1086-47-1435 **Stephan Ramon Garcia*** (stephan.garcia@pomona.edu), Department of Mathematics, Pomona College, 610 N. College, Claremont, CA 91711. *Recent progress on complex symmetric operators.*

An operator T in $B(\mathcal{H})$ is a *complex symmetric operator* (CSO) if there exists a conjugate-linear, isometric, involution C such that $T = CT^*C$. This class is surprisingly large and contains, for instance, normal operators, Hankel operators, the Volterra integration operator, truncated Toeplitz operators, and many other examples. A number of years ago, Garcia and Wogen asked whether or not the set of all CSOs on an infinite-dimensional Hilbert space is closed in the operator norm. Recently, two very different solutions to this problem have emerged (by Garcia-Poore and Zhu-Ji-Li). We discuss these results and some of their implications, along with a rather surprising result about the "indestructibility" of certain nilpotent operators. (Received September 21, 2012)