

Academic Advancement Program

AAP'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AAP Director's Message

Dear AAP Community,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had the opportunity to rest over the holiday break and is staying safe during the start of this new quarter. It brings me great pleasure to share with you this edition of the Academic Advancement Program (AAP) newsletter. As you know, AAP is one of the nation's premier and most successful student retention and academic support programs. We would like to highlight the program's successes by sharing with you important events, achievements, and student success.

AAP is more than a collection of services; it is an academic program that serves as a home for more than 4,700 students from low-income, first-generation and historically underrepresented backgrounds. The program aims to support these students' academic and personal growth.

Due to the course of the pandemic, the spread of the Omicron variant, and current UCLA protocols, AAP is currently offering our services remotely. Our plan is to open our offices during the week of January 31st to provide academic support and services in-person, but we are prepared to adjust, if necessary. Some services such as Peer Learning will continue virtual through the entirety of the quarter; we will continue updating you through our website as more information becomes available.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our AAP Staff for their flexibility and care for each other and our students. Their work enables AAP to continue to be a leader in higher education at one of the most prestigious public research universities in the world during these challenging times. In fact, we are excited for you to learn more about AAP services and our staff through a social media series highlighting the people and the stories that make us excellent in the upcoming weeks. I extend my best wishes for the New Year and look forward to re-engaging with you in the very near future. Take care and be safe!

Sincerely.

Dr. Charles J. Alexander
Associate Vice Provost for Student Diversity
Director, Academic Advancement Program



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MEET AAP'S NEW FULL-TIME STAFF

AAP'S 50TH CELEBRATION

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UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUCEMENTS

The Academic Advancement
Program (AAP) at UCLA
acknowledges the
Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as
the traditional land caretakers
of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles
basin and So. Channel Islands).
As a land grant institution, we
pay our respects to the
Honuukvetam (Ancestors),
'Ahiihirom (Elders) and
'Eyoohiinkem (our
relatives/relations) past, present
and emerging.

MEET AAP'S NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

Laura Colbert is the newest member of the CCCP team. As the Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) Program Coordinator, Laura works with students from LAVC with aspirations to transfer, as well as UCLA transfer students. As a former transfer student, Laura is able to connect and assist other students on a personal level and understand their struggles and tribulations.

As a former community college student, Ms. Colbert believes that one of the common challenges community college transfer students face when transferring to an institution like UCLA is the imposter syndrome. She describes the imposter syndrome as struggling to fit in or a fear of inadequacy which unfortunately leads many to believe they do not deserve to at UCLA. She wants to be a part of the support system for transfer students and help them navigate these struggles. She shares that, as a former AAP Peer Counselor, she has helped transfer students overcome these struggles by reaffirming that they belong at UCLA. She has helped students develop various strategies to ease some of the anxieties that may come from learning to navigate an institution like UCLA. She is excited to now be able to help community college students overcome anxiety-inducing struggles and formulate plans as they move forward in their transfer journey.

Laura is happy to be a part of the AAP community and is inspired by the commitment AAP has to help students succeed. She believes that AAP is a home for many students at UCLA, including community college transfers, first-generation college students, underrepresented students, and undocumented students. She is proud to be a part of the AAP staff, a team that reflects the students they serve. She states that "[while] a lot of places on campus can feel isolating, AAP is inclusive and makes you feel welcomed from the start."



Laura Colbert

CCCP LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Iris Lucero, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR MCNAIR
RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Dr. Lucero is currently the Assistant Director of the McNair Research Scholars Program. She is a former transfer student and a UCLA alum. Dr. Lucero has worked with countless students looking to attend graduate school by assisting them in finding research opportunities that will give them a more formidable graduate/undergraduate experience.

Dr. Lucero's commitment to education is rooted in her experiences as a first-generation and non-traditional transfer student who has navigated the different sectors of higher education. She worked in corporate America and hit a glass ceiling and it was in that moment that she decided to return to college. She attended West Los Angeles College and then transferred to UCLA where she majored in Gender studies with a minor in Education. With the help of the McNair Program, she earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Race and Ethnic Studies.

Dr. Lucero's own experiences as a former AAP student inspired her decision to continue working with AAP students professionally. She found a home at AAP when she transferred to UCLA. She stated that attending UCLA as a transfer student can be very overwhelming, however she found her community and felt welcomed, seen, and supported the moment she stepped foot in Campbell Hall. She is excited to return to AAP and give back to the community who so strongly supported her during her undergraduate years

In her new role, Dr. Lucero's goal is to work with our campus partners and McNair alumni to establish a stronger network for our AAP students. She also hopes to share her educational experience with AAP scholars as they prepare for graduate school. Dr. Lucero believes that AAP has amazing scholars that will transform the academy. She is excited for the changes that their research will bring to our communities.

Aranzazu Medellin Guerrero is the newest member of the AAP College Counseling team. She is a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants and was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She is a first-generation Chicana and UCLA Alumni. Aranzazu strongly believes that her success at UCLA comes from her preparation at Pasadena City College. During her time at Pasadena City College, she was motivated and inspired to pursue higher education. After graduating from UCLA, she went to California State University, Northridge, where she received her master's degree in Chicana/o Studies.

While at UCLA, Aranzazu was an AAP student. She noted that AAP instilled the principles she has continued to follow while serving different communities of color. Aranzazu feels that it is an honor to be working with AAP students and learn from everyone's knowledge and experiences. She is excited to be working as an AAP College Counselor!

Aranzazu believes that the AAP Counseling unit is a space where undergraduate students can build community and connect with many resources available to them. She also notes that the AAP Counseling unit is a place that fosters mentorship and where students can connect with their peers and counselors. In her new role within the AAP community, she hopes to advocate for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students, particularly when different decisions across the university campus may impact their academic trajectory.

Aranzazu shared that in her new role as an Academic Counselor, " [she hopes] to continue practicing humility, objectivity, and advocacy." For Aranzazu, being an Academic Counselor is a privilege, and one of her main goals is to understand how to be an active role model and advocate for AAP BIPOC students. Additionally, she hopes to share her experiences as a first-generation woman of color and create a significant impact within the AAP and UCLA community.



Aranzazu Medellin Guerrero, M.A.

AAP COLLEGE COUNSELOR





Feliz Quiñones, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH,
ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION UNIT

Dr. Quiñones is the Assistant Director of AAP Research, Assessment, and Evaluation (RAE). She oversees survey and assessment projects in AAP and uses her own experiences in the world of research to provide resources for undergraduate students looking for research opportunities that will lead them to graduate school.

She states that her dedication to education and research is driven and informed by her experiences as a low-income, first-generation Mexicana college student, from Compton, California. She received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Education, with a concentration in Human Development and Psychology, from UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. Immediately after finishing her Ph.D., she transitioned into a postdoctoral position at the University of California, Berkeley's Institute of Human Development. She has also taught research methods and adolescent development courses in the Child Development Department at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Dr. Quiñones understands that the graduate school journey can be challenging for many students, especially for BIPOC students. AAP served as a safe space, community, and family during her graduate school journey. She returns to AAP with the desire to give back and it would be a dream come true if she can emulate the mentorship and care she received as a student,

In her role as Assistant Director, she coordinates the management, development, and administration of AAP-wide survey efforts and assessment projects. In her work, she will center students' voices and listen to what AAP students are saying. Looking at the descriptive statistics they collect from survey data is extremely important because they can capture the overall trends of AAP students. Dr. Quiñones believes that taking a more qualitative approach will allow the RAE team to paint a clearer narrative about AAP student experiences at UCLA.

Her goal in this position is to engage in creative methods to collect data from AAP students, to hear from their experiences and recommendations for improvements in the services we offer. But, of utmost importance to her, is to center and amplify BIPOC students' voices so that AAP can find meaningful ways to create long-lasting change and impact.



Sophie Seeholzer is the CCCP Pasadena City College Program Coordinator. She was a CCCP scholar and attended the CCCP Summer Transfer Program (2018) the summer before she transferred from Los Angeles Pierce College to UCLA (2019). This past summer, Sophie graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in English and a minor in African American Studies. While at UCLA, she conducted undergraduate research centered around the biracial experience in American culture and how that is translated through popular social media platforms (i.e., Instagram).

Sophie believes that a common thread among community college transfers is the lack of information provided to students because of inequities inherent in institutions and the overwhelming sense of imposter syndrome that results from that. Sophie explains the idea of the "hidden curriculum," which she learned through CCCP as a scholar, exposes the hidden resources and programs that are not always put in front of students. Therefore, she strives to support students in their path towards higher education by opening up their minds to the available resources to transfer students and empowering them to combat Imposter syndrome. She encourages students to find their community and surround themselves with those who can help them grow and succeed.

As a former AAP student and CCCP Scholar, she believes in paying it forward because this support system was one of the reasons she applied to UCLA. As a CCCP peer advisor, she has connected with many students' transfer journeys and hopes to support others in the same path. Sophie hopes to impact BIPOC students at UCLA positively and strongly believes in sharing knowledge, skills, abilities, and connections to survive and build resistance towards structural racism. At CCCP, she highlights the internal and external intersecting strengths in transfer students so they can make their presence known within predominantly white institutions such as UCLA.

As the new Pasadena City College CCCP Program Coordinator, she is excited to help in PCC's equity plan: addressing the low number of BIPOC students transferring to UCLA and the drop in enrollment of men of color in community colleges and higher education. She also hopes to work to address the needs of unhoused transfer students.

Sophie is an aspiring author and is an advocate for women in academia.



Sophie Seeholzer CCCP PASADENA CITY COLLEGE PROGRAM COORDINATOR





The AAP "Community of Care" (CoC) campaign, launched last quarter, was established to support our transition back to campus. The AAP CoC is a response initiative built on the model of AAP students and staff taking care of one another as we return to campus during a pandemic. More specifically, it is 1) culturally responsive; 2) politically aligned with our communities' needs; 3) based on personal and community responsibility; 4) starts with compassion (understanding isn't the same as agreement); and 5) acknowledges mutual respect for different perspectives and opinions.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



On Wednesday, December 1st, 2021, the AAP community celebrated five decades of innovative academic programming for first-generation low-income and historically underrepresented students at UCLA.

AAP's 50th Anniversary Celebration began in January 2021 with a monthly Distinguished Speaker Series and culminated with the celebration in Royce Hall. The December celebration, which was also live streamed, included inspiring messages from Chancellor Block, Dean Galván and our very own Dr. Alexander. Highlights of the evening were the student performances by Mariachi de Uclatlán, Grupo Folklórico de UCLA, the UCLA Nigerian Student Association, and the UCLA Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. AAP honored 26 notable alumni and 5 distinguished champions who embody the social justice principles of AAP. The program concluded with the unveiling of the newly formed AAP Alumni Network (AAPAN).

Congratulations AAP! Cheers to another fifty years of leading the campus in providing access and resources for Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color in their pursuit of academic excellence.







NOTABLE ALUMNI

1970's	1980's	1990's	2000's	2010's
Antonia Hernandez, '71 Stewart Kwoh, '70 Reynaldo Macías, '69 Cynthia McClain-Hill, '78 Madelyn Murray, '71	S. Terri Gomez, '88 Rosa Pimentel, '85 Dion Raymond, '86 Lisa Roper, '87 Maria Wilcox, '86*	Sefa Aina, '97 Maisie Chin, '93 Nicole Green, '97 Christine Simmons, '98 Natalie Stites, '99	Meddell Briggs-Malonson, '01 Cynthia Felix, '07* Terry Flennaugh, '06 Alvaro Huerta, '03 Ryan J. Smith, '03 Tam Tran, '06*	D'Juan Farmer, '10 Cinthia N. Flores, '10 Kevin Hale, '16 Jasmine Hill, '11 Abdallah Jadallah, '11

Pictured left to right: Rosa Pimentel, Kevin Hale, Madelin Murray, Sefa Aina, Reynaldo Macias, D'Juan Farmer, Cinthia Flores, Jasmine Hill, Nicole Green, Masie Chin, Efrain Talamantes, Daniel G. Solorzano, Lisa Roper, Jamaal Muwwakkil



*Awarded posthumous



AVA DUVERNAY

JAMAAL MUWWAKKIL, '16

MICHELE SIQUEIROS, MA '97

MICHELE SIQUEIROS, MA '97

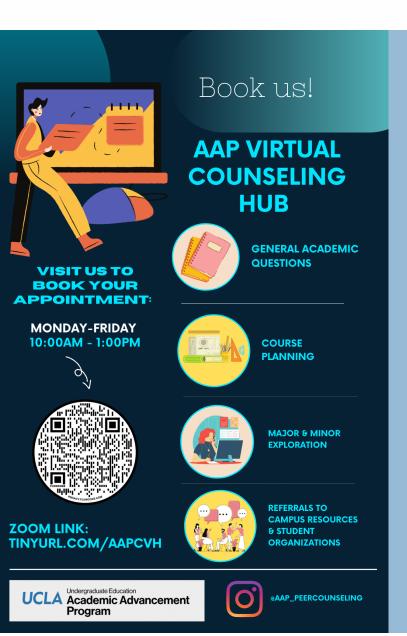
DANIEL G. SOLÓRZANO

EFRAIN TALAMANTES. '02. MD '08. MS '13

UNIT UPDATES

AAP Counseling

AAP Counseling is currently serving students remotely for the safety and care of our students and staff. They will provide updates when they begin in-person services. Students can easily get access to a counselor via the **REACH Drop-In Advising** M-F 10am-3pm or use Message Center at any time (we currently respond within two business days) for general academic questions. Students can also access and submit various College petitions, including a link to REACH Drop-in, via the AAP website.





CONNECT WITH AAP COUNSELORS

We can help you with:

Appointment request Academic questions **Petition requests** And more

MyUCLA Message Center



REACH Drop-In Advising M-F 10am-3pm





If you do not have access to Message Center, please email us at aapcounseling@college.ucla.edu

Center for Community College Partnerships

Due to regional and campus COVID-19 positivity trends, as well as staffing and operational concerns, UCLA will be extending remote instruction through Friday, Jan. 28. Currently, the CCCP staff is available during office hours listed at the CCCP Virtual Hub through Zoom. You can reach CCCP through email anytime at cccp@college.ucla.edu



Graduate Mentoring

VIRTUAL FRONT DESK



Graduate Mentoring appt, request form



AAP Graduate Mentoring (GM) offers AAP students the opportunity to obtain valuable research-oriented academic preparation in the social sciences, arts, and humanities. GM is committed to social justice and to the transformation of the academy. In this effort, a special emphasis is made to increase the number of low-income and ethnically underrepresented students in graduate or professional school and in professional academic and research positions. We also encourage students to participate in service-learning opportunities and community-based research projects in order to transform their undergraduate experience.

The Virtual Front Desk is now open remotely from 9AM – 5PM Monday through Friday. Please note that Graduate Mentoring Drop In Hours are currently closed. To meet with a Graduate Student Mentor, please complete the Graduate Mentoring Appointment Request Form or join the Virtual Front Desk for further assistance during operating hours.

CONTACT US

aapmentoring@college.ucla.edu (310) 794-4186

VIP Scholars Program

In response to the university-wide social distancing directive and in order to prioritize the health, safety and well-being of our staff, students, and community members, the VIPS physical office will remain closed until further notice.

We will continue to support our students and families virtually. Please stay connected with VIPS via email and telephone.

All the best and feel free to contact us.

vips@college.ucla.edu | 310-825-2366



Peer Learning

HAPPY NEW YEAR AAP COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS!

We hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing winter break! Also, we hope you and your families are safe and well. As we begin the Winter quarter, we will continue to integrate AAP's Community of Care initiative into the Peer Learning Unit. As a Community of Scholars, we must ensure that AAP students, staff and campus partners are taking care of one another during this global pandemic.

As you all are aware, the university has directed that many services to continue to be offered in hybrid formats- in person and/or remote for Winter 2022. These services include peer learning offered through AAP. We know that peer learning is an important support service for many of our students and we are working hard to continue to support you as much as possible.

REMOTE PEER LEARNING SESSIONS:

We will be using the Zoom platform for all peer learning sessions this quarter. While these sessions will be remote, we will continue to provide the AAP community with the support needed while maintaining safe and productive workspaces.

PEER LEARNING SIGN-UPS:

We want to remind you all that peer learning sign-ups will continue to be done through MyUCLA following the Peer Learning pass system protocol. In addition, you will receive a notification via MyUCLA to remind you of enrollment passes. We still plan on offering the same number of courses as we did during the 2020-2021 academic year. Therefore, please make sure to sign up during the first three weeks of the quarter. In addition, your PLFs will be reaching out to you via email to provide instructions and/or necessary information before your first session(s). Peer Learning sessions will resume online. (NOTE: Please review the following link for additional information about online sign-ups:

https://www.aap.ucla.edu/units/peer-learning/#online-sign-ups). Although the Peer Learning Unit Administrative Team will be available for inperson support based on a hybrid schedule this quarter beginning Monday January 31, 2022, we will always be responding to email and phone requests as much as possible.

PEER LEARNING ROOMS:

Although a few Peer Learning rooms will be open this quarter beginning Monday January 31, 2022, usage is limited primarily to our student staff for employment purposes. We hope to reopen this room to the greater AAP community in future quarters.

ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES:

For the most up to date information on our services, please continue to check our website:

https://www.aap.ucla.edu/units/peer-learning/

If you have questions regarding the AAP Peer Learning Unit, please do not hesitate to stop by our main office at 1214 Campbell Hall (beginning Monday January 31, 2022) or email us at **aappeerlearning@college.ucla.edu**. Our hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Research, Assessment & Evaluation

The AAP Research, Assessment and Evaluation (RAE) unit maintains data on AAP programs and students while designing and implementing assessments and evaluations that examine their progress and outcomes. RAE provides data and data analysis support to all the AAP units, campus partners, and stakeholders to inform AAP services and offerings.

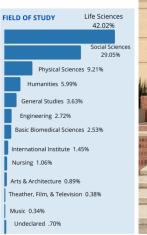




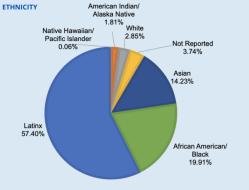
Fall 2021 AAP Student Profile











*Only includes returning students prior to Fall 2021 (n = 3,5

70%

70%

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLF SESSIONS ARE OPEN!

And we still have space for YOU

MATH

MATH 32A MATH 33A/B MATH 3B

ESCP

AOS 1 PIC 10A (LECTURE 1) PIC 10B

CHEMISTRY

CHEM 14B CHEM 14BL CHEM 14D

LIFE SCIENCE

LS 7A/C LS 30A

PHYSICS

PHYSICS 1A/B/C PHYSICS 5A/C

ECONOMICS

ECON 1 ECON 41 ECON 102 MGMT 1A/B

HUMANITIES

ENGLISH 10B
GENDER 10
LING 1, 20
HIST 1A/1B, 8B
SPAN 25, 27, 19

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCH 10
PSYCH 120A, PSYCH 150
PSYCH 110
PSYCH 100A (STIGLER
PSYCH 100A (REISE)

Email us to enroll: aappeerlearning@college.ucla.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAP PEER COUNSELING



Want To Become a Peer Counselor?

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Help fellow students with:

- Course planning
- Understanding academic policies
- Exploring majors & minors
- Learning about campus resources (internships, research, etc)



Peer Counseling Team '18-'19



APPLICATION OPEN: NOW - FEB 7TH 5PM



UCLA Academic Advancement Program

INFORMATIONAL SESSION INCLUDES:

- Review of application
- Overview of PC roles & responsibilities
- Explanation of the onboarding process (if selected)
- The opportunity to chat with current PCs about the position
- Answering of general questions about the position

R\$VP & Receive Zoom Link By Navigating To:
MyUCLA>Events>Academics>Advising & Academic Services >Workshops
https://ucla.zoom.us/j/94575117802

UCLA Academic Advanceme Program



UCLA'S TRANSFER

Pride Week 2022

MONDAY JAN 17

MLK HOLIDDAY TUESDAY JAN 18

COFFEE CHAT: TRANSFER RECEPTIVE CULTURE

4 - 5 PM

WEDNESDAY JAN 19

TRANSFER Story Telling

6:30 PM

THURSDAY

HARNESS YOUR SUPERPOWER

3 - 4 PM

TRANSFER SUPER SOCIAL

7:30-8:30PM

FRIDAY JAN 21

TRANSFER SUPERHERO'S: MY SIDE KICKS

10-11AM

ALL WEEK LONG

BLOOD & PLATELET DRIVE



AAP SCHOLARHIP[®] 2022-2023[®]



Eligibility

- Completed at least 36 units
- Have not exceeded 150 units
- Minimum cummulative
 UCLA GPA of 2.75 by end of
 Fall 2021
- Submit FAFSA or DREAM Act



UCLA Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies

BUNCHE FELLOWS PROGRAM

INFORMATION SESSIONS

January 19th, 2:00pm January 25th, 11:00am February 3rd, 6:00pm

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!





AAP COMPUTER LOUNGE REOPENING!

- 8-10 work stations
- Offers Microsoft Office, Email, and Internet access
- Self-Service Printing @ Low Cost
- Open M-F 9-6 PM











The Community Programs Office Food Closet (CPO's food pantry) will restart the Online Food Closet and will initiate a \$100 food card program to support students in need of food support during the first half of the quarter. The program will be available for all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Since funding is limited, the food cards will be distributed to students who demonstrate the greatest need. If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to giftcard@cpo.ucla.edu.



2021-2022 Funding for **UCLA UNDERGRADUATES**

Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, Undergraduate Award

For research on women and health and/or science \$1000

Renaissance Award

- For undergraduate women whose college careers were interrupted or delayed by family and/or caree obligations
- Three \$1000 awards

Constance Coiner Undergraduate Prize

For students committed to working-class and feminist issues and community activities \$750 Deadline for all Award Applications: **March 31, 2022**

Grants

- Covers travel expenses for research on women, gender, and sexuality and academic or professional conference presentations (including fees for virtual conferences)
- Up to \$500

Travel Grant Deadlines:

Fall: November 15, 2021

Spring: March 31, 2022

For more information and to apply, visit

www.csw.ucla.edu