
UC Davis

GSP Fall Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | December 2021

UC Davis has opened its physical campus doors this Fall Quarter 2021. Transitioning from zoom to in-person has definitely made the college transition very unique. Davis is buzzing with students, wildlife, and especially bikes! Following Covid- protocols, two years of students have begun their in-person experience within UC Davis.

The same applies to this year's GSP freshman and transfer students! GSP welcomes 18 Freshmen and 10 transfer students this year and with an overwhelming 122 GSP total students this academic year. We also want to congratulate our 10 Fall graduating seniors this quarter!

This quarter has brought in returning students and even some new students to our GSP lounge. Seniors have shared their pandemic stories, updates on their lives and have been creating great connections with our new staff and peers. Thanks to our students and supporters, GSP will be moving into a new lounge space next quarter. This bigger space in South Hall will allow us to have more community and advising space, and also expand our lending library. So watch out for our official open house date in the following quarters.



GSP EVENTS

GSP has been working diligently throughout this quarter to bring and re-build the GSP community. Our staff has done an excellent job in providing resources, services, and workshops that connect students with the necessary information.



~Senior Spotlight~

Laurilyn Kersten

B.S. Human Development



What are your current career goals/aspirations upon completing your degree?

I will start up a small business in Nutritional Therapy Consulting - targeting children, adolescents, and adults who struggle with hypervigilant stress responses, focusing on how foods and mindset can help reset the HPA system.

What role, if any, did GSP play while you were pursuing your degree? What GSP actions/events/services most aided you in your college experience?

Helped me get started...and now helping me finish. Valeri has been the biggest help - being able to connect with her and the resources she made available to all of us in GSP. I did not connect particularly with any one person and become super close but I did meet wonderful people. The most helpful experience was probably my recent research experience last summer - it taught was research at the university was all about. I am really glad I did and know now what a research position entails.

Emily Deras

B.S. Managerial Economics



What are your current career goals/aspirations upon completing your degree?

Get a financial analysis certification so that I can become a financial analyst for an entertainment company.

What role, if any, did GSP play while you were pursuing your degree? What GSP actions/events/services most aided you in your college experience?

I liked that there was a community of students with similar backgrounds that I was able to relate with. I found it helpful that we had info sessions that helped me how to manage my time. It was comforting that I always had somebody available to talk to when I was having academic difficulty. And I liked that GSP provided me resources, such as a laptop when my old one started malfunctioning.

GSP Updates

GSP STAFF 2021-2022

With a new academic year, we welcome in returning and new faces within our GSP staff!



Top L-R: Mia Fowler, Princess Loera
Middle: Victoria Figueroa, Valeri Garcia
Bottom: Evelyn Aguilar

Program Coordinator: Valeri Garcia

Success Coach: Leslie Marie

Special Programs Assistant: Princess Loera Vazquez

Lead Program Assistant and Senior Cohort Leader: Victoria Figueroa

Program Assistants:

Third-Year Cohort Leader: Mia Fowler

Second- Year Cohort Leader:

Adamaría Guzman

First-Year Cohort Leader and FYAC:

Evelyn Aguilar

Mentor Program

We are very excited to announce that our Mentor Program for Guardian Scholars will start up again this year. Without a doubt, this program has provided unique connections with faculty, staff, and even graduate students, and several research opportunities! This is a great opportunity for our current students to expand their networks and be exposed to several opportunities on and off-campus. Students will be matched with a mentor. Students will have an array of options and preferences to be matched with a mentor which includes but is not limited to university transition, life-skills building, personal interests and hobbies, career exploration, and academic goals. Our alumni often credit their GSP mentors for providing the support, access, and opportunities that helped them achieve their goals. Many of them continue to stay in contact to this day.

If you are interested in being a GSP mentor to 1-2 students starting Winter Quarter, please complete this form and sign-up for a mentor training: <https://tinyurl.com/2022GSPMentor>



Professional Pathways for Guardian Scholars

In Fall 2020, we launched a crowdfunding project with UC Davis to help support a new initiative, "Professional Pathways for Guardian Scholars" and raised \$1800. This project aims to support students' aspirations to explore, discover and engage in opportunities to develop and learn more about career paths. With the help of other donations, the Guardian Scholars Program will match this amount and distribute a total of \$3600 toward student grants. Starting Winter Quarter, students will be able to apply for a grant to receive a stipend for an unpaid internship or research experience or request assistance with registration fees and travel costs to attend research or professional conference.



If you are interested in continuing this opportunity, make a donation to <https://give.ucdavis.edu/SCHP/GSPGFTS> or contact Valeri Garcia

What's Next?

GSP Alumni Network

From transitioning to new careers and continuing to receive resources even after graduation, we want our alumni to stay connected with our community and program.

Stay connected with GSP through our Alumni Network coming soon! If interested in becoming a lead in the network please contact Valeri Garcia for more information.

Winter Quarter

Going into Winter Quarter, we will continue to focus on community building and outreach, while also encouraging research/internship opportunities on-campus. There will be many new events and workshops that will emphasize career building and outreach with the community. Stay tuned for some of our events throughout the following quarter!

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