**Symposium**
Global Connect held its 13th annual Symposium on Friday, May 30th in the Crystal Cove Auditorium, a day-long conference attended by all participating students from Mission Viejo, El Toro, and Laguna Hills High School. The theme of this year’s Symposium was Inequality and Global Leadership.

Highlights included keynote speaker, Bill Maurer, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, as he discussed his research in developing countries about financial inclusion and mobile money transfers. In addition, undergraduates from UC Irvine’s chapter of Global Brigades shared how they were empowered to volunteer in under-resourced communities abroad to help resolve global health and economic disparities.

Select high school students shared their personal philosophies on how they plan to combat inequalities across the globe by giving moving, inspiration speeches.

Students were recognized and awarded for their theme-based individual projects and team videos.

Thanks to Urban Motus and Peter the Anteater for providing entertainment!

**Senior Scholar Celebration**
We ended the school year with a night of celebration highlighting the accomplishments of the graduating class at UCI’s University Club. A memorable moment of the night was Professor Gilmore’s jazz band, comprised of UCI faculty and administration. Faculty, graduate students, and host teachers were recognized. Undergraduate students were awarded medallions, Global Citizen awards, Future Leader awards, and Legacy awards.

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2014: Ana Zavala, Brianna Giarretto, Charvi Choksi, Claudine Magsino, Eliza Collison, Gaganjot Batth, Genova Linares, Grant Speckert, Isabel Diaz, Jazmin Martinez, Lisa Chu, Marisa Cruz, Melanie Otico, Ning Hsu, Nora Alajou and Stephanie Fan!
Introduction to International Relations
Students began the second semester with an introduction to international relations and focused on the study of the “nation” and the relations between nations. A few of the topics included infrastructure, foreign policy, failed states, international law and human rights, and genocide. Students created an International Reporter’s Notebook in which they were assigned to investigate a specific topic online by finding two articles from reputable news sources and complete a notebook entry form for each.

Thank you to Global Connect alumni Henry Kan and Christy Markos for returning to the classrooms to present on foreign policy and international law. We were also fortunate to have two Sociology doctoral candidates, John McCollum and Sheefteh Khalili, present on nation-states and genocide.

Global Competition for Power
Students were introduced to the concept of global competition, axes of power, and superpower status. They got an in-depth look into the emerging nations with the potential for growth, specifically the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) and MINT (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria, Turkey) nations. Students then wrote an expository essay on China focusing on education, military, economy, or infrastructure. The unit ended with a debate on whether the U.S. would remain the number one influence, or whether China would surpass the U.S. in the 21st century.

Thank you to doctoral candidate, Brian Denny of Political Science, for providing your insights on China in the 21st Century.

The Middle East: Arab Spring 2010-2014
Students ended the course with the final unit, The Middle East: Arab Spring. They learned about the history and shared attributes of the Middle East, economic roots behind the revolution, the protestors, and the role technology played. The unit focused on three case studies in Egypt, Syria, and Tunisia.

Students were assigned one of three countries to research, and at the end of the unit they wrote an op-ed piece on the future of their country and presented their predictions through a series of think tank presentations.

Thank you to our academic advisors, doctoral candidate Vahid Niaymph and Professor Petrovic for presenting on Democratic Aspirations & Values and the Post-Arab Spring in the classrooms.

Congratulations to our interns of the month!
These interns were recognized for their commitment and dedication to both the program and their students, and for going above and beyond the role of an intern. Thank you for all you do!

Congratulations Chris Javier (December), Negin Fatahi (January), Melissa Rodriguez (February), Claudine Magisno (March), Aliza Asad (April), and Devin Louie (May)!

Global Connect 2014-2015
Global Connect will be expanding in various ways for the 2014-2015 school year. At Laguna Hills High School, a second bilingual immersion class will be added, totaling five “Globalization and International Studies” sections at the school. We are excited to be returning to Newport Harbor High School in the Newport Mesa School District with Principal Sean Boulton, where we will have two sections under host teacher Jennifer Thompson.