From the Dean

Dear Students,

This is the time of the year where many of you will be graduating and looking ahead to life after Claremont.

I want to congratulate our graduating students for their accomplishments and earning a degree from the Claremont Colleges. This year we have the largest graduating class of Latinx students. Moreover, this year is also historical; Paola Hernandez, will be the first Latinx student to earn a PhD from KGI! We congratulate Paola for being a trailblazer and we are certain that she will have many accomplishments in her career! ¡Felicidades!

This year’s graduating class will be making an impact in the world. Some will be moving on to consulting careers, others will be attending medical school at places such as the University of Chicago and UCLA, while others will pursue graduate studies at top institutions such as Yale and USC. Others will experience great opportunities, serving as Fulbright Scholars. CLSA is proud of the many accomplishments of our students and we know that they will be making monumental impact in our society.

For our non-graduating students, have a wonderful and productive summer. Take advantage of your summer internships and research opportunities. These opportunities will lay the foundation for success in the future. Your time in Claremont will fly by, and in the blink of the eye, you will also be graduating.

This year we also welcomed Assistant Dean Xochitl Casillas to our CLSA familia, I am certain that she will make a positive impact, and will add to wonderful contributions that Ernie Mendoza and our CLSA team provides to the Claremont Colleges.

Attention Graduates

Please consider having your work be of assistance to future graduating students by having it become an addition to the CLSA Senior Thesis Library. Send CLSA a PDF copy of your thesis and we will take care of the copying and binding. Allow your research to serve as your legacy for future generations of Latinx students by emailing it to clsa@claremont.edu. Make sure we also have a personal email and permanent address on file for you. We will email you once a year to invite you back to the annual alumni reception.

We hope that all of you enjoyed our programming this year. From live Salsa at Pomona College, presentations of the Salvadoran Civil War, cultural art workshops, the inaugural Cesar Chavez lunch lecture with Professor Martha Gonzalez, to our faculty lunch series, and spoken word artists Afro-Latino Bocafloja and Joaquin Zihuantanejo among many others. We hope that these programs were both educational and entertaining.

As CLSA heads to its 50th year, we will be preparing programming that commemorates this major milestone.

Lastly, as you head out, don’t forget that you will always have a casa and familia at CLSA!

Hasta La Proxima!

Tony Jimenez, Dean
Congratulations Students!

Congratulations to all our graduating students, we are immensely proud of each and every one of you for attaining your baccalaureate and graduate degrees. We have every confidence that you will be making positive change in our community.

CLSA would like to share some of the wonderful things you will be doing next year: Omar Velazquez, HMC, has received a David Geffen Scholarship and accepted to the UCLA School of Medicine. Suzette Guzman, Scripps, will attend the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Adriana Ceron, Pitzer, was accepted to USC’s Medical School and graduate degrees. We have every confidence that you will be making positive change in our community.

Pablo Ordoñez, PO, and Viviana Bermudez Reyes, HMC, have both been offered jobs with Accenture. While Jesus Villegas, HMC, has accepted a full-time position as a hardware engineer at Fenix International. Rosario Huamani Carpio, PO, has also accepted an engineer position with Lyft. Alan Peral Ortiz, PO, will be a Ph.D. student at UC Santa Cruz Jack Baskin School of Engineering. Another Ph.D. bound student is Cristian Padilla Romero, PO, who has accepted the offer from Yale University.

Jaicel Ortega, SC, has received a 2018-2019 Fulbright Teaching Fellowship in Mexico. Jaicel Ortega, Prisma Herrera, Lauren Eisenman, Evelyn Gonzalez, Rachel Mathews, Claudia Hernandez, Del Guercio, Lina Purtscher, Justina Goldbeck, Evelyn Zepeda and Madeline Sy, were asked to present their thesis at Scripps Capstone Day. This is a big honor!

Larissa Peltola, CMC, has also been awarded the prestigious Fulbright. Madeline Sy, SC, has been named a 2018 Thomas J. Watson Fellow which provides a one-year grant that funds independent research outside of the United States. Madeline will travel to South Africa, Spain, and Australia to survey the efforts of opera companies to make the immersive and transformative experience of live opera accessible to people with disabilities.

Not to be outshined by graduating seniors, Jocelyn Campoverde, PO, Bernardo Moyza, PO, and Gina Duran-Salazar, PZ, who were selected to participate in the Summer Research Opportunity Program at the University of Illinois. Kevin Kandamby, PZ, will participate in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the University of California, Irvine. Felipe Borja, will do research in robotics this summer at Cal Poly Pomona.

Congratulations are also in order for CGU student and former Interim Assistant Dean of Students, Maria Morales, as a recipient of the Tae Han Kim Award, which is presented to School of Educational Studies students who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to, and respect for, humanity and culture.

Again, CLSA congratulates each and everyone of you for attaining your degree and/or for completing one more year toward your end goal. Have a great summer; we are extremely proud of you!

2018-2019 CLSA Sponsor Team Named

A big thank you to the outgoing 2017-2018 CLSA Sponsor Team for the many hours of volunteerism. CLSA sincerely appreciates the energy and enthusiasm you maintained throughout the year.

We now welcome the newly selected 2018-2019 Team comprised of the following members: Jeremy Anderson, Angelica Campos, Alan Hernandez, Bryan Marin, Angel Ornelas, Jenny Perez, Vanessa Romo and Johnny Villaseñor from CMC; Felipe Borja, Taty Calvo-Polanco, Adrian Garcia, and Michael Hamlett from HMC; Stephanie Caney Matzar, Alec Crosswell, Natalia Duran, Valeria Duran, Kevin Kandamby from Pitzer; Jennifer Acevedo, Ariana Diaz, Elia Gil-Rojas, Efrain Gonzalez, Xavier Maciel, Melissa Petit, Ian Poveda and Kristina Reed from Pomona; and Viviana Ayala Sandoval, Andrea Flores, Stephanie Nuñez, Anna Paz, and Vanessa Reyes-Salazar from Scripps.

CLSA looks forward to working with this diverse group of students who will serve as ambassadors of CLSA on their home campus and invest time in welcoming and serving as a resource to incoming students. They were selected based on their academic standing, demonstrated leadership and a commitment to assisting the incoming first-year students have a smooth transition to college. See you in August!

Lost and Found and Left-Behind

Did you lose your glasses? CLSA has a pair of black-framed eyeglasses that might be yours. Come by to check if they belong to you. We also have a copy of rental book “Democracy in America” that was never claimed—are you missing this book? If you left your decorated sugar skull to dry after the last art workshop, it is still waiting for you to pick-up. Don’t leave campus with out it.
Get to Know Dean Xochitl

Submitted by Betzy Perez, CLSA Intern and CMC ‘19

Assistant Dean Xochitl Casillas is going into her fourth month working at CLSA. She has successfully transitioned into her new role and quickly became a part of the CLSA familia. When asked to describe her experience working at CLSA so far, Xochitl mentioned that “It has been fast-paced, and she has been focused on establishing relationships with students. Through coffee hours and the sponsor interviews, I have been able to build relationships with students from the different colleges.”

Xochitl describes her position as Assistant Dean at CLSA as a longstanding “dream of mine.” She mentions, “I am still in disbelief that this is my role. It is something that I have always wanted in my life. I consider myself to be very blessed.”

Dean Casillas attended the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign for her graduate studies, in educational policy analysis. She advises students pursuing a graduate education to, “take advantage of numerous resources and to take advantage of research and internship experiences.”

Dean Xochitl hopes to start several events in the future. First, she wants to have an event where students get exposed to different regions across Latin America. She thinks events like these are, “a unifying experience because it gives students of all Latinx backgrounds access to different Latinx cultures.” She also wants to have a monthly Friday fun night with food and music.

The big question: How do you plan on bringing Latinx students from all the 7Cs together? Xochitl responded by saying, “the best way is to talk to the various student leaders of all the Latinx organizations and have them come together at least once a month.” She would encourage them to plan one event together, by working strategically as a group.

When asked about her relationship with students so far she said she has developed great relationships thus far. According to her, “it is one of the most fulfilling things about her job according to her.” Xochitl highly encourages students to take advantage of research opportunities and to pursue a graduate education and internship experiences.

A fun fact about our amazing Dean is that she is one of 16 children. Yes, they are from the same parents and no twins! Another fun fact is that she loves being adventurous; she has gone skydiving, bungee jumping, ran a marathon among many other exciting things that not a lot of people do.

If you have not already done so, feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to our amazingly adventurous Assistant Dean Xochitl Casillas!

Thank You 2017-18 CLSA Interns

A special thank you to the 2017-2018 CLSA Student Staff—Graduate Fellow Jenelle Nila, CGU and Interns—Betzy Perez, CMC; Bernardo Moyza, PO; Katie Carrillo, CMC, Elia Gil-Rojas, PO and graduating Prisma Herrera, Scripps. This team of students was not only extremely vital to CLSA daily operations, but were successful in compiling the New Student Resource Guide. CLSA will provide a copy of this guide to each of the incoming Latinx first-year students in the fall. CLSA strongly believes this will serve as a valuable tool for success.

Besides addressing several visiting high school students and sharing their perspective of life at one of the 5Cs, they also put together a PowerPoint presentation for the Parent Weekend Reception. They enhanced existing CLSA programming with the coordination of the well-attended Poemas y Paletas session, the fun holiday White Elephant and the very popular screening of “COCO”. They also contributed articles to the CLSA monthly e-newsletter, CHISPAS, amongst creating event fliers, and social media postings. Lastly, Jenelle deserves special mention for executing her role with a high caliber of professionalism and leadership. She assisted both Deans with various projects, but was a stand-out with the Pomona Draper Center/CLSA San Diego Alternabreak. On behalf of CLSA, she worked closely with Erik Guillen to plan a successful learning and meaningful experience.
Alumni Reception

Honorable Judge Cruz Reynoso, PO ’53 and Gabrielle and Alex Uballez PO ’08 who traveled from New Mexico

Abel Ortega, PZ ’18 being honored by Aida Quevedo at Alumni Reception

Rafael Lara, PO ’72, Rick Gutierrez, former CLSA Counselor, CLSA ally Eleanor Esqueda, Dolores Villaseñor, PZ ’72, Lorraine Gutierrez, CMC Mom and Ray Mendoza, PZ ’74

Scripps Capstone Day

Class of 2013 in the House

Prisma and Jaicel present senior thesis

Everyone enjoying PUPUSAS at CLSA Study Break at the CMC CARE Center earlier this week.