

*The School of Physical Sciences presents*

## Anteater Spotlight

### Jon Pham

Meet Jon Pham, a third year Mathematics major. Being an incredible student is only one of Jon's many achievements. Jon is currently the President of the Anteaters Mathematics Club where he encourages students to get involved in various academic activities such as research with a faculty member and career exploration.

Last year, Jon joined the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) and did research on a variation of the Gaussian Moat Problem. He will be presenting his research at the annual symposium in the spring. One of his proudest accomplishments was being selected to go to a three-day conference in St. Louis, Missouri with Professors Pantano and Guidotti (and a few other students). While he did do a great deal of work during the conference, he was also able to make time to tour the city. He was able to visit places such as the Cathedral Basilica and the Gateway Arch. In addition, he was invited to visit Washington University at St. Louis to visit their math department. He has had many other accomplishments and awards, but he said that "being able to visit a beautiful city and university with other students and faculty is at the top."

Jon grew up not too far from here and enjoys boxing in his free time. Before coming to UCI, he attended Fountain Valley High School, which is one of the largest public schools in the state! Jon has been very successful here at UCI. He attributes his success to the Anteaters Mathematics Club (AMC) and the friendly classmates and faculty that he has met here. We asked Jon what he would suggest to other students to assist them in their academic future and here is a summation of what he said:

- 1) Students who are taking math courses should do all of the assigned exercises and then challenge themselves by doing some harder problems out of the book. He also recommends that students read through the Professor's notes (if possible) or through the text book, but to not forget that doing practice problems is very important. As he stated: "You don't get good at basketball by watching the NBA." You must practice yourself!
- 2) He wants to make sure that students take care of their mental health. He recommends getting exercise, eating clean, and visiting with friends and family. He notes that this "goes a long way to giving you the necessary morale boost on the day of the exam."
- 3) He recommends that students take advantage of research opportunities especially if they want to go to graduate school.
- 4) Being involved on campus is also an important key to Jon's success. He recommends that students attend the Involvement Fair during the Fall quarter, attend club meetings regularly, and go to professors' office hours.

Jon plans on pursuing his PhD in Mathematics after he graduates from UCI. His goal is to study Number Theory and Analysis.

Congratulations Jon! We think that you will achieve all of your goals!

