

# RAMP ED

## Director's Message

I hope that everyone has had a productive and positive quarter. As usual, we have been busy and are looking forward to spring break to recharge for spring quarter.

We congratulate RAMP tutor/peer mentor, Anne Isidro in receiving the Foundation's Norman J. Priest Scholarship! She was presented with the scholarship along with three other Foundation student staff on February 29<sup>th</sup> in President Coley's office. Anne is deserving of the scholarship because of her commitment to assisting her peers in being successful.

I want to highlight that in this edition of the RAMP Ed Newsletter, you will read an article about the peer mentoring offered through RAMP. Peer mentoring in RAMP is two-fold. For several years, we have offered group peer mentoring workshops, which allows us to focus on two specific topics per quarter. Winter quarter, we piloted one-on-one peer mentoring sessions, which allow for a more in-depth and individualized discussion in several pre-determined areas including academic, career, and personal. RAMP's services provide opportunities for formal and informal "coaching" or mentoring to occur as well as influence the development of non-cognitive factors (such as motivation and

perseverance), which have been identified as important skills for college and future success. Coaching students to have an academic growth mindset, acquire better study skills, and identify additional academic resources on campus can positively influence their academic preparation and outcomes. It can also provide the external stimuli, often needed to "nudge" students to complete tasks related to their courses and academic success. Finally, coaching is a method of reaching out to students in an attempt to eliminate their perceived feelings of not belonging on campus.

Looking forward to graduation, we will celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and are working on identifying participants who will graduate in 2016 (winter, spring, or fall). If you are a RAMP participant and are graduating in 2016, please email us at [ramp@cpp.edu](mailto:ramp@cpp.edu) so we can add you to the invitation list!

## WINTER 2016



Students attend the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Unity Luncheon thanks to a generous donation from Foundation and Academic Programs

3



LRC announces online tutoring available immediately through Blackboard student accounts

4



Robert Matranga, former RAMP Advisor, shares his journey from Cal Poly to Cooksey Law Firm at the Winter RAMP Professional Spotlight

5



Student Spotlight features RAMP participants Kimberly Herrera and Ryan Kao

7

*"A book is a device to ignite the imagination" – Alan Bennett*

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## Tutor Spotlight: Anne Isidro

In the fall of 2014, Anne Isidro joined the RAMP family after transferring from Mt. San Jacinto College. Before applying for RAMP's tutor/peer mentor position at Cal Poly Pomona, Anne had experience as a tutor and Supplemental Instruction Leader. Anne stated, "I thought RAMP was an excellent setting for me to continue growing as a tutor and mentor to other students." Reflecting on her experience with RAMP, Anne noted that everyday is a learning experience for her. "I learn to be a better tutor, mentor, and individual from my tutees, and I love that I get to invest in them whatever knowledge I have that could help with their college career," she stated.

Anne is involved in several clubs and organizations on campus. To name a few, she is involved in the Kinesiology and Health Promotion Club, Cal Poly CRU, and the Library Club. She also spent some time working with pre-college programs like Upward Bound and found her summer experience with the program rewarding. "Last summer, I worked as a residential advisor for Upward Bound and I thoroughly enjoyed it!" said Anne. Anne's multitude of campus activities reflects her devotion to the Cal Poly Pomona community. When asked about her favorite thing about CPP, she responded, "I love our 'learn by doing' philosophy. Almost all of my classes integrate hands on or practical applications of the theories and concepts we are learning, and I truly value that because, even though Kinesiology is mostly one of the non-terminal majors, I still have the confidence of having knowledge of and experience with clinical applications to a certain degree." Considering CPP's "learn by doing" philosophy, Anne plans on using her hands on experience to pursue a Master's in Occupational Therapy with a focus on pediatric therapy or hippotherapy.

Aside from Anne's current involvement on

campus, she also enjoys spending her time reading. When asked if she could be any character in a book, she elects her childhood favorite, Nancy Drew. "She was my whole entire childhood and up to this day, I am still so fascinated by her keenness and overall character," replied Anne.



*Anne Isidro receives the Norman J. Priest Scholarship*



*Photo Credit: Lily Ly, CPP Foundation*



*Danielle Labrado, Jesus Fimbres, Brianna Villanueva, Deandra Boentaran, Melissa Ugalde, Elsabete Kebede, Peter Muhumuza, and Michelle Alarcon*

## RAMP Participants Attend Unity Luncheon

RAMP staff and eight participants had the honor of attending the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Cal Poly Pomona Unity Luncheon on February 11. Hosted by the Black Faculty and Staff Association, the event promoted diversity on campus and honored students and faculty who have been exemplars in promoting inclusiveness and tolerance.

The event commenced with lunch and included a soul food inspired menu of fried chicken, collard greens, and cornbread. While the guests ate, they were entertained by the rhythmic melodies of “Dope by Design,” a jazz trio that set the festive tone of the event with their covers of several incredible songs. An African-inspired drum and dance ensemble unleashed an incredible display of sound and movement that had the audience mesmerized, clapping along to the beat.

The keynote speaker was Wenonah Valentine, Executive Director of iDREAM for Racial Health Equity. iDREAM is an organization dedicated to the empowerment of a cadre of leaders working towards the elimination of health disparities in

maternal health. The central message to the audience stressed the importance of developing resilience and vision in leadership.

Through a generous donation provided by Foundation and Academic Programs, RAMP was able to sponsor several students to attend the event to support the promotion of diversity and inclusion on campus among students, staff, and faculty. Melissa Ugalde, a RAMP attendee, said she “appreciated seeing so many friends from the Cultural Centers recognized for their hard work and involvement to make Cal Poly a more inclusive campus. It got me thinking about what I can do to better CPP and raise awareness.”

Another RAMP student in attendance, Jesus Fimbres, remarked how the event made him realize that, “the celebration of diversity is vital to receiving a quality education here at Cal Poly.” Moreover, Jesus was, “deeply moved by the programs that are opening

doors for low-income, non-traditional, and first-generation college students.”

RAMP participant, Danielle Labrado reflected that she “enjoyed the musical and dance performances as well as the food.” Danielle also felt connected to the long tradition of excellence by being able to experience an event that has occurred at Cal Poly for the past 24 years. She stated, “the Unity Luncheon shows how committed the university is to celebrating diversity and unity.”

Those in attendance left the luncheon inspired by the acts of the “Diversity Champions,” award recipients who gave their valuable time to make sure that our campus is more inclusive. Whether it was students speaking up for the rights of undocumented students, or staff members making sure the LGBTQ community felt welcomed on campus, the Diversity Champions helped improve access and support for diverse opinions and ideas, thereby adding to the overall value of the college experience.

The wealth of diversity at Cal Poly Pomona no doubt contributes to the development and cultivation of students who are culturally competent by fostering an understanding of those with different experiences, and helping students become better equipped to meet the demands of a diverse world in their future career endeavors.

### RAMP Tutors/Peer Mentors

Anne Isidro  
Jasmine Martinez  
Wayne Page  
Erica Rodriguez  
Sara Ramnath  
Oscar Rios  
Rachel Walker  
Ramon Yanez

## LRC Corner: Online Tutoring

By Cynthia Greco, Bronco Tutoring Coordinator

You may be aware that the LRC offers online tutoring to all Cal Poly students through Blackboard. But what you may not be aware of is that it is now immediately available to you in your Blackboard account!

You can access this service by logging in to Blackboard. You will see “LRC Online Tutoring” in your organizations. This is a free service for any Cal Poly student who needs assistance with a course-specific question or a writing assignment. Online tutoring is monitored during regular business hours in order to reduce the turnaround time you can expect for responses.

You should always attempt your homework first before submitting your questions or assignments. If you can upload a file or a screenshot of your work, your tutor can more easily determine how best to assist you.

Since our tutors have been trained to NOT do your homework for you, they will instead assist you by using a similar problem to the one you have questions on or walk you through concepts that you may be confused about.

Additionally, our LRC tutors have worked to create a library of FAQs. These are handouts created to guide students through areas or concepts that our tutors have noticed are common stumbling blocks for students. These are a valuable resource for you. If you have any suggestions for a future FAQ, please email the LRC at [lrc@cpp.edu](mailto:lrc@cpp.edu).

Finally, LRC staff members are working to update and improve the existing Blackboard Organization to be more user-friendly, and to provide synchronous (i.e. “live”) online tutoring, as well. Stay tuned!

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## Professional Spotlight: Robert Matranga

For the Winter Professional Spotlight on February 16th, RAMP had the honor of welcoming back one of its own, Robert Matranga. He spoke about his growth as a student, professional, and mentor. After 14 years with RAMP as a tutor and later an advisor, Matranga moved on to another stage in his professional career by becoming a lawyer at the Cooksey, Toolen, Gage, Duffy & Woog law firm. Matranga gave a touching biography of transformation from a disinterested high school student, to an accomplished professional and scholar.

Matranga displayed many of the qualities that made him such an effective advisor in the RAMP program. His humor and willingness to be open about his mistakes allowed the audience to relate to him. Matranga spoke of his inability to do the extra things that were required to excel in high school. He simply did not apply himself when it came to homework or meeting expectations on his assignments. In his words, he was “going with the flow” and doing the minimum required to get by. However, his saving grace was his inherent love for reading and the beauty of language. Although he would often skip assigned readings, he always took pleasure in reading on a wide variety of topics that peaked his interest. Reading for enjoyment improved his linguistic and comprehension skills, allowing him to score high enough on standardized tests to gain entrance to Cal Poly Pomona.

Upon entering college, Matranga still clung to the habits that plagued him as a high school student. He often missed classes and assignments during his first year at Cal Poly. Initially, he was a computer science major. However, Matranga’s confusion with the computer science course influenced his ability to complete assignments, resulting in a failing grade for the quarter.



Academic probation ensued and he was disqualified from the university. It was at this moment where Matranga showed tremendous courage in revealing to the audience his transcripts from his freshman year in college. It was littered with D’s and F’s. His willingness to share such a vulnerable time in his life made an incredibly powerful point. Although receiving bad grades can be a disorienting and overwhelming experience and can often lead to a loss in confidence, Matranga demonstrated that one could rebound from early academic setbacks.

This unintended crisis provided the inspiration to explore other fields of study. He started taking English classes, received several A’s, and discovered that he could possibly transform his passion for reading, writing, and grammar into a new major and future career. Matranga used this opportunity to impart a lesson to the students. Sometimes the script we have written for ourselves has to be altered and we cannot be hard on ourselves if those original plans do not work out. College is an exercise in self-discovery: an opportunity to understand our weaknesses and uncover strengths we may have previously been unaware of. Matranga shared that the ability to overcome his shortcomings by discovering his passion and



strengths can be applied to others in similar circumstances.

Another theme weaved throughout Matranga's speech was the importance of surrounding yourself with mentors, colleagues, family, and friends that provide motivation, support, and guidance. Matranga's wife and children provided the motivation to pursue the second phase of his career in law, and mentors and friends at the Learning Resource Center provided an atmosphere of growth and support needed to persevere through the rigors of law school while still working full time.

Finally, Matranga stressed the importance of always being cognizant of your current position. Whether an employee, tutor, or student, there is always the opportunity to audition for the next phase of your professional career. One never knows who is watching and every interaction is a possible chance to extend your networking circle.



*RAMP Participants and Tutors at Winter 2016 Professional Spotlight*

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## Student Spotlight: Kimberly Herrera

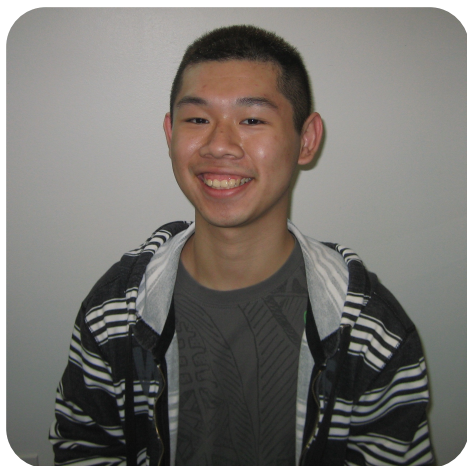


Kimberly Herrera, RAMP participant since fall 2012, is a senior pursuing her undergraduate degree in Chemistry with an emphasis in Biochemistry. When asked why she chose her major, she recalled that she really enjoyed the subject in high school and now, as a college student, “the courses are more complex than what I had expected, but it is still a subject that I really enjoy.”

As a participant in RAMP, she was able to use graduate test preparation services in the MCAT from veteran tutor, Michael Zhou, a current Ohio State University medical student. She stated, “RAMP has allowed me to get insight on how to approach the MCAT. I met a lot of great people in this program.” Kimberly extends her gracious compliments of RAMP by adding, “the staff here are super welcoming and helpful, to the point where I go to them for advising on an academic and personal level.”

In addition to her participation in RAMP, Kimberly participates in Science Education Enhancement Services (SEES), which she notes, “has also been a great help throughout my college experience.” Kimberly also works part-time as a chemistry tutor with Bronco Tutoring, where she shares her knowledge with students pursuing a similar field of study. During her free time, Kimberly enjoys hiking, volunteer work in the emergency room, and hanging out with friends and family.

## Student Spotlight: Ryan Kao



### *The Obscure Reflection*

Life is often viewed as a two-way mirror where we envision our future from the past and reflect on our past from the future. Trapped between the past and the future, we live in the time prison that we constructed, facing directly at our past and future self.

In the past, I always thought my decision to be a mathematics major had originated from my past experiences and future goals, but I began to doubt such notions when I noticed the inadequacy in my motivation. I reflected on why I am a

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mathematics major, and I realized I see mathematics as my annoying best friend. Together, we joke about the numbers and operations and see the world as structures and patterns. Often, we fight and argue with each other because mathematics can be quite stubborn sometimes; however, we speak truly to each other through the secret language. Through this journey, we have begun to understand each other deeply and meaningfully. In the eyes of mathematics, I see the reflection of myself with unlimited possibilities. Fascinated, I am deeply attracted to the beauty of mathematics.

It was not until my participation in RAMP that I discovered my sleeping beauty, musicals. In RAMP, I had the honor to attend *Pippin* and *Wicked*, which began my journey of enjoying musicals. I am deeply in love with the story that every single music note expresses. I can feel the change in emotion as the song changes. I still remember my favorite lyric from *Wicked*, "It's time to try defying in gravity! I think I'll try defying gravity. And you can't pull me down!" The discovery of my passion in musicals has expanded my cultural experience. The RAMP staff and tutors have served as my mentors by providing me with the guidance that I need. My memorable moments in RAMP are exploring current events and discussing philosophical perspectives with my tutors. My participation in RAMP has helped me discover different latent aspects about myself.

The mentorship at Cal Poly Pomona is a valuable treasure for students, which can be formed between students and professors, departments, staff, and other members. As students, we are constantly being mentored about life, academic, career, major, and much more. We are often unaware of the power of this mentorship in our lives since we are benefiting from it at every moment. This mentorship creates a strong and unique personal connection with Cal Poly members. In addition, we provide unconditional support

for each other. We become friends that listen to problems, provide necessary help, assist one another to grow, and offer encouragement to reach our goals. The mentorship and personal connections build the foundation of Cal Poly.

Challenging my limitations, I joined the McNair Scholars Program. I never imagined myself as a researcher that conducts interdisciplinary research. Under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer Switkes, I am being trained in mathematical modeling and analysis, in which I have acquired essential research skills not readily available to students. By integrating social sciences and mathematical biological modeling, we focus on the exploration of human behaviors in terms of epidemiological concepts. Our research contains pioneering concepts drawing similarities between human behaviors and biological diseases in terms of epidemics. This research continues to feed my curiosity in human behaviors. As a McNair Scholar, I see myself more than just a student; I see myself as a researcher.

As a college freshman, I had believed college was only for academic learning. After three years, I slowly recognized other opportunities that college provides, such as self-exploration and development. Others always told me that STEM majors do not like and understand humanities. As a result, I internalized this false stereotype and delayed my passion in ethnic studies and philosophy. I would not have developed my interest in humanities if I had continued to limit myself to STEM classes. By integrating mathematics and humanities, I see the profound importance of interdisciplinary studies. By challenging my self-limitations, I live beyond my imagination.

By shattering the obscure reflection of limitations on our self, for once in our life, we can be free from our past and future. Free to become who we want to be. Free from our reflections.



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## Financial Aid & Literacy Workshops

The winter Financial Aid and Literacy Series included several impactful workshops designed to increase the financial competency of students and promote awareness of funding options for their academic careers.

In our first workshop, *FAFSA/California Dream Act Renewal*, the renewal process was reviewed, including how to retrieve tax information from the IRS and important financial aid deadlines. *How to Keep Your Financial Aid* workshops educated students on avoiding the mistakes that can lead to a revocation of their financial aid, such as not maintaining satisfactory academic progress.

In the workshop, *Where Does My Money Go? Paychecks and Taxes*, Joy Tafarella from the Cal Poly Federal Credit Union helped students analyze the various deductions taken out of their paychecks. Tafarella also discussed how to properly fill out a W-4 as a new employee, and the difference between gross and net pay.

In weeks 4 and 8, Marcia Starcher and Dalia Garcia co-presented the workshop, *Exploring Scholarships*. Scholarship specialists from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Starcher and Garcia detailed several strategies to ensure students maximized their chances of gaining scholarship aid. Students were even able to analyze and critique actual scholarship essays submitted to their office, fostering a clearer understanding of what constituted an effective response. RAMP advisor Lauren Sumabat led the workshop, *Writing Killer Scholarship Essays*, during week 5. Students learned how to craft competitive and compelling scholarship essays that would stand out from other applicants.

## Reaching Students via Remind



RAMP staff often strategizes the most effective method for communicating with participants and keeping them up to date on RAMP events. Students are emailed a RAMP Weekly Update (similar to PolyUpdates), which includes a week or two worth of information, including announcements and events.

However, in an effort to reach the students immediately, RAMP set up a Remind (formerly *Remind 101*) account. Remind was founded in 2011 and “is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps teachers share important updates and reminders with students & parents.” Although the service is geared towards teachers with classes, we were able to adapt it to the program. Students can subscribe via email, text, or the Remind app. No phone numbers or private information is shared. Remind also includes a chat feature, which enables us to communicate with a specific student via text and they with us. This feature has enabled quick communication via text without using personal mobile numbers.

In 2013-14, only twenty (20) participants subscribed to receive text messages. The following year, we saw an increase in subscriptions to about 56 students. Now, we have 94 individuals enrolled to receive text messages. Generally, text messages are sent out the morning of a RAMP event to remind

students of the event. One student stated, “I like getting text messages from you guys. It’s helpful to get the reminders.”

Students are invited to subscribe to RAMP’s Remind texting account when applying to the program. If they choose not to do so at the time, they are given a flyer with instructions on how to subscribe. Students can unsubscribe from the account at any time.

## Reaching Students Via Peer Mentoring

RAMP tutors/peer mentors presented on two group peer mentoring topics during weeks 5-8. *Why Go to Graduate School* explored the benefits and financial drawbacks of graduate school. Topics covered included funding, choosing the right program to fit your needs, types of advanced degrees offered, and the cost/benefit analysis of accruing more debt in going to graduate school.

Our second peer mentoring topic, *Graduation Planning and Semester Conversion*, familiarized students with the impacts of semester conversion on scheduling, curriculum, and graduation timelines. Most importantly, students were imparted strategies that would allow them to graduate prior to the semester conversion, which will take place in fall 2018.

RAMP peer mentor, Erica Rodriguez, shares her perspective on group peer mentoring. “There are many topics that are imperative for university students to understand, but sadly do not. Things like: organization, summer opportunities, planning a proper curriculum for prompt graduation, basic knowledge of graduate school, and so much more. I feel that Group Peer Mentoring has many benefits, particularly that tutees have the opportunity to learn more about a topic crucial to academic success in a non-threatening group environment.”

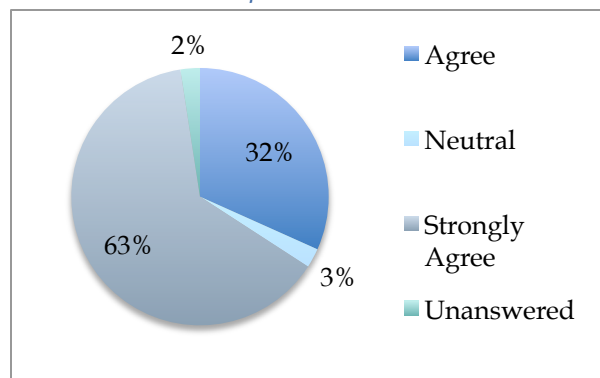
A one on one peer mentoring component with

our returning students was also piloted during Winter quarter. The sessions focused on study habits, organization, academic goals, detailed discussion of campus resources, and a variety of subjects that influence academic success such as stress management, networking, healthy living, time/stress management, and scholarships and financial aid.

Overall, the initial evaluations of the one on one peer mentoring program were positive. Many of the tutors felt that this was an excellent way of building rapport with tutees at the beginning of the quarter. Erica states, “I find that it is of great importance for us as tutors and peer mentors to really get to know our tutees/mentees. Understanding their study habits, knowing what their day-to-day schedule is like, is all information that enables us to be better tutors and peer mentors allows for more individualized tutoring sessions.”

The tutees positively reflected on the benefits of setting goals, gaining tips on organization, and getting more familiar with campus resources. One student stated, “I liked the one on one peer mentoring because it allowed me to reflect on aspects of college that I had overlooked. It also felt good to talk to someone about my goals.” Another student reflected, “I felt comfortable discussing my current strengths and weaknesses. I would like to discuss study and time management strategies as well as planning for the future.”

*According to evaluations, 95% of students felt confident that they have peers and resources to help them succeed.*



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## Book Club Meets

### *The Man in The High Castle*



*Peter Muhumuza, Emmanuel Hernandez, Dustin Johnson, Elvois Juarez, Jorge Lupercio, Cynthia Greco, Jose Salcedo; Erica Rodriguez, Anne Isidro, Rachel Walker, Lauren Sumabat, Jonathan Macias, and Amanda Riggle*

Winter Book Club read Philip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle*. Set in an alternative history where the United States lost World War II, Japan and Germany occupy what was once American territory. During week 3, RAMP Book Club members met to discuss an introduction to the author and book. Using the author's essay *How to Build A World That Doesn't Fall Apart Two Days Later*, members discussed the purpose of alternative history and entertained questions such as "what is reality?"

This quarter, members used a dry erase board to write their favorite quotes from the book prior to open discussion. Members read their quotes aloud and discussed why their particular quotes were meaningful. This served as a springboard to character analysis and thoughtful discussion of the book. Book Club member Rachel Walker states, "[The book is] riddled with moments of meaning and a serious level of exposition. The world that Philip K. Dick paints is not one of Americans opposing and fighting back their oppressors, but individual characters dealing with being spiritually and emotionally repressed. As the characters develop and we learn more about all that they know and how they interact with the world around them, we wonder what is coming next."

During the final meeting, members discussed the entire book and voted on next quarter's book selection. RAMP Book Club will read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* featuring the detective Sherlock Holmes. Book Club will meet in spring quarter on Thursdays during weeks 3, 5, & 7 in the Library during U-hour. Below is a brief synopsis of the book courtesy of Amazon:

*At Baskerville Hall on the grim moors of Devonshire, a legendary curse has apparently claimed one more victim. Sir Charles Baskerville has been found dead. There are no signs of violence, but his face is hideously distorted with terror. Years earlier, a hound-like beast with blazing eyes and dripping jaws was reported to have torn out the throat of Hugo Baskerville.*

*Enter Sherlock Holmes, summoned to protect Sir Henry from the fate that has threatened the Baskerville family. As Holmes and Watson begin to investigate, a blood-chilling howl from the fog-shrouded edges of the great Grimpen Mire signals that the legendary hound of the Baskervilles is poised for yet another murderous attack.*

# RAMP Tutor Reading Picks

Compiled by Sarayu Ramnath

**Anne:** *Memories* by Lang Leav

“I think of you on roads that stretch into the horizon, on roundabouts and signs that keep telling me I am going the wrong direction.”

A beautiful collection of heart-wrenching poetry and prose. Lang Leav speaks to the hearts going through the journey of love and heartbreak. This is a quick read fit for a hopeless romantic.

**Erica:** *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

Follow Alice down the rabbit hole and through Wonderland to see the consequences of unchecked curiosity. Learn the wisdom of this 8-year-old girl and her attempts at reasoning her way through this confusing place.

**Jasmine:** *Rant* by Chuck Palahniuk

Rant Casey escapes from his hometown to a big city where he joins a demolition derby. Rant is a short, violent oral history gathered by Rant's friends. Rant is one of Chuck Palahniuk's most mind-bending books.

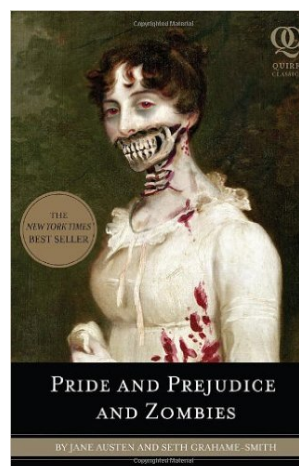
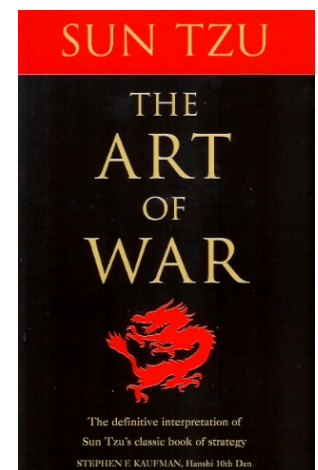
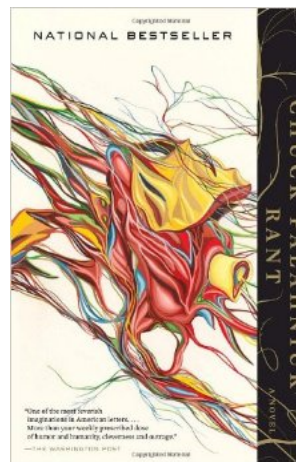
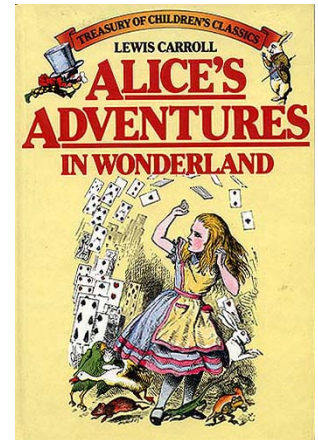
I don't usually buy books, but this book is the only one I'll re-read. Ya like “Fight Club”?

**Oscar:** *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu

It is a very clear book in applying the “art” of war to any type of scenario that one might face. It's a very easy and logical read. Sun Tzu is a genius.

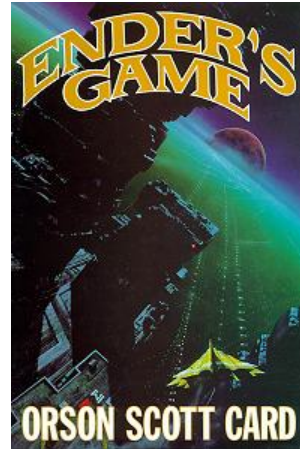
**Rachel:** *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith

Ninjas! Zombies! Balls! Pretty dresses and torture! A little something for everyone!



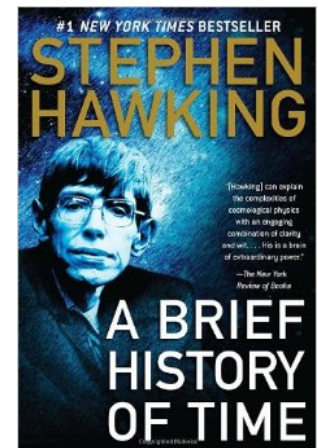
**Ramon:** *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

*Ender's Game* is a coming of age story about Ender Wiggin, the youngest and arguably the most gifted child of the three Wiggin children. In this dystopian future, children are monitored until a certain age after which they are either selected to be taken away to enter a military preparatory school or to continue on as an average child. The novel follows Ender as he goes through the trials that come with being selected as an exceptional child. The burden of this selection and that of the world is thrust on his shoulders. After reading this book numerous times, it proves to be a fantastic read that offers enjoyment every time I pick it up.



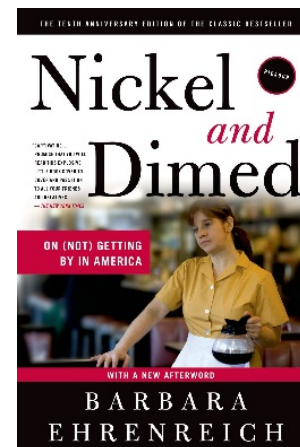
**Sarayu:** *Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking

Learn about the science and thought process behind "The Theory of Everything" with renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking in the debut novel that introduced him to the masses. Written simply, this is an approachable and engaging read to an otherwise expansive and dense subject. Not to mention, it is a science non-fiction classic!



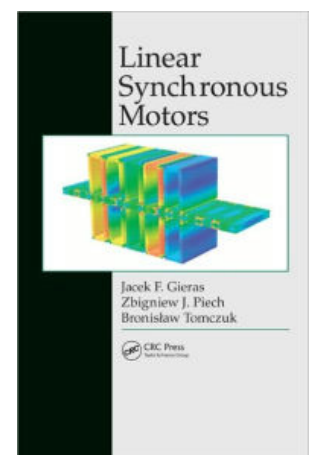
**Tammy:** *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich

*Nickel and Dimed* is about impoverished people trying to make ends meet. The book has fueled nationwide campaigns for living wage. The author, Barbara Ehrenreich, takes you behind the scenes of the working conditions of the waitresses, hotel maids, house cleaners, and employees at Wal-Mart. Their hours are long as they slave away with multiple mundane and repetitive tasks. This is a vivid and informative read.



**Wayne:** *Linear Synchronous Motors* by Jacek F. Gieras, Zbigniew J. Piech, Bronislaw Tomczuk

One of the most interesting books available to the public. In depth analysis of LIM technology and its applicability to transportation.



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## Connect with RAMP @CPPRAMP



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## CAL POLY POMONA

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