Hello everyone!

My name is Valeri Garcia and I serve as the Coordinator of the Guardian Scholars Program (GSP). I am excited to share the very first GSP newsletter with our students, alumni, mentors, and supporters. The newsletter will be published quarterly to keep everyone updated about our GSP students and programs.

Here are a few highlights for the 2015-2016 academic year to date:

- We also welcomed 26 new members to program this year. It’s been really great getting to know them and what they offer to the program and UC Davis.

- I would like to acknowledge the In-N-Out Burger Foundation for providing a $10,000 grant that will be used to continue our efforts of outreaching about college and setting goals to local foster youth and former foster youth students. We are currently planning a “Transfer Day” for foster youth attending community colleges as well as “College Opportunity” tours for foster youth at the K-12 level.

- I would also like to acknowledge the amazing Student Housing Office. For the past 2 years, the office of Student Housing has donated new comforters and linens to GSP. The students are very appreciative of their gifts.

- My last, but not least, acknowledgements are for the John Burton Foundation and Fostering Success. With their support, several students have received personal and book assistance. They have been a wonderful partnership and continue to support our students year after year.

Thank you to everyone for your support to our program and, especially the students. We are very excited about the direction of the program but know that we cannot do it without the support of many. THANK YOU!

Meet the Staff

Thanks to a donation by the James L Murdach Family Foundation, the Guardian Scholars Program was able to hire two student program assistants, Laura Brown and Billy Nguyen. Peer Advising Counselors, Roxana Sierra and Miguel Dominguez-Diaz, will work along side Laura and Billy to offer peer led programming to GSP Students.
Things We Did for Fall Quarter

**Fall Welcome**
At the beginning of every Fall Quarter, new and returning students unite and prepare for the upcoming year.

**Mentor/Mentee Meet & Greet**
Mentors and students, both returning and new, met for the first meeting of the year while enjoying a little chips & salsa.

**Prepare for the Career Fair**
Internship & Career Center (ICC) staff and GSP Alum, Josh Croft ('14) presented information and strategies for preparing to plan and get the most out of the Career & Internship Fair.

**Dinner with Med School Students**
Students interested in a career in the medical field had a chance to sit down and meet with students currently attending medical school, ask questions about their path, and also take a tour.

**Graduate School Planning**
Students interested in going to graduate school met with staff to learn about opportunities to receive individual assistance in exploring graduate school and application planning through the Guardian Scholars Program and the Guardian Professions Program.

**Go Study Abroad!**
GSP student, Zendra Hines, recently came back from her study abroad and shared her experience of preparing and traveling to a new country.

**USC School of Social Work**
Representatives from USC’s School of Social Work presented information about the various careers in social and the application process to apply to USC.

**End of Quarter Fall Potluck**
As an annual event, students and mentors gathered with food and fun to reflect on the quarter and enjoy a break before hitting the books for Finals. GSP Alums - Tanya Anaya ('12), Sarah Johnson ('11), and Dan Tompkins ('15) - graciously joined us to share their experiences and knowledge as members of the Guardian Scholars Program and undergraduates at UC Davis.

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**GSP Ambassadors**
Being an Ambassador is an opportunity for our students to get involved in outreach to support local foster youth as well as gain leadership skills in the community. This quarter, several of our students volunteered with Yolo County’s Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) to assist transitional foster youth ages 14-21 during workshops for various topics that included: careers & jobs, moving out, and building relationships. Our Ambassadors also assisted high school foster youth living in Elk Grove with their college application and spent time face-painting at the Harvest Festival in Davis for Soroptimist.
Friends of the Guardian Scholars Program

In November, the Guardian Scholars Program launched a new initiative called the *Friends of the Guardian Scholars* which provides volunteers and community members the opportunity to give their time, talents, and knowledge to support and provide assistance for our Guardian Scholars.

*Friends of the Guardian Scholars* unites our already established mentoring program with opportunities for professional development and fundraising under one construct to best position all programs to be more impactful to the students and mentors. *Friends can:*

**BE A MENTOR** to provide counsel, friendship and positive reinforcement.

**BE A PARTNER** to provide first-hand knowledge about careers and careers.

**BE A FRIEND** to provide gift support to our students to lessen their financial burden to allow our students to focus on their goals.

To learn more about becoming a Friend of the Guardian Scholars, go to our website: [http://success.ucdavis.edu/programs/gsp/](http://success.ucdavis.edu/programs/gsp/)

Catching up with our Alums

**Jason Emmons**
B.S. Hydrology
Class of 2011
M.S. Hydrologic Sciences
Class of 2013

"After my bachelors I stayed at UCD for a masters. Now I am in the Peace Corps, using that precious knowledge to help with planning for El Niño which will hit Peru in December. I am also helping to start a sanitary landfill in order to provide waste management, and a tree nursery to help with reforestation."

**Krystal Irwin (Fergel)**
B.S. Human Development
Class of 2013

"After receiving my Bachelors degree (Human Development with a minor in Communications), from UC Davis, I applied to California State University, Stanislaus's Master of Social Work program. I was blessed to be accepted into the program! I credit a large part of my acceptance to the masters program to the Guardian Scholars program, where my strong interests, passion, and personal experiences were funneled into a stellar resume and personal statement from the help of guardian scholar staff and volunteers. They were there for me every step of the way and if I ever had any questions or concerns, even when I was struggling with personal matters in my life."
Guardian Scholar Spotlight

Name: Ariella Grozbord
Year: 2018
Major: Community and Regional Development

It’s now my second year at Davis and now that I have found my academic and social niche I couldn't be happier! Biology turned CRD major I really enjoy all the classes I’ve taken as the main concepts are tied back into how things effect the community, which is what I care about. Within the GSP program I am a GSP Ambassador, which means I help outreach to foster youth in Yolo county and educate visiting foster youth that attending and succeeding in college is a reality! Outside of GSP I am involved in a multitude of community related and outdoor activities such as; Intern for Senator Boxer, Tutor for Yolo County Office of education, Urban Teachers Campus Ambassador Intern, CYC secretary for Yolo Chapter, CYC legislative committee member, member of Davis Hiking Club, Wilderness Medicine Club, and the Sierra Club. I do what I love and love what I do!

What’s Next?

Heading into the Winter Quarter, our students can expect to focus on a lot of financial and career planning. We will also continue to do outreach in the community and on-campus. Here are a few of our planned activities:

- Financial Literacy 101
- “Luck is No Accident” - Career Development
- Menus and recipes using CalFresh

You can also see some of our students participate on a panel for the UC Davis Campus Community Book Project:

**January 26, 2016**

*Guardian Scholars Program: From the Barriers of Foster Care to the Opportunities of Success*

Valeri Garcia, Adviser, Guardian Scholars Program, UC Davis; Guardian Scholars Students

**NOON – 1:30 PM**, Garrison Room, Memorial Union, UC Davis

Contact Us

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