

Friday, June 6, 2025

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## Peter's Phan-tastic future at Mudd Tobin comm-Anders the wandering way to UCLA

By JISEO PARK  
PAGE EDITOR

Computer Science enthusiast and a proclaimed Mathlete by his friends, valedictorian Peter Phan is accepting a full ride to Harvey Mudd College this upcoming fall. Phan applied for Computer Science, as he has enjoyed it from a young age, but he will most likely pursue both Computer Science and mathematics.

"I chose Harvey Mudd due to their strong STEM programs," Phan said. "I also enjoy how it's both a small and large school due to its 5C campus. I applied for Computer Science because of my passion for the subject. Computer Science is extremely versatile and it can make tasks that would normally be time-consuming and difficult much easier, which gives me the opportunity to be efficient and frankly, a bit lazier. I'm a believer in the quote 'I will always choose a lazy person to do a difficult job because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it' [by Bill Gates]. I think that quote made me love Computer Science even more."

Despite the quote, Phan definitely did not earn the role of valedictorian through being lazy. Achieving this title is a testament to years of academic excellence, dedication, and intelligence.

"I realized I wanted to be Valedictorian my sophomore year," Phan said. "You have to be locked in from the start. But for anyone who's reading this article, it's just not worth all the pain and effort. Just take classes you enjoy. But hey, who wouldn't want to lock in for four years to be on the [Wolfpacket] front page and give a three minute speech at graduation?"

Dedicating four years to becoming valedictorian definitely does not sound like an easy job. Outside of academics, Phan enjoys immersing himself in robotics and playing video games with friends. Phan wants to shout out his friends, family, and teachers for being there every step of the way.

"I would like to shout out Hadi, Jacob, Kepha, and Nathan for helping me lock in and inspiring me to get valedictorian," Phan said. "I'd also like to thank Ms. Chua, Mr. Carillo for always being there and dealing with our friend group, and finally Dr. Arboleda. Also, shout out to my brother and sister for teaching me everything I know."

Finally, Phan would like to share some advice for upcoming juniors and seniors.

"For college apps, don't stress it," Phan said. "Take application season lightly. The majority of my friends and I started writing our college apps the week before it was due and we all got into decent schools. Just relax as much as possible."

As Phan prepares for the next chapter, it's clear that his wit, drive, and academic excellence have left a lasting mark. His journey to valedictorian may not have been easy, but it's one he'll carry with pride into the future.

By ANNABELLE BRUSKY  
PAGE EDITOR

Off to UCLA he goes! With a grade-point average of 4.6, Tobin Anders officially earned the title of Claremont High School's salutatorian on May 23 at the Renaissance Rally. Anders had been on the academic grind for years, his efforts paying off.

"I'm the Vice President of the Science National Honor Society," Anders said. "I also tutor people for German, Physics, and Math."

Anders has taken multiple high-level courses, including Physics, IB History of the Americas, and IB Math AA. He is a full IB Diploma candidate and has also taken multiple AP and dual-enrollment classes. However, despite the title and GPA, not all of his courses have been strictly academic. Anders elaborates on how classes like Film Study and Art History have defined his experience as a student.

"Over the summer, I did a lot of dual-enrollment classes such as film history, which I thought was really interesting," Anders said. "So when I travelled in Europe, I was able to take the class while visiting Amsterdam."

Outside of academics, Anders has maintained a balanced lifestyle, from rock climbing three times a week as a hobby, teaching kids German through SPARK, to interning at a computer hardware company to assist with their Amazon marketplace. His professional experience, combined with Anders' skill and interest in mathematics, made him aspire towards a major and career in electrical engineering.

"I really enjoy math, and being able to apply it to real scenarios," Anders said. "I already took an engineering course at Mt. SAC over the summer, and electrical engineering sounds cool, and aligns with my interests."

This is a path that he also seems keen on following at UCLA, where there is a strong department for all types of STEM interests. Anders also pointed out the variety in UCLA's campus life, which offers both opportunities and activities to match his hobbies.

"UCLA has a racing team, where you can work on the electrical systems for the cars," Anders said. "[UCLA] probably also has a rock climbing club or team I can join."

Anders also pointed out what he believed helped get him into the notoriously exclusive public school, with an acceptance rate of only nine percent.

"I'm really happy because UCLA was definitely one of my top choices," Anders said. "And I'm glad that I have worked hard, otherwise I may not have gotten in."

In the end, despite leading a very academic career at CHS, grades were far from the sole factor for Anders' acceptance. Between heaps of extracurriculars, leadership experience, academics, and an overall impressive application, Anders has the opportunity to fulfill his dreams and create change while helping others do the same.

"I think it's important to be educated and learn about a variety of topics so you can decide what you want to do in the future," Anders said. "So thank you to my parents for supporting me, for working really hard, to make sure that I can live in a nice city like Claremont. I really appreciate you."



**CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2025!**



Many thanks to Isabelle Shie for the various space backgrounds, art, and headings! Constellation art by Andrea Dorantes. photos courtesy of the class of 2025's top 10