



tackling today's world of environmental and medical challenges

## MADIA

We had the pleasure of hosting MADIA here in January for their monthly meeting (1/9/2018). Chris Buser gave a talk "Unleashing the Oak Crest Institute of Science - Impacts & Opportunities for the Local Tech Community" aimed at connecting Oak Crest with the local tech community. MADIA is an organization that serves as a network for the technology businesses in Monrovia, Arcadia, Duarte, Irwindale and Azusa (=MADIA), more on their website <http://www.madiatech.org/>

It is critical for Oak Crest to collaborate with organizations such as MADIA to support our community. We can help for-profit businesses, other non-profits and also schools by providing:

- Scientific expertise and teaching in chemistry and biology
- Access to and training on our equipment
- Workforce development through our internship programs with the community colleges

MADIA has been very welcoming and the connection is already starting to generate collaborations with local businesses.

## Interview with Efren Gonzalez



Efren Gonzalez  
Rose Hills internship, Winter 2015

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Efren Gonzalez about his time as an intern here at Oak Crest. Efren was a recipient of a Rose Hills internship back in the Winter of 2015. Typically, The Rose Hills Foundation program is 6 months long, but Efren was invited to stay on and fulfill one of the year-long Fellowships the grant provided.

Efren spoke about how much learned during his time here. He had participated in another internship prior to his time at Oak Crest and he said that here offered much more hands-on

experience in the lab. He stressed that the lab time was invaluable to his understanding of the fundamentals and techniques. Efren described his internship here as an "overall excellent program". He really appreciated the mentorship and guidance that allowed him to "figure out what he really wanted to do" and the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them. He said that there were really no other places that offered the hands-on experience to community college students and served the

## News & Events



### Easter Plans at Oak Crest

The City of Monrovia has once again embraced the students and employees of Oak Crest. We have been invited to their latest event, Spring Egg Hunt & Healthy Kids Day. The event is being held at Recreation Park (620 S. Shamrock Avenue) on March 31, 2018 from 10 am to 1 pm.

This will provide a great opportunity for Oak Crest to promote the upcoming Sci-Lab Spring Break program and any other exciting things going on at the Lab!

### Spring Break

Also this Spring season is the Spring Break STEM program with Monrovia Public Library. This program will be held April 2-6 from 2 to 3 pm. Starting on April 2, the topic will be "Cool Chemistry: Acids, Alkalis, Salts" with Amalia

community as well. Efren was a Citrus college student during his time at Oak Crest. He felt that all the lab experience built his confidence and really “set him apart” as a transfer student.

Efren was correct; his experience did set him apart and he is now in his senior year at the University of California at Berkeley. He is majoring in molecular environmental biology and plans to eventually pursue a Ph.D. in biochemistry or molecular biology. He would like to become a professor and then start his own lab. He was so inspired by the model and work of Oak Crest that Efren would eventually like to have his own non-profit lab that focuses on educational outreach and environmental research to serve the community just like Oak Crest. He is so thankful to Oak Crest for providing him with the tools and guidance to pursue his career in science.

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## Bridge to Geosciences

On April 20, Oak Crest will host the Citrus-JPL “Bridge to Geosciences” group visit. The day will start with coffee and snacks. Representatives from Citrus College and JPL will introduce themselves and describe their programs. Marc Baum will introduce himself and Oak Crest. And then, people will separate into 6 groups for lab tours. Rose Hills interns will guide the groups through Oak Crest and meet with Oak Crest staff, students, and interns at sites throughout the building. The day will end at 3 pm.

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Castonguay, Debbie Sanchez, Sofia Rivera, and Karla Kizuka presenting. On April 3, the topic will be “Creepy Crawly Science: Insects and Microscopes” with Paul Webster and Chris Buser teaching. April 4 is “Eco Kids: Oak Crest Introduction and Overview” with Marc Baum and John Moss speaking. The last 2 days, April 5 and 6, will be facilitated by Monrovia Library staff. The topic on April 5 is “Circuit Club: Simple Circuits” with local Assemblyman Chris Holden visiting. And finally on the April 6, the topic will be “3D Printing” with the Monrovia library staff teaching. This program promises a fun filled week of science and discovery.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

March 31st  
Spring Egg hunt at Library

April 2-6  
Spring Science Week at  
Monrovia Library

April 20th  
JPL- Citrus Group Visit

June 4th-Aug 3rd  
Summer Internships