On Saturday, October 16th the SAA hosted the 12th Annual Medical Career Conference. The conference was a huge success with 178 students registered and 14 alumni attending. Doctors from various backgrounds and specialties networked with UCR’s future medical students.

In the morning, students enjoyed breakfast while listening to Dean Olds, the founding dean of UC Riverside’s School of Medicine, opening in 2012. Dean Olds gave a keynote presentation on the status of public health and medicine. Keeping in mind the theme of “serving our community”, he focused on national health and funneled down to how UCR School of Medicine will improve not only California’s need for health, but contribute in further advancing the field of medicine. Dean Olds first touched on the lack of medical professionals in the United States and how the health reform is helping solve this issue. Of the seven medical schools being currently built, only one school has been founded west of the Mississippi, UCR School of Medicine. However, Southern California is expected to grow at a rate of 43% in the next twenty years, and only one medical school is being built to accommodate this rapid growth. In the Inland Empire, there are only 36 physicians per 100,000 residents. “Latinos and African Americans are vastly underrepresented in the physician workforce, statewide and in the Inland Empire. This underscores health disparities that result in higher incidence of disease and mortality in minority and low-income populations.”

– Dean Olds
If so, take advantage of what the SAA can do for you and attend the 12th annual, award winning, Law Career Conference on February 5th, 2011. We bring alumni onto campus to talk to students about their profession. Students get a unique opportunity to network and forge useful relationships with successful alumni. Gain valuable information on the LSAT and a number of careers in Law. The price is $10 for non-members. SAA members get in for FREE! The Law Career Conference also includes a breakfast and network luncheon in which students can talk to alumni one on one. Also, participants will be entered into a raffle to win a FREE LSAT prep course from KAPLAN! Register online at saa.ucr.edu/lcc_reg.html or visit the Alumni and Visitor Center to reserve your seat.

Interested in Law?

Student Alumni Mentorship Program (SAM)

Are you interested in finding out what it takes to succeed once you leave college? If so, apply to the Student Alumni Mentorship Program (SAM) to be matched with a UCR Alum who is currently working in your field of interest. This is an exciting way to hear directly from those who know first-hand what it takes to be successful. There are over 80,000 alumni who can offer valuable information and share their experience with you! Apply today! Visit http://saa.ucr.edu/sam_form.html or stop by the Alumni and Visitors Center.
This year the Student Alumni Association hosted a Red Cross blood drive on campus on Thursday, September 30th. Despite the ominous clouds, humidity, and evening thunder storms, the event was a huge success. Students and faculty waited patiently to give blood outside of the Red Cross blood mobile that was parked under the Rivera arches. The drive lasted all day from 8am to 8pm. We had a total of 65 appointments, a record for any organization on campus! Donors received a coupon for a free appetizer from Mimi’s Café and two free tickets for admission to the comedy club, the Laugh Factory. It was truly impressive to see the dedication and selflessness that the UCR community showed by the wonderful turn out that we had at the blood drive. SAA hopes to host another blood drive in the future and involve even more people in the effort. We hope that we can get even more people involved in the future. The more donors we get the more lives can be saved. It is just one way SAA gives back to the community.
Fundraising can be a very challenging process, and this is something that SAA’s Fundraising Chair, Aaron Clark, undoubtedly learned during fall quarter.

Many uncontrollable events took place that resulted in a dent in SAA’s fall quarter fundraising accomplishments. An example of this can be seen by the sudden cancelation of our two “America’s Funniest Videos” TV show tapings located in Manhattan Beach, CA. SAA was able to gather nearly 30 people to attend either event (which is a huge accomplishment for an Inland Empire university located over an hour away from the Manhattan Beach area), but much to SAA’S dismay, the studio that produces the show unexpectedly cancelled both tapings without any explanation.

While the aforementioned example was disappointing, SAA participated in the UCR Block Party to help meet fundraising needs. While the profit from this fundraiser was moderate, the board members who participated got to know each other better and establish a sense of familiarity with one another, which is quite commensurate to the importance of fundraising itself. Other fundraisers included selling tickets to the midnight Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 premiere on the 18th of November, and our quarterly Finals Survival Kits.

For winter quarter, a similar approach will be taken with fundraisers. SAA’s focus will remain on fundraisers that not only replenish the budget, but also establish tradition for the future directors of SAA.

On October 12th, 2010, the Student Alumni Association welcomed its first alumna speaker of the year, Trina Patel ’08. Ms. Patel is currently a broker with Scottrade and was also a former SAA president. At this meeting, Trina shared her experience as a UCR student and how she made the journey from UCR undergraduate to successful business woman. The main objective of her presentation was to teach SAA members how to present themselves in front of professionals. She engaged the members with her presentation by introducing an activity to improve 30-second elevator speeches. The 30-second elevator speech is key to making a long lasting, positive first impression. At the beginning of the activity, the members were given index cards to write down 30-second introduction about themselves. Some members had difficulties trying to figure out which information to use in their speech. Ms. Patel asked for volunteers to present their speech to the rest of the members. At first, many of these volunteers did not feel confident about introducing themselves, but by the end of the meeting most participants gained more confidence after receiving useful feedback and encouragement from Ms. Patel and peers. SAA will continue to offer more networking opportunities to students by inviting more UCR alumni speakers to its general meetings throughout the year. The general meetings are held bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 6pm in HUB 265.
Board Members

GAVIN:
Originally from Arcadia, California, Gavin entered UCR in 2009. Apart from being the Business Conference Chair of SAA, he is also Treasurer of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor society, as well as a volunteer tax preparer with VITA/CAP Riverside during tax season. His interests include the automotive industry and basketball.

JULIA:
Before taking on her role as the Student Alumni Association President, Julia served as the Publicity Chair from 2009 to 2010. She is currently serving as an Executive Board Member on the Membership & Marketing Committee and External Relations Committee in the UCR Alumni Association. She is also serving as the Head International Peer Advisor at the International Education Center. During her spare time, she enjoys photography and traveling.

GAURAV
Gaurav is a second year Business student from Northern California. He is currently the Dinner with Alumni Chair for SAA and is participating in the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program this year. He hopes to go into accounting and get a job with one of the Big Four accounting firms after he graduates.

JONATHAN:
Jonathan grew up in Madrid, Spain and moved to Orange County in his later elementary years. Aside from passionately majoring in Psychology, he is focusing on his pre-medical studies and has interned in international hospitals. He plans on going to Medical School after his studies at UCR.

BRYAN:
Bryan grew up in the Bay Area and is now a junior at UC Riverside. He is currently the SAM (Student Alumni Mentorship) Program Director for the SAA. He hopes to obtain his Masters Degree after graduating from UCR and to pursue a career in foreign affairs.

CHRISTINE:
Christine (noun): a woman obsessed with graphic design, coffee, farmers markets, and peanut butter.

VICTOR:
Victor originally came to the U.S when he was 5 years old. He went to school in the inner city of Los Angeles. He is the first person in his extended family to attend college and hopes to continue his education with a graduate degree. Although he still has not committed to a specific career yet, he hopes to go into either the Medical Field or College Student Affairs.

CALVIN:
Calvin is a fourth year statistics major. UCR is his second home and he frequently can be seen prancing around campus in his Kilt. Calvin’s UCR spirit can rival that of Scotty the Bear. Calvin loves UCR and all it has to offer.

LISA:
Lisa likes to constantly challenge herself to reach her highest educational goals. Besides being the Membership Director of SAA, she also has leadership roles in Phi Sigma Pi and UCR Dining Services. Her lifelong goal is to travel around the world and experience life in different cultures.

MAYDELI:
Maydeli Renteria Magana is a third year Art History and Administrative Studies major. She graduated from Hemet High School with Highest Honors and was the recipient of the UCR Carillon Scholarship along with the California Retired Teacher’s Association and the Hemet Quilters Guild scholarship in 2008. She is currently serving as the Law Career Conference Chair on the Student Alumni Association Executive Board and is the treasurer of the Art History Association.

SERENA:
Coming from the small desert town of Barstow, California, Serena’s first exposure to city life was made possible by UCR. Serena loves animals and spends most of her free time taking care of her rescued cat and dog. Besides from being the Public Relations Chair for the SAA, Serena is the Student Conduct Committee Chair and a Peer Counselor at the Academic Resource Center. After she graduates with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration in June, she plans to attend law school.