



THE SEES INFORMER

Science Educational Enhancement Services



Volume XVII

2014/2015 Academic Year

Upcoming Events

September 2015

- Fall quarter begins on September 24, 2015

October 2015

- SACNAS Conference on October 29-31, in Washington, DC

November 2015

- ABRCMS Conference on November 11-14, in Seattle, Washington

December 2015

- Annual Christmas Party- December 4

January 2016

- Alumni-Faculty-Student Mentor Mixer

May 2016

- PMSA Banquet
- SEES Scholarship Banquet, May 13

Welcome

Friday June 12, 2015 was the culmination of many dreams, especially for 80 SEES students and their families. Being the first in a family to graduate from college seems an impossible dream for many, but not for our SEES students. This dream is possible due to their perseverance, dedication and because of what this university has to offer. Congratulations Class of 2015 for the excellent job and awesome achievement.

Under the impeccable leadership of Dr. Steve Alas, SEES program director, our SEES students participated in many activities during the 2014-2015 academic year. For the first time eight SEES members were standouts serving as presidents of various science clubs. More than 30 students were funded for scientific research internships. Others mentored lower division students, facilitated computer science, chemistry

and mathematics workshops, volunteered for science fairs, and served as Discovery camp counselors just to name a few experiences SEES students undertook outside of the classroom. For some, these activities were as important as their final grades. Engagement in the SEES program and its activities has helped students be better prepared for the ever-changing global market and become more competitive in both the work force and graduate school. In this edition of the newsletter, we have many successful stories to share.

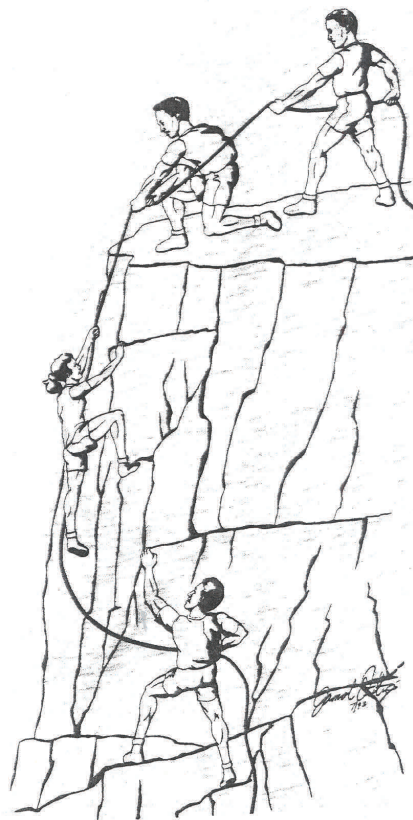
The highlight of this summer was the start of Discovery Summer camps for children 2-7 grades. We offered science, horse, computer science and robotics camps. SEES hired 12 science majors to be Camp Counselors. Students pursuing a science degree and teaching credential were especially excited about the positions. No doubt this is a huge project to undertake,

but will certainly benefit our program and the community for years to come.

Looking forward to another fruitful academic year.

– Dora Andersen

Administrative Support Coordinator



Commencement 2015



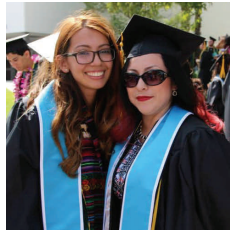
On Friday, June 12, 80 SEES students participated in the 2015 commencement ceremony. Friends, family, and faculty joined together to acknowledge the great accomplishment of this year's amazing class. These individual students successfully acquired a bachelor's degree within one

of the seven departments in the College of Science. We hope the best for these students as they continue to achieve their goals and dreams. Congratulations Class of 2015, this is one step closer to greatness.

Graduates of 2015

The SEES Informer

Michael Abi-Farah
 Yessenia Alcazar
 Kevin Alonso
 Jessica Andaya
 Demetri Anderson
 Juan Arredondo
 Seomary Arriaza
 Jessica Avila
 Andy Barajas
 Lili Barajas
 Stephanie Calderon
 Vanessa Cancino
 Adelle Carstens
 Paul Carter
 Jonathan Casasola
 Christina Castillo
 Jocelyn Chavez
 Daniel Covarrubias
 Alexandra Cruz
 Daniel Cruz
 Diana Curtis
 Aubrie De La Cruz
 Alejandro Diaz
 Fernanda Dominguez
 Jenna Drewitz
 Samuel Favela



Jose Garcia
 Adriana Granados
 Kathleen Gutierrez
 Taylor Halsey
 Amanda Hernandez



Alek Reyes
 Stefan Riedel
 Joseph Robledo
 Edgar Rodriguez
 Elaynah Rodriguez
 Lizette Rodriguez
 Steven Rodriguez
 Veronica Rodriguez



Eliza Hernandez
 Joshua Hernandez
 Martha Hernandez
 Sandy Hernandez
 Cindy Hernandez
 Abigail Jasso
 Elizabeth Leonhardt



Claudia Rosas
 Freddy Ruiz
 Julio Sanchez
 Brenna Santiago
 Ashley Silva
 Mariateresa Silva
 Monique Sobero
 Ustena Tawfik

Jonathan Casasola
 Christina Castillo
 Jocelyn Chavez
 Daniel Covarrubias
 Alexandra Cruz
 Daniel Cruz
 Diana Curtis
 Aubrie De La Cruz
 Alejandro Diaz
 Fernanda Dominguez



Lindsey Lopez
 Stefany Lopez
 Steven Lopez
 Ciara Lourenco
 Jossue Jimenez
 Gabriel Luevanos



Alejandro Varela
 David Vega
 David Velazquez
 Jonathan Vieyra
 Jose Villafurte
 Jasmin Villanueva
 Victor Villegas
 Ruben Yurjar
 Marisa Zaragoza

Jenna Drewitz
 Samuel Favela



Raymond Mandujano III
 Marlene Manriquez
 Cristina Marichi
 Michelle Mendizabal
 Angela Mitchell
 Anthony Munoz
 Elizabeth Munoz
 Alina Parcasio-Sandoval

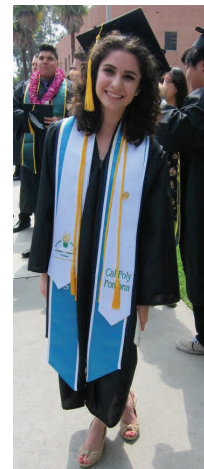


Claudia Perez
 Elizabeth Ramirez
 Elsa Renteria



Recent SEES Graduates

- ◆ Julio Sanchez will be attending Cornell for his PhD in Immunology and Infectious Disease.
- ◆ Monique Sobero will be attending the Master’s program at the University of Oregon in Polymer Science.
- ◆ Amelia Demery will be attending the Master’s program at San Diego State University in Evolutionary Biology
- ◆ Stefany Lopez will be attending the credential program at Cal Poly Pomona.
- ◆ Jessica Anaya will be attending the credential program at Cal State Fullerton.
- ◆ Samuel Favela will be attending Cal State LA’s Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) program
- ◆ Marisa Zaragoza will be working at Miller Coors Brewing Company’s laboratory.



- ◆ David Vega will be working as a Research Assistant at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute.
- ◆ Jonathan Casasola will be attending the credential program for Secondary Schooling in Mathematics at Cal Poly Pomona.
- ◆ Aubrie De La Cruz will be working at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.
- ◆ Jose Villafurte will be attending the credential program at Cal Poly Pomona

2015 Emerging Researcher National Conference in STEM

1st Place in Chemistry & Chemical Sciences



David Velazquez

2014-2015 NSF S-STEM Scholarship Recipients

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

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Antonio Aguayo | Gabriel Martinez |
| Aubrie De La Cruz | Arlen Prosser |
| Jenna Drewitz | Noel Somoza |
| Adriana Granados | Michael Torres |



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Taylor Halsey | David Vega |
| Martha Hernandez | David Velazquez |
| Kimberly Herrera | Davon Webb |
| Jossue Jimenez | |

SEES Research Programs & Scholars

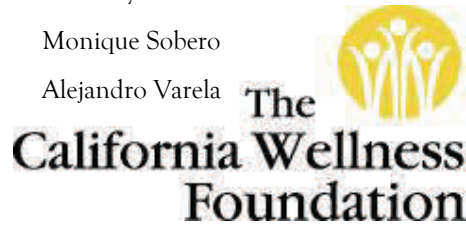
CSU LSAMP Research Program

Gisselle Hernandez
 Zachary Kysar
 Jose Monroy
 Adam Rodriguez



California Wellness Research Program

Antonio Aguayo
 Natalie Cabrera
 Sarah Diaz
 Gabriela Garza-Vazquez
 Elizabeth Marquez
 Michelle Mendizabal
 Sidney Perez
 Monique Sobero
 Alejandro Varela



Hearst Foundation Research Program

Aubrie De La Cruz
 Renee Estephan
 Natalie Garcia
 Eliza Hernandez
 Jacqueline Lara
 Jennifer Lopez
 Nicole Lynn
 Miguel Reyes
 Stefan Riedel
 Ashlee Spradley
 David Vega
 Davon Webb



CSU LSAMP PROUD Scholars

The CSU-LSAMP Program Recognizing Outstanding Undergraduate Distinction (CSU-LSAMP PROUD) was built 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, outstanding academic performance, research accomplishments, and service/leadership. This year, four students were selected to represent Cal Poly Pomona as LSAMP PROUD scholars.



Lucas De Buren, Eliza Hernandez, Antonio Aguayo, David Vega

Antonio Aguayo, Biology major, for Outstanding Academic Achievements

Eliza Hernandez, Biology major, for Outstanding Academic Achievements

David Velazquez, Chemistry major, for Outstanding Research

Lucas De Buren, Civil Engineering major, for Outstanding Research

2014-2015 The Paul Hiemenz Scholarship

Role Models that exemplify the spirit and ideals of SEES



Eliza Hernandez



2014-2015 The Barbara Burke Scholarship

Leaders that have contributed significantly to improving and enhancing the SEES program



Adriana Granados

10th Annual Science Research Symposium College of Science

Antonio Aguayo

Natalie Cabrera

Aubrie De La Cruz

Sarah Diaz

Renee Estephan

Natalie Garcia

Gabriela Garza-Vazquez

Eliza Hernandez

Giselle Hernandez

Zachary Kysar

Jacqueline Lara

Jennifer Lopez



Elizabeth Marquez

Michelle Mendizabal

Jose Monroy

Sidney Perez

Miguel Reyes

Stefan Riedel

Adam Rodriguez

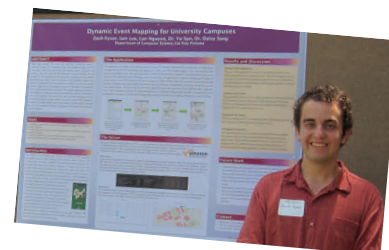
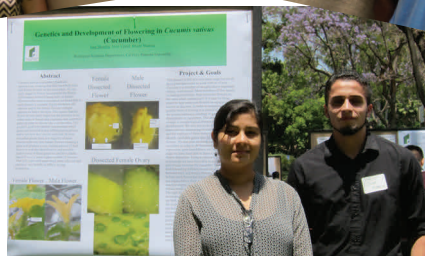
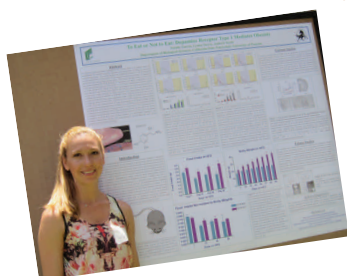
Monique Sobero

Ashlee Spradley

Alejandro Varela

David Vega

Davon Webb





Mentoring Program Update

The mentoring program is one of the key components that makes SEES an excellent and outstanding service program. The mentoring program was established to guide and aid students toward their career goals. The mentoring program helps build a bond between an upper-division student mentor, and an incoming student mentee, that inspires both students to achieve success during their years at Cal Poly Pomona.

This year we had 95 incoming students who desired to participate in the mentoring program and 50 SEES students anticipating to assist their mentee(s). The mentoring program includes the excellent SCI 110 /110A /111 /111A courses, mentor & mentee meetings, and social events.

The SCI courses help establish a strong foundation for students and their career goals. During the SCI courses, the students are required to generate a personal statement and resume for future occasions, such as applying for scholarships, research programs, and job opportunities.

This year's students had the opportunity to visit the tranquil Regenerative Center at CPP to learn more about Bio-Diesel Fuel. They also went on a tour of Edison's Innovation Center to explore the future of energy technology. At the end of the year, our students have a superior angle towards their career goals.

Our mentors also had the chance to enhance their networking with CPP alumni at the Mentor-Alumni Mixer,



thanks to SEES and the CPP Alumni Association. Thanks to the strong collaboration amongst Dora Andersen, Dr. Alas, and mentors, the Mentoring Program was yet again a success.



In each mentee you can see a part of their mentor within them.

-Lizzeth Acuna

I'm glad that I joined SEES; this was a dynamic experience.

-Carlos Gomez



Christmas Party

This year's annual Christmas party was held on December 5, 2014 at the Kellogg Mansion. SEES participants, family, faculty, and staff members gathered to spread the joy of Christmas Eve. Dr. Alas, SEES director, welcomed everyone with the tradi-

tional speech. Joining us on this special day was Dr. Paul Hiemenz, the founding director of SEES and inspiring mentor to our current SEES director. Dr. Alas presented Dora Andersen, SEES Administrative Support Coordinator, with a Christmas gift for all of her hard work mak-

ing the SEES Program the best support program at Cal Poly Pomona. As everyone finished reminiscing, all SEES students united with the beautiful piano playing of Jack Hamm to sing Christmas carols to our lovely guests.

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other"
-Burton Hillis

SEES Student's Experiences I

Many SEES students had the fortune of participating in summer internships and research programs across the country. One student, in particular, had the distinction of working at Harvard University on a SEES fellowship. Jose Monroy, who lived out a dream at one of the most prestigious institutions in the world, is a 4th year Biotechnology student at Cal Poly Pomona. During the 2014-2015 school year, Jose performed research with new Cal Poly faculty member, Dr. Bharti Sharma, in the Biological Sciences Dept. When Dr. Sharma returned this summer to Harvard to finalize research there, it was an

incredible opportunity for Jose to experience research at its highest level. The head of the Harvard lab was Dr. Elena Kramer from Harvard's Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. There, he worked on genetic analysis on several genes, such as UFO and LFY, in plants. His main job was to learn how to extract genetic material from frozen plant samples and analyze their RNA. This required precision in technique, handling various chemicals and careful treatment of the sample and genetic material. "I learned many techniques and how to use various machines, as well, and I hope to use that experience to

further my research here at Cal Poly. I cannot thank Dr. Alas and Dora from SEES, Dr. Sharma, and Dr. Kramer from Harvard enough," said Monroy. We can be certain that this was the experience of a lifetime, and just one summer story that the SEES program will be gleaming with pride about.



SEES Student's Experiences II



It's not every day you can count on a pride of lions to wake you up with their territorial roars. Luckily for Geenah-Marie Leslie, she got to experience this every morning. This past summer, she got the amazing opportunity to take part in an animal care internship at the Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge over in East Texas.

As an intern, her responsibilities in the animal care department included cleaning, diet preparation, light maintenance, and giving educational tours. "Although the entire team working there was very friendly and welcoming, my first couple of days was extremely intimidating," said Leslie. The days were long and extremely hot, easily reaching temperatures of over one hundred degrees. Working within such close proximity of the cats made it all worth it. After working there for a couple of weeks, interns were granted the responsibility and privilege of training a cat. "I was assigned to train Greg, a very sweet sixteen-year-old Bengal tiger. The training for the cats was for veterinary purposes, and my goal was to be able to get a blood draw from Greg by the end of the summer," recounted Leslie. "My favor-

ite command to give him was rise. I would extend my arms upwards with a piece of meat in a pair of tongs and firmly command, "Rise." Greg would then go on his hind legs and put his front legs up against the gate. Looking up at him, Greg was easily over eight feet standing," she continued. After two and a half months, she was able to get a blood draw from Greg, and she had never felt so accomplished. Her last few weeks at Tiger Creek were bitter sweet. She was homesick and excited to come back to my friends and family, but knew she would miss the family she had become a part of in Texas.



Quarterly Staff Award for Spring 2015

On August 18, Dr. Jersky, dean of College of Science, presented Dora Andersen with the *Quarterly Staff Award for Spring 2015* during the staff luncheon. The quarterly staff award is presented to the individual whom exemplify excellence on the job, demonstrates a strong ability to work well in a team-centered environment as well as providing outstanding service on a college-wide basis. We are all so proud of Dora for this remarkable recognition and we cannot think of anyone who is more deserving.



Dora Andersen, Dr. Brian Jersky

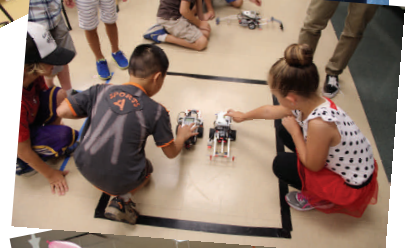
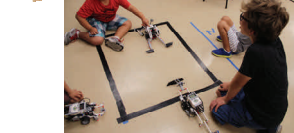
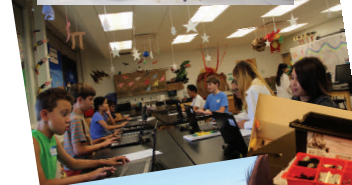
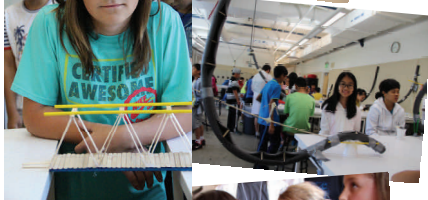
Discovery Camps

This summer, SEES constructed a new way to promote the sciences for students of ages 6-14, by establishing Discovery Camps. Students were enrolled into one of the following camps: Discovery, Computer, Robotics, or Horse camp. Discovery camp had activities based on exercises and projects that included team challenges, general arts & crafts, as well as captivating activities in the sciences. Campers enrolled in Computer camp learned commercial software and techniques to create both 2D & 3D animation. While learning software in computer camp, other campers had an excellent time programming and controlling Mindstorm EV3 robots in Robotics Camp. During Horse camp, campers went through a curriculum comprised of basic equitation, horsemanship, grooming, tacking, nutrition, anatomy and humane education. Our campers were exuberant and thrilled to be apart of this memorable experience.

Come join us at Discovery, Computer, Horse, and Robotics Camp!!! These camps were established to promote SCIENCE to 2nd-6th grade students. Each camp has its own unique style run by qualified counselors. We enhance Science by taking the CPP model of Learn by doing concept.

For more information feel free to visit our home page:

<http://www.cpp.edu/~discovery/>



Pre-Medical Student Association (PMSA)

This marks the conclusion of another great year for the Pre-Medical Student Association. With a record breaking 50+ registered club members PMSA has catapulted into being one of the most member-involved clubs in the college of science. As president, I am happy to announce that we had a huge impact in both our community and member aspirations. With over 10 esteemed guest speakers ranging from the admissions office at USC's Keck School of Medicine to Princeton Review's regional outreach director, PMSA was able to provide an active and worthwhile membership experience this academic year.



In addition to the resources provided throughout the year we also kept ourselves well informed with the medical community, admissions officers, and the application process by attending medical conferences at Stanford University and CSUSB. These events would not have been possible without the help of an awesome

executive board. I owe the success of this club to my executive board for their dedication, selflessness, and valuable advising to our members. PMSA has grown into an esteemed organization and I cannot wait to see where this club will stand in the near future. Best of luck to the 2015-2016 executive board. I'm sure you all will do great!

-Antonio Aguayo

2014-2015 Pre-Medical Student Association, President

2015-2016 Executive Eboard

President: Matthew Wright

Vice President: Camille Martin

Secretary: Ashley Deuschle

Treasurer: Robert Wedge

Science Council Representative: Taylor Meyers

Public Relations Chair: Zhailah Graza

Events Chair: Natalie Cabrera

SEES Members Presidents of Science Clubs

Thanks to SEES, some clubs were financially supported for conferences and travel expenses.

This past academic year we were proud to have eight SEES members serve as club Presidents within Science Council. They are:

- **Kevin Alonso**- President of Science Council

Science Council provides resources, funding, and activities for all science clubs and promotes the sciences.

- **Antonio Aguayo**- President of Pre-Medical Student Association

An organization that is based in promoting and enabling a vast majority of resources to pursue a career in medicine.

- **Seomary Arriaza**-President of Pre-Dental Society

An organization that seeks to unite and assist all those who are interested in pursuing a career in dentistry.

- **Jessica Avila**- President of Cancer Awareness Club

An organization with the goal to implement the programs and missions of the American Cancer Society.

- **David Contreras**- President of Kappa Mu Epsilon

An organization that is based on promoting and assisting students who are pursuing a career in Mathematics.

- **Shalisa Foster**- President of Association of Black Students in Science

An organization that assist

students in obtaining real world experience in their field of study through internships, conferences, and networking.

- **Daniel Vallejo**- President of Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society

An organization that promote interest in all fields of Chemistry and advance all aspects of

Science.

- **Marisa Zaragoza**- President of Microbiology Club

An organization that provides extracurricular enrichment through both social and academic events to expose students to career options in the field of microbiology.



Kevin Alonso, Seomary Arriaza, Marisa Zaragoza, David Contreras, Daniel Vallejo, Antonio Aguayo



SCIENCE EDUCATIONAL
ENHANCEMENT SERVICES

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Alumni News

- ◆ Maritza Silva completed her Master of Arts in Education at Claremont Graduate University and is currently a high school chemistry teacher under Hacienda La Puente Unified School District.
- ◆ Cristian Aguilar completed his PhD in Biological Sciences from UC Irvine. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at Azusa Pacific University.
- ◆ Justina McEvoy is an Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona.
- ◆ Brandon De Paul completed his M.A. in Medical Sciences with Cum Laude.
- ◆ Selma Reyes got accepted into KGI PhD program in Biology.
- ◆ Demetreanna Ofurie recently got accepted into Claremont Graduate University's MA program in Applied Psychology and is now a dual-degree student.
- ◆ Kristin Nodarse will be attending the credential program at Cal Poly Pomona
- ◆ Wendy Avila currently attends USC for the Post Baccalaureate program.

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.

Recent SEES Participants

- ◆ Davon Webb was accepted into MD Anderson Cancer Center summer program.
- ◆ Daniel Vallejo was accepted into an REU program at the University of Colorado, won the Boeing Chemistry Scholarship, and Weck Chemistry Scholarship.
- ◆ Kathleen Urrutia was accepted into Keck Graduate Institute summer research program doing Combinatorial Drug Synthesis.
- ◆ Karina Pena was accepted into the University of Hawaii summer program.
- ◆ Geenah-Marie Leslie was accepted into Tiger Wildlife Refuge as an Animal Care Intern.
- ◆ Yoliana Halaka was accepted into the Cardiothoracic Surgery Lab/ Internship at UC Irvine.
- ◆ Roy Guevara was accepted into CSU-LSAMP Costa Rica Fall semester program.
- ◆ Christian Garrido was accepted into UC Berkeley REU summer program doing Integrative Biology.
- ◆ Natalie Garcia was accepted into McNair Summer REU program
- ◆ Julie Anne Galindo won the Ernest Prete Jr. Environmental Science STUDENT Internship Fellowship.
- ◆ Marea Briceno was accepted into the Genetic Research Institute of the Desert summer program and won the Hilda L. Solis Scholarship.

