

# THE SEES INFORMER

Volume XII 2009-2010 Academic year

## Welcome

Fall quarter is almost upon us and so another academic year for SEES is about to begin. We are looking forward to getting to know our new freshman and transfer students and introducing them to our SEES returning students and faculty advisors. We are proud of the accomplishments of our SEES students: 37 were on the Dean's list in Fall, 27 in Winter, and 33 in Spring— Congratulations on your hard work! Within the newsletter you will find many more accomplishments of SEES students and news about our SEES students and news about our SEES alumni. Enjoy!

-Dr. Barbara Burke

Greetings to all SEES participants. Inside this issue you will find updates from the 2009 academic year. To all the new students, I hope it shows you what a great program SEES is, and all the opportunities it provides. For all the alumni, I would like to personally thank you. SEES continues to grow because of you and your willingness to help, it is greatly appreciated. Best wishes for this coming year!

-Sandra Hernandez

## Upcoming Events

### September 2010

Fall Quarter begins on Sept. 23rd

### September 30– October 3

SACNAS conference

### November 2010

ABRCMS conference

### December 2010

Annual Christmas party, Dec. 3rd

### January, 2011

CSUPERB

### February 2011

SUMMA conference at Stanford

### May 2011

LPMSA Banquet, SEES Alumni Dinner

## Commencement 2010

It was a wonderful spring night, when many family and friends gathered around the University Quad to come celebrate the fifty-fourth Annual Commencement which was on June 11th, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

This night is one that many college students anticipate. Prepared with their caps and gowns they await to hear their name and walk down the stage to close another chapter of their lives.

They remember all the hard work that it has taken to get up on that stage, and for some it does not stop here. The ambition to learn will continue.

We are extremely proud of SEES graduates; they set examples to other students and show that anything is possible. A total of twenty-six SEES students graduated from the College of Science during 2010, one was Magna Cum Laude

and two were Summa Cum Laude.

We would like to take this time to congratulate the graduates and wish them the best of luck in their future. Take all opportunities that are received and never stop growing.

*“Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death”- Albert Einstein.*





## *The Graduates of 2010*

- |                    |                   |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| GISELLE ATALLA     | SYDNEY HENDERSON  | MICHAEL PERALTA   |
| EVELYN BELTRAN     | SHELLEY JACKSON   | CAROL QUACH       |
| JOSE CARRASCO      | ERICA JOHNSON     | ADAM RECIO        |
| DONNA CHAU         | VANESSA MARROQUIN | CRYSTAL SANDOVAL  |
| ELEANA CHAVEZ      | KATRINA NGUYEN    | GARY SEUN         |
| EVELYN DIAZ        | DANIEL PADILLA    | KRISTIN SPAULDING |
| KEVYN GARDNER      | ROXANA PALACIOS   | ALFRED VILLASENOR |
| ULYSSES GATDULA    | ARYSBET PENA      | KENT YOUNG        |
| GUILLERMO GUARDADO | GERSON PERALTA    |                   |

## *Awards and Scholarships*

2009-2010 Paul C. Heimenz Scholarship recipients:

*Ulysses Gatdula*

2010 S-STEM Scholarship recipients:

- |                         |                         |                           |                        |                          |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Gerald Angel</i>     | <i>Sandra Hernandez</i> | <i>Demetreanna Ofurie</i> | <i>Michael Peralta</i> | <i>Jason Sanchez</i>     | <i>Alfred Villasenor</i> |
| <i>Cynthia Castillo</i> | <i>Erica Johnson</i>    | <i>Liliana Nunez</i>      | <i>Carol Quach</i>     | <i>Gary Seun</i>         |                          |
| <i>Mayra Cervantes</i>  | <i>Sky King</i>         | <i>Stephen Parker</i>     | <i>Lauren Quiros</i>   | <i>Kristin Spaulding</i> |                          |

2010 CSU LSAMP Scholarship recipient:

*Jonathon Henry*

2010 Student Research & Creative Activity Poster Competition

*Kent Young and Liliana Nunez*

2010 Boeing Company Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Science:

- |                        |                         |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Jose Ayala</i>      | <i>Edward Guzman</i>    | <i>Diane Sanchez</i>    |
| <i>Mayra Cervantes</i> | <i>Sydney Henderson</i> | <i>Monica Santander</i> |
| <i>Ulysses Gatdula</i> | <i>Matthew Pasos</i>    |                         |



2010 Boeing Company Scholarship

## Christmas Party

This Annual Christmas Party was held on December 4th, 2009 at the Kellogg Mansion. The feeling of Christmas was displayed through the whole mansion, red bows, Christmas lights, a nicely decorated tree.

Students bring their family to celebrate this wonderful evening, they gather along the piano played by Jack Hamm, and sing Christmas carols. It is night filled with joy

and great food. Parents get to meet faculty and see the bonds that their sons and daughter have formed, and alumni get to reunite with friends.

Many came to celebrate such a exciting time of the year. It is wonderful to see that SEES is growing. Next years' Christmas party will be held on December 3rd, 2010. Mark your calendar. We hope to see you and your family there.



Carolers 2009

## Dr. Burke's Relevant Events

### *Excelencia Award*

California State Polytechnic University's Science Educational Enhancement Services (SEES) received the award for the top 2009 "Example of *Excelencia*" at the baccalaureate level for its work in increasing the retention and graduation rates of Latino students pursuing degrees in the sciences and mathematics.

"Colleges have a re-

sponsibility to help Latino students succeed," said Sarita Brown, president of *Excelencia* in Education, a nonprofit organization which promotes policies and practices that support higher education achievement for the Latino students. "California State Polytechnic University's Science Educational Enhancement Services is a program we hope other colleges and universities

around the country will be looking to as a model to adapt and replicate on their own campuses."

The award ceremony was held in Washington, DC on September 30, 2009.

### *Outstanding Academic Adviser CoS*

On May 13, 2010, Dr. Michael Ortiz presented

Dr. Barbara Burke with the 2010 Award for Outstanding Adviser from the College of Science. During the award reception Dr. Burke was recognized and honored for her dedication and willingness to always take time to listen and best advise students. Congratulations, Dr. Burke, for your honor.

-Dora Andersen  
Administrative Support Coordinator

## *SUMMA( Stanford University Minority Medical Alliance)*

In February, twelve of us went up north to Stanford to attend the SUMMA conference. We heard from some of the Stanford medical students and listened to their inspiring stories that encouraged us to continue on our path towards whatever health profession we were aspiring to. After that, a lot of us discussed and agreed that there was a medical student's story that stood out to us; we learned for him that being a nontraditional undergraduate student does not hurt our

chances of getting into a medical school and we should not get discouraged if we have to take another path to get there. We also agreed that Samuel So, one of the keynote speakers at the conference, taught us something very important, which was to look for a need in our community and find ways to address it and make the individuals in the community aware of the issue.

-Demetreanna Ofurie  
2010-2011 President of LPMSA



SUMMA 2010

## Mentoring Program Update

This year there were a total of 35 incoming freshmen matched with 12 upper-division students, that participated in the mentoring program.

We had numerous study sessions set to promote effective study strategies and exam preparation.

This year's freshman class was diverse in their majors. After a year of weekly meetings as part of SCI 110,111, social events, projects, fieldtrips and net-

working with them, I strongly feel that their participation in the mentoring program has strengthened their vision of their future.

Overall, it was a pleasure to have been given the opportunity to work with the mentees, mentors, faculty and Dr. Burke.

-Cynthia Castillo

*Mentoring Coordinator*

During the school year, the students in the mentorship program participated in

group discussions on current events to build critical thinking skills. They also presented oral presentations on topics concerning the problems in Haiti, as well as topics regarding contributions to science. Other presentations were based on books the students read each quarter. These books included, "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story," "The Ditchdigger's Daughters" and "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks."

Apart from oral presentations, the students built their writing skills by reporting on guest speakers from many different professions in the world of science.

Some students that participated in an optional course in the Spring '10 quarter were able to conduct an interview with a professional and were also able to work on their individual personal statements.

-Ashley Santiago



Mathematic Solution to Problem in Haiti



San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

## LPMSA

LPMSA had a great year! We had some great speakers, which included Dr. Ricardo Saca (an internist), Dr. Janessa Ramirez (medical doctor and an RN), and Dr. Lawrence Harkless (a podiatrist, founding dean of the College of Podiatric Medicine at Western University of Health Science). Our guest speakers taught us to not take our education for granted and to go into a field that we will love doing. We also went to two pre-medical conferences, one at UC Davis and another at Stanford University. At these conferences, we heard inspirational speakers, went to dynamic workshops, and spoke with admissions officers and deans of medical universities. We also went

twice to the St. Vincent's Cardinal Manning Center on Skid Row and served breakfast at the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles. We learned that as future health professionals, we have the responsibility to serve diverse communities and we have to learn to recognize their needs. At the end-of-the-year banquet, the 2010-2011 executive board was announced:

- ◆ *Demetreanna Ofurie: President*
- ◆ *Wendy Avila- Vice Present*
- ◆ *Ashley Santiago- Treasurer*
- ◆ *Danny Bullocks- Secretary*
- ◆ *Alicia Sandoval- Social Chair*
- ◆ *Nidia Saca- Social Chair*
- ◆ *Sandra Hernandez- Science Council Representative*

◆ *Cynthia Castillo- Science Council Representative*

◆ *Kayla Suff-Greene- Historian Congratulations!*

-Demetreanna Ofurie  
2010-2011 LPMSA President



Skid Row January 2010

## *Research Programs*

### 2010 McNair Scholars Participants:

- ◆ Nicole Berry
- ◆ Cathryn De Guzman
- ◆ Trang Lu
- ◆ Anna Zelaya
- ◆ Manuel Flores
- ◆ Stephanie Wong

### UCLA PREP Pre- Medical Program

- ◆ Cathryn DeGuzman
- ◆ Chris Tashjian

### 2010 MSRI– UP program, University of California Berkeley:

- ◆ Jose Ayala

### 2010 Rise program; Cal Poly Pomona:

- ◆ Luladey Ayalew
- ◆ Daisy Cuevas
- ◆ Edward Guzman
- ◆ Joseph Robledo
- ◆ Dianne Sanchez
- ◆ Monica Santander
- ◆ Ashley Santiago

### Rocky Mountain Bio- logical Laboratory

- ◆ Robert Polanco

### CSULSAMP Research Apprenticeship Program participants:

- ◆ Jose Ayala
- ◆ Nicole Berry
- ◆ Sky King
- ◆ Matthew Pasos

### The California Wellness Research Apprenticeship Program participants:

- ◆ Cynthia Castillo
- ◆ Demetreanna Ofurie
- ◆ Lauren Quiros
- ◆ Ulysses Gatdula
- ◆ Nicole Villegas

### WEEA Research Apprenticeship Program SEES participants:

- ◆ Kevyn Gardner
- ◆ Kristin Spaulding
- ◆ Sarah Garcia
- ◆ Vanessa Yanez

## *Recent SEES Graduates*

- Dennis Ankrah was accepted into the Pharmacy program at the University of California, San Francisco.
- Giselle Atalla was accepted into the Albany School of Pharmacy.
- Evelyn Beltran was accepted into the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.
- Jose Carrasco was accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico.
- Kevyn Gardner was accepted into the Ph.D. program in chemistry at the University of Iowa.
- Sydney Henderson was accepted into the Post baccalaureate program at the UCLA School of Medicine.
- Sky King was accepted into the Ph.D. program in physics at Duke University.
- Michael Peralta was accepted into the Ph.D. program in chemistry at Columbia University.
- Kristin Spaulding was accepted into the M.S. program in chemistry at Cal Poly Pomona.
- Alfred Villasenor was accepted into the M.D. program at the University of Southern California.

## Alumni Dinner/Fundraiser



Alumni Dinner May 2010

### Alumni Dinner

The annual SEES alumni dinner was held at Kellogg West on May 10th. The reception was well attended by faculty, current students and alumni. It was an enjoyable evening where alumni networked with former classmates and reminisced about SEES. Alumni were presented with a SEES pin and a booklet that showcased *SEES Models of Success*. These are SEES alumni that are professionals with many accomplishments in their respective careers. Alumni thank you for all the help you've given our students and for your support of our

SEES program.

-Dora Andersen



Fundraiser June 2010

### Fundraiser

The fundraiser was held on June 27th of 2010. Many Alumni came to support SEES, bringing family and friends. The dinner was held at the exquisite Kingston Café in Pasadena.

During the dinner Dr. Burke was recognized for her accomplishments.

Current students and alumni took the time to share their stories and thank Dr. Hiemenz and Dr. Burke for the opportunities that they have received from the program.

## News From the Alumni

- Victor Cisneros was accepted into the San Juan Bautista Medical School in Puerto Rico.
- Sarah Martinez earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from UC Riverside.
- Cydni Perry earned her Ph.D. and is now a postdoc at Cornell University, where she was awarded the Hartwell Foundation Fellowship.
- Alma De Anda received her M.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota.
- Derek Carranza received an M.S. in biology at CPP.
- Desiree Daniels received her M.S. in biology at CPP.
- Priscilla Antunez, graduate student, at USC was awarded an NSF GRFP Fellowship.



Welcome to the Fall quarter! Hi, my name is Dora Nyborg Andersen and I am the Administrative Support Coordinator of SEES. I began working at Cal Poly Pomona 12 years ago, first as a part time employee in the MBRS/RISE program and then transitioned to SEES. I enjoy working with students and there is nothing more rewarding than to see a shy wide-eyed freshmen blossom into a full grown professional and to know that I had a small contribution in their success. I wish you all great accomplishments and happy learning during the 2010-2011 academic year.

-Dora Andersen

*Administrative Support Coordinator*

SCIENCE EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT SERVICES

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WE ARE LOCATED IN BUILDING 3 ROOM 2127.

### Keeping in Touch

Give us an update if you haven't been by SEES in the last year. Help us keep in touch with you! We are always glad to hear about what you are doing, and please, photos would be great too! You can email Dr. Burke at [baburke@csupomona.edu](mailto:baburke@csupomona.edu)

We hope to see those of you in the L.A. area at the Annual SEES Christmas Party on December 3rd, 2010 at the Kellogg Mansion; and next May for our Annual Alumni Dinner.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[www.csupomona.edu/~sees](http://www.csupomona.edu/~sees)