

UC Santa Barbara

UCDC

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE COORDINATOR

EDEN SLONE

My name is Eden Slone, Program Coordinator for the UCSB UCDC Program. I am very pleased to welcome you to our very first electronic newsletter! We envision this newsletter as a

mechanism to keep prospective and current students, alumni, and parents updated on the amazing opportunities and progression of our program. We expect the 2015-2016 academic year to be a terrific one!

The first good news for the program -- we have new staff to introduce to the UCDC community. Our first new addition is **Dr. Linda Adler-Kassner**, Associate Dean for the Division of Undergraduate Education. Dr. Adler-Kassner teaches undergraduate and graduate courses and conducts research on writing assessment and public policy. She's excited to include overseeing the Office of Undergraduate Education's Undergraduate Research Initiatives and Academic Internship Programs (UCDC and UC Center Sacramento) in her position.

Also new to the program (and to UCSB) is **Jacob LaViolet**, UCDC Program Assistant. Before joining us on the West Coast, Jacob worked for the Center for International Policy (CIP), a D.C. based think tank, as Office Manager and New Media Coordinator. In this position, Jacob maintained CIP's internship program, so we are very fortunate to have his Washington-focused internship expertise and introduce him to Santa Barbara.

Together, we hope to augment an already prestigious academic internship program. In the past two years alone, we have sent 233 UCSB students to live, study, and work in Washington, D.C. This represents approximately 74,560 working hours for various organizations, companies, and agencies that have hosted our students. While participating in the program, students have the opportunity to learn about the industry in which they may work, network for their future careers, and experience the excitement and richness of life in our capital.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. For up to date information, follow us on social media and learn what our current UCDC students are up to!

ON THE CALENDAR

- **November 3, 2015**
UCDC Info Session
North Hall 1115 (10:00am)
- **November 4, 2015**
UCDC Info Session
North Hall 1115 (3:00pm)
- **November 13, 2015**
Winter Roommate Social
North Hall 1115 (12:00pm)
- **November 19, 2015**
Resume and Cover Letter
Workshop North Hall 1115
(3:00pm)

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

REINA SULTAN



Reina Sultan is a fourth year Political Science major with a French minor who participated in UCDC Spring 2015. I recently sat down with Reina to discuss her experiences in the program.

While in Washington, D.C., Reina served as a research assistant at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She worked with Robert Worth, a *New York Times* journalist and Beirut Bureau Chief on a book about the Arab Spring. Reina used her Arabic skills and provided translations of protest videos for Mr. Worth. Another scholar with whom Reina worked is Lawrence Altman, Ph.D. With Dr. Altman, Reina conducted research for a project examining the increase of mass media coverage of world leaders' health and the influence of that coverage on the public and political realms.

Reina's internship helped her to develop important skills and working relationships, as well as opportunities to attend lectures at the Wilson Center. In just ten weeks she was able to hear (and occasionally meet) the elite of D.C. and the world, from visiting professors and Supreme Court justices, ambassadors and presidents.

Reina had similar experiences in the UC Washington Center, where she attended regular Monday night center forums. These events provide informal opportunities to meet with Washington, D.C. movers and shakers, including Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Anthony Kennedy, and Stephen Breyer, Washington Post Columnist Ezra Klein, and former CIA Director James Woolsey. Reina joked that she and her roommates went for the free food, but stayed for the impressive speakers. She listed her favorite speakers during her quarter as Thea Lee, AFL-CIO Deputy Chief of Staff, and UCDC's own Associate Academic Director Marc Sandalow. Mr. Sandalow presented on D.C.'s often scandalous history and Hollywood's various interpretations of the city (think: *Scandal* and *House of Cards*).

Reina also had the unique experience to serve as a student advocate for the 2015 UC Advocacy Day. Along with staff and other UC students, Reina braved the spring rains and exorbitant Uber fares, dressed in her best suit, to advocate for an increase in state and federal student financial aid, with particular emphasis on summer aid. She lobbied members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, drawing upon her experience as a first generation college student reliant upon financial aid to fund her education. The three day event broadened her horizons; she very much enjoyed the experience, reporting that "even though I'm very aware of financial aid...because it's something that's obviously gotten me completely through college, I never thought about it in the grand scheme of things."

The ultimate highlight of her UCDC experience, however, came at the UCDC Networking Night. Held at the UC Washington Center and the Beacon Hotel, students had the opportunity to network with influential UC alumni in D.C. and make valuable connections. Reina stated that without a doubt, this event changed her life. Her conversations with a UC alum, currently in the Foreign Service, influenced her to alter her path from law school to foreign service and international relations. In fact, if

A woman with dark hair, wearing a beige trench coat and a dark blue scarf, stands behind a black metal fence. She is smiling and has her arms crossed. In the background, the White House is visible, with a large tree on the left and a flagpole with the American flag in the center. The sky is overcast.

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WHAT'S UPCOMING FOR UCDC?

Whether it is pre-departure jitters about moving to the East Coast or concerns about applying for internships, we do our best to allay students' concerns through various workshops and preparatory meetings. Beginning early in each quarter, we hold a series of information sessions where we explain what the UCDC program is, how to apply to it, and some of its many benefits. This initial outreach has been very helpful for potential UCDC participants, but we recognized that more involvement from our office would help better prepare UCSB students for the Washington program and for life after graduation.

We are happy to be able to partner with Career Services for a workshop that is beneficial to students as they apply for internships and for jobs post-graduation. Our LinkedIn, Cover Letter & Resume Writing workshops offer students a chance to learn the fundamentals of applying for jobs. In this digital age, a LinkedIn profile can either make or break candidates during the application process. Career Services walks students through setting up a profile and provides helpful "best practices" of maintaining a professional online presence. Additionally, we outline proper style, content and formatting for both resumes and cover letters in the workshop. We believe it is important to provide our students with the proper tools that will help guarantee their success in Washington, and our partnership with Career Services on workshops is one tool we implement to make that happen.

MEET THE STAFF



Eden Slone is the Undergraduate Programs Coordinator for the College of Letters and Science. In this position, she maintains the College's Academic Internship Programs (UCDC and UCCS), as well as Undergraduate Research Initiatives. A recent alumna, Eden graduated in 2014 with a B.A. in History and minor in Art History. As a student, Eden participated in the UCDC program, interning with the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.



Jacob LaViolet is the Undergraduate Programs Assistant for the College of Letters and Science. A graduate from Hope College in Holland, MI, Jacob spent the past three years working for the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C. and Mexico City.

Another aspect of preparing students that we are incorporating into our programs is sharing our institutional knowledge of Washington, D.C. through a network of students, faculty and staff with first-hand experience in the UCDC program and Washington. Eden Slone, our Programs Coordinator, was a former participant in the UCDC program, and our Programs Assistant, Jacob LaViolet, ran an internship program in D.C. before joining us in California. Additionally, we are planning a UCDC Alumni Panel that will include five students who held internships in various fields while participating in the program. We believe the opportunity for students to hear directly from their peers what the UCDC program is like, and to be able to ask specific questions will be truly beneficial.

Our faculty network is ever-expanding, and we are pleased to be able to work with Professor Ahmad Ahmad, who spent the past year living and teaching at the UC Center in Washington, D.C. Professor Ahmad will be participating in our upcoming workshops and orientations to offer his knowledge and experience

in D.C. as a resource for students. We feel confident sending UCSB students to Washington, D.C. because we know that they have all of the tools necessary to have a successful experience in the nation's capital. With the full support of both UCSB and the UC Center in Washington, UCDC participants leave our campus ready to make an impact in their chosen field, and more often than not, they do.



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