



The SEES INFORMER

SCIENCE EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT SERVICES

VOLUME XV

2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

EDITORS IN CHIEF

ASHLEY SANTIAGO

DAVID CONTRERAS

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2013

- Fall Quarter Begins on September 26th,

October 2013

- SACNAS Conference October 3rd-6th in San Antonio, Texas

November 2013

- ABRCMS Conference November 13th – 16th in Nashville, Tennessee

December 2013

- Annual Christmas Party December 6th

January 2014

- CSUPERB January 9th– 11th in Anaheim, CA

February 2014

- SUMMA Conference

May 2014

- PMSA Banquet
- SEES Alumni Dinner

Welcome

Dear SEES family,

Another year has gone by and it was with great pride that we sent off graduating seniors to graduate schools and the work force. Our SEES graduates are ready to meet the future. Congratulations class of 2013! It's now summertime, which means orientation season, and time to greet first time freshmen and transfer students.

We also say goodbye to our beloved SEES Director, Dr. Barbara Burke, upon her retirement. Dr. Burke realized potential in every student and used her leadership and mentor-

ing skills to help those that faced a range of economic and social barriers to help them achieve their education. Her office door was always open. We will miss a great leader, but promise to continue her legacy.

Former SEES student and newly appointed SEES Director, Dr. Steve Alas, understands what it takes to succeed as a student in the STEM fields. Dr. Steve Alas has done extensive research in cell biology and is a coordinator in the RISE program here at Cal Poly. As SEES's new director, Steve Alas will wear many hats; we the office staff are committed to help him ease into the position. He comes

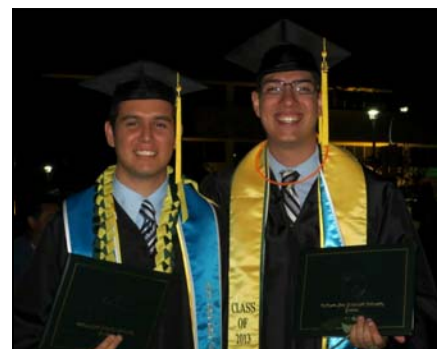
to us after running the Masters program in Biology and has been diligent in learning all about SEES managerial duties. He promises to continue to make SEES a unique, inviting and captivating support program. He is well-prepared to continue and develop an excellent program for Cal Poly underrepresented students in the sciences. Thank you and God bless SEES!

-Dora Nyborg Andersen
Administrative Support
Coordinator



Commencement 2013

On June 16, 2013, thirty-eight students of SEES participated in the commencement ceremony of 2013. Friends, family, and staff members united to celebrate and congratulate these individuals, who successfully acquired a bachelor's degree in the field of science. Hard work and success awaits these individuals as they pursue their careers and higher education. Congratulations class of 2013, this is the beginning of a new journey.



The Graduates of 2013



Louis Bohorquez
 Shaun Callahan
 Roxanna Calvario
 Edward Castellanos
 Daniel Chinchilla
 John Cismas
 Alicia Drumm
 Youssef Fakhro
 Angelica Figueroa
 Karina Gamboa Soto
 Alfredo Garcia
 Kelli Garcia
 Eleana Guardado

Cynthia Guevara
 Edward Guzman
 Lisa Guzman
 Nicole Hearn
 Itzia Jeronimo
 Mallory Jimenez
 Ryan Jones
 Oscar O Ledezma
 Jonathan Lopez
 Andrea Lueskow
 Joseph Martinez III
 Sabrina Medrano
 Ghislain Muberwa

Nicole Osby
 Eddie Pena
 Mario Pineda
 Robert Polanco
 Elvia Ramirez
 Weman Reyes
 Jesus Rodriguez Jr.
 Jennifer Rubio
 Nidia Saca
 Alicia Sandoval
 Maira Torres
 Ikzury Vega Palacios
 Vanessa Yanez

Awards & Scholarships

2012-2013 NSF S-STEM Scholarship Recipients

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



Aileen Alba
 Austin Baca
 Louis Bohorquez
 Mario Cabrera
 Samantha Cooke
 Aubrie De La Cruz
 Jenna Drewitz
 Erika Espinoza
 Youssef Fakhro

Rebecca Greenwood
 Eleana Guardado
 Taylor Halsey
 Megan Hans
 Silva Harounian
 Garret Hartman
 Jossue Loya
 Sabrina Medrano
 Karen Mendoza

Lala Pashayan
 Lizette Rodriguez
 Dianne Sanchez
 Ashley Santiago
 Rachel Ulanich
 David Velazquez
 Vanessa Yanez

2012-2013 The Paul Hiemenz Scholarship Recipients

*Role models that exemplify the spirit
and ideals of SEES*

Edward Guzman Vanessa Yanez



2012-2013 The Boeing Company Scholarship

*To support SEES students who have demon-
strated academic accomplishments, activities
and service to the community*

Adriana Granados Kimberly Herrera
Sidney Perez Vanessa Yanez

2012-2013 CSU LSAMP Scholars

*Louis Stokes Alliance for
Minority Participation*

Samantha Cooke

*Science Educational En-
hancement Service (SEES)
received the distinguished
Cal Poly Pomona 2012-2013
Outstanding Academic Ad-
vising Program Award at a
reception on Friday May 31,
2013*

2013 Provost Staff Award

The first person just about every new SEES participant meets is Dora Andersen, the SEES Coordinator. She works hard every day to make sure this program is running the smoothest it can and her efforts are never overlooked.

This last Spring, Dora was awarded the 2012 Provost Staff Award, given to the most outstanding staff member among the entire University. We cannot think of anyone who is more deserving. We are all so proud of Dora for this phenomenal accomplishment and for getting the recognition she deserves. Dora earned the award by distinguishing herself through the performance of her responsibilities to our students, faculty, and to the University community as a whole.

Working closely with Dora for the past 4 years, I can say that Dora easily portrays this criteria. She will never refuse a chance to help a student in need and she will do anything within her abilities to make sure that students have the right information they require.

-Ashley Santiago, Student Assistant



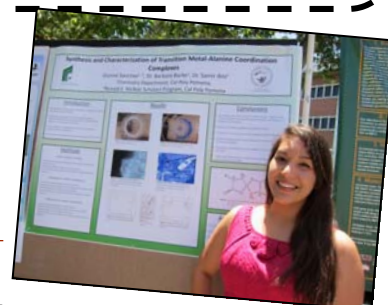
Rise Symposium August 31, 2012



Melissa Arroyomendoza
 Luladey Ayalew
 Nicole Berry
 Samantha Cooke
 Aubrie De La Cruz
 Erika Espinoza
 Eleana Guardado
 Maribel Marquez
 Carla Norguera



8th Annual College of Science Research Symposium

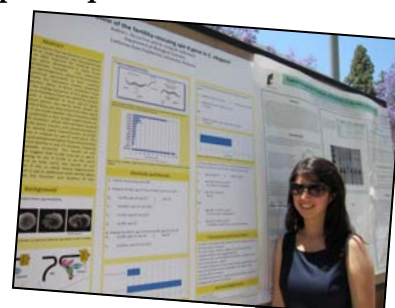


More than 80 science students, including 15

SEES members, participated in the poster session during the College of Science Research Symposium on May 31, 2013. Students and faculty members presented their research projects and participated in discussions about their work. "Truly a testament to the teacher-scholar model. It was an impressive demonstration of hands-on learning in Science" said Dr. Brian Jersky, Dean of the College of Science. Well done SEES participants!



Louis Bohorquez
 Samantha Cooke
 Daisy Cuevas
 Aubrie De La Cruz
 Chelsea Dixon
 Albert Esparza
 Andrew Gibson
 Adriana Granados
 Eleana Guardado
 Nicole Hearn
 Darionna Malone
 Michelle Mendizabal
 Dianne Sanchez
 Julio Sanchez
 David Scianni



***Internship at City of Hope
Cancer Center in Duarte***

Alberto Herrera

***REU Program at University of
Michigan Biological Station***

Aubrie De La Cruz

***REU Program
in Ireland***

Luladey Ayalew

Research Programs

***S-RAMP Research
Program***

Daisy Cuevas
Chelsea Dixon
Nicole Hearn

***McNair Scholar
Program***

Raul Gonzalez
Dianne Sanchez
Julio Sanchez
Diane Zafra

***REU Program at Western
Washington University***

Michael Torres

***CSU LSAMP Research
Program***

Darionna Malone
David Scianni
Monique Sobero

***PUMP Program at
CSU Northridge***

Daisy Cuevas
Adriana Granados



Recent SEES Graduates

- Louis Bohorquez was accepted into the Master of Engineering Program at Cornell University
- Catherine De Guzman was accepted into the UCI Post Baccalaureate Program
- Youssef Fahkro was accepted into the Pharm. D. Program at USC
- Stephanie Fonseca was awarded a Noyce Scholarship as she pursues a single subject credential in Biology at Cal Poly Pomona
- Edward Guzman was accepted into the Ph.D. Program in Chemistry at the University of Colorado, Boulder
- Nicole Hearn was accepted into the Master of Public Health Program at Claremont Graduate University
- Parrisha Martelly was accepted into the MD Program at UCLA
- Chris Tashijian was accepted into UCLA’s School of Medicine
- Vanessa Yanez was accepted into the CPP MS Program in Mathematics

Mentoring Program Update

This year was my last year as a student here at Cal Poly Pomona, and also as a mentor and coordinator of the SEES Mentoring Program. Once again, I had the privilege of working with a dedicated group of mentors that volunteered their time to guide and help the incoming freshmen that joined the program. Without them, this program would not be possible.

Every year can be different and bring different challenges to the mentors. Last year we had an active group of freshmen, while this year we had a more quiet group that decided to focus more on the academic aspects of school instead. This meant that we had the challenge of getting the freshmen involved not only in SEES, but in campus clubs as well. Fortunately, the mentees took it upon themselves to form groups with each other, which helped them get through the tough classes, to bond with each other, and join school clubs. Mentor and mentee meetings and group hangouts also helped the mentees overcome the tough times that are encountered throughout the first year of college and to get more involved with the program. By the end of the year, it was great to see how comfortable they were and how independent they had become.

I would like to thank everyone involved with the mentoring program for making the program possible and most importantly, successful. This includes the students, the mentors, the faculty mentors, and most importantly Dr. Burke. She gave me and all the SEES students the resources and opportunities to succeed, so I would like to thank her for everything she has done for us and for making this program possible.

-Mario Pineda, SEES Mentoring Program Coordinator



Pre-Medical Student Association (PMSA)

The Pre-Medical Student Association has gone through another great year. We were able to attend three conferences this year, at CSU San Bernadino, Stanford, and Mt. SAC. We were given the chance to give back to those in Skid Row, as well as to the Pomona community. As a club we volunteered at walks for MS, a mud run for leukemia, and a walk for March of Dimes. We also received the President of the Year award from Science Council for our second year straight. An award that could never be received without a wonderful executive board. I'm so proud to have been the president of this club for the 2012-2013 year and I thank everyone that has helped us along the way. I wish the new executive board good luck in their future endeavors!

- Melissa Nair, 2012-2013 Pre-Medical Student Association President

2013-2014 Executive Board

- President - Kevin Alonso
- Vice President - Antonio Aguayo
- Secretary - Alyona Gromova
- Treasurer - Naline Chalongsongse
- SC Rep - Jossue Loya
- Fundraising Chair - David Kramer
- Community Service Chair - Sara Delgado
- Social Chair - Cylinda Haynes
- Historian - Diana Clabots



Alumni Dinner

On Monday, May 13, SEES celebrated its 9th Alumni Reception at the Kellogg West Conference Center. Approximately 65 SEES alums attended and enjoyed a wonderful evening with friends, family and faculty. University Provost, Dr. Marten denBoer, and Dean, Dr. Brian Jersky, honored us with their presence at the reception. Former SEES director Dr. Paul Hiemenz and incoming SEES Director Dr.

Steve Alas were on hand with Dr. Burke to talk about “Transitions”. Current SEES students presented a slide show of SEES events since the early 1990s. SEES alumni presented Dr. Burke with a gift card and flowers as they all expressed warm wishes for a happy retirement.

We would like to thank all the alums who emphasized their willingness to come back to Cal Poly and interact with our



current SEES students. We continue to compile a list of alum names, occupations, contact information, and life stories. 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 of our annual alumni dinner and to use it as a fundraising event to help the SEES program. Our SEES Alumni Fund is growing. Thank you.



Christmas Party

This year's Annual Christmas Party was held on November 30, 2012. The Christmas Party is always a great way to introduce the new students in the program to just how big the “SEES Family” is. First time freshmen, transfer students, alumni, faculty and staff along with their families are what make the SEES program what it is today. It is always a good sign when we have a long list of RSVP's and guests to this event.

The evening began with a warm welcome given by Dr. Burke as students and their families arrived. While guests were arriving, students took the opportunity to learn a little about each other and about Cal Poly Pomona's History as they wandered the halls of the Mansion. Once dinner was served, conversations flowed and networking skills began to develop. The night ended with the traditional Christmas Caroling by the parents and guests, which was lead by the beautiful piano playing of Jack Hamm.





At the end of the spring quarter Dr. Burke retired after 15 years as SEES Director. We are all sad to see Dr. Burke move on to the next adventure in her life away from SEES, but we will always remember all that she has taught

A Farewell & A Welcome

us. Her guidance and kind heart has touched so many students from all disciplines and she will always be remembered fondly.

With that said, we would like to welcome Dr. Steve Alas as the new Director of SEES. Dr. Steve Alas, a SEES alumnus and current associate professor of Biological Sciences here at Cal Poly Pomona will

become the third Director in SEES history. He has big shoes to fill, but we know that he will do a great job and we will support him during this new transition.



Alumni News

- Dennis Ankrah received his Pharm. D. from UC San Francisco in May 2013
- Jose Ayala received his single subject credential and MA in Mathematics in May 2013
- Rahel Demisse received her MD from USC in May 2013
- Rashieda Hatcher, PhD, is a postdoctoral associate at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas
- Chris Loera received his Physician Assistant Degree from Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA in May 2013
- Airek Matthews received his PhD in Environmental Health Safety from UCLA in May 2013
- Ge'Yanni Polk received her single subject credential (Science/ Chemistry) and will be teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District
- Sara (Martinez) Wright, PhD, continues in her postdoctoral position in Biochemistry at Baylor University, Houston, Texas, where she was awarded an IRACDA Fellowship to support both her research and teaching

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