University of California, Riverside
Student Alumni Association
Fall 2011 Newsletter
On Oct 6, 2011 the Student Alumni Association (SAA) had its first General Meeting. The meeting welcomed new members and students interested in joining SAA. After the welcome, SAA President Maydeli Magana shared the different events planned for the year. The focus was on the events held in the fall quarter. She delivered information about the benefits of SAA, and the experiences that can be developed. Some of the events discussed included the Medical Career Conference, and the Twilight premiere.

Maydeli also discussed another opportunity that SAA was offering: The Assistant Programming Board (APB). Members of APB help oversee the planning and execution of SAA’s events, and get access to leadership building opportunities. The application process for APB took place in November, and SAA welcomed 16 new Assistant Programming Board members. General meetings for next quarter will be posted on the SAA website at www.saa.ucr.edu
SAA had been planning to paint the “C” for quite some time. Finally October 15, 2011 six SAA members and three non-members all teamed up and went to paint the “C.” Maydeli, the President of the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and Jane, the External Relations Director, met the other three members of SAA at the parking structure outside of Physical Plant in order to obtain the environment-friendly, bright yellow paint.

After getting the paint they all drove to the “C”, guided by staff from the physical plant. Once they got up to the “C” they were all “astonished,” Jane stated. The ride up there was bumpy, almost like the Indiana Jones ride at Disneyland. Jane described the event as having “low visibility while driving on the 60E freeway because the fog was so low and thick; however, once we climbed above the cloud cover, the view we saw was quite incredible. The cloud cover was just receding from the bottom of the “C” and we could not view UCR or the bottom of the mountain for miles.”

Non-SAA members who happened to be hiking to the “C’ also joined in and helped to sweep off the dirt and gravel so that the team could then paint it. The event took a little more than a year to plan but SAA looks forward to making this event an important tradition.
The Student Alumni Association (SAA) 13th Annual Medical Career Conference was held on October 22, 2011. This sold-out conference offered students the opportunity to network with alumni and ask important questions from seasoned professionals.

Keynote speakers included Paul Lyons, M.D., Senior Associate Dean of Education for the UCR School of Medicine, and Tiffany Hill, M.D. ’07 who is currently doing a fellowship at Kaiser in Community Medicine/Faculty Development.

In addition to the keynote speakers, students were able to sit in on panels that concentrated on the medical field. Topics included: Grad School Admissions, Academics & Research, Specialties, Family Medicine, Healthcare Advocacy, Private Practice, Osteopathic Medicine, Exploring Health Professions, and Secrets of the MCAT & the Med School Journey.

The alumni were there to give students insight into what it is like to be a medical professional, and offered advice tips on how to stand out from the crowd.

Dr. Hill’s advice to the attendees is to do what they love, and that no matter how difficult they think it is or it becomes they just have to “Run [their] own race.”-Dr. Hill

SAA will be hosting the Law Career Conference on February 4, and the Business Career Conference on April 14. Sign up at www.saa.ucr.edu to attend either of these events.
SAA is happy to announce that it is co-hosting UCR’s very first Dance Marathon on February 25, 2012. Along with Golden Key International Honor Society, SAA will be hosting the event to fundraise for the UCR Guardian Scholars program.

Guardian Scholars “provides a network of resources to students who are ‘aging out’ or ‘emancipating’ from the foster care system to facilitate their successful pursuit of higher education.” The program supports students by providing financial aid assistance, counseling, campus housing, health, peer mentoring, employment services and much more. The program is set up to assist students in need; however, the only way they can help their students is if they have sponsors to donate money.

In September, SAA board members attended a BBQ where all the Guardian Scholars gathered. The purpose of this event was to meet the students and to inform them about the Dance Marathon. They are a great group of students who desire higher education, but in order to attain it they require help from UCR, and the community.

If you would like to sign up for Dance Marathon, visit www.dancemarathon.ucr.edu
OUR FIRST BIG FUNDRAISER FOR GUARDIAN SCHOLARS

DM2012:
Benefitting the Guardian Scholars Foster Youth Program
February 25, 2012
6:00 p.m. - Midnight
Student Recreation Center
Dance & help former foster children go to college
Featuring: DJ Dangerous Stranger, DJ Bliss & DJ Geo
Music ● Food ● Games ● Contests ● Giveaways

Sign up at www.dancemarathon.ucr.edu
Minimum $25 donation per person required

Sponsored by:
SAA hosts three blood drives per quarter. Cindy Hernandez –Soto, Medical Career Conference Director, oversees the blood drives and encourages students to donate and give back. For a list of upcoming SAA blood drive dates, please visit www.saa.ucr.edu

For the fall quarter, SAA hosted the Twilight Movie premiere. Students that purchased tickets through SAA got preferred seating, concession coupons, and were able to skip the line!

SAA hosts quarterly movie events, so be sure to look for our next movie premiere in winter quarter!
Maydeli Magana
President
Fifth year majoring in Art History. Maydeli started in SAA as a general member and served as the chair of the Law Career Conference for 2010-2011.

Cindy Hernandez Soto
Medical Conference
A second year. Her future plan and goal is to become a reconstructive surgeon who travels to underdeveloped countries and provides free surgeries to those who have been born with birth deformities. She hopes to become a part of Doctors Without Borders and travel the world.

Gavin Fu
Vice President
Business Administration major with an Accounting concentration. He is a junior, and his interests are automotive industry and motorsports.

Jonathan Mansoori
Philanthropy
Fourth year with a major in Psychology. His interest is in Medicine and Public Health. He was accepted into the Teach for America Corps for post-graduate work for two years.

Jacqueline Martinez
Law Conference
Sociology Law and Sociology major in her 4th year of college. She is interested in working in a non-profit organization that focuses on human rights.

Caleb Park
Business Conference
Business Administration major in his 3rd year of college. His future interest is accounting, and career goal is to be a CFO.

Jane Hannah Kim
External Relations
Majoring in Plant Biology. Currently a second year, graduating in 2014. Her future career interest is in medical research. She plans to apply for M.D./Ph.D. programs in the future.
A very talented individual in her final year of college and graduating with a major in English. Her interest is to teach and most likely to become a professor.

Elma Frias  
Membership Relations  
A Neuroscience and Music major. She is in her second year of college and her interest is Neurology, Music, and Philanthropy.

Sahil Patadia  
Fundraising  
He is in charge of SAA’s fundraising activities. He is a second year, and is majoring in Neuroscience, focusing in Optometry.

Sharon Kang  
Outreach  
Double majoring in business administration, arts management with a concentration on media and culture studies film and visual culture. She is currently a senior and is interest is on entertainment industry and military work.