

Expressions^{1st}

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Thrive. Connect. Transition. Evolve. Advocate.

Generation @Scripps College

Scripps College

October 5, 2015

Edition 3, Volume 1

A Letter from the Editors

Greetings Scripps Community,

We are so excited for what this new academic year has in store for our First-Generation @ Scripps community. As September has rolled by, and we have settled into our positions, we have continuously discovered how incredible our first-gen peers are and we are eager to feature them in this year's newsletters. We both love how this program aims to help students "thrive, connect, transition, evolve, and become advocates" and want to share our students' successes with all of you.

A big thank you to Sonia De La Torre-Iniguez and Professor Mary Hatcher-Skeers! Your dedication, support, and encouragement makes this program a success.

A little bit about us...

We're twins! People always ask "How can I tell you two apart?" and always seem to expect a clear-cut, visible distinction, and we try to provide an answer. But of all the standard twin questions, this one always stumps us. The truth is, unless you spend time with us, you'll never really know! So here's our challenge to you: resist the temptation to ask this. Instead, ask us about ourselves, spend time with us (*we really want to get to know you and build lasting friendships*). Soon you'll see, we are without a doubt similar, but at the same time very distinguishable. You will see my (Juliana) quirkiness and my (Daniela) infectious energy. Keep this in mind as we begin to engage with you through meaningful programming and insightful conversations. We are passionate about being resources to our first generation community, and are delighted to give back to the program that has given so much to us.

Sincerely,
Daniela Baena Canas '16 and Juliana Baena Canas '16
First-Gen Program Interns

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2019 Cohort

Introducing Our New Deans

Greetings!!! My name is Leslie Schnyder, and I am new to Scripps this year. I work in the department of Academic Resources and Services within Student Affairs. I hope to be of support to you during your time at Scripps. I enjoy helping students navigate their academic and personal experience while in college. Also, I love helping students cultivate their ideal learning experience, through individual coaching and group workshops. We are now in the 5th week of fall term, and many students are exploring new disciplines, being exposed to new ideas and opportunities, and meeting many new friends. During my college experience, I felt overwhelmed and overjoyed at times with all the new experiences and transitions. There were times where I felt culturally isolated and lacked academic confidence. I was thankful to have resources that helped me to grow and develop as a person and as a learner within my campus community. This is why serving students is so important to me. I am glad to assist students with taking ownership of their educational experience, building effective relationships, and accomplishing their personal and academic vision. I am a native of Carson, CA and have lived throughout the Los Angeles area. I recently moved to Southern California from the cold northeast, and I am excited to be back in the sun! I enjoy exploring new cuisine, listening to music, and learning about health and wellness. I feel grateful for the opportunity to connect, and welcome anyone who wants to chat about how to make the most of their Scripps experience. Stop by Kimberly Hall and say hi!



Leslie Schnyder



Christopher Dennis

Hello!

I'm Christopher S. Dennis, Assistant Dean/Director of Case Management located in the Student Affairs Division here at Scripps. My role is to assist students in creating a plan of action after dealing with situations that disrupt the normal trajectory of their academic career at the college.

As a first-generation student myself I hope to provide students with an outlet to process their thoughts and concerns about the day to day discovery that is college. During my undergraduate career I found myself trying to translate what was happening at school to my friends and family at home and realizing that it can be a draining process.

The two worlds of home and school can put a level of expectation on yourself that is hard to explain. I've been there and many other professionals on campus have as well. With all of the things that you have to balance as a first-generation student, there are some amazing things that also can happen. Please stop by and meet me and we can talk about things that excite you about life!

Internship Abroad: JUST GO FOR IT!

Cynthia's internship with Mi Casa en Ipauratu in Colombia

You know those really cheesy romantic summer blockbusters that have the slogan "one summer can change your life," or something cliché like that? Yeah, well I never bought into that idea, because usually my summers consist of work and Netflix. But this summer was quite different; in fact it could be considered a "life changing" summer.

I was lucky enough to have interned in Colombia this summer with my best friend, Nere! We were both able to fund our trip thanks to grant funding from the CP&R office. Without their financial support, I could have never been able to travel to one of the most beautiful and friendliest countries in the world.

For four weeks, we were teacher's assistants, workshop coordinators, and the token Mexican taco makers at a foundation called "Mi Casa en Ipauratu." The foundation brings much needed help to the children with disabilities of a rural area of Colombia. The foundation provides a special education for the children, as well as tries to provide as much additional aid as they can. During our stay, la fundacion was able to raise enough money to help provide one child with a wheelchair so that his mother didn't have to carry him whenever he left his house. And the place runs on donations!

The work I did at the foundation was so incredibly fulfilling and helped me realize I had a true passion for teaching. However, getting to Colombia was not easy. Not only did it take 22 HOURS to arrive. (Word of advice, don't buy the cheapest flight option, ever!) I was also denied the first time around by CP&R. But, I still emailed them relentlessly. And because of my interest when some money came around, I was given the grant. Convincing our parents to let us leave the country also took a lot of effort. And I mean A LOT. Tears were shed and nostrils were flared. But eventually they came around and gave us la



bendicion as they dropped us off at the airport. Internships sound like a lot of work and getting funding can seem complicated and maybe even traveling can sound like a distant dream. But if I can offer you just one piece of advice it would be to just GO FOR IT!

If you are interested in interning in Colombia over the summer give the foundation a look!

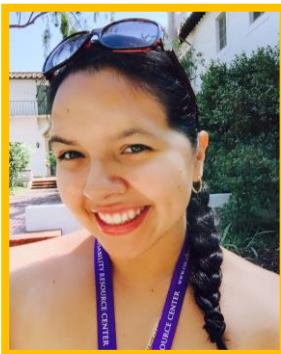
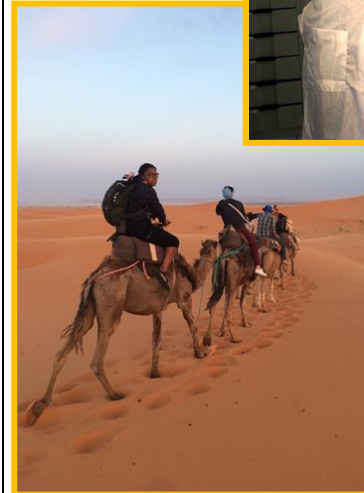
They specifically said they want to work with more Scripps students!

<http://www.ipauratu.com>

Meet Some of Our First Years!

After graduating from high school, I knew that I wanted to go to college. But I also knew that I wasn't ready. So instead of forcing myself to do something that I wasn't ready for, I decided to travel. For 9 months I was on the road. I spent 3 months in the Caribbean, 3 months in Central America, and 3 months in North Africa. By far, one of the stand out experiences was the environmental justice work I did in Haiti. I worked for the organization Pure Water for the World, and got to do a field report on the usage and efficiency of their water filters. I loved it because it made me appreciate science and lab work in a way that I hadn't before. And while the experiences are easy to describe, there was something else about my gap year that was formative in a way that's hard to express. Doing a gap year made me all the more excited to come to Scripps, and meet other cool people my age. Most of all, it made me excited to learn! I can't wait to uncover all that Scripps has to offer.

-Sinclair Blue

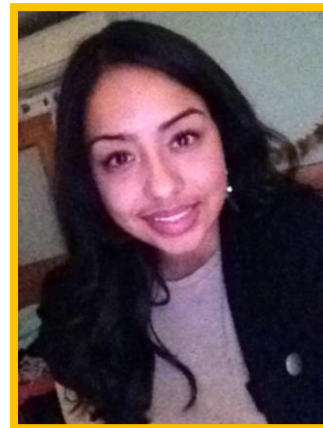


As I move forward into the academic year, I believe what I am most excited for is really getting involved on campus and finding my family here at Scripps. I have already started attending and participating in the meetings hosted by the Cafe con Leche club and I have also made some very wonderful friends in the few weeks that I have been here, so I cannot wait for what is yet to come in the future.

-Elizabeth Galvan

I am from Ontario, California. I became a Scripps College Academy (SCA) scholar the summer of 2012 and now am a first-year at Scripps College. During my first few weeks on campus, I have been a part of the First-Generation program and Café con Leche club, as well as working at Denison Library, and have even gone with InterVarsity's Latino Fellowship to their Fall Conference on Catalina Island. Although I have only been on campus as a student for a few weeks, I am glad to say that I have found a community of amazing friends. Scripps has become my second home and I would not want it any other way!

-Stephanie Nunez



Parting Words

We look forward to building friendships and sharing experiences with you!



UPCOMING FIRST-GEN EVENTS:

- **Discovering and Trusting Your Inner Voice Workshop Series with Colleen Salomon**
 - **Wednesdays, Oct. 7th, 14th, and 28th from 7-8pm in Toll Rec Room**
- **Thriving in Core Workshop**
 - **Tuesday, Oct. 6th from 12:15 to 1:00 pm in Malott's N. Meeting Room**
- **Office Hours with Prof. Mary Hatcher-Skeers at the Motley on Oct. 16th from 11am-12pm**

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