

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 2012

- ◆ Fall Quarter Begins on September 20th

October 2012

- ◆ SACNAS Conference October 11th-14th in Seattle, Washington

November 2012

- ◆ ABRCMS Conference November 10th
- ◆ Annual Christmas Party November 30th

January 2013

- ◆ CSUPERB January 3rd - 5th in Anaheim, CA

February 2013

- ◆ SUMMA Conference

May 2013

- ◆ PMSA 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: 36 were on the Dean's list in Fall, 34 in Winter, 47 in Spring, and 23 on the President's list—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

It's been such a privilege to be a part of SEES for the past 3 years, first as a mentee now as a mentor. I'm looking forward to the upcoming school year and any challenges it may bring. With the help

of our SEES community and its resources, no obstacle is too great to overcome. Thank you all, especially Dr. Burke, for providing such a strong support system for us science majors.

-Dianne Sanchez

Join me in acknowledging the many individuals (faculty, SEES academic advisors, mentors, alumni and AEW facilitators) who have made and continue to make the SEES program a unique, inviting, and captivating center of learning for the underrepresented minorities in the sciences. Thank you for giving back, one person at a time. This is my 14th year working in SEES and I love what I do, especially interacting with the students. They have a type of energy you cannot find anywhere else. I'm looking forward to a successful 2012-2013 academic year.

-Dora Nyborg-Andersen

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



It was a great moment of pride to see our former SEES students achieve academic success during Spring Commencement 2012. On June 10 more than 45 SEES graduates embarked on a journey of lifelong learning taking with them skills, knowledge, and the capacity to become successful leaders in their communities. Congratulations class of 2012!



THE GRADUATES OF 2012



Gabriel Alvarado
 Melissa Arroyo
 Michael Batterson
 Jessica Becerra
 Amanda Borgquist
 Francisca Cabrera
 Denise Caceres
 Cynthia Castillo
 Mayra Cervantes
 Tya Clark
 Nereyda Donoso
 Sahan Emmanuel
 Manuel Flores
 Stephanie Fonseca

Mykel Gaspar
 Alexander Gutierrez
 Mario Guzman
 Nektar Hakopian
 Tyler Hernandez
 Patrice Kiiru
 Christopher Lam
 Francisco Marquez
 Kailah Martin
 Dillon Melendez
 Zobeida Merlos
 Rafael Morales
 Zaira Olivares
 Lauren Quiros

Matthew Pasos
 Jena Portanova
 Jessamine Quijano
 Cecilia Ramos
 Jason Sanchez
 Cesar Sanchez
 Diana Simon
 Chris Tashjian
 Eric Tello
 Frank Valdez Jr.
 Lindsey Williamson
 Andrew Wong
 Remi Wong

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2011-2012 S-STEM Scholarship recipients:

Louis Bohorquez
 Cynthia Castillo
 Mayra Cervantes
 Chelsea Dixon
 Erika Espinoza
 Youssef Fakhro
 Eleana Guardado
 Alexander Gutierrez
 Mario Guzman
 Nektar Hakopian

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



Tyler Hernandez
 Lauren Quiros
 Lizette Rodriguez
 Cesar Sanchez
 Dianne Sanchez
 Ashley Santiago
 Elizabeth Silva
 Vanessa Yanez
 Arcadio Vasquez
 Daisy Vasquez

2011-2012 The Boeing Company Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Science:

Alexander Gutierrez
 David Scianni
 Maritza Silva
 Monique Sobero
 Ashley Silva

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

CSU LSAMP Scholars for 2011-2012

Edward Guzman Arcadio Vasquez Vanessa Yanez

S-RaMP Transfer Student Scholarship recipients:

Nogol Andisheltjoo
 Brian Apodaca
 Alberto Bautista
 Ryan Cheney
 Daniel Chinchilla
 Samantha Cooke
 Nektar Hakopian
 Itzia Jeronimo

Lindsey Lopez
 Jesse Morris
 Chris Murphy
 Danielle Ortega
 David Scianni
 Maira Torres
 Frankie Valdez
 David Velazquez

2011-2012 Paul C. Heimenz Scholarship recipient:



Ashley Santiago

CSU LSAMP Community College Transfer Student Scholarship recipient:

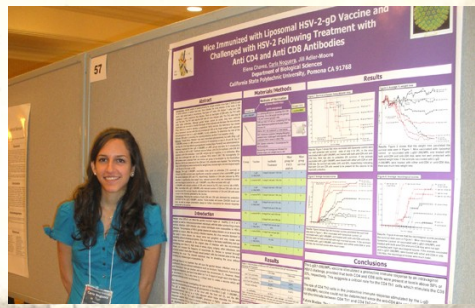
David Scianni

R E S E A R C H P R O G R A M S

Research as an undergraduate can be an amazing experience for students who are thinking about venturing on to graduate school. The SEES Program encourages its members to apply to summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs and similar programs throughout the academic year. Participating in these programs better prepares students for life in a graduate environment, as it teaches them to be able thinkers, problem solvers, and sharpens their skills needed to thrive as a graduate student. We are very proud of our students who get accepted into such programs. Congratulations to the following SEES members:

Youssef Fahkro, Alexander Gutierrez, and Ashley Santiago for their **CSULSAMP Research Apprenticeship**. Carla Nogera, Luladey Ayalew, Erika Espinoza, and Eleana Guardado for their ongoing participation in the **MBRS-RISE Program**. Alexander Gutierrez for his participation in the **McNair Scholars Program**. Brian Apodaca, Cynthia Guevara, Jesse Morris,

Joseph Robledo, Monica Santander, and Maritza Silva for their **SEES-RAMP Research Apprenticeship**. Jonathan Vieyra for being accepted to the Salisbury **University REU Program** this summer. Aubrie De La Cruz for being accepted into the **University of California Riverside REU Program** this summer. Edward Guzman for being accepted into the **University of Colorado Boulder LCMRC REU Program** for the summer. Ashley Santiago for being accepted into the **University of Connecticut Chemistry REU Program** this summer. Youssef Fahkro for being accepted into the **University of Southern California REU Program** for the summer.



MENTORING PROGRAM UPDATE



The SEES mentoring program will always be special to me as I have been part of it as both a mentee and a mentor. This year I had the privilege of being the coordinator of a dedicated group of mentors who together gave their time to help and guide this year's group of incoming freshmen. Due to the help from these mentors we had a successful year.

This year we had a group of freshmen that were very active, and participated in all aspects of school. This was not the case from the beginning. Like every year, it took a while for the mentees to get comfortable with both the school and the mentoring program. College can be a major change in many of the students' lives, so it was great to see that after the first quarter the mentees became more comfortable with the help of mentors and their fellow mentees. Forming study groups, talking to their mentors, and having small hangouts throughout the year were all helpful in obtaining that positive comfort zone. By the end of the year it was great to see that the mentees did not need the men-

tors' help as much and were more independent.

Overall, this year's mentees were actively participating not only in the mentoring program, but throughout the school. I would like to thank all the mentors for helping out the SEES mentoring program and making the program work. I would also like to thank the faculty mentors, which include: Dr. Robin Wilson, Dr. Steve McCauley, Dr. Laurie Starkey, and Dr. Michael Page for their advice and help to the mentors. Most importantly, I would like to thank Dr. Burke for making all of this possible.

-Mario Pineda



Success in Science class doing an interactive presentation



Mentees at the regenerative center learning about and making biodiesel

P M S A

As I reflect back on the past year, it brings me joy to see how much the Pre-Medical Student Association has grown. I am proud to have been the president of such an amazing club with students that have the full potential to become great health professionals. We were able to attend 4 conferences this year, UC Davis, UCLA, Stanford, and Mt. Sac, which is an amazing accomplishment! We also put on and were a part of over 30 events, some of which include: Care-Now La, Relay for Life, Kingsley Elementary Arthritis Walk, and countless other events. I am very proud of what the executive board and I have accomplished this year. Good luck to everyone on their future endeavors. A special thank you to Dora Andersen and Dr. Burke for always supporting us.

-Alicia Sandoval
2011-2012 PMSA President

2012-2013 Executive Board

- Melissa Nair - President
- Kevin Alonso - Vice President
- Antonio Aguayo - Treasurer
- Gabriel Luevanos - Secretary
- Danny Bullocks - Science Council Rep
- Victor Elias - Social Chair
- Christopher Marin - Historian
- Obi Okafor - Community Service Chair
- Jossue Loya - Fundraising Chair



ALUMNI DINNER



The sixth alumni reunion occurred in May 2012. Approximately 35 alums attended. It was very successful. President Ortiz and Provost DenBoer stopped by to visit. Dr. Hiemenz was on

hand to talk about “the good old times” with the alumni. The alums emphasized their willingness to come back to Cal Poly and interact with our current SEES students. Thus we continue to compile a list of their names, occupations, and contact information so that I or SEES students would be able to get in touch with them to arrange visits, answer questions, and provide information about their life story. They all acknowledged how important SEES was, not only to their success at Cal Poly, but also

as they joined the scientific workforce. They all enthusiastically endorsed the idea to use our annual alumni dinner as a fundraising event to help the SEES program. Our SEES Alumni Fund is growing .



CHRISTMAS PARTY



The annual SEES Christmas Party is one of the merriest nights of the year. This is a special night where SEES members gather together to enjoy delicious food, joyous atmosphere, and the company of friends, family, and colleagues. This past year, on December 2nd, the party was held in the beautifully decorated Kellogg Mansion. A gorgeous Christmas tree stood front and center for all the guests to enjoy, as well as a toasty fireplace, and an elegant piano. The delicious aroma of food wafted through the house, and everyone eagerly awaited the delicious dinner to come.

The guests were all handsomely dressed as they mingled with alumni, mentees, students’ families, and professors. Cheer and jollity were in the air as a few brave souls initiated the singing of Christmas carols; soon most of our guests were singing to their hearts content. With a full satisfied belly and joy in their hearts, our guests left that night with warm memories.



ALUMNI NEWS

- ◆ Cidny Perry accepted a position as assistant professor of Nutrition at Shepherd University in West Virginia
- ◆ Kim de la Peza received her DVM from Michigan State University
- ◆ Elysse Gatdula received her MS in Biological Sciences and will be teaching part time at Cal Poly Pomona
- ◆ Sara (Martinez) Wright continues her postdoctoral position in biochemistry at Baylor University, Dallas, TX, where she was awarded an IRACDA Fellowship to support both research and teaching.
- ◆ Ge'Yanni Polk was accepted into the Urban Teacher Residency Program where she'll be pursuing a single subject credential in Biology/Chemistry
- ◆ Rashieda Hatcher received her PhD from Baylor College of Medicine Houston, Texas
- ◆ Jose Ayala was accepted into the Teach for America Program thru which he will get both a single subject credential and MA in mathematics
- ◆ Gustavo Ramirez, PhD student at USC, received a National Science Foundation Research Fellowship Award (2011-2015), the USC Rose Hills PhD Provost Fellowship (2011-2012), and USC Graduate School Summer Institute Fellowship, Summer 2011.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

- ◆ Catherine de Guzman was accepted into the UCI Post Baccalaureate Program
- ◆ Stephanie Fonseca was awarded a Noyce Scholarship as she pursues a single subject credential in biology here at Cal Poly Pomona
- ◆ Alexander Gutierrez was accepted into a Ph.D. program in Computer Science at University of Michigan
- ◆ Jonathon Henry was accepted into the M.S. program in Mathematics at Cal State Long Beach
- ◆ Alisha Lewis was accepted into the Ph.D. program in Chemistry at Syracuse University
- ◆ Chris Tashjian was accepted into UCLA Medical School

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