

# CAPSule

E-Mail CAPS at: [caps@capsscientists.org](mailto:caps@capsscientists.org)

Website: [www.capsscientists.org](http://www.capsscientists.org)

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## CAPS Scholarship Winners

The CAPS Benefits Committee has awarded a \$500 scholarship to dependents of ten CAPS members in support of their college education. These lucky 10 were among the many worthy applicants for this year's scholarship program. CAPS will keep 2012 applications on file for next year's drawing. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Abigail Bairrington, daughter of member Philip Bairrington (Fish and Game), is majoring in biology and math at Simpson University in Redding and will graduate in 2016.



Claire Pfeiffer, daughter of member Carl Pfeiffer (Food and Ag), will be attending the University of Portland with a major in mechanical engineering and expects to graduate in 2016.



Kaylin Huang, daughter of member Charlie Huang (Fish and Game), is majoring in environmental science at UC Davis and will graduate in 2015.

Emelda Pineda, daughter of member Maritza Pineda (Water Resources), is a sophomore at Seattle University and expects to graduate with a nursing degree in 2014.



Kai Huntamer, son of member Alyce Ujihara (Public Health), is majoring in English and history at UCLA and is scheduled to graduate in 2014.



Aaron Rotman, son of member Ethan Rotman (Fish and Game), is majoring in wildlife management and conservation at Humboldt State University and will graduate in 2016.



Evan Hynes, son of member Lisa Feuchtbaum (Public Health), aspires to be a high-tech entrepreneur and will graduate from UC Santa Barbara with a communications degree in 2013.

Kaitlyn Kinsella, daughter of member Christine Liske (OEHHA), is majoring in liberal studies at Chico State and will graduate with a teaching credential in 2016.



Jason Shapiro, son of member Gary Shapiro (Toxics), is majoring in civil and environmental engineering at UC Berkeley and will graduate in 2013.



Ryan Langlois, son of member Gregg Langlois (Public Health), is pursuing a career in the music and songwriting business and will graduate from Boston's Berklee College of Music in 2015.



Meghan Starr, daughter of member James Starr (Fish and Game), is a senior at San Francisco State University and will graduate with an accounting degree in 2013.

**California State Scientists ... Knowledge, Innovation, Protection**

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 441-2629

130 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 301, Glendale, CA 91203 • (818) 246-0629

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Assemblywoman Nora Campos (D-San Jose) helped out with this year's interactive "Mad Science" program, wearing the CAPS "Honorary State Scientist" lab coat given to her at the event.



Edward Newman of the California Emergency Management Agency answers the kids' questions.



Cindy Pridmore and Mike Silva of the California Geological Survey demonstrate how a volcano works.



Veronica Malloy of the Department of Public Health Environmental Management Branch.



Staffing the CAPS booth were (l-r) Supervisors Director Valerie Chenoweth-Brown and longtime activist and CAPS Director Yvonne Addassi.

# Science Matters

*by David Miller, President*

CAPS' main focus is to maintain and improve the pay and benefits of state scientists. We spend a great deal of time to produce positive results for you and all state scientists. Through our collective efforts we are making a positive difference. If we weren't, I wouldn't volunteer so much of my time to the effort.

Science education is also important to CAPS. Even with all the pay and benefit cuts we've suffered in recent years, CAPS members still take the time to give back, to encourage young people to make science a career, not just a word that's hard for young people to spell. When I joined CAPS many years ago I met the true believers who worked as volunteers for the benefit of their fellow scientists, and who made modest but meaningful contributions for scientists yet to be. It didn't take me long to join them.

CAPS hosts an annual State Scientist Day which encourages elementary school students -- thousands of them -- to explore the wonders of science. CAPS members judge 14 science fair competitions around the state annually, culminating in the recognition of California's Outstanding Young Scientist. CAPS is a co-sponsor of one of these regional fairs in Sacramento. It is a major undertaking and benefits hundreds of aspiring scientists in the greater Sacramento region. Dozens of CAPS scientists volunteer their time to make this event a success. In fact, I accompanied the winners of the Sacramento Fair to the Intel International Science Fair competition in Pittsburg during May. Intel paid for travel and lodging for our entire contingent, and I donated my time. The result was an incredible display of science innovation. One of our Sacramento winners was selected for a top prize at the Intel International Fair as well (see the back panel). Many thanks to my colleague Yvonne Addassi, long-time CAPS Board member and activist, for helping to chaperone the kids and to make it a successful trip, all on her own time.

With this back drop I find it very disappointing that Governor Brown wants to eliminate one of two science courses required



for high school graduation. This change would underscore the low regard this state has for science and technology, in spite of the lip service about how important it is.

Governor Brown's May Budget Revision would eliminate the state's requirement to reimburse local school districts for the \$250 million annual cost of a second year science course. The state hasn't paid out since 2005, so the proposal would

simply end the continued build up of this debt. Current debt stands at over \$2.5 billion in unpaid claims. According to a spokesman for the state Department of Finance, "We don't want to keep adding to the credit card balance we already have."

The problem is that the University of California and CSU systems require at least two years of science for admission. Budget analysts suggest that eliminating the requirement is no big deal, and that most school districts would continue to offer a wide range of science courses.

I doubt it. Schools are struggling with higher class sizes, smaller budgets and even insolvency. They simply won't continue offering courses they don't have to. This burden will fall hardest on low-income schools and low-income

families. It will shut out an increasing segment of California's society from higher education, and that's bad for everyone. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said that California should be strengthening the science requirements, not weakening them. According to national statistics, just 22% of eighth graders passed the National Science Test, ranking California 47th among all states.

Yes, CAPS' mission is focused on state scientists and our pay and benefits. But we always take time to promote science education and we will continue to. Governor Brown can help by maintaining a basic science education for every California student.

*“...Governor Brown wants to eliminate one of two science courses required for high school graduation.”*

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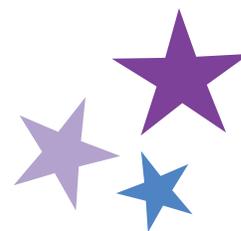
★ *Science Matters,  
by David Miller,  
President*

## **Sacramento Science Fair Winner Takes Top Honors at Intel International Science & Engineering Fair**



Shyamal Buch, a Junior at Vista del Lago High School in Folsom, on March 24 receives the CAPS Award from long-time CAPS judging coordinator Yvonne Addassi at the 2012 Sacramento Regional Science & Engineering Fair.

Shyamal Buch, the top winner at the 2012 CAPS-sponsored Sacramento Regional Science & Engineering Fair, took a top honor at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May. Shyamal earned First Place and Best in Category in the Energy & Transportation category, competing against hundreds of students from around the world. His project sought to optimize nanostructure morphology in order to improve solar cell efficiency. Many seasoned scientists and engineers who judged his project thought he succeeded. Congratulations, Shyamal!



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