Success with the Summer Bridge Program

Now on its second year, the 2013 Summer Bridge Program has successfully helped incoming first-generation college students find a home at Chapman University. The program has provided opportunities to meet new friends, gain valuable resources, and find mentors to help guide them. This year, we’ve met lots of new faces and developed strong relationships with more fellow first-generation Chapman students. The program assistants had a great time working with everyone, while socializing with those who were able to attend the sit-down cafeteria luncheons, study sessions, and group seminars. We wish you all happy holidays!

New Faces in the Crowd

Meet Mariel Barojas

(Senior, Psychology Major)

“The Promising Futures Program has made such a great impact through my transition from Santiago Canyon College to Chapman University. I was informed of all the tools I can access to excel as a student and learned of all the possible ways I can get involved at campus and in the community. I have received support and words of wisdom from Molly, and gained amazing and close friends throughout this whole semester.”
New Faces in the Crowd

Meet Jhosseyln Tostado
(Sophomore, Business Administration Major)

“The Promising Futures Program welcomed me as a transfer and a First Generation Student. It provided an opportunity to feel connected to a group of students just like me and they are a great group to be included in. The support we received from Molly all semester was appreciated and the Mentorship Program gave us a faculty/staff member to connect to as well! I love my mentor! The program also supported my interterm flight and I couldn’t be any more grateful! Thank you PFP for welcoming me and supporting me, it was one of the best decisions I made coming into Chapman as a transfer!”

Elyse Stadlmyar shares her incredible story about the research opportunity she took part in at Kansas State University.

“Participating in the Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (SUROP) at Kansas State University was an extremely rewarding experience not only educationally, but also personally. I spent the summer of 2013 in Manhattan, Kansas and had the time of my life. I learned a lot about the research process, made lifelong friends and professional contacts, and grew as a person. Participants choose which department to work in over the 9-week period, allowing them hands-on research experience and the ability to work closely with their mentors and professors. I worked in the English Department, as my minor is English, and had three mentors and one coordinator assigned to me. They made me feel so welcome and went out of their way to make sure I was making the most of my time in Kansas. For example, I met with the CEO of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, had a personal tour with the community outreach representative at Mercy Hospital, and attended an exclusive event at Fort Riley. In addition to working with your mentors daily, weekly seminars are held to inform participants about the graduate school experience, as well as social events to get to know other professors and participants from different research programs. At the end of the program, participants are expected to present the results of their research at a special event. Overall, this program is wonderful and I would do it again in a heartbeat. On top of gaining tangible experience, networking opportunities, and making great friends, it is a paid internship! I would HIGHLY recommend this program to any student who wishes to gain more research experience and try something new...trust me, you won’t regret it! Go K-State! Go Wildcats!”
Study Abroad Adventures

Our very own, Promising Future’s Program Assistant, Livi Enriquez returns from her trip in Europe this upcoming spring. Here is what she had to say about her time abroad!

“It has been a little over two months since I left sunny California to study abroad in London, England for the semester. The journey to get here was not easy but it made it all the more satisfying once I arrived and started traveling to other parts of Europe. I have definitely learned a lot about British culture and although we share the same language there are some differences in slang that threw me off a bit. School is a lot less classroom and a lot more self-study with only a group project and essay being the only factors in my final grade. A serious change from college in America but it is refreshing! So far I have been to Wales, Florence and Rome in Italy and Dublin and Galway in Ireland. Seeing the sculpture of the “David” face-to-face and looking up at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel helped me appreciate art and history a whole lot more, just like going to the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland made me more connected to nature. After every moment of awe I have, comes one of desire for others back home to be able to experience what I have the privilege of experiencing. That is why I encourage everyone to study abroad, whatever the obstacle, it is worth getting over in order to see what I think is another world altogether.”