Access Inc. VAWA Legal Program

~ Erica Navarro, Public Health, Revelle College

Access Inc. is a non-profit organization that serves the immigrant and youth populations of San Diego County. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Legal Program serves immigrant victims of sexual and domestic violence and human trafficking by helping them apply for U.S. citizenship and residency. Access introduced the program in 1998. That year, the VAWA Program served 25 victims of domestic violence. Now, the program serves over 200 victims every year. They perform outreach through Filipina, Latina, Vietnamese, and Middle Eastern victim advocates. They are also partnered with Operation Samahan clinics so that victims can seek help under the guise of a medical appointment. By helping immigrant victims gain citizenship and residency, the VAWA Program hopes to promote self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Restorative Justice Practices at UC San Diego

~ Fnann Keflezighi, Assistant Director, Residence Life, Thurgood Marshall College

~ Anthony Jakubisin, Associate Dean-Student Affairs/Director of Residence Life, Sixth College

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a process whereby parties with a stake in an offense of policy/standard resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offense and its future implications. Objectives of implementing RJ in the UCSD student residential community are to attend to the affected person’s needs, reintegrate offenders into the community, enable offenders to assume responsibility for their actions, recreate a working community that supports those affected, and avoid future offenses. Some of the assumptions of RJ are that offenses originate in social conditions and relationships in the community; that prevention depends on communities taking responsibility for remedying conditions that cause the offense; that the aftermath of an offense must include the personal participation of those involved in the situation; and that outcomes measures must be sufficiently flexible to respond to the particular circumstances, personal needs, and appropriate action in each case.
Wake Up, Warren! Developing a Cultural Organization for Warren College at UC San Diego

~ Monica Valdez, Physiology and Neuroscience, Earl Warren College
~ Mario Garibay, Coordinator of Student Activities, Earl Warren College

The Warren Organization on Cultural Experience is a new organization in Warren College in its early stages. Monica and Mario will share their experience in getting students engaged with the new organization as well as how they are developing a plan for the organization utilizing “The Four Circles of Diversity” from Gardenswartz and Rowe (1994) and the values of: Support, Educate, Advocate, and Celebrate.

Break Away: Global Service (BAGS)

~ Christian Lum, International Studies-International Business, Eleanor Roosevelt College
~ George Ku, Computer Science, Eleanor Roosevelt College
~ Kamila Lopez, Public Health, Eleanor Roosevelt College

BAGS was founded in 1998 as CORE Alternative Breaks, and was renamed in 2010 as Break Away: Global Seminar (BAGS) after the creation of the ERC 192A seminar, which teaches students about the culture, politics, and geography of the nations that they travelled to. Our groups have 15-18 ERC students, and we receive our funding from the Student Council of ERC, fundraisers, and student/parent funds. Previously, we went to Peru, Istanbul, Belize, and many other nations. We have worked on projects such as Women's health, clean water, construction, and volunteering in orphanages. This year, our group worked with the organization Bridges to Communities in the Dominican Republic. We travelled to Derrumbadero in the San Juan Province, where we worked with leaders to develop the community by renovating houses and planting trees to restore their ecosystem. The organization also had programs that helped us learn more about the local culture.

Partnership Schools Program

~ Alejandro Panduro Sandoval, Cognitive Science w/Specialization in Human Computer Interaction, Thurgood Marshall College

Thurgood Marshall College, in partnership with CREATE, has established two partnership schools: The Preuss School and Gompers Preparatory Academy (GPA). These two charter schools serve students in grades 6 to 12 and work with historically under-served communities to support their youth throughout high school, and in seeking an education that prepares them to be college-ready. One of the key aspects of the partnership between UC San Diego and these two schools is the presence of college students. The Partnership Schools Program recruits UC San Diego students and places them in a classroom where they enhance the learning of students.
Making a Change at Operation Hope

~ Senuri Boralessa, Human Biology, Revelle College
~ Emily Paris, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Revelle College

Operation Hope is a women and children’s center located in Vista, San Diego. In the spring of 2017, Revelle’s Emerging Leader’s Program cohort planned a project to hold a Mother’s Day event at this shelter. We decorated the tables, and served lunch to the members of the shelter to celebrate strong women in their lives. The cohort also organized activities such as making letters to an inspirational woman along with homemade face scrubs. Through this presentation, we hope to motivate people to eliminate their stereotypic biases towards the homeless, and instead support those in the face of adversity.

Mesh Education, Inc.

~ Arnav Choudhury, Bioengineering, Earl Warren College

"A speaker speaking to a large audience often wonders, "Am I going too fast? Or too slow? Is my audience truly understanding me or not?" To make matters worse at any point of time 2 out of 5 people in your audience are disengaged. In addition to competing with our limited attention span, they are also competing with Facebook notification, texts etc. Never in the history of mankind has it been harder to understand how your audience is receiving your talk and if they are even listening to you. Mesh solves that problem. Not only can we let you know what parts worked and what didn’t work but we also help you understand why that happened so that you have an opportunity to improve and give better talks in the future. In a nutshell, it’s the gap between what presenters thought the audience understood and what they actually understood."

Arnav Choudhury is the founder of Mesh Education, Inc., a technology start-up based at the University of California, San Diego Qualcomm Institute Innovation Space. Trained as a biomedical engineer, Arnav’s interests currently lie in artificial intelligence and data science. He built Mesh with the aim of empowering presenters to better understand their audiences. Having worked as a tutor leading undergraduate classes, Arnav has seen both sides of the coin and understands how hard it is to communicate effectively, especially in large classes.

Camp Kesem and Dance Marathon

~ Stacey Lin, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Sixth College

Every day is an opportunity to provide service to others. Throughout college, I have found a passion in helping children as “Sushi”, a camp counselor at Camp Kesem and as External Director for Dance Marathon. Both of these organizations are close to my heart, and greatly impact the San Diego community.

Camp Kesem works towards the goals of letting kids be kids. We fundraise year-long to take kids whose parents have been affected by cancer to a week-long camp. At camp they have fun and feel the support of a group that understands them.

Dance Marathon is a nationwide network of dedicated students who raise funds and awareness for local Children’s Miracle Network hospitals. The culmination of our efforts is a large scale event where we invite patient families and our campus to join us in celebrating the kids.

I will show you why I am for the kids.
No Lost Generation at UC San Diego

~ Fatima Usmani, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Revelle College
~ Alex Gunn, Political Science, Eleanor Roosevelt College (remote from Jordan)

No Lost Generation is an organization with a nationally overarching framework dedicated to providing support and aid to refugee youths both domestically and internationally. The organization is embedded into pre-existing humanitarian efforts put in place by humanitarians and policy makers alike to provide aid to youths directly affected by the global refugee crisis. NLG UCSD aims to amplify the narratives of refugee youths, and to give them the support they need after displacement. NLG provides a platform for students and faculty alike to get involved and lend a hand in order to help alleviate the pain and suffering that these displaced children and families face. With San Diego playing host to one of the largest relocated refugee populations in the country, there is ample need to bridge the gap between UCSD students and refugees both here and abroad, all while providing aid in any way we can.

The BioEnergy Project

~ Leanne Kao, Environmental Engineering, John Muir College

The BioEnergy Project (under Engineers for a Sustainable World) is building a biodigester in Roger’s Garden to create biomethane from food waste generated on campus, and to bring awareness to the mere potential of food waste as an energy source.

New Initiatives at Warren College

~ Zahabiya Nuruddin, Economics, Earl Warren College

Finding new ways to get Warren students involved in their college and the university as a whole by creating an inclusive and spirited environment. Promoting sustainability through various projects.

Intersectional Health Project San Diego


Social issues are complex—they don’t obey the boundaries of academic disciplines or traditional problem solving. Neither do we.

Situated just 18 miles from the busiest land border crossing in the western hemisphere, San Diego is a microcosm of global diversity and poverty, with a regional ecology exhibiting public health, environmental, urban, and political issues that persist across borders.

Join this talk about Intersectional Health Project San Diego—UCSD’s first undergraduate driven initiative to work with communities in the U.S-Mexico border region to investigate and tackle the most pressing social issues in these neighborhoods through a multitude of disciplines: public health, engineering, environmental justice, urban planning, education, and activism.
UC San Diego Rotaract (Eleanor Roosevelt College/I-House)

~ Benjamin Tucker, Computer Science, Thurgood Marshall College

~ Susan Lee, Cognitive Science w/Specialization in Human Computer Interaction, Eleanor Roosevelt College

Rotaract provides an opportunity for young people to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, to address the physical and social needs of their communities, and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service. To accomplish this we hold a service event every Saturday morning, professional development activities at our weekly club meetings, and opportunities to network with Rotarians who are well-established in their careers. Come join us on Mondays at 8PM in the Asante room!

Distributed Systems at Scale

~ Claire Li, Computer Science, Sixth College

The computer evolved from a basic electro-mechanical device that could sum ones and zeroes, to high-powered networked machines that process gargantuan amounts of information. Nowadays, these devices that once were mere calculators, are responsible for delivering data and services instantaneously, worldwide, at any moment’s notice. Despite their incredible evolution, sometimes a single server isn’t practical for some intensive tasks. Sometimes to solve the complex problems, we need large collections of small simple machines to each play their role in a cluster, or a distributed system. Haven’t you always wondered, what it takes to check your notifications, or have chat messages delivered in milliseconds? I will be sharing what I’ve observed and worked on at tech companies, and what the systems responsible for high network traffic, and optimized performance computing look like.

Claire Li is a senior Computer Science major, and a hacker. She previously interned at Xerox, Intel Corporation, and LinkedIn Corporation. She builds analog calculators in her spare time, and finds no greater joy than writing code to bring physical devices to life.

Ashoka U is an initiative of Ashoka, the world’s largest network of social entrepreneurs. Building on Ashoka’s vision for a world where everyone is a Changemaker, Ashoka U takes an institutional change approach to impact the education of millions of students. Ashukho collaborates with colleges and universities to break down barriers to institutional change and foster a campus-wide culture of social innovation. UC San Diego received its designation as a Changemaker Campus in 2017.