

THE SEES INFORMER

Science Educational Enhancement Services

2013-2014 Academic Year

Volume XVI

Greetings SEES Family!

It's time to reflect on another year. Last July 2013 began a year of transition. Our dear and former SEES director, Dr. Barbara Burke retired at the end of June and Dr. Steve Alas took over the reins.

It was a new season for SEES and although the initial changes were subtle, Dr. Alas started making positive modifications to our program. The first order of business was to recruit the young top notch faculty as advisors for our program. Also, SEES now has an Alumni-Faculty-Student mentor mixer. Alumni and faculty, whose career align with the aspiration of SEES mentors and mentees, are recruited to serve as career mentors. The SEES textbook library in the SEES community room was revamped thanks to the collaboration and contributions from the College of Science faculty and we will soon have a textbook loan program.

There are great plans for the SEES

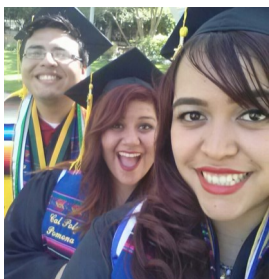
program as we develop a pilot program to begin summer of 2015 to bring financial resources to SEES. The resources will support students' lab research and funds to travel to scientific meetings. This will be a great addition to the various grant programs we now offer.

I'm looking forward to reaching out to more students with our program and am excited to be part of this new era for SEES.

by Dora Nyborg Andersen – Administrative Support Coordinator



RAZA Graduation & Commencement 2014



On Saturday, May 31, 2014, some of our SEES seniors participated in the cultural RAZA Graduation Ceremony. It was a beautiful

ceremony that promoted unity among members of a wonderful culture.

On June 13, 2014, thirty-seven SEES students participated in the 2014 commencement ceremony. Congratulations class of 2014!!! Friends and family assembled for this wonderful ceremony to celebrate an achievement that took years. These individuals successfully

obtained a Bachelor's degree in a science field. Now, they're off to pursue higher education and/or their career dreams.



Upcoming Events

September 2014

- Fall Quarter Begins on September 25th

October 2014

- SACNAS Conference on October 16th in the Los Angeles Convention Center

November 2014

- ABRCMS Conference on November 12th-15th in San Antonio, Texas

December 2014

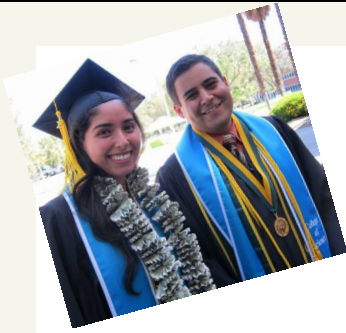
- Annual Christmas Party

January 2015

- Alumni-Faculty-Student Mentor Mixer

May 2015

- PMSA Banquet



The Graduates of 2014



Luladey Ayalew

Mario Cabrera

Amanda Castro

Ivonne Cepeda

Samantha Cooke

Brandon De Paul

Kristin Dettmers

Wendy Diego

Erika Espinoza

Erick Garcia

Liliana Garcia

Candy Jimenez

Iqbal Kaur

Corey Marsh

Thomas Martin

Sara McGee

Angelica Meza

Jesse Morris

Chris Murphy

Carla Noguera

Obiajulu Okafor

Cynthia Palma

Jesse Perez



Cesar Popoca

Christopher Ramsden

Hernan Reza

Cassandra Rodriguez

Miguel Rodriguez

Dulce Ruelas Jacobo

Oscar Ruiz

Dianne Sanchez

Monica Santander

Ashley Santiago

David Scianni

Krystal Silguero

Maritza Silva

Princess Taylor

Stephanie Varela

Arcadio Vazquez

Alberto Velazquez-Hernandez

Anna Zaldivar



Recent SEES Graduates

- Maritza Silva will be attending Claremont Graduate University to obtain her Master's degree in Education and her teaching credential.
- David Scianni will be pursuing his Master's in Computer Science at USC.
- Dianne Sanchez will attend UC Irvine for her Ph.D. in Earth System Science.
- Brandon De Paul will be going to Loyola University of Chicago for his Master's.
- Jesse Morris was accepted at Samuel Merritt University into the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
- Cynthia Palma will be starting a 4 year optometry program in August at UC Berkeley
- Mario Cabrera will be attending the University of Rochester in their Physics & Astronomy Ph.D. program.
- Jesse Perez will be attending Pharmacy School at Keck Graduate Institute of Claremont
- Ashley Santiago was accepted into the teaching credential program at CSU Dominguez Hills
- Kristin Dettmers will be attending MIT for her PhD in Mathematics
- Miguel Rodriguez will be attending UC Berkeley with a Chancellor's Fellowship for his MS/PhD in Mechanical Engineering
- Nicole Natalie Sanchez will be attending a Master's/PhD program at Fisk-Vanderbilt University

2013-2014

NSF S-STEM Scholarship Recipients

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

Mario Cabrera
Samantha Cooke
Aubrie De La Cruz
Jenna Drewitz
Erika Espinoza
Adriana Granados



Taylor Halsey
Jossue Loya
Miguel Rodriguez
Dianne Sanchez
Ashley Santiago
David Velazquez

2013-2014

CSU LSAMP PROUD Scholars

The CSU-LSAMP Program for Recognition of Undergraduate Distinction (CSU-LSAMP PROUD) is a new program designed to recognize and highlight the achievements of outstanding CSU-LSAMP students throughout the CSU system. Each year, all twenty-three CSU campuses select four students to bestow this prestigious honor upon based on their achievements, such as outstanding academic performance, research



accomplishments, service and leadership, or personal triumphs. These PROUD Scholars will be featured in an annual CSU-LSAMP publication that will be made available on the CSU-LSAMP Statewide website. All students featured in the publication received a certificate acknowledging their distinction.

Recipients:

Aubrie De La Cruz

Ashley Santiago

David Scianni

Samayah Williams

Hilda L. Solis Scholarship Dinner & Reception



Every year, the Latino Professional Alumni Chapter (LPAC) and the César E. Chávez Center for Higher Education put on The Hilda L. Solis Scholarship Dinner and Reception, which recognizes high achieving students who help make a difference in the lives of others.

This year's reception took place on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at Kellogg West. This event was special, not only because former US Secretary of Labor and Cal Poly Alumna Hilda Solis was present, but also because four of our very own SEES students were recognized and honored at this event for their accomplishments during their time at Cal Poly Pomona. The

students honored at the reception included: Mario Cabrera, Aubrie De La Cruz, Ashley Santiago, David Scianni. We are all so proud of their hard work and dedication, and cannot wait to see what else they accomplish in their lives and career.



2013-2014 The Paul Hiemenz Scholarship

Role Models that Exemplify the Spirit and Ideals of SEES



When I first arrived at Cal Poly Pomona, I was a little nervous. This was a big new step in my life, and I entered it alone and not knowing what to expect. Luckily, I was invited to be a part of the SEES community, and my decision to join SEES has become the most important decision I have made during my time at Cal Poly Pomona. Upon entering SEES, I was constantly guided to do more, and to be the best student that I could be. Under Dr. Burke, I was selected to become a SEES mentor for freshmen, an AEW facilitator for the calculus workshops, and I participated in a research project with Dr. Amar Raheja with the aid of the SEES and LSAMP programs. Currently, under Dr. Alas, I am in my second year as a SEES mentor, and I am doing a second research project with computer science professor, Dr. Raheja. If it were not for SEES, I would have probably spent my time at Cal Poly only taking classes and then going home. I am so grateful for all that SEES has done for me. I consider the friends I have made here to be part of my family, and I hope to use all the things I have learned from SEES as I continue my academic journey at the USC Viterbi College of Engineering getting my Master's in Computer Science.

-David Scianni

2013-2014 Paul Hiemenz Scholarship Recipient

CSU-LSAMP PROUD Scholar

Hilda L. Solis Scholarship Recipient

President's Council Scholar for the College of Science

2013-2014 The Boeing Company Scholarship

To support SEES students who have demonstrated academic accomplishments, activities, and service to the community



David Vega

2013-2014 The Robert Noyce Scholarship

To encourage talented STEM majors and professionals who might otherwise not have considered the teaching profession



Maritza Silva

SEES Research Programs & Scholars

S-RaMP Research Program

Austin Baca
Lindsey Kabot
Michelle Mendizabal
Alejandro Varela

CSU LSAMP Research Program



Mario Cabrera
Maria Garcia
Grace Lim
Marlena Lopez
Dianne Sanchez
Natalie Sanchez
Davon Webb

Hearst Research Program

Marea Briceno
Aubrie De La Cruz
Natalie Garcia
Adriana Granados
Eliza Hernandez
Alberto Herrera
Zachary Kysar
Stefan Riedel
David Scianni
David Vega
David Velasquez



Wellness Research Program

Antonio Aguayo
Erick Garcia
Andrew Gibson
Jossue Loya
Sidney Perez
Monique Sobero



15th Annual Ronald E. McNair

Scholar Undergraduate Research Symposium



Gabriela Garza-Vazquez
Raul Gonzalez
Eliza Hernandez
Dianne Sanchez

2nd Annual Cal Poly Research Conference

A 75th Anniversary Event



Samantha Cooke

Eliza Hernandez

Dianne Sanchez

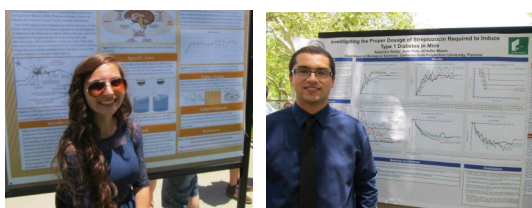
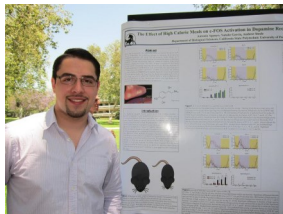
Natalie Sanchez

David Vega



9th Annual Science Research Symposium

College of Science



Antonio Aguayo

Michelle Mendizabal

Erick Garcia

Maria Garcia

Jossue Loya Jimenez

Alberto Herrera

Alejandro Varela

Stefan Riedel

Aubrie De La Cruz

Eliza Hernandez

Dianne Sanchez

Natalie Garcia

Felipe Tolliver

Mario Cabrera

Nicole Sanchez

David Vega

Miguel Reyes

Miguel Rodriguez

David Scianni

Monique Sobero

Sidney Perez

Austin Baca

Andrew Gibson

Devon Webb

Mentor Update

The mentoring program has always been one of the most exciting aspect in SEES. This is not only because it provides a great service to new incoming freshmen as they make their transition from high school students to college students, but because it always inspires people to be the best students and colleagues they can be. The mentoring program builds a bond between upper-division students that are preparing for life after college, and the newer students that are just starting to set their own path to personal growth and career dreams.



As my time at Cal Poly is coming to a close, it was an honor and pleasure to act as the Mentoring Coordinator this year. I take a look back at the beginning of the year and all I can think about is the first time I had the chance to meet the new generation of young scientists. As they walked into the SEES room for the first time, during summer orientation, you can feel the enthusiasm they brought. I, along side a determined and passionate team of 18 SEES mentors, worked together with Dr. Alas and Dora Andersen to help guide all the new students as they made their first transitions into college as science majors. We had thirty-three students actively participate in the



mentoring program, and with a wide variety of mentors at their disposal it was very easy for them to become part of the SEES community.

Right from the very first day of SCI 110 class with

Dr. Alas, you could see how well this year's group of students worked together. The mentees quickly started forming study groups and new friendships with one another, as well as with other active SEES members. For yet another year, the SEES room contained a comforting community and family environment with students of all majors and levels, all learning from one another and helping each other make it through classes and finals. The skills acquired this first year through the SEES program has made them strong individuals, prepared to face the rigorous upcoming years. It would be of no surprise to any of us if we saw a majority of this freshman class become future leaders, both in SEES and in the greater scientific community.



This year's accomplishments could not have been possible without the help of several important people. Our faculty advisors are always the backbone to the mentoring program. They provide support, as well as academic guidance, for all students mentors and mentees. SEES would not be as successful without the advisors keeping the students on the right path.

-Ashley Santiago
Mentor Coordinator 2013-2014

Christmas Party 2013



On December 6, 2013, the annual SEES Christmas Party was held in the Kellogg Mansion. SEES participants, family, faculty, and staff members gathered on this special day to celebrate the happiness and whimsicality of Christmas Eve.

The Christmas party began with dinner and reminiscing. Dr. Alas, the new SEES director, then gave the annual welcome. The Christmas party was an excellent way for students and family to meet new people and to build relationships. Joining us on this special day were two remarkable individuals, Dr. Barbara Burke and Dr. Paul Hiemenz, the previous directors of SEES. Towards the end,

all SEES members, including the freshmen, sang Christmas carols to our guests, and was lead by the wonderful piano playing of Jack Hamm.



Outreach

SEES students volunteered on Saturday, April 19, along with Cal Poly Alumni for the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) day. They hosted 90 students from disadvantaged neighborhoods, ages 8-18. SEES students helped teach students with fun science activities while their parents attended workshops on college admission and financial aid. Afterwards, both parents and students explored sites across the campus to learn more about the college life experience.



Pre-Medical Student Association (PMSA)

So concludes another great year for the Pre-Medical Student Association. Besides our social and fundraising events, we were able to give back to our community by volunteering at Skid Row, the LoziLu Women's Mud Run, and the City of Hope Walk of Hope. We also attended three medical conferences at UC Irvine, Mt. SAC, and the Stanford SUMMA conference which has been our tradition. Out of nineteen clubs, our club shirt design won the "Club Shirt of the Year", awarded by Science Council.

I am proud to see this club continue to grow from last year. We had many informative meetings and important guest speakers including physicians, and the director of admissions from UC Irvine School of Medicine. But the real credit goes to my executive board, which has supported me the whole year. Their enthusiasm has helped more members become interested in what we do. They are the best e-board I could have asked for as president, and I look forward to next year's e-board to take this club further ahead. Best of luck!

-Kevin Alonso, President, Pre-Medical Student Association 2013-2014



2014-2015 Executive Board

President: Antonio Aguayo

Vice President: Jossue Loya

Secretary: Zhailah Graza

Treasurer: Matthew Wright

Community Service Chair: Cylinda Hayanes

Social Chair: Sara Delgado

Fundraising Chair: Robert Wedge IV

Science Council Rep.: Diana Clabots

Historian: Camille Martin

Recent SEES Participants

- David Vega was accepted to a summer program at SETI Institute (CAMPARE program)
- Jessica Maldonado was accepted to a summer program at University of Arizona (CAMPARE program)
- Eddy Renteria was accepted into the NASA Spaceward Bound: Mojave 2014 program
- Both David Afework and Antonio Aguayo were accepted into the D.O. program at Western University of Health Sciences
- Adriana Granados was accepted into the summer Biostatistics program at The University of Iowa
- Marea Briceno was accepted into the summer program at the Genetic Research Institute of the Desert (GRID)
- Stephanie Salas was accepted into the 2014 UNLV Radiochemistry Fuel Cycle summer program
- Marlena Lopez was accepted into a summer internship at the Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica
- Marisa Zaragoza obtain an internship in Clinical Care Extender Program, Queen of the Valley Hospital
- Andrew Gibson was accepted into a summer program at UC Davis for Ag. Innovation
- Nicole Lynn and Raul Gonzalez were accepted to an internship at the Water District

Science Educational Enhancement Services

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Keep 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 Dr. Alas at alas@csupomona.edu

Alumni News

- Demetreanna Ofurie got accepted into Claremont Graduate University's Master's in Public Health program.
- Nicole Villegas got accepted into Medical School at the American University of Antigua.
- Francisca Cabrera was admitted to Cal Poly Pomona for her Master's in Biology.



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