Greetings from Pitzer College! I am excited to say that Pitzer’s W.M. Keck Science Department (www.kecksci.claremont.edu) will again be hosting a week-long Summer Science Immersion Program this August. The program, which has received funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, will run from Sunday evening, August 17th, through Saturday morning, August 23rd—the week immediately before New Student Orientation—and is intended for incoming students who are:

- First generation college students;
- From groups traditionally underrepresented in science; and/or
- From under-resourced high schools.

Read about the experiences that last summer’s Immersion Program participants had at this website: http://www.kecksci.claremont.edu/News/SSIP.asp.

The Summer Science Immersion Program has been constructed to introduce participants to the expectations and demands of college-level science coursework. The theme of the program, “The Chemistry of Life,” will be of particular relevance to students who plan on enrolling in introductory biology and/or chemistry during their first semester. First-year students from all three Keck Science colleges—Claremont McKenna, Pitzer, and Scripps—are being invited to participate in the program.

Cutting-edge science will be the focus, as will be building habits critical to academic success in the sciences. Departmental faculty will serve as instructors for the program, and returning students will serve as peer mentors. The days will be full, and hands-on laboratory experiments as well as field trips are planned. We will begin with two chemistry experiments on Monday—by the end of the day, the chemistry lab will feel like a second home! A number of topics will then be explored, including the structure and function of biomolecules. We will discuss the search for life on exoplanets and will visit the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. We will analyze the genome and proteome of *Tetrahymena thermophila*, and the students will contribute their research results to an international database. We will devote a full day to issues faced by underrepresented groups in science, during which we will take the Metrolink light rail to Cal State L.A. to meet with Professor Patrick Sharp, an expert on race and gender in science and science fiction.

Students will also have the opportunity to:

- Create peer networks;
- Establish strong relationships with science faculty;
- Learn about course offerings in science and math; and
- Explore the resources available across the Claremont Colleges.
The cost of the program will be $100, and this fee will be waived for students on need-based financial aid. For all participants, there will be no additional charge for room and board. When the fall semester begins, participating students will receive a free copy of the textbook that they will use in either introductory biology or chemistry (the student may choose). Participants will be housed on the Scripps campus and will eat meals in the dining hall at Claremont McKenna College. Students will move onto the Scripps campus on Sunday, August 17th, and that evening the department will host a welcoming dinner and reception for all participating students and their families. The science will then begin on Monday morning! The Immersion Program will conclude on Saturday morning, August 23rd, the morning that New Student Orientation begins.

To apply for the Summer Science Immersion Program, please visit the Keck Science Application website at http://apply.kecksci.claremont.edu. Applications must be submitted by Friday, June 20th! We hope to notify you of our decision during the second week of July. (Note that the application for admission to one of the department’s integrated science courses for incoming first-year students may also be submitted through this website.) In the meantime, if you have any questions at all about the Immersion Program, please don’t hesitate to contact me at dhansen@kecksci.claremont.edu.

With best wishes for a wonderful summer!

David E. Hansen
Professor of Chemistry
& Weinberg Family Dean of Science