As the academic year comes to an end, we acknowledge our graduating seniors who have worked rigorously during their time at Chapman. Also, we celebrate the acceptance and departure of our program advisor, Molly Morin, as she pursues her doctorate degree at the University of Maryland. Rest assured, the Promising Futures Program will work collaboratively towards the continuation of upcoming events, socials, and academic support. While the team restructures and reorganizes for the following Fall semester of 2014, please continue to stay in touch with your fellow peers, mentors, and program assistants over summer. Don’t forget to rest up, have fun, and catch some summer sunshine!
SALINA ANGELIQUE MENDOZA

MAJOR/MINOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION/ENTREPRENEURSHIP
HOMETOWN: NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA
GRADUATION DATE: MAY 2014

FUTURE PLANS:

I am going to go Full-time with Gen110 (The first solar utility start-up based out of San Francisco - i'll still be local in Orange, CA) as a Talent Acquisition Specialist (hiring full-time employees and revamping all recruitment processes). I will still continue to lead all social media marketing for DreamItAlive.com (my internship since 01/12). I am also pursuing my recycling technology company called, “LEEF”. This concept will hopefully be the future of Chapman’s recycling program and extended to all SoCal universities in the next few years.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT FIRST-GENS:

Always pursue your interests – whatever they may be. They may change across the board but never be afraid of the unknown. The unknown is your comfort zone and if it isn't, make it your comfort zone. The more you push your limits and skills, the more you will be prepared for the constant change of everyday life. Be strong, be weak, and be proud of where you are in this moment in time – your motivation feeds off of your current energy you exude out into the world. You are powerful and never believe anything less. I'll leave you with a quote: "Every individual is multidimensional, and growth and development are rarely linear.” Your age does not distinguish your capacity – find what you love and do it well.

HOW HAS BEING A FIRST-GEN STUDENT IMPACTED YOU?

Being the first in my family to complete a bachelor’s degree has been a bumpy ride. Never knowing if I am going to make enough money to pay my bills for the week or have enough money to eat every meal has been one of the hardest parts. Also, being surrounded by people that are more well-off than I am made it even trickier to budget my money. I learned to take initiative for my life and to never make any excuse for my shortcomings. At the end of the day, I am the person I need to answer to and whatever the direction my life may go – I was the person that initiated this direction. I learned to be direct and precise with my communication as well as value my time when making arrangements with others. I was given the freedom to structure my life from the ground up and I value the strength and confidence it has given me to tackle anything that stands in my way.
MAYRA GONZALEZ

MAJOR/MINOR: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING/ SPANISH

HOMETOWN: LEON, GUANAJUATO MEXICO

GRADUATION DATE: MAY 2014

FUTURE PLANS:
Job Searching in the field of marketing or advertising and traveling.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT FIRST GENS:
Get involved in all the things that you can. Don't try to grow up too fast, there is a time to do everything you want. You cannot graduate without studying abroad! Force yourself to do something you have always wanted to join or do. Make sure that whatever you are studying you are passionate about and enjoy yourself.

HOW HAS BEING A FIRST-GEN STUDENT IMPACTED YOU?
I have always been a determined person but being the first one in the family to complete a bachelor's degree is an unexplainable feeling seeing that all the struggles were worth it and I am not finishing another goal in my life. I know my parents are definitely proud of me and I look forward going to my brother's graduation.

GRADUATING SENIORS

NAME | MAJOR/MINOR
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Valeria Sosa | POLITICAL SCIENCE/SPANISH
David Rodriguez | COMMUNICATION STUDIES
Rebeca Herrera | POLITICAL SCIENCE/PEACE STUDIES
Selva Miranda | INTEGRATED EDUCATIONAL STUDIES
Lydia Vazquez | ENGLISH
Diana Gonzalez Frantom | SOCIOLOGY
Brendan Le | ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
Rachel Norman | INTEGRATED EDUCATIONAL STUDIES
Adriana Ariza | PSYCHOLOGY
ELYSE STADLMAYR

MAJOR/MINOR: COMMUNICATION STUDIES/ ENGLISH
HOMETOWN: CHINO HILLS, CA
GRADUATION DATE: MAY 2014
FUTURE PLANS:
Career in marketing for LeaseCalcs, LLC. Traveling to Europe and the Dominican Republic. Going to grad school in a few years to pursue my research in military family communication. Getting married and having kids (but not for a few years!)
ADVICE FOR CURRENT FIRST GENS:
Don't be afraid to take the leap and just do it. It will pay off immensely and you will amaze yourself at the leaps and bounds that you will accomplish. Most importantly, be proud of yourself and your hard work!
HOW HAS BEING A FIRST-GEN STUDENT IMPACTED YOU?
I would like to thank Chapman University and the Promising Futures Program for being a support system as well as connecting me with one of the best experiences of my life—interning for Kansas State University through the SUROP program. It was an experience that will forever be ingrained in my memory and it was an amazing opportunity. Go Cats!

GRISSELL MEDINA

MAJOR/MINOR: DOUBLE MAJOR PSYCHOLOGY AND SPANISH
HOMETOWN: ANAHEIM, CA
GRADUATION DATE: DECEMBER 2014
FUTURE PLANS:
I did not expect to be graduating early; for the future I plan to take the spring semester off getting acquainted to and seeking a job in Virginia. I plan to attend grad school and obtain my masters degree in counseling, perhaps clinical counseling in the fall of 2015
ADVICE FOR CURRENT FIRST GENS:
I advice current first-generation students to study abroad if they are given the opportunity, it is truly life changing. Although I did not plan to graduate early with my double major, I definitely recommend for other current first-generation students to look into graduating early. What helped me the most to achieve this was taking advantage of Interterm, staying on top of my grades and planning my schedules ahead of time.
GRISELL MEDINA

She is a new member of Psi Chi, the International Honors Society for Psychology majors at Chapman University and also a member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She was chosen to be “Latina to Watch” through the HOPE organization, and is the Historian for the Disabilities Alliance Club on Campus.

LOTUS THAI

Major/Minor: Double Major Business and Environmental Science/Policy

Lotus has been involved with the University Program Board this year and plans to continue being active in this group and is the Office Operations Assistant for the Department of Student Engagement. Lotus is an active participant in Solar Decathlon for Chapman’s marketing team. This summer she will help raise about 1 million dollars for this competition and will help build and design the house as well.

HOW HAS BEING A FIRST-GEN STUDENT IMPACTED YOU?

Being the first in my family to complete a bachelor’s degree has shaped who I am today by motivating me to keep pushing, pursuing as many things as I can, and paying it forward by mentoring high school students; future leaders. It has helped me know when it is time to reach out for advice. Throughout my school years I have definitely gained a lot of mentorship from amazing professionals. I had a lot of interaction with counselors since middle school and here at Chapman with Molly. I have always tried to interact with positive role models as well as colleagues who have the same desire of achieving great things.
# Diversity and Equity Awards 2014 Recipients

## Campus Leadership Awards:

- **Outstanding First Year Student**: nominee and recipient – Allyson Hoch and Lotus Thai
- **Outstanding Sophomores**: nominee – Hugo Flores
- **Outstanding Juniors**: nominees – Nandi George and Yelena Liepelt
- **Outstanding Seniors**: nominees – Rebeca Herrera, Selva Miranda, David Rodriguez, and Rachel Norman
- **Paul S. Delp Outstanding Service Award Nominee**: David Rodriguez
- **Outstanding Diversity Leadership Award**: nominees – Selva Miranda and Rachel Norman, nominee and recipient: Selva Miranda
- **Ronald S. Huntington Award for Outstanding Scholarship**: nominee – David Rodriguez, nominees and recipients: Rebeca Herrera and Adriana Ariza

## Diversity and Equity Awards:

- **Ally Award recipients**: Dr. Jeanne Gunner and Molly Morin
- **Emerging Leadership Award recipient**: Hugo Flores
- **Commitment to Accessibility Award recipient**: Sarai Urzua
- **Racial Justice Award recipient**: Nandi George
- **The Courage Award recipient**: Rachel Norman
- **Commitment to Equity and Inclusion Award recipient**: Selva Miranda
Letter from the Editor:

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all have a safe and amazing summer vacation. Thank you for another amazing year together. I have enjoyed meeting and socializing with many of you during our monthly study sessions and community outings. We have many things to look forward to in the upcoming school year so please keep reading our emails, receiving our facebook invitations, and attending our many workshops. Don’t forget to be productive this summer, but give yourself some free time. Take the opportunities to try something new and different. Finally, do what makes you happy! See you all very soon.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ngor

Questions?Comments?Concerns?
Contact us at firstgen@chapman.edu

K.I.T. “Keep In Touch”

SUMMER CHECKLIST

1. REVIEW YOUR FAFSA
2. APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
3. FIND AN INTERNSHIP/JOB
4. POLISH UP YOUR RESUME
5. TRAVEL
6. VOLUNTEER
7. CONSIDER GRADUATE SCHOOL/PROGRAMS
8. CATCH UP ON YOUR SLEEP