

Volume XX  
2017-2018

# THE SEES INFORMER



Science Educational  
Enhancement Services |  
College of Science

Volume XX 2017-2018

# Welcome to SEES!

From the Program Coordinator:

*Dora Nyborg Andersen*



Dear Students, Alumni and Friends,

The start of the academic year is always an exciting time on campus as students return, new SEES members settle in the program and get acquainted with the services SEES has to offer. SEES has kicked off the year with great

momentum as we transitioned to semester and various projects came to fruition in the early months of the fall semester.

The year started off with a bang with the revamping of the Academic Excellence Workshops. As part of the Student Success initiative we now offer STA 1200, MAT 1050, 1140 and 1250 workshops in addition to the traditional CHEM 1210, 1220 and 3150 workshops.

Equally exciting news is the renewal of the LSAMP Research Fellowship Program sponsored by the National Science foundation (NSF) and the Chancellor's Office for the

next five years. Grant supports 15 research fellowships to URM STEM students in the colleges of science, engineering and agriculture. In addition, SEES provides research support for traditionally under-represented students majoring in the science fields (College of Science). No citizen/resident requirements.

SEES with the support of the Dean's office will ramp up its involvement with students, create new study and workshop areas, and engage the community. We continue to be passionate about maintaining this energy for the coming academic year and beyond!

## Recent Graduate News

**Antonio Aguayo** accepted into Medical College of Wisconsin

**Alejandro Varela** accepted into PA Program at Marshall B. Ketchum University

**Eliza Hernandez** accepted into MS Environmental Studies at University of Oregon

## Current Student News

**Alexander Ojelabi** awarded Black Faculty & Staff Association scholarship

**Jose Flores** accepted into Competitive Edge at UC Irvine, PhD programs at UC Irvine, University of Maryland, Colorado Boulder, and Rutgers. Awarded NSF-GRFP scholarship

**Victor Celaya** accepted into Ernest Prete fellowship. Featured in College of Science Newsletter, nominated as a future teacher

**Daisy Hernandez** accepted into PhD programs at UC Davis, UC Riverside, Oregon State University, University of Arizona, Purdue, Washington State University, and Rutgers. Awarded LSAMP PROUD scholarship.

**Veneese Brown** accepted into PhD program at UC Davis in Integrative Pathobiology

**Maria Lopez Solis** accepted into Ernest Prete Fellowship Received SEES Merit Scholarship

**Stephanie Mora Garcia** accepted into PhD programs at UCSD, UCR, Colorado State University. Received Ehsani and Valspar scholarship. SEES Scholar participant

**Gabriela Juache** awarded MENTORES scholarship

**German Lagunas-Robles** accepted into PhD program at UCR. Awarded NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

**Brian Ramos** accepted into SURF summer program at UCI, RISE Intensive

**Summer Blanco** accepted into Summer Research Opportunities at Harvard. Awarded American Floral Endowment Scholarship, Celebration of Teaching Future Teacher Nominee

**Robert Manuel** accepted into summer program at University of Georgia, RISE Intensive Undergraduate Program

**Joseph Wolf** awarded President's Discovery Fellowship, OUR Research Distinction, LSAMP Proud scholarship, Jim Hicks International Internship scholarship, and Undergraduate Student leader of the Year for the College of Agriculture. Accepted into LSAMP, SEES, McNair Scholars, Achieve Scholars, OUR Grad, Kellogg Honors College

**Uriah Sanders** accepted into summer program at Harvard University, RISE program

**Monica Say** awarded SEES Burke Award

**Lizeth Telleria** accepted into Achieve Scholars Program

**Elizabeth Marquez** accepted into CSUF pursuing a Masters of Public Health degree

**Marisol Torres** attended Southern California Academy of Sciences, Research Scholarship and Creative Activities Program, CPP, Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research, CPP

**Ashley De Luna** accepted into PhD program at UC Merced

**Jacqueline Alvarez** accepted into PhD program at UC Merced

**Lori Lewis** accepted into PhD program at UC Merced

**Jacqueline Lara** accepted into PhD program at SDSU

**Kristiana Peraza** accepted into MS program at CPP



# Alumni panel

Alumni from SEES & LSAMP came back to CPP to talk to undergraduate students about what it is like transitioning from college into graduate school or the work force. Alumni from the College of Agriculture, College of Science, and College of Engineering came back and answered questions about careers after college, the graduate school



process, and about what they would do over again. It was a great panel and hopefully the tradition will continue in the 2018-2019 academic year!



(L-R) Miguel Reyes, Ali Hasan, Natalie Garcia, Dianne Sanchez, Lucas De Buren, Director Steve Alas

# SEES Picnic

This year's annual mentee/mentor picnic was full of activities and fun! Mentors and mentees were able to partake in some fun activities on water and on land at Bonelli Park.



On water, there was paddle boarding, kayaking, and paddle boating. On land there was volleyball, soccer, and kite flying.



Thanks to the generous contribution of the Parson family, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of tri-tip sandwiches with plenty of sides! The mentees were able to meet mentors of different majors and received lots of information for their freshman year of college. We finished this fun day at the park by whacking a piñata!



Thank you to the SEES program for organizing such a fun day!





In honor of the 2017-2018 academic school year being the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SEES program, there were a few extra special events the SEES mentor's voted on.

## *Halloween party*

SEES had a spooky Halloween party held at the AGRIsclapes! There was a delicious dinner, costume competition, and dancing! The decorations were fantastically frightening and Dr. Alas's costume did not disappoint!



## *Painting the CPP Letters*

Students came together in January 2018 and painted the CPP letters Barbara Burke Blue! Dr. Burke's students wanted the SEES rooms to stand out from all the other rooms at Cal Poly Pomona, so they chose the color blue. It took a long time for Dr. Burke to get University permission to use the color, so when the rooms were finally painted, it was only fitting that the color should be named in her honor!





# *SEES Christmas Party*

*The SEES Christmas party is always a special event, but during the 30<sup>th</sup> Hallmark year it was even grander.*

*SEES members, alumni, and past directors came together to celebrate the Christmas holiday.*



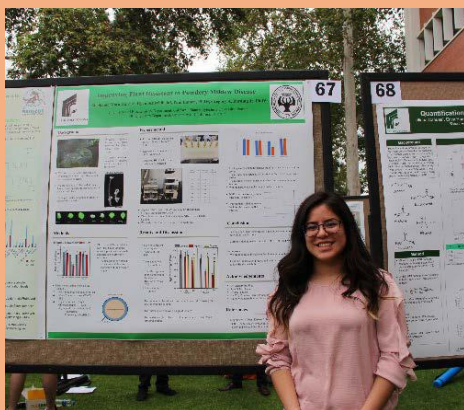
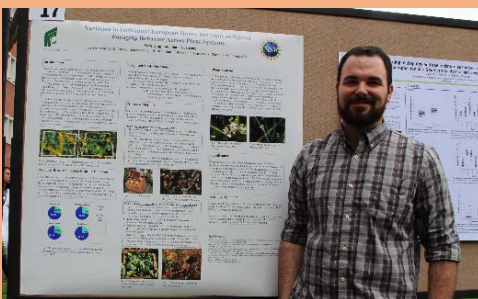
*Dr. Paul Hiemenz, who founded SEES in 1987, was a delightful addition to the many people that attended. After a delicious pasta meal, everyone gathered around the piano to sing carols. The special rendition of “O Chemistry” sung to the tune of “O Christmas tree” was a smash hit as always.*



# Undergraduate Research Information

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual College of Science Research Symposium

During the 2017-2018 academic school year, many student scholars were actively involved with various research projects in the many different areas of STEM. There were 15 LSAMP Scholars, 2 SEES Scholars, and 11 BioTiER Scholars. This year's Symposium had the largest attendance to date with over 100 presenters!



## CPP-Fullerton joint LSAMP dinner

This year for the first time, LSAMP scholars from both the Cal Poly Pomona campus, and Cal State Fullerton's campus came together to mingle and talk about the research they participate in. It was a wonderful event and the tradition will continue on for the 2018-2019 academic year, this year including CSULA!





# Club Presidents/Executive board Members

## 2017-2018 Academic Year



The SEES program is proud to have its members participate in clubs and organizations throughout the Cal Poly Pomona community. This year, 8 SEES Members held the position of President, and many other SEES members served on Executive Boards in various positions.



<b>Club</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Science Council	<i>President</i>	Lizzeth Acuna
Botanicus	<i>Vice-President</i>	Berenice Badillo
Botanicus	<i>Scheduler</i>	Summer Blanco
Computer Science Society	<i>Treasurer</i>	Jose F. Ledesma
CMSA	<i>Treasurer</i>	Christine Eskander
Fermentation	<i>President</i>	Ryan Aimua
Fermentation	<i>Historian</i>	Anastasia Zamora
Geology	<i>Fundraising Chair</i>	Jessika Valenciano
Microbiology	<i>President</i>	Ana Cortes
Microbiology	<i>Vice-President</i>	Jacqueline Scott
Pre-Pharmacy Society	<i>Vice-President</i>	Amanda Fuerte
SIAM	<i>Vice-President</i>	Jacqueline Alvarez
SIAM	<i>Treasurer</i>	Ashley De Luna
SIAM	<i>Social Chair</i>	Elisa Ortiz
Student Members of the ACS	<i>President</i>	Stephanie Mora Garcia
Student Members of the ACS	<i>Treasurer</i>	Gilberto Gonzalez
Society of Physics Students	<i>President</i>	Jose Barrios
Zoologists of Cal Poly Pomona	<i>Co-President</i>	Marilyn Avina
Zoologists of Cal Poly Pomona	<i>Treasurer</i>	Daniel Ramirez
ASI	<i>President</i>	Carlos Gomez

# SEES Award Reception

The SEES and LSAMP Awards reception took place on May 10, 2018. Students and faculty members of the Cal Poly Pomona community, along with friends and family came together to celebrate the accomplishments of the 7 awardees. There were four LSAMP Proud Scholars, and three SEES members that were awarded on this commemorative occasion. A big thank you to the Kellogg House for allowing us to use their beautiful facilities to have this wonderful spring event.





# LSAMP PROUD Scholars



The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation is an exceptional scholarship to receive. This program is aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of students successfully completing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) baccalaureate degree programs, and increasing the number of students interested in, academically qualified for and matriculated into programs of graduate study.

This scholarship in memory of Louis Stokes, the first Black Congressman elected in 1991. This scholarship is awarded to participants that show excellence and initiative in their field of study/research.

There were 4 LSAMP PROUD Scholars during the 2017-2018 school year. These four students exemplified excellent students/ undergraduate researchers, who went above and beyond in their course of study. These students have accomplished much academically in their years at Cal Poly Pomona, and we wish them well as they pursue graduate degrees.



(L-R) Peter Kuetzing, Joseph Wolf, Daisy Hernandez, Eddie Banuelos

# Dr. Paul C. Hiemenz, Dr. Barbara A. Burke & Merit Awardees



The Dr. Paul C. Hiemenz, and Dr. Barbara A. Burke awards are in memory of previous SEES directors. Dr. Hiemenz founded SEES in 1987 and Dr. Burke succeeded him in 1999. We honor the previous directors by presenting these scholarships to exemplary SEES participants who add to the growth and development of the SEES program. This year, due to the number of wonderful candidates, the Merit Award was added.

These three ladies dedicated time to SEES as Mentors, Discovery camp counselors, AEW Facilitators, and as Research scholars. These awardees are dedicated, hardworking students who embrace the SEES spirit.

We know they will go on to do great things!



(L-R) Lizzeth Acuna, Monica Say, Maria Jose Lopez Solis , Dean Baski, SEES Director Steve Alas



# Commencement 2018



Temperature high, but their spirits were higher! The graduates were boiling over in excitement, not because the temperature was over 90 degrees, but because graduation day had finally come!

On Saturday June 9th, 2018, over 1000 students graduated from Cal Poly Pomona's College of Science. Of all the graduates that participated in the ceremony, many of them were from the SEES program. Commencement is a time to celebrate student's success and dedication. It is public recognition of all the hard work and sacrifices the students have devoted to receiving higher education. The SEES graduates proudly wore blue sashes, the color fondly referred to as, "Barbara Burke Blue" in honor of the second SEES director.

This year, 13 SEES students were accepted into PhD programs, 7 into Masters Programs, 5 into Professional schools, and 1 into a Credential Program. We are so proud of the graduates and we wish them well as they step into the big world, prepared to face the new challenges set before them.



# 2018 SEES Excursion

The La Jolla trip was one of the highlights of the academic year! Mentors, Discovery camp counselors, AEW Facilitators, and Research Scholars were generously invited to spend a fun beach day in La Jolla. We kayaked over the kelp forest and enjoyed the gorgeous sights. Our guides made the trip interesting and even though the waters were too rough to be able to go snorkeling, we still had a great time. We enjoyed a delicious lunch at a nearby restaurant and enjoyed the rest of the day shopping along the cove.

We learned many interesting facts about the cove from our wonderful tour guides! We learned that the reef is too thick for large predators to swim through. We also learned that the reef is actually man-made. In 1970, some folks blew up tons of rocks from Catalina Island and brought them over hoping they would start a kelp forest, and they did! The kelp attracted small fish, the



small fish attracted bigger fish, and the bigger fish attracted sharks. This led to the cove becoming a habitat that supports high biodiversity. The sea lions were very entertaining to watch, but we made sure to stay away from them because they have swim speeds of up to 25 miles per hour!

The La Jolla Underwater park is a 6,000 acre-wide area of ocean floor created by the City of San Diego in 1970. The variation of rocky reef, kelp bed, sand flats, and submarine canyon make it a hotspot for scuba divers, snorkeling and kayaking. What you may not know is that the underwater park contains two artificial reefs created to attract marine life. The first was created in 1964 in 70 feet of water and the second in 1975 at a depth of 40 feet.

This trip was such a generous thank-you from the SEES program!





# Discovery Camps 2018

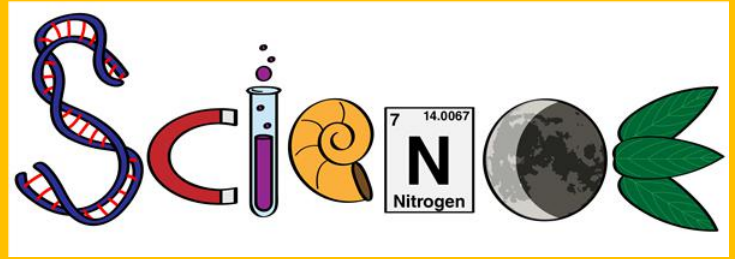
This was our 4<sup>th</sup> year offering the summer Discovery camps. We had a record of 647 campers attend this year!

For 10 weeks during the summer, the SEES program at Cal Poly Pomona hosts Discovery Camps. This year was the fifth year of the camps, and there were four different camps offered.

Each of the camps is specific for a different area of STEM; Imagination, Science, Robotics, and Computer Camp. The camps are a fun and safe way for kids to spend their summer!



Imagination (age 5-7) and Science (Age 8-12) camp enjoyed the many different activities and field trips. They went on a tour of the Cal Poly Petting Zoo, ate delicious lunches at Los Olivos and learned all about the many different areas of science! The campers learned about biology, chemistry, and geology to name a few. The kids made slime, learned



about clouds, and had fun roasting marshmallows!

Robotics campers had an awesome time programming and controlling Mindstorm EV3 robots. The kids enjoyed the battle of the bots, where they code robots to follow different commands, and ultimately, have a dance competition!

Computer camp is where all our future graphic designers and software developers go to summer camp. The kids in Computer camp learned commercial software techniques to create both 2D & 3D animation. They were also able to use Cal Poly's 3-D printer to print their very own real-life creations.

The Discovery camps are run by counselors. The counselors have the responsibility of creating their own lesson plans, crafts, and games. If you are interesting in becoming a teacher someday, then the camps are an excellent place to receive hands-on teacher training!



# Upcoming Events

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

SEES/LSAMP- September 14, 2018

*Time management*

SEES/LSAMP- November 9, 2018

*Personal Statement*

SEES/LSAMP-November 18, 2018

*Standard Operating Procedure Workshop*

SEES – January 13, 2019

*GRE Workshop Analytical*

SEES – January 20, 2019

*GRE Workshop Verbal*

SEES – January 27, 2019

*GRE Workshop Analytical*

SEES/LSAMP- February 8, 2019

*GRE Quantitative*

SEES/LSAMP – February 10, 2019

*Career Project Presentation*

SEES/LSAMP- February 15, 2019

*GRE Analytical*

SEES/LSAMP- February 22, 2019

*GRE Verbal*

## Keep In Touch

It is always great to hear what our alums are up to. Is your contact information up to date?

What is 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!

## Contact Information:

Dr. Steve Alas

Director

Phone: 909-869-4546

Email: [alas@cpp.edu](mailto:alas@cpp.edu)

Dora Andersen

Administrative Support Coordinator

Phone: 909-869-3676

Email: [dgandersen@cpp.edu](mailto:dgandersen@cpp.edu)