

GSP FALL 2022

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

FALL 2022 RECAP



MESSAGE FROM VALERI GARCIA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This is Year 16 for the UC Davis Guardian Scholars Program. Over the years we have provided support and services to over 500 students with varied experiences in foster care solely on the generosity of donations, grants, and collaborations with on-campus and community partners. From year to year, we have been dependent on these funding sources knowing there are gaps and challenges that are not met for our students and opportunities that are hard to fulfill and, nevertheless, our students continue to persist and achieve their goals.

In July, we got the message we have been waiting for! As part of Governor Newsom's state budget, foster youth programs across the three public postsecondary systems were approved for ongoing funding. For UCs, \$6 million will be dispersed across campuses to increase staff, meet student needs and support opportunities to expand their experiences. In our planning, we are aiming to provide essential services and support in areas of housing, health, book and supplies, tutoring, and more. We are also looking to set up support for students to take advantage of opportunities such as internships, research, studying abroad, and engage in other experiential learning activities. We are so excited for the future of GSP and, most importantly, our students.

We will continue our collaboration with donors and community partners to create opportunities for direct student support in form of financial grants and scholarships. I'm proud of the work many of my colleagues across the state and I did to contribute to this achievement. Most importantly, I want to acknowledge Debbie Raucher and John Burton Advocates for Youth for their leadership and passionate support in the development and advocacy to make this happen.

JBAY fact sheet:

<https://jbay.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Fact-Sheet-FY-Campus-Support.pdf>



IN THE BEGINNING...

During the summer, GSP staff had to complete some training! After a very long day of working towards becoming great leaders... the best unexpected surprise happened! GSP Staff knew it was going to be a great quarter the moment we ran into Chancellor May during training! An important reminder that GSP is supported on campus by many at UC Davis.

FALL WELCOME 2022

In collaboration with EOP and others, we were able to present ourselves to students on campus! This was a great opportunity to become familiar with everyone's faces and learn about GSP! We were able to meet students who qualified for GSP but weren't enrolled! So many shirts were passed out, we can safely say our name is being Repped on campus and we are very happy about that.



BOWLING NIGHT!

Sofia led such a wonderful bowling night for GSP students! These are the fun events that help with destressing and taking a break from our computer screens! Nights like these create memories and friendships that last a lifetime! We will continue to provide more fun socials like these as we continue the year!



TOWN HALL

This Quarter, GSP had a huge task! With the announcement of the new state funding, we looked to our students to share their ideas for services, activities, and areas of support that matter to them. Thank you to those that attended one of the town hall meetings to provide your recommendations and feedback. Your voice matters in decisions like these! From the help of Alumni, current undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty, we were able to compile a list of needs for students and a proposed implementation plan to begin Winter Quarter 2023. We look forward to putting the budget to use for all our students and to expand our program!

THE LOUNGE

It feels like every week there was some sort of snack in the lounge! We hope you all enjoyed them! There is always a staff available to help you if you ever need to drop in for some advice or guidance to resources. There is also snacks and drinks for you all! If you want a quick snack, come on by! Just sign in and take what you need. We also have scantrons and blue books for you! This space is located in South Hall room 105, open from 9am to 4pm.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

YEAR 1



Mary Brodell Animal Science

As a first year student at UC Davis reflecting on my first quarter, I can truly say that it began as a challenging, emotional rollercoaster for me but as a whole, it has been a fun, fast-paced, and educational ride. My feeling of HOMESICKNESS was the most challenging aspect of this fall quarter, mainly due to the inability to physically experience my new routine, and share my thoughts, my opinions, my knowledge, and my new, college-adult life with my parents. This feeling of homesickness caused me to isolate myself from those around me and discouraged me from expressing my true, happy self. However, similar to other first year students like me, I've grown to understand that although I cannot physically see my parents each day, I know that they are with me in my heart, living vicariously through every moment of my college experience. Aside from these emotional challenges precipitated by the first quarter, FUN is the second word I would describe this quarter. I am extremely grateful to have been given the amazing opport-

unity to perform laboratory work with different types of species including sheep, swine, horses, goats, beef and dairy cattle, etc., and to be able to learn and grow from the knowledge shared by my professors and instructors. From dissecting a milk fish to shucking an oyster during my Animal Science 001 class, these fun and educational hands-on activities further kindled my fervent passion to become a veterinarian in the future and empowered me to continue to discover my niche and to not only work hard to make my parents proud, but to make myself proud as well. Lastly, FAST PACED is the third and final word that I would describe this fall quarter. High school prepared me for the rigor and heavy, content-based workload of college courses, but experiencing this first quarter forced me to learn to adapt to the fast-pace of the UC quarter system. I was prompted to learn how to prepare for midterms as they rapidly approached the first couple weeks of instruction, to study effectively, and to maintain a positive, motivated mindset each day. This fall quarter for me was a series of emotional challenges but mostly, was filled with happy memories, growth, and experiences that opened my eyes to a greater level of learning and thinking not only as a scholar but as an individual. Next quarter, I look forward to the exciting pre-requisite courses that I enrolled in, am excited for more hands-on learning with animals, and remain determined to stay positive, grateful, and happy, no matter the obstacle.

YEAR 2



Luz Farias Aguilar Human Development

"I was so lost coming in as a first-gen student my first year of college. GSP helped me find friends and a community that I'm so close with. As a second year, I have a better understanding of how the university lifestyle works and everything is running so much smoother. I have joined the gym community where I have met some of my closest friends as well. I would tell my first year self to not give up and continue to strive because it's all worth it!"

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

YEAR 3



Nicole Laguerta Design

As a transfer student, I struggled with a lot of anxiety and imposter syndrome in my first quarter. After discovering GSP and meeting new people, I learned that I'm just as capable and deserving of being here at UC.

I loved meeting new friends, and collaborating with other students on projects. As a design major, collaboration is key and I loved learning new ideas and perspectives from others.

I look forward to looking for an internship, studying abroad, and taking a step closer to creating the life of my dream.

YEAR 4



JC Caseltine Animal Science - Animal Behavior

The friendships and professional connections I have made over the last four years was the highlight of my 4 years at UC Davis. HUM 001 - Humanities of Fashion is a class I'd take again. It's the best class if you want to talk about current fashion trends and the way that fashion impacts the social and economic parts of the world. I plan on working in various veterinary clinics and gain that first hand experience. Later, I will try to get my Masters in Animal Behavior and open a fear free veterinary clinic in a underserved area.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



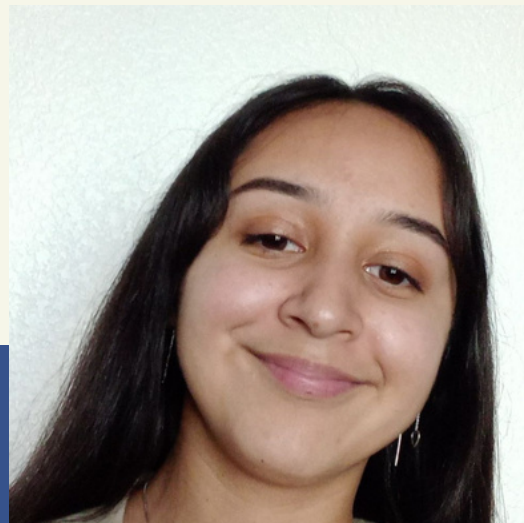
VALERI
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



MIA
LEAD STUDENT PROGRAM
ASSISTANT



VICTORIA
STUDENT PROGRAM
ASSISTANT



EVELYN
STUDENT PROGRAM
ASSISTANT

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



SOFIA
1ST YEAR COHORT
LEADER/FYAC PEER
MENTOR



JONATHAN
SPECIAL PROJECTS
ASSISTANT



LESLIE
SUCCESS COACH



AALIYAH
SUCCESS COACH

LOOKING FORWARD...

The Guardian Scholars Program is looking forward to the New Year! In 2023, we will begin planning for new events, activities, and services to provide our students. Some of the activities we look forward to hosting in Winter Quarter include workshops for Financial Wellness and Studying Abroad! We are also hosting a Winter Retreat and a Community Outing!

GSP will also soon be welcoming it's first Program Advisor to the career staff. This position will address ongoing basic needs for all continuing program participants such as housing, food insecurity and mental health, build community partnerships, and act as a liaison between students and campus/external resources. We are looking forward to the new addition!

Lastly, as we navigate the new year with our new funding, we are looking forward to working with our students to provide the necessary support and add new services to meet the needs and goals of all of our students. In the meantime, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



CONNECT WITH US



@ucdavisgsp



guardianscholars@ucdavis.edu

guardianscholars.ucdavis.edu