



# CHISPAS

## From the Dean

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Dear Students,

It is an honor to introduce myself as the new Assistant Dean of Chicano Latino Student Affairs (CLSA).

Although I have only been here a few days, I already feel right at home. Students, staff and administrators have all welcomed me with open arms. This warm reception is a testament to the culture that has been cultivated not only across the 7C's, but felt even more so at CLSA. Over the last week, I have spent time visiting the various Colleges, with the goal of getting to know more about the programming and services we can offer our students. There are so many opportunities for our students to excel, both academically and socially. I am eager to continue meeting with more of you; I want to get to know your names, faces, and stories. Building these relationships makes me feel connected, and allows me to build upon this supportive network for all stakeholders on campus.

In meeting with various individuals, the concept of intersectionality came to the forefront, particularly at last week's "Coffee with Dean Tony." These ongoing

drop-in sessions give an opportunity for students, across the 7C's, to check-in and ask the Dean questions about their academic and professional career plans. Questions ranged from course and major selection, to inquiries about job, research and internship opportunities. Within the first 30 minutes, over 6 students came to visit with Dean Tony. We briefly introduced ourselves to one another, and it was then, that I quickly learned how dynamic and unique each student is. I want to make sure multiple identities are reflected in all areas of academia because this makes for a more inclusive community. By exposing and celebrating diversity, we become better equipped to address their multiple needs.

Lastly, I want you all to know that I take on a student-centered approach. I want to ensure that all voices and perspectives are understood and respected by others. I am committed to fostering a supportive community for the next generation of critical thinking, independent Chicana Latinx change makers. I am absolutely honored to be a part of this effort, and I look forward to interacting with more students, staff and administrators across the Claremont Colleges. I am confident that we will engage in ways that will allow, for success to be realized for all stakeholders, particularly for our dynamic CLSA students.

Sincerely,  
Xochitl Casillas  
Assistant Dean of Students



CMC Coffee Hour with the Dean—January 26, 2018  
From left: Alan Hernandez, CMC '20; Betzy Perez, CMC '19;  
Melissa Petito, PO '19; Xochitl Casillas; Katie Carillo-Castro, CMC '19

# First Semester Experience

Submitted by  
Elia Gil Rojas, Pomona '21  
and CLSA Intern



Elia Gil-Rojas, Pomona

As the end of my senior year in high school came to an end, I was constantly reminded that college was going to be the most exciting and enjoyable years of my life. After finishing my first semester at Pomona College, I began to question if this statement was accurate.

This past semester was a difficult both academically and personally. In high school, I excelled academically, no class was ever a challenge. Although I was cognizant of how difficult college would be, I was not necessarily prepared for the drastic change. I never received the dreaded "F" paper that marks the change for a lot of students, but I did find myself investing more time and effort to earn a decent grade for my standards. I spent several hours of my week drafting and editing papers on my own and with my writing partner for my ID1 class. I even attended every math tutor session for my Calculus class.

My schoolwork at times (midterms and finals)

became so time-consuming that social life was non-existent. But in the end I think it paid off. I was receiving similar grades to those in high school but they were the hardest A's and B's I had ever worked for.

Another difficulty in my transition was adapting to the changes in social life. I attended a predominantly Latino high school and the greater diversity I experienced at Pomona was very interesting to say the least.

I met people of from all over the states with diverse ethnic backgrounds, nationalities, and socio-economic class. Although at first I did not know how to properly interact with everyone, I soon adopted the college social

conventions. I learned about hijabs, preferred pronouns, Latinx inclusive terms, gender neutral restrooms among several other things. Every interaction with a 5C student (even if they were Mexican like me) became a learning experience. And when I felt homesick and felt like being around people like me I always found comfort in spaces like CLSA and IDEAS.

Even though my first semester of college was difficult, it was an experience that was necessary. I truly believe that that this transition is over there will be great semesters to come. I am ready for a new semester and I look forward to the beautiful and enriching experience that college can be because this is just the beginning.

## Welcome Reception for Parents

Día de la Familia will look very different this year. CLSA will host a Welcome Reception/Open House as

part of Parent Weekend on Friday, February 16th from 2:30-4:00 pm. If your family is visiting you this

weekend, please walk them over and introduce them or encourage them to stop by CLSA to visit

with Staff and learn more about our services. We'd love to meet your *familias!* Light refreshments served.

## Monsour Drop-In Hour



Dr. Dana Reyes

This spring, Dr. Dana Reyes will be our liaison to Monsour Counseling Center. As a Post-Doctoral Therapist, CLSA is fortunate to have Dr. Reyes, who earned both her Master's and doctoral

degrees from Azusa Pacific University resume the popular weekly Drop-In Hour. Beginning February 15th, you will find Dr. Reyes at CLSA every Thursday from 3 to 4 pm. She will see students on a

first-come, first-served basis. Avoid the need to schedule an appointment downstairs, come meet Dr. Dana Reyes at CLSA!



# Resource Center News

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## Accenture at CLSA

Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 8th from 12:15 to 1:15 pm. On this day, Accenture will be at CLSA for a luncheon information session.

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## Fellowships

**Sponsored by the American Bar Foundation, The 2018 Montgomery Summer Research Diversity Fellowship in Law and Social Science** is designed to introduce undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds interested in pursuing graduate studies in the social sciences. Applications from sophomores and juniors with a 3.0 GPA and majoring in the social sciences or humanities will be considered. Four summer research fellowships will be awarded and each student will be assigned to an American Bar Foundation Research Professor who will involve the student in the professor's research project and who will act as a mentor during the student's tenure. The students also will participate in a series of seminars and field visits to acquaint them with the many facets of sociolegal research and the legal system. The students will work at the American Bar Foundation's offices in Chicago, Illinois for 35 hours a week for a period of 8 weeks. Each student will receive a stipend of \$3,600. **Deadline is February 15th. Housing will be provided.** Apply online at <http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/Fellowshipopportunities/SummerResearchDiversityFellowshipsinLawandSocialScience.html>.

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## Neuroscience Competition

**The Los Angeles Neurological Society** is hosting their annual competition for neuroscience research. Interested students should submit a one-page abstract describing themselves, their career goals, and their work in the field of neuroscience to be considered for the competition. Three finalists will be selected to give short in-person presentations about their research at their April 25th meeting which will be held at the Omni Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The 1st place winner will receive a \$1,000 prize. Abstracts can be submitted to the Los Angeles Neurological Society at [aaron.mcmurtray@laneuro.org](mailto:aaron.mcmurtray@laneuro.org). **Abstracts must be research by March 28th** to be considered for the competition. Additional information is available at [www.laneuro.org](http://www.laneuro.org).

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## Summer Research Programs

**Caltech's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) program** introduces students to research under the guidance of experienced mentors AT Caltech and Jet Propulsion Lab. Fellows receive a \$6,275 award for the ten-week period. **The deadline is February 22nd.** Application information is available at [http://sfp.caltech.edu/programs/surf/application\\_information](http://sfp.caltech.edu/programs/surf/application_information).

**The goal of Mentoring Summer Research Internship Program (MSRIP) at the University of California, Riverside** is to increase the number of outstanding students from diverse backgrounds who wish to pursue the Ph.D. by strengthening their academic and professional development for admission to colleges and universities nationwide. This eight-week program is open to rising juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a graduate degree (masters, doctoral). Disciplines available in any particular year vary based upon faculty availability but typically in the following areas: computer sciences; mathematics; social sciences; humanities and education; physical and biological sciences; chemical/environmental, electrical and mechanical engineering). Participants receive a stipend of \$3,000 as well as room and board (as appropriate). **The deadline is February 19th** and the application can be found at <http://graduate.ucr.edu/MSRIP.html>.

**The Institute for Biology Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison** invites juniors and seniors interested in research careers in the biological sciences to participate in the **Integrated Biological Sciences Summer Research Program (IBS-SRP) SIGNALS**. **SIGNALS** is a hands-on research program is designed to give students from other colleges a chance to experience the richness of research at UW-Madison. This year's theme is: Information Flow, Storage, and Exchange. During this 10-week summer program, students will perform full-time research with a faculty member. There is no cost for participating in the program. Additionally, the program provides each participant a stipend, housing and travel costs. **The deadline is February 15th.** Application can be found at <https://wiscience.wisc.edu/IBS-SRP>.