

Fall 2024

BIOSCI EDI NEWSLETTER

The EDI newsletter for the School of Biological Sciences



**Fall
2024**

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



VERSA PROGRAM GROWS: FOSTERING DIVERSE STEM RESEARCH NATIONWIDE

This past summer, the School of Biological Sciences hosted 12 undergraduate research fellows studying discipline-based STEM education research as part of the NSF-funded VERSA (Virtual Education Research in STEM Academy) program. These diverse VERSA fellows came from colleges and universities nationwide, ranging from MiraCosta College to Michigan State University. They were mentored by a coalition of STEM

education researchers from all over campus, including faculty from Biological Sciences, the Jacobs School of Engineering, and Physical Sciences. The VERSA program, run by PI Melinda T. Owens of Neurobiology and Thom Bussey of Biochemistry, aims to help undergraduates who would not otherwise be able to gain research experiences a chance to do research that can make a real difference in STEM education. Many of their research projects examined the effect of educational interventions and practices on minoritized students. The VERSA program has grown from 12 students, up from 4 students last year, and we hope to continue strong in the future.



MADELEINE DUQUETTE AND ELIZABETH VILLA AWARDED HHMI GILLIAM FELLOWSHIP

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) has awarded the prestigious 2024 Gilliam Fellowship to UC San Diego School of Biological Sciences' PhD student Madeleine Duquette and her advisor Professor Elizabeth Villa, marking them as the only recipients in the San Diego area among 50 student-adviser pairs selected nationwide. The fellowship provides \$53,000 annually for up to three years, promoting mentorship

in developing new scientific leaders. Duquette, a third-year graduate student, utilizes advanced cryo-electron technology to research HIV-1/AIDS, specifically focusing on the virus's Env glycoprotein. The program, in honor of James H. Gilliam, Jr., emphasizes the critical role of advisors and includes a comprehensive mentorship development course for them to support inclusive graduate training environments. Read the full article about the announcement [here](#).





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Stacy's research investigates teaching practices to improve the experience and success of underrepresented science majors, focusing on active learning and self-identity. Her inclusive interventions aim to enhance a sense of belonging and improve student retention.

Molecular Biology

Stacy Ochoa
Assistant Teaching Professor

Background & Journey

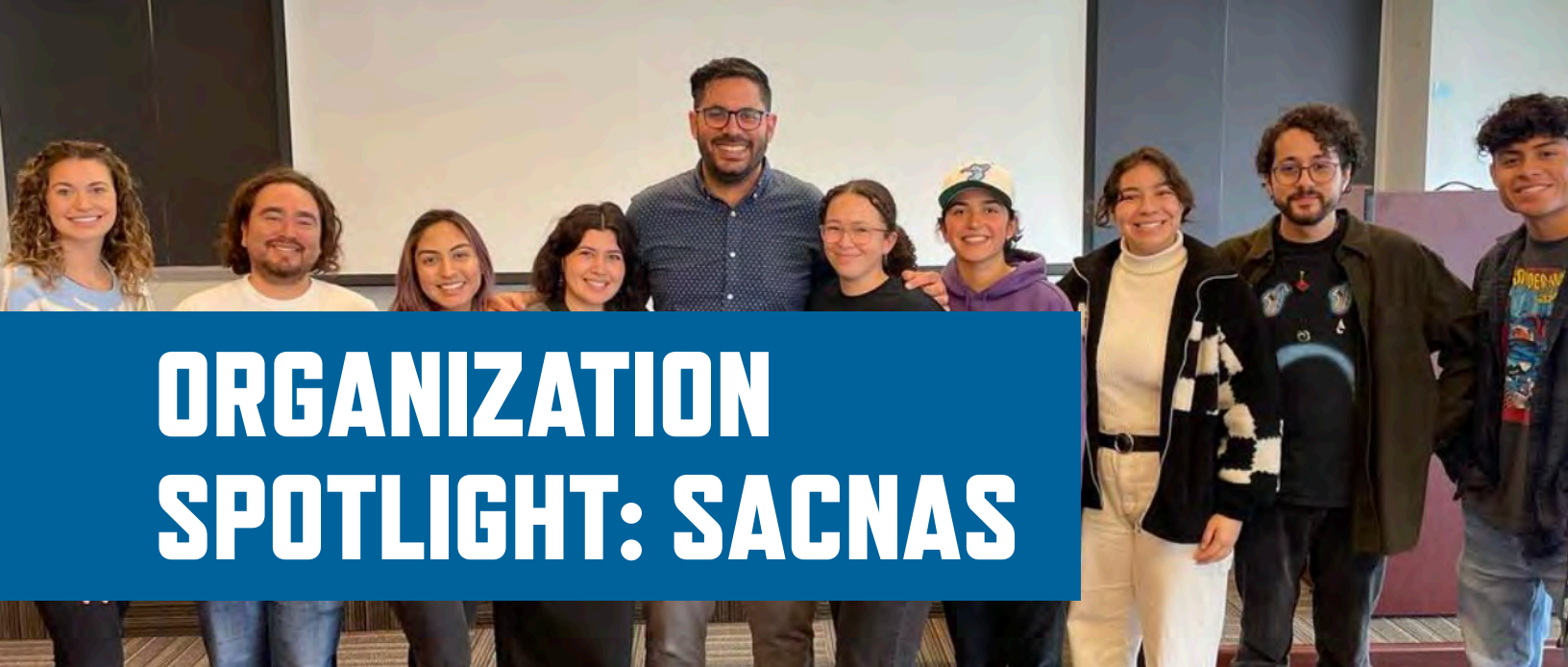
A first-generation student, she earned her Bachelor's in Biology from the University of San Diego, where undergraduate research experiences steered her away from medical school. After participating in Teach for America and earning a Master's in Secondary Education, Dr. Ochoa pursued her Ph.D. in Development & Stem Cell Biology at Northwestern University. Her postdoctoral work with Dr. Karen Oegema at UCSD further honed her expertise in developmental biology. Her diverse background, combining teaching and research, has significantly shaped her career path. Dr. Ochoa's graduate work focused on neural crest development and its implications for cancer research, reflecting her commitment to advancing both scientific knowledge and inclusive education practices.

Empowering Education

Dr. Stacy Ochoa, a first-generation student and accomplished researcher, brings a unique perspective to UCSD's biology department. With a strong emphasis on community cultural wealth, Dr. Ochoa recognizes the importance of family in her culture and understands the challenges faced by first-generation students. Her experiences navigating complex systems like FAFSA informs her approach to education. Dr. Ochoa is passionate about addressing the "hidden curriculum" in STEM fields, focusing on inclusive pedagogies and active learning practices to support diverse student populations. Her commitment to building community and mentoring students throughout their academic journey reflects her dedication to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment in higher education.

Future Plans

Dr. Stacy Ochoa, a passionate educator and researcher at UCSD, is shaping the future of biology education with her innovative approaches. As a former IRACDA fellow and current faculty member, Dr. Ochoa is dedicated to implementing inclusive pedagogies in biology courses, particularly focusing on introductory classes. Her work aims to decrease equity gaps among Latinx and other underrepresented groups in STEM. Dr. Ochoa's vision extends to creating a **STEM Pathways** sister program at UCSD, which would support community college students in their transition to university. With a strong emphasis on building community and fostering critical skills, Dr. Ochoa is committed to developing a culture of inclusivity and support at UCSD.



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT: SACNAS

2024-2025 Outlook

SACNAS, the Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, is a dedicated organization fostering success for underrepresented scientists. With a mission to empower individuals from all backgrounds, SACNAS aims to increase diversity in scientific leadership. The UC San Diego chapter extends this vision by providing resources to both the university community and the broader San Diego area, including K-12 schools and community colleges. Welcoming all who support their mission, SACNAS at UCSD is committed to creating positive change within the scientific community and expanding their network of passionate "SACNISTAS" who serve as ambassadors for diversity in science.



Graduate President:
Ruben Calderon

Graduate Vice-President:
Andrea Sama

Undergraduate President:
Sophia Trujillo

Undergraduate Vice President:
Pedro Luis Sanchez

Treasurer:
Gabrielle Meza

Graduate Outreach Coordinator:
Isabel Mejia

Secretary:
Evan Sandoval Bautista

National Liaison:
Sindy Chavez

Communications Officer:
Jocelyn Olvera

Social Media Liaison:
Zaida Rodriguez

For more information about SACNAS, visit their [linktree](#)



APPLY TO BE A SACNAS OFFICER

Interested in becoming a SACNAS board member? Apply now!



Positions available for undergrad and grad students!



bit.ly/applytoucsdsacnas

Apply to Be an Officer

Join SACNAS at UCSD! We're looking for passionate students to become officers. Help organize events, mentor peers, and promote diversity in STEM. Develop leadership skills and expand your network while making a difference.

Open Positions:

- Events Coordinator
- Transfer Liaison:
- Webmaster

Looking for Graduate & Undergraduate officers for each position!



STAY IN TOUCH WITH SACNAS!

Email:
sacnasatucsd@ucsd.edu

Website:
<https://sacnasatucsd.ucsd.edu/>

Instagram:
@sacnas_ucsandiego

Twitter:
@sacnas_UCSD


Facebook:
@sacnasatucsandiego


Scan for Links and More!



Stay in Touch!

Stay connected with SACNAS at UCSD Follow them for updates and join their mailing list to be part of our diverse scientific community.





Cafecito Chat Series

Advancing Chicano/Hispanic & Native Americans in Science

UCSD SACNAS PRESENTS-


Cafecito Chats

A seminar series aimed to provide inspiration and insight from each speaker's personal journey of becoming a scientist to where they are now.

Nov 8th: Alex Frañó, Ph.D
Physics Department, UC San Diego
4 -5 pm, 4211 Natural Sciences Building
Food provided!

Tentative Schedule
January 13th or 14th:
Stacey Glasgow, Ph.D
Neuroscience Department, UC San Diego

Food and drinks provided!
Speaker/dates subject to change.



Cafecito Chats

The Cafecito Chat series showcases Hispanic/Latinx and Native American faculty in Biology and STEM. Speakers share their journeys, careers, and strategies for overcoming STEM challenges, culminating in their current research.



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT: BUMMP

2024-2025 Outlook

BUMMP (Biology Undergraduate and Master's Mentorship Program) at UC San Diego fosters diversity in the Biology Department. Despite UCSD's innovative environment and talented researchers, the field often lacks representation. The program aims to empower undergraduate and Master's students, particularly those from underserved backgrounds, to recognize their potential in science and overcome obstacles to research. BUMMP believes diverse thinkers drive effective problem-solving and seeks to equip students with the awareness and strength to advance in their scientific careers.



Programs & Events

Personal Statement Workshop

10/29 | 5:00pm
Pacific Hall 3500

Research Blitz

11/12 | 2:00pm
Price Center Ballroom
East

Winter General Body Meeting

1/15 | 4:00pm
Kavli Hall Auditorium

Medical School Application Workshop

2/5 | 4:00pm
Kavli Hall Auditorium

BUMMP Annual Student Symposium

5/14 | 8:00am
Price Center Ballroom
East

For more information about BUMMP, visit their website via bummp.ucsd.edu

Happenings Around Campus




WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

STEMinist Newtork

The STEMinist Network is a drop-in program that creates opportunities for gender marginalized undergraduate students in STEM to connect and build community within the larger context of STEM as a male dominated field.

We focus on gender and science, community building, and professional development. We use the term "gender marginalized" to recognize the impact of sexism on many communities including, but not limited to, transgender women, cisgender women, transgender men, non-binary individuals, and gender non-conforming individuals.

Register in our LinkTree or on our [website](#).



The STEMinist Network creates space where gender-marginalized undergraduate students can connect and build community within the larger context of STEM as a male-dominated field.

Students are invited to engage and attend STEMinist Network workshops & events as their schedule allows.



FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT OUR LINKTREE OR GO TO:
WOMEN.UCSD.EDU/PROGRAMS/STEMINIST-NETWORK.HTML

For questions and accommodations, please email women@ucsd.edu



feminist book club
**THE RIGHT TO SEX:
FEMINISM IN THE
21ST CENTURY**
By: Amia Srinivasan
Starting Oct. 2nd | Wednesdays 2-3pm
Meeting Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 10
@The Women's Center

This is a stand-alone essay collection covering topics on gender, sex, sexuality, and gender-based violence. The first 5 students to attend our first meeting will receive a free copy! Visit our calendar to see what we'll be discussing each week:



FOR QUESTIONS OR ACCOMMODATIONS, EMAIL women@ucsd.edu

Feminist Book Club

Join Feminist Book Club! This Fall Quarter we will be reading "The Right to Sex: Feminism in the 21st Century", by Amia Srinivasan, a collection of essays on gender, sex, sexuality, and gender-based violence.

Book Club starts Wednesday, October 2nd, at 2pm, at the Women's Center, and will meet Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, & 10.

The first 5 students to attend our first meeting will receive a free copy! Visit our calendar for what we'll be discussing each week: tinyurl.com/bookclubf24

Grad Yoga Class

Join us for a rejuvenating yoga workout every other week to relieve stress and release those feel-good endorphins!

This guided Yoga session welcomes individuals of all skill levels and promotes self-care in the graduate student community! Please bring your own yoga mat/towel.



WOMEN'S CENTER
GRAD YOGA CLASS

EVERY MONDAY
WEEKS 2-10
NUOVO EAST - 309 SMALL MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
MONDAYS 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
BEGINNING OCTOBER 7TH - THROUGH DECEMBER 2ND

Join us for a rejuvenating yoga workout every week to relieve stress and release those feel-good endorphins! This guided yoga session welcomes individuals of all skill levels and promotes self-care in the graduate student community!

Please bring your own yoga mat/towel.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE EMAIL women@ucsd.edu



Happenings Around Campus



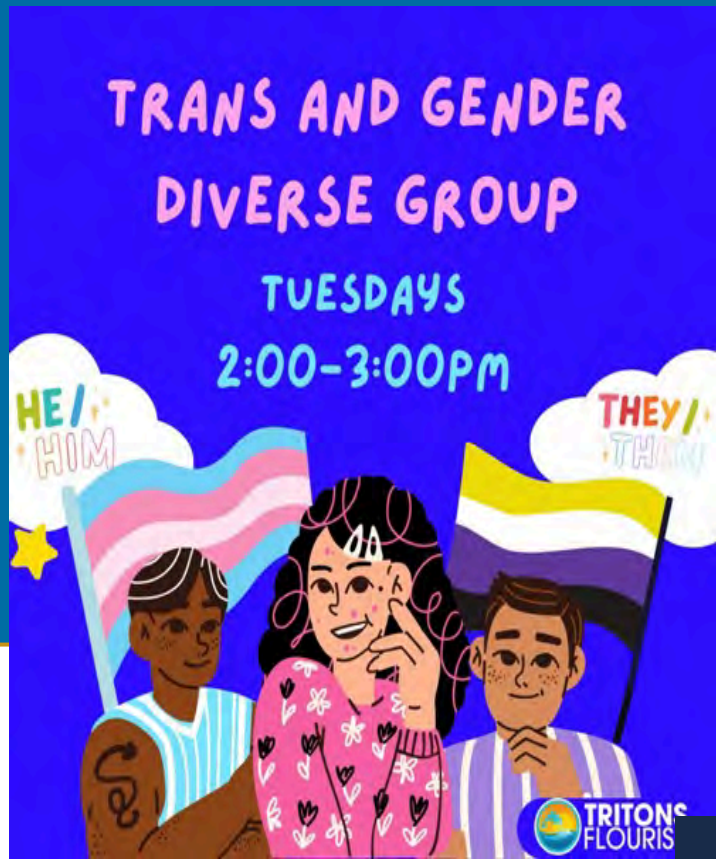
LGBT RESOURCE CENTER

Trans and Gender Diverse Group

Are you questioning your gender? Do you need a space to discuss your gender identity with others who may be going through the same thing? This group allows students to explore their thoughts and feelings related to their gender identity.

Join this group to build community, share experiences, and get support while navigating the world outside the gender binary. No matter where you are on the gender spectrum, you are welcome here! This CAPS group is co-facilitated with our STRIDE coordinators.

Questions? Please contact Tay McCavanagh at tmccavanagh@ucsd.edu



Queer Community Connections

This group is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, asexual, intersex, and people questioning their sexual or gender identity. Topics are determined by group participants and can include queer joy, life stressors, sociopolitical climate, family/cultural issues, etc. This CAPS group is co-facilitated with our STRIDE coordinators.

Questions? Please contact Tay McCavanagh at tmccavanagh@ucsd.edu

LGBTQ+ Alumni Council

The UCSD LGBTQ+ Alumni Council is looking to build its network and outreach to fellow alumni! If you are an alumni member in the LGBTQIA+ community, please feel free to join the council via this form.

Please contact Anneke Garretson at algarretson@ucsd.edu for any additional questions and inquiries.



Happenings Around Campus



UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES

USS Fall 2024 Hours

Our office is open for the fall! Come stop by for a unique place on campus where you can study, socialize, and connect with other undocumented students and allies! We are open Monday - Friday from 9 AM - 6 PM, located in the Student Services Building 5th Floor, Suite 555. See you there!



UC San Diego presents **WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS**

Every Wednesday
Weeks 3, 5, 6, 9
12PM - 1PM

USS Space,
Student Services Center,
5th Floor, Room 555

[CLICK](#)

Wellness Wednesdays

Ready to unwind and tap into your creativity? Join us for our Wellness Wednesdays Series with Dr. Laura Bermudez, our amazing CAPS liaison, occurring on Wednesdays during Week 3, 5, 6, and 9. All events are from 12pm to 1pm in the USS space, Student Services Center, 5th floor, Room 555!

DACA Renewal Reminder

If your DACA is expiring in the next six months, meet with Immigration **Attorney Andrés Lemons** or with **Paralegal Angelica Escobar** to begin the renewal process. Processing times vary and USCIS is currently taking between one and five months to approve a DACA Renewal.



Happenings Around Campus



OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Graduate Community Café

📍 Location: APIMEDA Programs and Services Office (2nd Floor PC West)

🕒 Times: Biweekly on Tuesdays 11:00AM-1:00PM (10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/26, 12/10)

Join us on odd week Tuesdays for our Graduate Student Community Cafe, a community working space for graduate students in the APIMEDA community.

The poster features the UC San Diego logo and the Office of Outreach, Access, Recruitment, and Retention. It highlights the APIMEDA Programs & Services Graduate Community Café as a community working space for APIMEDA graduate and professional school students. The event is held biweekly on Tuesdays (odd weeks) from 11 AM to 1 PM at the APIMEDA Programs & Services Office in Price Center. Dates listed are 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/26, and 12/10. A QR code and an RSVP link (bit.ly/GradCafeFA24) are provided.

The poster is titled 'WEEKLY DROP-BY SUPPORT!' and lists various services available at the Black Resource Center. The services are organized by day of the week:

- Monday:** Cal Fresh General Questions from Basic Needs Hub (11am-2pm, starting Week 3); Academic Guidance from College Advisors (11am-12pm, Weeks 3-8).
- Tuesday:** Black Connections with Counseling & Psychological Services (2pm-3pm, Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 only); Math & Science Tutoring with Oasis Peer Advisors (3:30pm-5pm+ for CHEM 6A, 20A, BILD 1-4; 10am-12pm for PHYS 1B-C on Fridays).
- Wednesday:** Black Diaspora African American Studies Department Advising (1pm-2pm, starting Week 2); Pre-Med/Pre-Health Career Advising from Career Services (3pm-4:30pm, Weeks 3, 5, 7, and 9 only).

All services are at the Black Resource Center. For questions email brc@ucsd.edu.

BRC Weekly Drop-in Services

We've worked with our campus partners to bring some of the best resources and services to the Black Resource Center! Come get quick questions answered, stop by for tutoring, or even come join one of our writing spaces. We look forward to seeing you!

Mondays: Cal Fresh General Questions from Basic Needs Hub (2-3pm)

Tuesdays: Academic Guidance from College Advisors (1pm-2pm); Black Connections with CAPS (2-3pm Odd weeks); Math 20A-C Tutoring with Oasis Peer Advisors (3:30-5pm)

Wednesdays: BDAAS Department Advising (1-2pm); Pre-Med / Pre-Health Career Advising from Career Services (3-4:30 pm Odd Weeks); Academic Advising from College Advisors (11am-12pm);

Fridays: CHEM 6A, 20A, BILD 1-4, and PHYS 1B-C

No Registration Required



LEARN MORE!

BIOSCI EDI FUNDS

The School of Biological Sciences welcomes applications for funding projects aimed at addressing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) issues in the School and the UC San Diego campus.

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