

# Expressions<sup>1st</sup>

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Thrive. Connect. Transition. Evolve. Advocate.

## Generation @Scripps College

Scripps College

October 6, 2014

Edition 2, Volume 1

### *A Letter from the Editors*

Dear Readers –

We hope this newsletter finds you well as everyone settles into the new semester! With appreciation for our previous co-interns, Shane and Maria who wrote the first edition of newsletters for the program, we wanted to formally introduce ourselves as the new First-Generation @Scripps Co-interns.

Our vision for this upcoming year is to engage you in the narratives of our first generation students, while also recognizing the support and resources at Scripps that our students have thrived on. We wish to reinforce the aspect of community, while also acknowledging the contributions that each first generation student brings to the Claremont consortium. Even more so, this newsletter will demonstrate the breadth of experiences in the first-gen program across cohorts, include articles encompassing first-gen news in higher education, and highlight updates on year long programming.

Our utmost gratitude to Sonia De La Torre-Iniguez, *Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Academic Resources and Services*, Mary Hatcher-Skeers, *Faculty Liason*, and everyone involved in making sure that pre-orientation was a success.

Fondly from the Dean of Students Office,  
Leah and Bea

**Leah Hughes '15**  
**Beatriz Maldonado '15**  
*Program Co-Interns*

### *In This Issue*

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Get to Know Our First Years

### *Meanwhile, at Convocation...*



Some of our First-Gen@Scripps first  
years represent their cohort

## Questions I had for Washington:

*A First-Gener from the Bluegrass Does D.C.*

During my sophomore year of college, rather than going abroad, I decided to seek adventure and personal growth in my own back yard: I took a summer internship in Washington, D.C. in Congress followed by a semester in D.C. on Claremont McKenna's Washington Program during fall of my junior year. I walked away from my time on the Eastern seaboard with a lot of professional experience, but some nagging questions about the experience as a whole, like...

**1. What do “business casual” or “business professional” mean?** I was trying to shop for clothes, had set aside time to do so and was excited about it, only to realize that I had no idea what I was supposed to be purchasing because “business \_\_\_\_\_” is painfully vague. I couldn't find definitive information online and friends gave me wildly different answers as to what was appropriate to wear in a professional office setting. Eventually, I settled on a black-and-white “powersuit” (black pants, blazer, heels, and a white button-down) in an attempt to be as prepared as possible in case the office setting was formal. Once I'd spent a week or so at the office observing what other people were wearing, I felt much more comfortable picking up more expressive clothing that felt appropriate in the office, but anticipating the formality of the D.C. ended up being a good idea.

**2. Why is D.C. so expensive?** Everything from

groceries to gas to rent in D.C. is significantly more expensive than I am used to. Luckily, I relish in the opportunity to seek out free food and free things to do and D.C. has an abundance of both if you know where to look. The offices of Congress are stocked with snacks from each district. Think tanks hold issue talks with coffee and cupcakes. Events catered to the intern crowd will frequently lure you to networking events with free appetizers and pizza. In D.C., most of the city's museums are free and public entertainment events happen all the time. I had a blast on a budget.

**3. How can first-generation students and working-class students gain access to the internship opportunities and financial support necessary to gain experience in D.C.?** I enjoyed my time in the nation's capital but throughout my time there I was consistently aware of the challenges faced by living and working on a fixed budget in an excessively expensive “connections-based” atmosphere. I felt that our community was severely underrepresented in nearly every capacity in Washington, as were other communities of difference, and that it proved to be incredibly detrimental to the conversations happening around policies that affect all of us in the U.S. I am hopeful that through things like summer internship grants, this disparity can be addressed and more politically-interested students can participate in internships that would not have otherwise been possible.



## *Traveling the Countries and Hitting the Books*

*Bea's experience in Spain and her summer research in Illinois*

Hello everyone!

Last semester, I studied abroad in Granada, Spain, which allowed me to venture to other countries as well (such as England, Morocco, and Ireland). This experience was more than fulfilling, challenging, and surprising. Navigating Europe on my own truly encouraged me to explore my comfort zones and to provide self-care where need be. With friends, I indulged in the culture, the food, and the dances that Spain hosted. I even participated in an intramural soccer team at the University of Granada, as well as a club soccer team in another city (first time I had ever been in a club team!).

For the summer of 2014, I completed a Summer Research Opportunities Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While there, I worked with a faculty advisor from the Communications department, and a PhD research graduate student in the field of Education Policy. My research geared towards my senior thesis: citizenship documentation and Salvadoran immigrants residing in the United States. Throughout the summer, I focused on how documentation has implanted, since the El Salvador Civil War, a detrimental and distorted influence upon the Salvadoran immigrants as they transitioned from El Salvador to the United States. This program guided me through research questions, proposals, literature review, methodology, and other techniques for research writing. At the same time, the program offered info-sessions, workshops, recreational activities, and other networking spaces to integrate the students into the world of academia. Not only did I build a fundamental stability for my research, but I held such an amazing and bonding support family there.

These two opportunities, studying abroad and completing research in the Midwest, were both first time experiences for me. As a first-generation student, this college has been terrifyingly inspiring and my hope as First-Generation Co-Intern is to use my experiences as support for our first-generation community. ☺

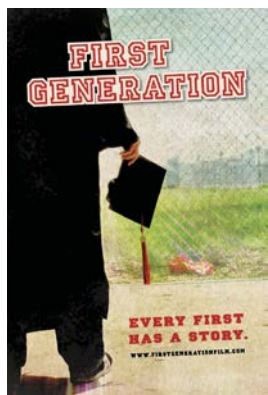




# The Bigger Picture:

## 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.



Poster designed by Kyle Ahlgren, Six Degrees LA

### [First Generation: the Film](#)

**John Benson, Huffington Post**

Benson describes filmmaker Adam Fenderson's new documentary "First Generation" which includes the stories of first-generation high school students transitioning into the college application process. "One of the things especially we focus on in our film is the struggle of leaving family and going out on your own," notes Fenderson in discussing the motivation behind creating the film.

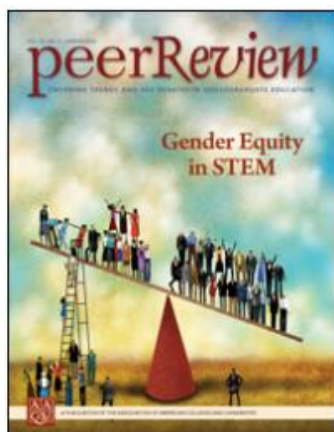


MarYam Hamedani, associate director of Stanford's Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity.

### [Undergraduate first generation students talk class differences](#)

**Clifton B. Parker, Stanford News**

According to a new study completed by MarYam Hamedani at Stanford University, first-generation college students benefit from discussing social class doing so can "reduce the social-class achievement gap by as much as 63 percent" using a "difference-education" approach.



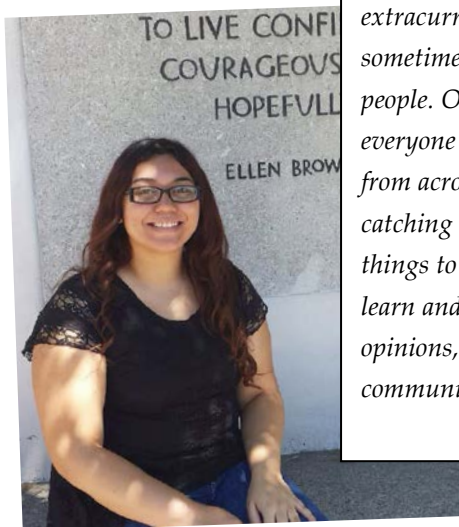
### [Gender Equity in STEM](#)

**Various Authors, Association of American Colleges & Universities Peer Review Journal**

This issue of Peer Review focuses not only on women in STEM in general, but the importance of integrating intersectionality in making STEM fields more equitable. From an article in this issue: "Institutions need to recognize the fact that an intersectional perspective requires that change agents from majority groups create venues through which URM women can be recognized on their own terms as primary change drivers—and not as objects of study, goals to be reached, or secondary or passive recipients of change."

# Get to Know Some of Our First Years!

We reached out to some of our first year first-gen students who attended pre-orientation with a simple question: **what are you excited to bring to the Scripps community now that you're on campus?**



*"They say that your college years seem to fly by and from the numerous papers we have due, tests to study for and extracurriculars I think we could all attest to the fact that sometimes we don't even have time for ourselves let alone other people. One of the best aspects of being a part of First-Gen is that everyone makes time for one another. Whether it's a simple wave from across campus as we stumble over to our next class or catching lunch with one another it seems that we never run out of things to share and stories to tell. I'm really excited to be able to learn and grow by listening to everyone's different ideas and opinions, because if there's one thing I learned through this community it's that all of our experiences matter."*

**-Evelyn Gonzalez**

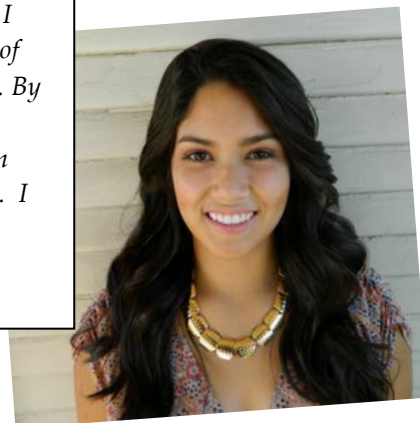
*"I'm excited to bring my love for Mindy Kaling and desserts to the Scripps community!"*

**-Kelly Peng**



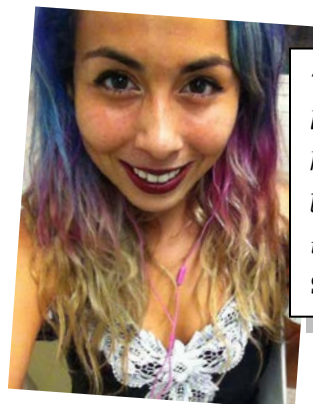
*"As a devoted member of the Beyhive, I hope to share my love and admiration of The Queen Bee with all my Scrippsies. By the time I graduate I will have left a Scripps Beyhive to continue basking in Beyonce's perfection for years to come. I also aim to one day have a dorm hall decorated in her honor. Long live the Queen."*

**-Jaicel Ortega**



*"I'm stoked about simply bringing myself here, my own perspective and experiences. Since Scripps is such a small campus, I feel like I'm actually a part of the community, like I actually matter. Even if I'm only about a 1000th, it definitely beats being a 40000th. Also, I really want to start a heavy metal club. It has to happen, especially by a 'Scrippsie.'"*

**-Odaris Barrios-Arciga**



*"I'm excited to bring my love of learning and my hope for making humans better to each other and to the environment."*

**-Samantha Nuno**

## Parting Words

We can't wait to have more experiences with you.

So in the meantime...

First Year Leah will keep sleeping on the job...

And Bea will catch up with old friends.



## UPCOMING FIRST-GEN EVENTS:

- Community Dinner on *Thursday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>*, from 5-7pm @North Meeting Room in the basement of Malott
- Faculty/Student Lunch on *Friday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>*, from 12-1pm @Bikini Room in Malott

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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](mailto:firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu)