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This is a graded discussion: 10 points possible

due Apr 17



Z12 Zoom Chat with Scientist/Alumni, 7pm Wed April 13

Erin O'Connor

Apr 9 at 8:49am

19

Extra credit will be awarded to those who can attend live.

**Zoom Chat with Scientist / Alumni, Wed April 13 at 7 pm (Extra Credit if you attend LIVE)**

**We had a great Zoom Meeting. Here is the recording:**

**<https://youtu.be/x16XF94ofcc>** **[\\_ \(https://youtu.be/x16XF94ofcc\)](https://youtu.be/x16XF94ofcc)**

- Clara, Mistea, and Bree are three dynamic women in STEM who met through SBCC Astronomy Club involvement and now are at three different stages of their Educational path. Each will share with us where they are at and what they are doing in working toward a STEM degree. Clara is a declared physics major at UCLA, Mistea is a declared physics major at Cal State San Francisco, and Bree is a declared physics/engineering major finishing up at SBCC and has been heavily involved with physics/engineering projects to build telescopes, launch cameras into space (yep... we at SBCC actually did that), and with other educational outreach programs events. We will discuss the transfer experience and the many ways STEM majors can get involved with STEM activities and opportunities at every stage of their educational path.

Each week we will set up a Zoom chat with a scientist working with astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, or science and engineering, or an alum of SBCC from our astronomy program to see what they are doing now with school, education, or their lives and careers. Some of our former students are doing amazing things. I will be reaching out to contacts I've made over my teaching career so that we can personalize and humanize the material and create more of an "in person" classroom environment.

These Zoom chats are optional. You are not required to attend, but you are certainly invited. These meetings will be at random various times during the week, subject to the availability of our prestigious guests. The meetings are not lectures. I'm more interested in chatting with our guests to have them tell you a bit about their school, work, and interest in astronomy and to give you an opportunity to ask questions and interact with them yourselves.

If you can not attend, that is fine, you will still get full credit by watching the recording and participating in a discussion about the Zoom meeting.

After participating in the Zoom Chat and/or watching a recording of the Zoom Chat, please post your reaction to the meeting. What did you find most interesting about what they are doing or

what they had to say? How is it relevant to your life or educational pursuits? What qualities about their approach or perspective to education (or life) do you think has helped them succeed and to get to a place where a Black Holes Class teacher would want to invite them for a Zoom Meeting with their class (haha).



← Reply

([https://](#)

**Sarah Savage** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/375381>)

Apr 13, 2022

All three students were very friendly and I love that they met at SBCC and were roommates at one point. It was great hearing about how they all participated in club activities and were as involved as they could be with campus activities. Very interesting to hear how they've all gone in different directions but are all working toward some sort of STEM degree. I particularly liked hearing Brie talk about the telescope building project after having had the chance to use it briefly at a recent Astronomy Club pizza party.

← Reply

([http](#)

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

Glad you enjoyed the talk, and yes, they all met at city college, supported each other, and have stayed friends while they have moved in three different directions. I think it is a great example of the different directions that one can choose even if they start from the same place. You yourself will have many choices up ahead with regard to your career path as well. And that's great that you used the very telescope that Bree was helping to build and talked about in the Zoom chat.

← Reply

([https://](#)

**Abigail Jacobs (She/Her)** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/367167>)

Apr 14, 2022

This week's zoom was really interesting and very informative! It's always amazing to see women in the STEM field as the professor said only 20% of the field is women. I thought that everyone had very interesting perspectives when it comes to transferring and their preferred living situations through covid and now that we can go out. UCLA is one of my top schools but the problem with public transportation sucks as Clara mentioned. I also think that it's awesome that they are continuing to find internships and work on projects in groups! I didn't realize how much fun it is to join project groups or do internships, you meet so many new people that are like-minded and you get to make very important connections. This week's zoom was informative as far as this class but it was also helpful with the transfer process and finding the right fit for you, whether that's a school with easy transportation, good clubs for group projects, or fun nightlife. I always like to hear from people that have recently transferred and hear about their experiences.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

I'm glad you enjoyed meeting these three women. You make a good point, that it's not about whether they are STEM students or not, but their experience with school and education and transferring is applicable to all students at city college regardless of their major, their degree, or their chosen destination for transfer.

← [Reply](#)



**Malcolm Tircuit** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/427388>)

Apr 16, 2022

It was great hearing all three speakers talk about their separate paths in pursuing science and how they met. This talk also gave me a greater insight into the interactive and collaborative parts of science through special events and meetings. I also got a deeper look into the educational pathways of science. It was reassuring to know that you could have no idea what field you want to go into but still find your passions and enjoy your work.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

Great to hear your positive response, and I know that you as a high school student are taking advantage of many interesting classes and projects, and if you are to transfer to City College you can get involved with some of the fun projects and activities that we discussed in the zoom chat, and then again when you transfer to a four-year school there will be even greater opportunities for you to explore at that time.

← [Reply](#)



(https://

**Luke Rutherford** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/373514>)

Apr 17, 2022

I found it inspiring that all three of these women are in similar educational positions as me but have accomplished many more achievements and have been able to practice what they have learned outside the classroom. It is also nice to see how friendly the conversation was and how supportive they are of each other's educational pursuits. I think their quality of persistence is something to look up to and has definitely contributed to their success.

← [Reply](#)



(http

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

Thank you for those insightful comments. I'm glad to hear that you are also enjoying being a STEM major, but you should not think of it as them being "ahead", but rather that they are just in a different place in their educational path. They were right where you were several years ago when they were here at SBCC taking my classes. Now they are a bit further ahead, but only because they started before you. You will be where they are now before you know it.

← [Reply](#)



(https://

**Franco Diaz Campo** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/403036>)

Apr 17, 2022

Hi everyone,

I enjoyed too much this week's meeting. We had three critical women who studied at SBCC and met at SBCC. For me, it is essential that people who have done many good things in

physics graduate from our college; I think it gives me the pride to say that I'm in one of the best colleges in the country and that so intelligent people graduate from it. I think that they did good work on the meeting, they did it very interactive and thanks to it, I didn't get bored at any moment, since they showed a perfect attitude regarding what they were saying. I think they did an excellent job of showing us some videos and photos that helped us get more interested in the topics they were talking about. I wish the best of luck to these three women because they deserve the best in their lives, and I hope they can continue achieving things in their lives.

Thanks,

Franco Diaz.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

That was very positive and inspiring feedback for these three women, and it's great to see how supportive you are, and that you feel pride for being at city college because of all these amazing students. You are one of them and I am sure you will move on to do many amazing things yourself. Perhaps someday you will come back to be a zoom guest for us as well.

← [Reply](#)



**Brian Wolden** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/274832>)

Apr 17, 2022

I was disappointed to miss this Zoom chat live! It was great to hear from three different women doing different things in science that all came from an astronomy background at SBCC! My favorite part was hearing about all the projects, activities, and clubs at SBCC. I was completely unaware of those projects and was particularly impressed by the weather balloon they launched into the stratosphere. I really love those images of Earth from that distance and getting to see that video was very cool. I definitely need to get involved in astronomy club!

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

Glad to hear that you enjoyed the zoom chat and those projects we're really fun and students really had a great time and got very involved. As a city college student, you can help spearhead projects yourself. Join the club and offer your own suggestions and let's see what we can do next.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

No worries about missing a few Zooms. You have made most all the others, so you are way ahead of the game. It's great to have your positive energy and enthusiasm. It makes a difference.

← [Reply](#)



**Alak Fryt (He/Him)** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/354278>)

Apr 17, 2022

What I found interesting when listening to the three women talk was how much change went on throughout the course of their time at SBCC and where they are now. I thought it was cool that they all sort of connected through Professor O'Connor and were even living together at one point in time. I also think that it's crazy what Bree is doing CURRENTLY at SBCC which is almost hard to imagine for me seeing how it's all happening right where I'm attending classes and track practices without me even knowing.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

I'm glad you enjoyed hearing from these three women, and that you were inspired by their stories. Young people going to school have many decisions to make and many opportunities available to them. You are taking advantage of your studies and track, and they are choosing to get involved with other departments and clubs and projects. But you are welcome to seek out some of these other clubs and get involved with their projects as well. The nice thing about being a city college student is that there are no restrictions, the teachers want you to try new things and new classes and to try new things out.

← [Reply](#)



**Naomi Xu** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/27955>)

Apr 17, 2022

It blew my mind to hear how much bree juggles on her plate, but more impressively how much she enjoys it. I think this was a really good side-by-side comparison of what it's like down different education paths, and kind of relieving to hear that no matter what you choose that it'll be fine.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022

Yes, I like your response. You're making the point that there isn't really a right or wrong path, or a good or bad direction, that everyone chooses what is right for them, the best directions for them, that which inspires them and helps them move forward. So that is always the right decision, that which draws you, that which inspires you and motivates you to succeed.

← [Reply](#)



**Lexie Brent** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/46681/users/122267>)

Apr 17, 2022

It is really awesome and inspiring to see these women who either once were or are still involved in SBCC astronomy and STEM programs and clubs here. Even though I'm not planning on being a "woman in STEM," they are far more admirable than many would think as there are clear reasons for it being harder for women to be successful in those fields than men. These obstacles present themselves in college if not earlier. It's also inspiring to see their work and hear about their journeys because they're relatively close to my age and SBCC students and just generally relatable to someone in my position (not a woman in STEM but just a young, non-male in college trying her best hahaha). Their stories reminded me that I'd really like to get involved with clubs here but I haven't found any that I'm passionate about. I'd even like to start my own club at SBCC if it's feasible!

← [Reply](#)

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/46681/users/24247>)

May 1, 2022



I'm glad you enjoyed hearing from these three inspiring women in stem. That was my hope, to bring former students to these chats so that other students such as yourselves can realize they were just in these very classes a few years ago, and have now moved on to do great things with their lives. My hope is that you will see that you also can do this, and not that you have to be a woman in STEM, but just someone who is pursuing their academic goals and dreams and making progress toward them. Little by little, you accomplished things, finish classes, eventually you will be done with City College, and then you will transfer to another school, and then eventually work in the field of your choice. I'm glad that you made that connection and found it helpful and inspiring. Perhaps I will have you come back to be a zoom guest one day in the future. It would be great to have you back to share your individual personal journey someday.

[← Reply](#)