

CHISPAS

CHICANO LATINO STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

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Chicano Latino Student Affairs

Tranquada Student Services Center,
2nd Floor
757 College Way
Claremont, CA 91711
909-621-8044
909-621-8981 F

Website:
cuc.claremont.edu/clsa
Facebook:
CLSA Claremont



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From the Dean

Dear CLSA Community,

With the spirit of thanksgiving still lingering in the air and as the end of the semester nears, it seems fit to take the opportunity in this month's edition of *Chispas* to make a recount of the multiple joys, opportunities, and blessings we have received during the past months. From coming together in musical celebrations to sharing wisdom to sending CLSA students off to great career starts, we can definitely say that 2017 has been a good year.

As the sounds of trumpets and conga drums filled the Claremont skies during the month of October, we were reminded by the altruistic actions of students like Viviana Bermudez from Harvey Mudd College that we are never alone and that together we stand stronger. Her efforts and those of the other students who joined her in raising funds for the people affected by hurricanes in Puerto Rico reminded us that *la union truly hace la fuerza*.

Also in the vein of sharing our

diverse, collective wisdom, earlier in September our community had the pleasure of listening to our esteemed Pomona professor, Gilda Ochoa who inspired us by sharing her stories and experiences as a Latina in academia. "Listening to Professor Ochoa," expressed a member of the audience, "was like listening to myself...and that made me feel like I'm not alone in the challenges that I face here at the Claremont Colleges." Needless to say, students and the community in general were happy to welcome Professor Ochoa and look forward to attending more of our *Community Lunch Talks* where they hope to meet more of the Claremont Latinx faculty and staff. In addition to Professor Ochoa, CLSA also had the pleasure of welcoming the voices of Ana Martinez; who shared her recollections as a survivor of the Salvadoran Civil War and of queer Puerto Rican author Gabby Rivera who delighted and enlightened the audience with her spontaneity and her thoughts on Latinx identity.

Lastly, as the semester comes to an end, we have also received the great news that Pomona student, Pablo Ordoñez has accepted a position with a major consulting firm; an adventure that he will undertake next year immediately after he graduates. ¡Enhorabuena Pablo!

On a personal note, I want to take this opportunity to thank the CLSA community for all the warmth, love, and support that I have received during my tenure as Interim Assistant Dean. It truly has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with all of you and to serve my CLSA familia. ¡Mil Gracias!

Maria
Interim Assist.
Dean of Students



Guadalupe Mass

The annual Virgin of Guadalupe Mass celebrating the patroness saint of the Americas will be consecrated on December 11th at 12 noon at Scripps College Balch Auditorium followed by a traditional lunch of delicious tamales at the Office of the Chaplains at McAlister Center



for Religious Activities.

Join us for this festive occasion. This is a co-sponsored event with the Office of the Chaplains. For more information, contact the Chaplains Office at 909-621-8685.

Cornfields and Research: My SROP Experience at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

by Madeline Sy, Scripps '18

When I told my friends and family at the end of last semester that I was going to spend the summer at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) pursuing an independent research project and figuring out if grad school was right for me, everyone had a similar reaction: be prepared for the endless cornfields. Indeed, when I got off the plane at the small airport in Champaign, I was flanked by rows and rows of cornfields with green saplings that stretched towards the horizon.

On my ride to the UIUC campus, I could feel my doubts about my summer adventure begin to seep in. Having grown up and spent most of my life within the vibrancy of Los Angeles and its surrounding communities, I was unsure how I would adjust to a summer in the Midwest. These doubts, however, were quickly dispelled after beginning my research experience and meeting amazing people.

I came to Illinois as a participant of the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP), a nine-week program which provides undergraduate students from under-represented populations the opportunity to explore careers in research and strengthen their knowledge, skills and understanding of graduate school. I also participated in the optional two-week GRE prep course that helps

participants prepare for the standardized test. After applying to and being accepted to the SROP program, I was paired with a faculty mentor from the School of Labor and Employment Relations. Under the guidance of my faculty mentor, I was able to conduct graduate-level research, the results of which I conveyed in a 20-page academic article and presented at a research conference at the end of the summer.

SROP was a rewarding and enriching experience. The Research Writing Sessions and Professional Development Workshops allowed me to become familiar with the process of applying to grad school and conducting graduate level research. Not only did SROP allow me to clarify my intentions to apply to grad school, but it also allowed me to form and nurture key relationships with my peers and faculty mentor. I also grew closer to my fellow Claremont College students and formed close friendships with students of color from colleges and universities across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. I also enjoyed a close relationship with my faculty mentor, who is currently writing a letter of recommendation for my grad school applications.

However fun and rewarding it was, SROP also came with



From left: Kevin Kandamby (PZ), Jesus Tapia (PO), Marisol Guzman (HM), and Madeline Sy (SC)

its fair share of challenges. Conducting graduate-level research and writing about it in an article length paper was not an easy task. The program does help by placing participants in similar fields of research in Research Writing groups led by a graduate student to learn how to write academic papers; however, there was still a steep learning curve involved. Aside from a handful of meetings each week, my days were largely unstructured and thus, I had to learn how to best divide my time between conducting research and having fun. While I was enrolled in three credit hours of independent study and had frequent meetings with my faculty mentor, I was largely on my own and it took me some time to figure out a daily schedule that worked best for me.

Challenges aside, SROP was a truly rewarding and immersive experience that I highly recommend. Participating in this program afforded me a wealth of hands-on knowledge and experiences. I ended the

program with a wellspring of connections that span the entire United States and graduate research experience. I also cultivated an amazing relationship with my faculty mentor and acquired the tools I need for apply to both graduate school and research fellowships.

Driving back to the airport at the end of the summer, the rolling corn fields once again caught my eye. Except this time, I noticed a faint golden glimmer. Upon closer scrutiny, I realized the golden glow came from the ears of corn beginning to emerge from the leaves. In many ways, I felt like this image of the corn emerging from the crop at the end of the summer was symbolic of my own summer experiences and growth with SROP. What I initially perceived as an unassuming summer experience eventually blossomed into a field of possibilities and potential, the golden crop at the end of the summer.

Finding Familia

By Jenelle Nila, CGU Doctoral Student and CLSA Graduate Fellow

When you start graduate school you get two different reactions, the first and most prominent is the “Oh my goodness mija, I’m so proud of you!” and the other is “Are you sure you want to do this?” Now the first reaction normally comes from people who have never been in grad school, people who may not understand the kind of intellectual boot camp that you have to endure for the next (fingers crossed) five years. The second reaction comes from people who have either attempted, are currently in, or just finished their thesis or dissertation. One of the first things I have learned as a first year Ph.D. student is that to find your *familia*, one needs to find the people who are going to encourage us during the next difficult, fun, and intense years in academia; and that is exactly what happened the day I met Maria Morales.

Maria was manning a table in the 100-degree weather of the graduate student resource fair in August, I noticed her wearing a friendly smile along with the CLSA logo. I approached her and introduced myself as a new CGU student wanting to know more about CLSA and what resources were offered through the office. Maria was so genuine and welcoming, I thought “*Es buena gente*, I should go to their open house.” Fast forward four months, and I now work at CLSA as a Graduate Fellow, and I’ve had the pleasure of

working side by side with Maria in these last months before she leaves us to write her dissertation.

Last week I interviewed Maria about her journey at CLSA as a student, Graduate Fellow and Interim Assistant Dean of Students. I had, as most people who have met Maria can attest to, an open and honest conversation full of laughter, positivity, and yes, even a couple of “*dichos*”. Here is some of what Maria had to say:

J: What have been some of your favorite memories and or events throughout your time here at CLSA?

M: I have to say that there have been many, and it would be practically impossible [to pick one]. But, I do clearly recall my participation publishing in *Almas Unidas* because as a writer most of my memories have to do with my craft, with my art. I remember just feeling really happy and feeling really important in a space that was home, that has always been a home for me here at the Claremont Colleges. It was almost like breaking bread with your own family which is the way I see the CLSA community.

J: How did CLSA impact your undergraduate and graduate experiences and is there a difference?

M: As an undergrad, CLSA was crucial...vital! I attended CMC, and CMC was then not a place properly

equipped to serve the needs of students like me. In times when I felt extremely confused and needed affirmation as a person of color, CLSA made me feel like I mattered. I was often encouraged by Ernie and Maria Torres, and later as a graduate student by Tony. As a graduate student I entered a new world which is significantly different from undergrad. The demands and challenges are different. That was a great experience because it was like coming back home.

J: How has CLSA impacted you as a person?

M: I think the only word that would encompass that would be *familia*. I have always felt loved at CLSA and that has made all the difference in getting me through tough times both as an undergraduate at CMC and as a graduate student at CGU.

J: As you move forward in your Ph.D., what do you think CLSA undergrads should know?

M: I want them to know that I am here for them. That whether or not I work at CLSA, I am here for them and that I will always make it a point to be here for them. I also want them to know that they are not alone and that no matter what happens, we have a community here.

J: For graduate students?

M: In addition to what I would say to the undergrad

students, I would encourage graduate students to take full advantage of the services offered at CLSA, especially networking. I would exhort them to find ways to further serve the CUC community and strengthen our CLSA *familia*.

As we bring the semester to a close and the new year is beginning, we often think of the places that we’ve been and we begin to look to the future. As we reflect, we should all remember that *familia* doesn't only consist of your parents, tíos and tías but *familia* can be created and found in places like CLSA.

Lastly, I would like to thank Maria for introducing me to the CLSA *familia* and allowing me to interview her. I, along with my fellow Latinx students at the Claremont Colleges, wish her the best of luck as she brings her Ph.D. journey to a close.



Resource Center News

Fellowships

The Capital Fellows Programs which consist of the following four fellowships: **Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program; Executive Fellowship Program; Judicial Fellowship Program; and the California Senate Fellows Program.** These programs are administered by the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento, and are an outstanding opportunity for college graduates to engage in public service and prepare for future careers. Fellows work 10-11 months as full-time staff members and participate in policymaking, program development, and program implementation. Fellows gain first-hand experience in the governance and leadership of the most diverse, complex state in the nation. Online applications are now open

Internships

The Yleana Leadership Academy is interested in recruiting both grads and undergrads for a transformative SAT summer camp which is part SAT boot camp, part higher order thinking skills development, part leadership academy, part on-campus college experience, and part traditional summer camp. The Yleana Leadership Academy seeks to decrease the achievement gap for low-SES students from urban areas (Baltimore, Boston, North Shore, NYC, and Philadelphia) through SAT score increase. Over 50% of kids are first-gen and over 95% each year are of color. Excitingly, this opportunity also pays! Students get room and board for the duration of the summer as well as receiving a stipend between \$1400-3500 (depending on position, experience, and year in school) for the two-month commitment - from June 16 - August 13, 2018, as well as the opportunity to continue working through the end of August at one of our Follow-up Programs at \$25/hr. They are hiring for four different positions: Supporting Teacher/Counselor; Master Teacher/Counselor; Program Leader; and Operations. Interested in applying? The priority application deadline is: **December 15th.** Find more details at <https://www.yleana.org/>.

The Amgen Scholars Program provides hundreds of selected undergraduate students with the opportunity to engage in a hands-on research experience at many of the world's leading educational institutions—Caltech, Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley, UCLA to name a few. The Program seeks to increase learning and networking opportunities for students committed to pursuing science or engineering careers and to spark interest and broaden the perspective of students considering a scientific career. This is an 8-10 week summer program and financial support is a critical component. Visit each host institution's website for more details. You may apply to as many host institutions as you'd like but each institution has its own separate application process. Again, application deadlines differ but many are due as early as February 1st. Visit <http://amgenscholars.com/us-program> for more

Local History

Stories of Padua Hills Theatre and Mexican Players—Alma Martinez, actress, stage director and professor of theatre will discuss her research on the history of the Mexican Players at Padua Hills Theatre. Alma's presentation will take place on Wednesday, December 6th at Benson Theater at Pitzer College from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Scholarships

The American Physiological Society (APS) is offering these two scholarships: The Minority Travel Fellowship Awards designed to increase active participation in, and networking at, scientific meetings. The APS Minority Travel Fellowship Awards are open to underrepresented minority (URM) graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career faculty (recently transitioned or within 5 years of receiving a PhD); and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career faculty (recently transitioned) with disabilities. Awardees will receive up to \$1,800 in expense reimbursement for registration, housing, meals, air and ground transportation, and tips. These awards do not provide funds for international travel. The application deadline is December 14th; additional details are available at the-aps.org/minoritytravel. The **Porter Physiology Development Fellowships** encourages diversity among students pursuing fulltime studies toward a PhD in the physiological sciences and to encourage their participation in APS. The Porter Fellowship provides a full-time graduate fellowship (\$28,300 during the academic year) to students in programs leading to the PhD in the physiological sciences at U.S. institutions. The application deadline is January 15th and you may obtain more information at the-aps.org/porter.

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 pm White Elephant, CLSA	2
3	4 Elizabeth Poloskov, CLSA Asst. Dean of Students Candidate Interviews	5	6 7 pm Alma Martinez, actress & Prof. of Theatre, speaks on Padua Hills Theatre, Pitzer Benson Auditorium	7 Xochitl Casillas, CLSA Asst. Dean of Students Candidate Interviews <i>Reading Days for Scripps and Pomona.</i>	8 <i>Last day of classes for CMC, HMC & Pitzer</i>	9
10	11 12 pm Virgen de Guadalupe Mass, TBD	12 3-5 pm Study Break, CLSA	13 3-5 pm Study Break, CLSA	14	15	16
	<i>Final Examinations Week—good luck everyone!</i>					
17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Holiday</i>	23
24	25 <i>Holiday</i>	26	27	28	29	30
<i>CUC closed for the holidays!</i>						
31						