

UC SANTA BARBARA

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Renowned Climber Opens Sixth Annual Lecture Series Exploring 'Natural Highs'

Renegade rock climber Alex Honnold, known for his solo free climbs on some of the world's biggest walls, is the opening speaker in UC Santa Barbara's sixth annual Natural High Lecture Series.

The subject of the award-winning documentary "Alone on the Wall," Honnold was recently featured on the cover of National Geographic and on the TV newsmagazine "60 Minutes." The Sacramento native who recently completed the "triple crown of climbing" -- conquering three of Yosemite's most daunting faces in a single day -- will give a free, public presentation on Thursday, October 4, at 6 p.m., in Buchanan Hall, Room 1910.

"The Natural High Lecture Series seeks out people who have found solace in an activity that provides them with a natural high," said Rich Powell, a lecturer in UCSB's Department of Exercise and Sport Studies, which is sponsoring the slate of talks. "Alex was lucky enough to find a passion in rock climbing, an activity which allows him to closely engage with nature. Over the past six years, this lecture series has been able to bring these kinds of dynamic people to our university and inspire our students. We hope this may allow them to seek out a lifestyle that is healthy and balanced."

In spring 2013, the program will feature a discussion with Grammy-nominated musician Jack Johnson, who is also an accomplished surfer and UCSB alumnus.

The series is co-sponsored by the Department of Recreation, the Office of Student Life, the After Dark Program, and Adventure Programs at UCSB.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.