. Dodds teaches) got the adorable 3-eyed alien. CS 5 'Black' (the section that Prof. Kuenning and I teach) got a 5-eyed alien."