Cluster 6 is off to a great start with 19 students. Dr. Pomeroy, Dr. Watson as Faculty, Trevor, Karen and Emily as Cluster Assistants, Garo and Ashley as Resident Advisors, and Mr. Towler as the Teacher Fellow are all looking forward to an exciting and informative month.

On Sunday, July 8th, students began COSMOS by checking into their dorms and attending orientation with parents. After orientation, students met with their clusters for the first time and introduced themselves with icebreaker games. Students concluded the day by spending time with their suitemates and RA. - Aaron L.

On Monday, the students learned about lab safety; had their first lecture with Dr. Robert “Skip” Pomeroy; and converted vegetable oil into biofuel! They first learned about transesterification then translated their new knowledge into a lab experiment. - Alyssa H.

On Tuesday morning, we listened to a guest lecture from an associate professor of electrical and computing engineering on flexible computers and their applications. In the afternoon, we chose group project topics and watched a short documentary on science ethics called “Merchants of Doubt.” - Bavan R.

COSMOS Cluster 6 students started Wednesday with a two hour lecture by professor Skip Pomeroy on alternative energy and organic chemistry (converting vegetable oil into biodiesel). After lunch, the students headed to the laboratory to create more biodiesel and wash/dry Monday’s biodiesel to remove impurities. - Brian F.

Thursday we solidified our ethics essay ideas and learned about how to reference credible sources using the UCSD library system. It was very cool to see the thousands of primary and secondary sources available to students at COSMOS. - Daniel K.

We’ll finish Thursday by meeting in project groups and beginning work on our group projects.
During week 2, the focus of Cluster 6 is to begin our projects, finish the ethics essays and to begin the analysis of our biodiesel.

On Friday, July 13th, Cluster 6 started their morning by continuing to dry their biodiesel in the lab, followed by an afternoon lecture about sustainability and the history of different energy sources. After class we participated in the Cosmos Olympics, in which our performance placed second and overall we placed fourth! – Helena C.

On Monday, the 16th, we learned about the inner working of a Diesel engine from Dr. Pomeroy. After lunch, we learned about the different lab equipment we’d be using for the next two weeks as well as heard a lecture from Nobel Prize winning Mario Molina about climate change and the myths around it. – Jackson R.

On Tuesday morning, COSMOS students began their day with a guest lecture from Henrik Christensen, in which the professor of computer science at UCSD discussed advancements in robotic engineering. Cluster six students then separated into their project groups, working on various tasks, such as measuring the particulate emissions from a diesel engine. – Joseph M.

On Wednesday, we visited the algae fields, hydrology labs, and the aquarium. It was cool that the hydrology lab design was unique to San Diego and found nowhere else in the country. – Karen P.

For Thursday’s morning activity, the students in Cluster 6 attended the Cluster Exploration Lecture where they were provided a brief synopsis of the activities undertaken by various clusters. In the afternoon, they collaborated with their project groups to produce an experiment pertaining to their respective topics. – Kristine K.
During week 3, the focus of Cluster 6 is to work on data collection for our projects and to continue the analysis of our biodiesel.

On Friday, July 20th, Cluster 6 began the day by analyzing their biodiesel in the lab, followed by a lecture from Dr. Pomeroy on the benefits of algae. After class, students were able to leave for the family weekend. — Lauren G.

On Monday, the 23rd, Dr. Pomeroy gave a lecture on creating soft and rigid foams. In the afternoon, the cluster got into their lab groups and performed more analytical tests on their biodiesel. — Maxim H.

Students attended a Discovery Lecture Tuesday morning by Dr. Terrence Sejnowski, a renowned computational neuroscientist. Students received an overview of artificial intelligence and how it can be designed to mirror the human mind. After leaving the lecture hall, Cluster 6 visited Bonner Hall to read some posters put together by immunobiology researchers at UCSD. The cluster split up into project groups for the afternoon and began working on their final presentations. — Parnika K.

On Wednesday the 25th, cluster 6 students received a lecture from Dr. Pomeroy on Karl Fischer titration and gas chromatography. In the afternoon, students continued to test the properties of their biodiesel to make sure the biodiesel is up to standards. — Philippe W.

On Thursday, Cluster Six students started with Cluster Exploration in Peterson Hall, where several cluster leaders talked about what they study with their students. Shortly after we headed Towards the Natural Science Building for Science Communication. After lunch we headed towards York Hall to work on our final projects with our respective groups. — Ricardo O.
During week 4, the focus of Cluster 6 is to work on completing our projects and to create our presentations and posters.

On Friday, July 27th, class consisted of the always interesting lab rotations in the morning, and the final lecture, on lab instruments, in the afternoon. This evening, students will attend a Social Justice activity hosted by the RA’s. – Rosa G.

On Monday, July 30th, the students of cluster 6 started their day by heading over to York Hall to finish their Certificate of Analysis for the Biodiesel. In between breaks the student would gather around in their project groups and work on their presentations. After lunch we continued to work on the Certificate of Analysis and then ended the day working with their project groups again- Samantha L.

On Tuesday the 31st, Cluster 6 students attended the last discovery lecture of the program. Dr. Pride, a professor of molecular microbiology, explained the development of the human virome and the different types of microbes that exist within the body. Later in the afternoon, students were given additional time to work with their project groups in order to finish any data collection. -Sophie J.

On Wednesday, August 1st, the students spent the entire day working on their projects and preparing for the final presentation on Friday and Saturday. They have completed their final lab procedures and collected all the data they need. In the afternoon they signed Thank-You cards to all the professors, teacher-fellows, and graduates who assisted them along this journey. -Jack L.

On Thursday August 2nd, we spent the day working on Posters and Presentations. All groups have finished their data collection, have processed their data, and are pulling everything together to present on Friday. All the groups have been working well together and have accomplished their goals. I’m looking forward to seeing all of the presentations on Friday. – Mr. Towler

Friday August 3rd is our day to finish practice for our presentations and then to present our projects to Cluster 3. Cluster 6 had 5 project groups who presented in preparation for our presentations to parents on Saturday.