

THE SEES INFORMER

S C I E N C E E D U C A T I O N A L E N H A N C E M E N T S E R V I C E S

W E L C O M E

Upcoming Events:

September 2011

- Fall Quarter Begins on September 22nd

October 2011

- SACNAS Conference Oct. 27-30, San Jose, CA

November 2011

- ABRCMS Conference, Nov. 9-12 St. Louis, MO

December 2011

- Annual Christmas Party, Dec. 2nd

January 2012

- CSUPERB Jan. 6-7, Santa Clara, CA

February 2012

- SUMMA Conference, Feb. 12th, Stanford, CA

May 2012

- LPMSA Banquet
- SEES Alumni Dinner

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 freshmen 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, 44 in Winter, and 34 in Spring—Congratulations on your hard work! Within the newsletter you will find many more accomplishments of SEES students and news about them and about our SEES alumni. Enjoy!

- Dr. Barbara Burke

Hello and welcome. In this issue of The SEES Informer, you will find information on our events from this past school year as well as new events to come.

C O M M E N C E M E N T 2 0 1 1

On the wonderful Spring evening of June 11th 2011, friends and family gathered around the University Quad to cheer and congratulate the recent graduates. Of all the students that participated in the commencement ceremony, 35 of them were part of the SEES Program.

It is always a treat to see the wave of students wearing their SEES sashes showing pride in their respective field.

We are really proud of all the graduates and we wish them all the best as they step into the world. Congratulations Class of 2011 for a job well done!

- Ashley Santiago

After 12 years of serving as the Administrative Support Coordinator I am very happy about the program and the work we have done together. The SEES program is poised to meet new challenges especially in this difficult economic climate. I'm pleased to be a source of information for our undergraduate students in different areas such as the AEW, scholarship and research opportunities and giving students lab computer access. I'm delighted to work in a highly successful program and look forward to a great 2011-2012 academic year.

- Dora Nyborg-Andersen



THE GRADUATES OF 2011



Okikiola Adeniji
 Ruth Alvarez
 Gerald Angel
 Jose Ayala
 Mary Compean
 Nicole Conway
 Ada Cueva-Gonzalez
 Consuelo Dagostino
 Cathryn De Guzman
 Ronnisha Dukes
 Janaye Ervin
 Janae Ferguson

Javier Gallegos
 Sandra Hernandez
 Qichao Ji
 Jannie Knuchell
 Alisha Lewis
 Maribel Marquez
 Christina Martinez
 Lluli Martinez
 Pedro Montoya
 Alejandro Muniz
 Liliana Nunez
 Demetreanna Ofurie

Celia Pazos
 Cynthia Prieto-Diaz
 Gustavo Ramirez
 David Ramos
 Hector Ruiz
 Danielle Stolmeier
 Sara Tadros
 Damion Walters
 Jessica Yim
 Jessica Zoellmer

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2010-2011 S-STEM Scholarship recipients:

NSF-STEM Scholarship Program was established to support academically successful junior/senior S-STEM students with financial need.



Gerald Angel
 Melissa Arroyo-Mendoza
 Jose Ayala
 Cynthia Castillo
 Mayra Cervantes
 Cathryn De Guzman
 Chelsea Dixon
 Elena Guardado
 Alexander Gutierrez
 Edward Guzman
 Mario Guzman

Sandra Hernandez
 Tyler Hernandez
 Liliana Nunez
 Demetreanna Ofurie
 Stephen Parker
 Jessamine Quijano
 Lauren Quiros
 Jason Sanchez
 Elizabeth Silva
 Arcadio Vazques
 Vanessa Yanez

CSU LSAMP Scholar for 2010-2011

Mayra Cervantes

2010-2011 Boeing Company Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Science:

The purpose of the scholarship is to support SEES students who have demonstrated academic accomplishments, activities and service to the community.

Luis Bohorquez
 Daisy Cuevas
 Alexander Gutierrez
 Dianne Sanchez
 Ashley Santiago
 Maritza Silva



CHRISTMAS PARTY



This annual Christmas Party was held on December 3rd, 2010 at the Kellogg Mansion. From the moment you walked into the mansion you could feel the spirit

of Christmas. The lights and ribbon that surrounded the rooms and the large beautifully decorated Christmas tree were the first things the attendees saw as they walked in.

Many current and new students brought their family to meet their classmates and professors. The alumni that attended were able to meet and share their stories with the current SEES students. They gathered along the piano, played by Jack Hamm, and sang Christ-

mas carols. We are happy to say that our singing skills were just as wonderful as they could possibly be.

It was a night filled with joy and great food catered by Kellogg West. Many came to celebrate such an exciting time this year. It is wonderful to see that SEES is growing and we hope to see more growth in the coming years. This next school year's Christmas party will be held on December 2nd In the Kellogg Mansion. We hope to see you all there!

MENTORING PROGRAM UPDATE

The SEES Mentoring Program provides a powerful means for seasoned Cal Poly students to guide and support incoming freshmen. The best mentors are familiar with science courses and curriculum. Mentors and mentees (SCI 110 students) meet on a weekly basis from September to June. Mentoring activities range from group and individual meetings, study sessions, scientific meetings and social functions.

We are pleased to introduce the new SEES Mentor Coordinator, Mario Pineda. Congrats Mario!

"This year's freshman class was unique. There were 24 students who

actively participated in the mentoring program. After the first quarter many soon realized high school was in the past and they had began the future that once seemed so far away. After a year of working with them, their questions, comments and concerns began to diminish, but not completely. Their questions were answered by their mentors and each other and their comfort zone was reached. They began to quickly form study groups and make use of the study rooms. Many encountered situations that helped them grow as a student and as person.

I strongly feel that this year was successful and productive; I was able to physically see improvements and more

smiles on mentees than I had ever seen.

I am also thankful for all the help given by the mentors, and Dr. Burke. Thanks to everyone for making the SEES Mentoring Program work.

Special thanks to our faculty mentors for their continued advice and support:

Dr. Michael Page

Dr. Steve McCauley

Dr. Laurie Starkey

It was an honor to have been part of the program. Thank you."

-Cynthia Castillo



P M S A



If you ever had the privilege of being part of this club you might have noticed a difference in the name. The once "Latino Pre-Medical Student Association" or LPMSA has taken one large step in growth. The new Executive Board has made the decision to open its doors to any and all students seeking guidance into the Medical Field. They started by changing the name to "The Pre-Medical Student Association" or PMSA. We wish them all the best in their efforts this year.

-Ashley Santiago

I had the privilege to be president of LPSMA (Latino Pre-Medical Student Association) this past school year. We accomplished many things, including going to pre-medical conferences, volunteering at the Chino Valley Health Center and going on a tour at UC San Diego School of Medicine. We had the pleasure to hear from former LPSMA president and USC medi-

cal student Alfred Villasenor at a club meeting and at our end-of-the-year banquet. He taught us that even if the path we are taking to reach our goal may have obstacles and challenges, we can't give up and should continue to work hard. At our end-of-the-year banquet, we announced the executive board for next year as follows:

Alicia Sandoval - President

Danny Bullocks - Vice President

Iqbal Kaur - Treasurer

Melissa Nair - Secretary

Christopher Marin - Science Council Representative

Corazon Lara - Science Council Representative

Gabriel Luevanos - Social Chair

Roxanna Calvario - Social Chair

Kevin Alonso - Historian

Congratulations! I know next year will be awesome!

- Demetreanna Ofurie

2010-2011 LPMSA President

W E L L N E S S C O N F E R E N C E

The Wellness Conference was held on June 1-2, 2011 in Los Angeles, California. The overall goal was to find ways to significantly elevate the number of minority students that graduate from college and enter careers in healthcare.

Educators, physicians, counselors, pharmacy and hospital representatives had discussions about how we can advocate for healthcare reform, by focusing on where the problem begins.

SEES students had the pleasure of attending the conference. Our goal was

to provide positive and negative factors with respect to the needs of minority students in college. I along with Dr. Guillermo Camacho, DDS, Airek Matthews (UCLA graduate student) and Demetreanna Ofurie were panelists in the workshop.

- Cynthia Castillo

We learned that it isn't enough to accept underrepresented minorities into universities; the culture of the university should also be warm and encouraging.

When we broke into a small group discussion, I met health professionals and univer-

sity faculty, including James P. Forkin, the director of the postbaccalaureate program at UC Davis. Dr. Burke, two SEES alumni, Cynthia Castillo and I did a workshop about the health professionals program under SEES. We talked about how SEES health professionals program helped us in many ways by giving us opportunities to do research apprenticeship and financially supporting us so we can go to pre-medical conferences (just to name a few).

-Demetreanna Ofurie

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

CCRAA
 Youssef Fakhro
 Matthew Pasos
 Joseph Robledo

CSULSAMP Research
 Apprenticeship
 Program
 Matthew Pasos

CSULSAMP REU Pro-
 gram in Austria
 Edward Guzman

McNair Scholars
 Program
 Alexander Gutierrez
 Jena Portanova

MBRS-RISE
 Carla Noguera
 Luladey Ayalew
 Melissa Arroyo Mendoza

REU Program UC Da-
 vis
 Dianne Sanchez

DR. BURKE'S RELEVANT EVENTS



At Commence-
 ment, Dr. Burke
 was very honored
 to receive the
 inaugural Provost
 Award for Com-
 munity Service for
 exemplary service
 to not only the
 university, but
 also the commu-
 nity at large. As she said, "My greatest joy
 is celebrating each success as students
 move thru Cal Poly, graduate, and ulti-

mately achieve their dream. I believe in their
 ability to succeed and I'm constantly point-
 ing out opportunities and continuously fol-
 lowing up—which sometimes I'm sure stu-
 dents wish I didn't! We work together as they
 strive to meet not only the academic chal-
 lenges of the university, but also the chal-
 lenges of their various life roles. We often
 talk about the options, but I stand back
 (sometimes with difficulty) as they choose
 their path. My goal, as Emerson said is "to
 find the best in others ... to know even one
 life has breathed easier because you have
 lived. This is to have succeeded..."

The SEES program was highlighted in
 the May 2011 issue of the Lumina Founda-
 tion's *Focus* publications in recognition of
 our success in retaining and graduating
 Latino students majoring in STEM fields.
 This publication is distributed nationwide to
 university presidents, community- based
 organizations, and other stakeholders that
 support the increase of minority student
 graduation rates from universities and
 community colleges.

RECENT SEES GRADUATES

- ◆ Melissa Arroyo- Mendoza was accepted into the MS program in Biology at Cal Poly Pomona
- ◆ Ada Cueva was accepted into the Credential Program at Cal Poly Pomona
- ◆ Consuelo D'Agostino was accepted into the Physician Assistant Program at Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA
- ◆ Sandra Hernandez Raygoza was accepted into the Credential Program at Cal Poly Pomona
- ◆ Chris Loera was accepted into the Physician Assistant Program at Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA
- ◆ Lilliana Nunez was accepted into the Geological Science program at UC San Diego
- ◆ Gustavo Ramirez was accepted into the Biology Department at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

ALUMNI DINNER



It was a nice cozy reception for the SEES Alumni Dinner, held on May 9th, 2011 at the Kellogg West Dining. It was an occasion to meet faculty members, former and current

SEES students and their families. We all enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by alumni introductions. Alumni shared stories about their recollections of the SEES program.

Dr. Michael Keith expressed thanks to Dr. Burke for her hard work with the program and encouraged alumni to keep supporting SEES with their time and expertise.

We thank all the guest who attended this event and we hope to see you all again this year!

RECENT UPDATES



Life as a new mom has been a wonderful and unpredictable adventure. Ryan arrived a few days before graduation and so I had to postpone defending my thesis until the end of this summer. Ryan is growing so fast and already loves to talk. He also enjoys practicing how to crawl during tummy time. Although it's been diffi-

cult juggling finishing my thesis and spending time with the new baby, I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. I plan to continue my graduate studies and hope to be enrolled in a PhD program by next fall.

-Elysse Ornelas

facebook



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Keeping in Touch

It is always great to hear what our alums are up to. Is your contact information up to date? What's new in your life? A new job or promotion? A new credential or degree? A new accomplishment? Your classmates want to know and so does SEES. Please e-mail to Dr.

Burke at baburke@csupomona.edu