Welcome

Hello Alumni,

We’re excited to unveil the first edition of our student-run Alumni Newsletter! The newsletter is here to inform you of exciting developments in our program and to give you a chance to learn more about current students. We plan to release a new issue at the end of every semester. Please enjoy our inaugural issue!

Sincerely,

Victoria & Margarita

Cross-Cohort Bonfire, September 2014
A New Student Leadership Model: 
The Student Advisory Board
By Victoria Couch

The 2013 Cohort Class Officers and assistant program coordinator revamped the student leadership model in Fall 2014 to reflect the changing needs of students in the program. For a detailed description of each position in the Student Advisory Board, visit the program website and click on Student Advisory Board (under the Prospective Students tab).

Presenting the 2014 Student Advisory Board!

Ruben Nuñez, Outreach Coordinator

Hello everyone! My name is Ruben Nuñez and I am excited to represent the 2014 cohort as the Outreach Coordinator for our Student Advisory Board. I am originally from Carlsbad and I completed my undergraduate here at SDSU in May 2014 with a BA in Psychology. During my time here at SDSU I was privileged to represent the university as an SDSU Ambassadors for my entire undergraduate career. Additionally my involvements included working as a student admissions representative, working as a psychology undergraduate advisor, and finally getting the opportunity to be one of SDSU’s 5 NASPA Undergraduate Fellows. Having had the chance to work with students in various aspects of their educational career I was able to see firsthand how much of an impact I could have on their time at SDSU and it was through these involvements that I found my passion of wanting to work with students. Currently I am working as an Academic Initiative Graduate Assistant in Residential Education at SDSU supervising Academic Mentors in Granada and Chapultepec Residence Hall. I chose this program because I knew it would provide me with the opportunity to interact with a diverse cohort, whom would be bringing a range of experience. I knew this was crucial because I wanted a cohort that would challenge and help me grow in my profession and inspire me to be a better student affair professional. In my spare time, I love to go kayaking or stand up paddle boarding, I also spend a lot of time back in Carlsbad with my family, or around San Diego with my friends. I hope that you will see all the opportunities this program has to provide. Go Aztecs!
John Weng, Student Advisory Board Coordinator

Hi everyone! My name is John Weng and I am Coordinator for the newly designed Student Advisory Board. I was born and raised in Monterey Park, Los Angeles County, and spent some time in Taiwan before returning to Hacienda Heights to complete high school where I received acceptance to my alma mater, University of California, San Diego. I received a Bachelors of Science in Psychology with minors in Chemistry and Photography in June of 2014. This academic background provided a framework for processing in my experiences in my Fraternity, the Associated Students, Warren College Student Council, and Center for Student Involvement, that ultimately culminated in my passion for student affairs. I enjoy the process of student development and specifically leadership development in undergraduate students. As a student of the Student Affairs Specialization program, I look forward to learning more about leadership and the process students embark on in higher education. As a direct reflection of these aspirations, my professional areas of interest include Greek Life, Student Leadership, Student Government, and Assessment. Outside of my work life, I find that my undergraduate experiences continue to inform me and my interests. In my free time, I enjoy photography, trying new recipes, and finding new restaurants. I have a strong interest in design, technology and science, which has been helpful in my professional work as well.

Carlos Navarro, Social Justice Coordinator

Hello! My name is Carlos Navarro and I am excited to serve as the Social Justice Coordinator! Before my arrival at San Diego State, I attended Cal State Fullerton where I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Spanish in 2014. During my undergrad years I was fortunate enough to hold various leadership positions. I was an Orientation Leader, Student Coordinator for Orientation Programs and campus Tour Guide in the office of New Student & Parent Programs. Additionally, I was heavily involved in student government as part of the Association for InterCultural Awareness, the Chief Administrative Office on the Executive Staff, and the Speaker for the Social Justice and Equity Council for the California State Student Association. My passion for student affairs stems from my commitment to accessibility, equity, and representation of students in higher education. Here at SDSU I am pursing my Masters of Arts in Education with a Concentration in Educational Leadership and a Specialization in Student Affairs. I am currently the graduate assistant at The Pride Center where I work to create a more inclusive environment for all students. Outside of my professional life, you can regularly find me reading articles regarding social justice, playing a Pokemon game, or analyzing the
Alyssa Patricio, Mentoring Program Coordinator

Hello! My name is Alyssa Patricio and I am honored to serve as the Mentor Program Coordinator. I earned my Bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a minor in Health Care - Social Issues at University of California, San Diego (UCSD). My passion is contributing to academic support programs that enhance student engagement and development. I strongly believe in the power of good mentoring because it creates connections for positive social support and a sense of community. As a first-generation college student, it was the encouragement of mentors that empowered and challenged me to be an active participant in my education. During my time as an undergraduate student, I was involved as a Wellness Peer Educator at Counseling and Psychological Services and an Academic Transition Counselor for OASIS Summer Bridge. I also studied abroad for a semester in Paris, France through the UC Education Abroad Program. Currently, I work full-time at UCSD John Muir College as an Academic Advisor where I enjoy assisting undergraduate students with their journey from orientation to graduation. Outside of work and school, I can be found enjoying the beautiful beaches of San Diego, playing board games or doing karaoke with friends, obsessing over craft projects, indulging in retail therapy, and mindfully enjoying really good food adventures.

Leanna Biddle, Program Events Coordinator

Hi, everyone! My name is Leanna Biddle, and I am the Program Events Coordinator in the 2014 Postsecondary Educational Leadership and Student Affairs cohort. I was born and raised in Benicia, a small city in Northern California. I completed my undergraduate in June 2013 with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology at Sonoma State University. Throughout my undergraduate career, I was involved in a multitude of departments on campus, including Residential Life as a University 102 Peer Mentor and the Leadership Freshman Interest Group Peer Adviser within Cabernet Village. I was a summer orientation leader for three summers, and gained experience in student development and student involvement. As a first-year student, I joined Alpha Xi Delta, a Panhellenic sorority, and gained experience in many different positions, including Programs Vice President and President. Within my major, I became involved with the Psi Chi Honors program as Secretary. These many positions shaped my undergraduate experience and solidified my passion for working with college students. I currently have an assistantship at San Diego State University as the Leadership Programs Graduate Assistant within Student Life and Leadership. This program, with its many assistantship opportunities, cohort-model setup, and community-feel, has provided me with tools to become a knowledgeable and proficient student affairs professional. I look forward to my continued journey within the program. In my free time, I enjoy exploring San Diego, socializing with cohort members, and catching up on my Netflix shows.
The Peer Mentoring Program
By Margarita Lozano

This year marked the introduction of a mentoring component to our Master’s program. In partnership with peers and faculty, three of our graduate students, Colin Lewis, Victoria Couch, and Margarita Lozano launched the M.A. Peer Mentoring Program. The program, which aims to provide a network of support between first-year and second-year cohorts, is an optional experience for current students. Graduate students who participate gain experience in developing self-awareness through navigating the mentee/mentor relationship and practicing their counseling/advising techniques. The Peer Mentoring Program is a one-year commitment that aligns with program learning outcomes (PLOs) 3, 5 and 10. We look forward to seeing where Alyssa Patricio, next year’s peer mentoring program coordinator, will take this program!

Fall 2014 Conferences
By Margarita Lozano

A variety of both first and second-year students attended Western Regional Careers in Student Affairs Day (WRCSAD) in Asuza, CA, a day-long professional development conference hosted by Asuza Pacific University. WRCSAD targets a diverse audience that includes undergraduate students, graduate students and new and experienced professionals in student affairs as a means to promote the profession, as well as meet the developmental challenges of professionals in the field.

In November, students had the opportunity to attend the 2014 NASPA Western Regional Conference in Anaheim, CA. This year’s theme, Imagine: Inspire Dreams. Transform Communities, reflected the spirit of Anaheim’s diverse community.

Finally, several students attended the Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors (AFA) Annual Meeting in Nashville.

Attending these conferences help students in our program develop professional skills and increase their networking abilities.
The Spring semester is just around the corner, and we have exciting developments on the horizon:

- Program Interviews: The Spring semester marks the start of the application review process to assemble next year’s cohort. Prospective student interviews are in late February, and the Student Advisory Board/Executive Board already started the planning process for related activities.

- Alumni Advising: We are working with the Interwork Institute to develop an advising platform on our program website for current students to connect with alumni. We hope to have this launched by the end of the Spring semester. Stay tuned for more details!

- Website Updates: We’re also revamping our program website to include updated material and more resources for alumni. The updates for the student affairs website will be completed by the end of December.

Thank you for reading!

The Fall 2014 inaugural issue of the Alumni Newsletter is brought to you by:
Victoria Couch- Assistant Program Coordinator; second-year
Margarita Lozano- Executive Board Vice President; second-year

Cross-Cohort Winter Social, December 2014

We welcome alumni ideas and submissions for the Alumni Newsletter. If you have an idea that you would like to share, contact the assistant program coordinator at mapostsecondaryedinfo@mail.sdsu.edu