



News Release

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Cuesta College Research Students Present Astronomical Discoveries

Astronomy students in Cuesta College's research seminar are receiving rare undergraduate attention for their original research after two are published in prestigious, scientific publications. The seminar's 16 students, including high school students, Cuesta College students and community members, work together to conduct original scientific research at the weekly evening seminar.

Cuesta College student and North County resident Jolyon Johnson coauthored a paper with seminar instructor Russ Genet based on research conducted during the class. The article was published in the fall 2007 issue of the *Journal of Double Star Observations*.

Last fall, three Cuesta College students made discoveries in the seminar that were published in the *Journal of the American Association of Variable Star Observers* and made presentations at the annual conferences of both the American Astronomical Society and the Society for Astronomical Science.

"Being a coauthor of one or more research papers boosts education careers," Genet said. "Undergraduate college admission offices are impressed with publications. Graduate schools snap up the one-in-a-thousand undergraduate students with published researched."

Current students of the seminar will present their research projects at a special session of the Central Coast Astronomical Society at Cuesta College on Thursday, October 25 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in room 2402. The public is invited to attend and the observatory will be open for public viewing following the presentations, weather permitting.

Seminar students will also participate in the international Small Telescope Astronomical Research (STAR) Conference held in San Luis Obispo in June 2008 and the Galileo's Legacy: Small Telescope Science 1609 and 2009 conference in January 2009 in Hawaii.

For further information regarding the research seminar, contact Russ Genet at 805-438-3305 or russmgenet@aol.com.

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