Cohort Dinners

The cohort is growing and we have begun including undergrads who will be applying to programs as well as recently accepted grad students. As a result, two dinners were held his spring for UC Davis GPP affiliated students. The first, held on March 2, was a small dinner at the local The Mustard Seed. The second dinner was held at Bernardo’s on March 10. The conversations were full of lots of advice and grad school insights.

Students already receive Acceptances

Spring admissions are still underway and we believe a few more acceptances will be awarded in the coming months. However, we are pleased to announce that we have already heard from fifteen students who have been accepted to advanced degree programs. Two students have been accepted to the teacher credential/Masters degree program at UC Davis and one student will be starting in the Medical School. Three GPP-affiliated students will begin programs at USC and another student will start an MSW program across town at UCLA. We also have students accepted to the Teacher education programs at San Francisco State University and Stanford University. Watch for a full list in the next issue sometime in June.
GOOD NEWS!
Sederic Grant is awarded the Dean’s Scholarship for Opportunity at UCSF School of Dentistry
***
Erica Ontiveros is awarded a Graduate Opportunity Grant at UCLA
***
Ixchel Martinez is awarded an MSW Scholarship at USC

Mentoring Class to Start in Spring 2016

Although our online classes have been successful in helping students with the complex and comprehensive process of applying to advanced degree programs, the application process is so individualistic that keeping a class moving in the same direction is difficult. The requirements for each advanced degree program are unique and students all start from a different point. As a result, we are instituting a mentoring class this Spring 2016 that will allow for each student to get the precise help they need. We will be using the Getting Prepared for Graduate School website which provides information on every step of the process towards completing an application. Some students will be looking at various programs and some students will be deciding who will write their recommendations. Other students will be brainstorming and writing drafts of the all-important personal statements and statements of purpose. From past experience we know that students who begin preparation in the Spring or early summer for the fall application cycle have a better experience with required tests and create more comprehensive and competitive applications.

WEBINAR WITH JOHN BURTON FOUNDATION

On February 24, the GPP presented a webinar with the help of the John Burton Foundation, Preparing for Graduate School: Tools for Success. Over forty participants logged on to hear about our new website and find out more about the GPP program in general. Participants included CASAs, undergraduate support program directors, and representatives from social service agencies. Most participants were from California and the Indiana Department of Child Services Education Liaison also listened in. The primary focus was a discussion of the website in order to help make all the sections understandable. We want those who work with foster youth and former foster youth to pass on the information. We also provided the URL for the accompanying Instructors Website for those who wish to use the material to teach. The instructors website contains sample syllabi and Teaching case facilitator guides. Michelle Dean, a UC Davis grad student, added her insights about the GPP.

Next Newsletter in June 2016

Additional Teaching Cases

This summer we will review and revise the Getting Prepared for Graduate School website and will also be adding new Teaching cases to our series. The cases will feature students who have been accepted to various degree programs; Medical school, Teacher credential, Masters in Community Development and PhD in Hydrology. In addition to the teaching cases, we will add accompanying facilitator guides that provide summaries, sample discussion points and questions for educators when using the cases for teaching.