



First-Generation@Scripps

Scripps College

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Edition 1, Volume 2

A Letter from Sonia

Dear Scripps Community,

It is a great privilege to be given the opportunity to share with you my first-gen story as we publish the second issue of the First-Generation@Scripps newsletter. In the short time I have been at Scripps, I have found myself regularly inspired by the transformational work of the First-Generation@Scripps Program, the tenacity of our students, the dedication of our interns and staff, and the unwavering commitment of our faculty. I appreciate most that the commitment to shed light on first-gen issues empowers the voices of our students through the sharing of their stories. It allows us to recognize common themes in our experiences, and at the same time appreciate the uniqueness in each of our experiences that challenges us to recognize that first-generation experiences are varied and complex. On a personal level, being a part of the first-gen program has allowed me to re-engage with a part of my identity that I had long lost connection with. As I think about

the narrative of my own first-gen story, I recognize that it's okay for me to claim my first-gen identity without taking anything away from my mother's own first-gen experience. I say this because my mother entered college when I was a senior in high school and she completed her Bachelor of Science degree one year before I completed my own undergraduate degree. For many years I thought that claiming I was first-gen would take away from my mom's accomplishment, but I realize that these two realities can coexist without delegitimizing either. I still recall feeling overwhelmed in my first couple of weeks of college as I was bombarded with information about majors, resources, financial aid, study skills, social opportunities, and much more. And despite my mother's own experience in college, I knew that she was not positioned to help me understand the more traditional college setting with all of its challenges. In my own undergraduate experience I was lucky enough to have two

people (a staff member and a faculty member) make it their mission to see me succeed in college. In many ways, my first-gen experience has come full circle as I position myself to help our own first-gen students at Scripps succeed in college through the work of the First-Generation@Scripps Program. As we continue to advocate learning about the stories of first-gen students in our community, I want us to recognize that first-gen identity is not static and uni-dimensional, rather it is dynamic, robust, varies in salience, and exists within a collection of other identity markers that inform our framework for interpreting and engaging in the world around us.

Sincerely,
Sonia



Sonia De La Torre-Iniguez
*Assistant Dean of Students and
Director of Academic Resources and Services*

Get Involved:

Volunteer Opportunities

The First-Generation@Scripps program believes in the power of community. The greatest achievements are not undertaken alone. The sweetest victories are those that are born out of the desire to simply do good. Just because. For this reason, we encourage everyone to seek out opportunities to help others. Here is a list of just a few volunteer opportunities near you:

Pomona Hope and Montclair High

The SCORE interns are looking for volunteers for their Pomona Hope program. It is a once a week commitment on Wednesdays from 5-6pm at the Pomona Hope community center. There, the interns create the curriculum and facilitate a leadership class (junior high school students). Transportation is provided!

They also are looking for volunteers for their Montclair High program where they do the same type of work for high school students. This opportunity is from 11:30-12:20pm on Thursdays. If you are interested, contact Yuka Ogino (YOgino@scrippscollege.edu).

Crossroads

Crossroads, Inc. is a six month residential program for women transitioning out of prison. The women in the program live in the two Crossroads houses in Claremont while completing the Crossroads curriculum. Every Monday student interns from the Claremont Colleges go to the Crossroads house and cook a full course vegetarian dinner for the women. The produce used in the meal is donated from a nearby farm, as well as harvested in Claremont. Following dinner, the students run a two hour food justice workshop. The workshops range from such topics as: pasta making/sauce-off competition, healthy/affordable packed lunches, watching documentaries, and canning. For more information, contact Nancy Neiman Auerbach (NNeiman@scrippscollege.edu).

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We Want to Hear From You!

To inspire our readers and recognize your accomplishments, we would like to feature your story in one of our upcoming newsletters. Please send us a personal article or poem depicting your experience as a first-gener to: firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu

Do You Have Any Volunteer Opportunities?

Tell us about them! Students are always looking for ways to get involved on campus. Let us help you find them.

Email your details to: firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu

Faculty/Staff Spotlight:

Jill Langan

The First-Gen community is a catchall of many different types of people, ranging in experience and background. Sometimes we get so caught up in our own world as students that we forget that there is support all around us from the people who work in our classrooms, offices, and safe spaces. Jill Langan is one of those wonderful, special people.

"I try to keep my door open when I'm there and listen to weird music," says Jill. "That's the easiest thing to me, to make myself accessible. You may see my office door and it's jumbled with unicorns and 'I'm an ally' decals. Its stuff that I know says something about me that students can connect with."

Jill has been a part of the higher-education First-Generation community for 9 years—first as an English Major and RA at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, then as a graduate Hall Director at her alma mater (where she also super casually picked up her M. Ed. in Human Resources) and then finally as a Hall Director (Off-Campus, Routt, and Toll Halls) here at Scripps where she considers her job a continuation of her education.

"I didn't really have a name for my college experience until my second or third year," says Jill. "I remember feeling really outside of the college experience, even when applying."

Jill recalls that the one thing that stands out in her mind when she

"A college degree doesn't just mean something to a student sometimes. It means something to a family."

-Jill Langan

reflects on her First-Generation college experience is her mother's sole advice to her:

Figure it out.

This advocacy for self-guidance may have seemed a bit harsh at the time, but Jill admits that this charge to be accountable for her own college experience is something that she now uses to relate to the students that she encounters in her professional career. Many of us received the same advice from our own parents. This scarce advice is not for lack of care, but stems from their belief that we are capable of thriving, even in the face of adversity, and that our successes are theirs as well.



Jill Langan, Hall Director

"A college degree doesn't just mean something to a student sometimes. It means something to a family."

While it may seem like we stumbled into the admission process, we, like Jill, can turn our experiences into wisdom, guidance for our siblings and fellow rising students so that their interactions with the college admission process are smoother, more informed, and more intentional. Jill says that the key to this evolution is simple: Make a connection.

"I humble myself in my work knowing that if I don't leave a positive impact on a student or they don't make a connection with me or somebody else, they may not come back. They might not reach their goal of graduating."

These words, while simple, are crucial to our community and to everyone! Make a connection. Seek out readily available resources like Jill—Hall Directors, Faculty, Staff, RAs, Deans, and even fellow students. It could make all the difference.

The Bigger Picture:

First-Generation News in Higher Education

It is vital that we frame the work done here at Scripps within the broader context of conversations surrounding first-generation issues, initiatives, and triumphs in higher-education. The following articles showcase the work being done in our community at universities all over the nation.



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

[University of Illinois: First-Generation College Students](#)

Counseling Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I am the first in my family to graduate college and earn a doctorate. Getting to this point took guts, luck and some extra aid.



Photo: Noah Berger for The Chronicle

[For First-Generation Students, Crucial Support](#)

Eugene McCormack, The Chronicle of Higher Education

The parents of more than half of the freshmen at San Jose State University don't have the experience to help their children navigate college.



SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE

[I'm First Project Launches to Celebrate and Support First-Generation College Students](#)

Send2Press Newswire

Nonprofit Center for Student Opportunity (CSO) thinks it's time to celebrate first-generation college students and help build the next generation students who will be the first in their families to attend and graduate from college.

Calendar of Events

November

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 ❖ First Friday at Venice Beach, 4:15-9:15pm, Honnold Gateway, A-Team ❖ Scripps Live Arts: Shannon and the Clams, 8:00pm-12:00am, Motley	2 ❖ AASP 20 th Anniversary, 2:00pm, Margaret Fowler Garden
3 ❖ Diwali Celebration, 5:00-7:00pm, Edmunds Ballroom, Pomona College, Hindu Society ❖ Fandango Obon, 1:00-3:00pm, JACCC Noguchi Plaza, San Pedro St., LA	4 ❖ The US and the EU: towards a Brave New Partnership?, 12:00pm, Hampton Room, Malott Commons	5 ❖ Know your Flow with HEO, 7:00, Clark Living Room ❖ Maria's Office Hours, 2:00-3:00pm, DOS ❖ "The Price of Sugar" Film Screening, 7:30pm, Garrison	6 ❖ Myrlie Evers Leader-in-Residence event: Ghosts of Mississippi Discussion, 1:15-2:30pm, Hampton Room ❖ *Busting It Open: First-Generation Experience, facilitated by Chris Guzaitis, 5:15-6:15pm, SCORE	7 ❖ Myrlie Evers Welcome Reception and Dinner, 5:00-6:30pm, Hampton Room, RSVP to Karen Fagan ❖ The Uterus Flag Project: Sit & Stitch, 7:00pm, Student Union, Scripps RAs ❖ "Fighting for Equality: The Interconnected Struggle", 7:30-8:30pm, Garrison, Myrlie Evers	8 ❖ "Making Your Mark as a Woman of Color", 4:00-5:00pm, Vita Nova 100, Myrlie Evers, RSVP to Monkogoi Othlogile ❖ Myrlie Evers Closing Reception and Dinner, 5:30-6:30pm, Hampton Room, RSVP to Karen Fagan	9 ❖ EURO-TRASH, 10:00pm Sallie Tiernan Field House Parking Garage
10 ❖ *Intersectionality Training, 10:00am, Queer Resource Center ❖ True Witness, 3:00pm, Garrison	11	12 ❖ *Street Block Party, 4:30-5:30, 10 th Street ❖ Maria's Office Hours, 2:00-3:00pm, DOS	13 ❖ Queer Across Cultures: Negotiating Culture, 5:00-7:00pm, QRC	14 ❖ Shane's Office Hours, 11:00am-12:00pm, DOS ❖ Ward Churchill, Applying the Sartrean Equation to the U.S. Context, 7:30pm, Garrison	15 ❖ *Emerging Professionals Program: Voice and Persuasion, 10:30am-12:00pm, CP&R ❖ *Summer Options Workshop, 2:00pm-3:00pm, DOS, First-Gen ❖ Lean In Book Discussion, 4:00pm, Student Union, SCES	16
17	18 ❖ *Choosing Your Major with Gretchen Edwards-Gilbert, Vita Nova 100	19 ❖ "Play Hard", Substance Use in the Queer Community, 5:30pm, QRC	20 ❖ *Emerging Professionals Program: Event Planning 6:00-7:15 pm, CP&R	21 ❖ Shane's Office Hours, 11:00am-12:00pm, DOS	22	23
24 ❖ QPOC Training, 10:00-1:00pm, QRC	25	26 ❖ Maria's Office Hours, 2:00-3:00pm, DOS	27	28 ❖ Shane's Office Hours, 11:00am-12:00pm, DOS	29	30

*First-Gen Approved Events

Parting Words

Winter is coming. Maria is okay with this. Shane is not.



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