



### Upcoming Events

The UCD GPP cohort will hold its annual Holiday Dinner December 15<sup>th</sup> at Seasons in Davis

*UC Davis Magazine* will feature student interviews in an upcoming article about the GPP



UCDAVIS Office of Graduate Studies



**GPP provides strategic thinking and problem solving**

Article on Pg. 2

### USC MSW Program visits UCD Guardian Scholars

On Thursday, November 12 recruiters from the USC Masters in Social Work program visited the UC Davis Guardian Scholars. About fifteen students attended the meeting to learn about the application requirements and the available scholarships. The USC program trains students to work in direct service, a career familiar to many former foster youth, but also trains social workers for policy, business and work in other organizations.

## Assisting Applicants Create Better Essays

Essays are an important part of the graduate school application. For the Statement of Purpose students must be able to clearly articulate their research plans and academic goals. They are also sometimes asked to describe their educational trajectory and any obstacles or adversities they have encountered in a Personal Statement or Personal History Statement. Knowing what information goes in each essay and how to frame one's experience can be tricky. Also each discipline has its own nuances and specific ways of using language and citing research. Assistance with the essay writing process is a huge contributor to student's successful admissions. The GPP works with each student and also relies on disciplinary experts.

---

The GUARDIAN PROFESSIONS PROGRAM is funded by the Stuart Foundation and the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust.

UC Davis GPP contact:  
530-752-5264  
<http://tinyurl.com/UCD-GPP>

### **Problem Solving Help from the GPP**

More and more former foster youth with an interest in graduate school are contacting the GPP for assistance. They find out about the program through their GSP campus support directors, through the GPP webpage on the UCD Office of Graduate School website and sometimes by word-of-mouth from friends. Providing 'services' is a multi-faceted task as there are as many roads to a graduate degree and a professional career as there are individuals pursuing this goal. Our new website "Getting Prepared for Graduate School" details the great amount of career and application related information we have gathered in our two years assisting students, but there are always applicants who need assistance more with problem-solving and strategy. We have helped students get jobs that give them the professional skills they need in order to be a competitive applicant, negotiated payment plans with a financial aid officer when a student accidentally defaulted on a loan and couldn't get transcripts as a result, and ensured that a student continue working and going to class when she suddenly became responsible for her grand-daughter.



### **GOOD NEWS!**

Michelle Dean receives the UC Davis Wydick Fellowship for Spring 2016.

\* \* \*

Cindy Preto is accepted to the UC Davis PhD program in entomology.

\* \* \*

Our GPP associated colleague Kevin Clark is hired as a Policy Associate with the John Burton Foundation.

### **Next Newsletter in March 2016**

#### **Process and Discovery**

Our new website, Getting Prepared For Graduate School, offers help to students all along the trajectory towards graduate school. The section Process and Discovery focuses on finding a graduate school program and career path. We acknowledge that initially students may not know exactly what it is that they want to do, but encourage them to explore in a variety of ways. Talking to professors, graduate students and professionals is a good way to get students to start discovering possible fields of interest and the website provides questions students might ask. Job fairs and information sessions will also give students insight into potential careers and graduate programs. Immersive experiences such as internships and volunteer work, summer pipeline programs, and research positions can help students determine whether a certain career path is a good fit. This section of the website also provides information on post-graduate programs intended to increase diversity.

#### **GPP Mrak Hall Office**

This past November, the GPP moved into the Office of Graduate Studies in 250 Mrak Hall, the main administration building for the UC Davis campus. OGS houses all the administrative staff for graduate school services and the GPP is now located in closer proximity to staff who work on the distribution of grants and scholarships. This has facilitated better communication and practices. The GPP office is a bright and airy place and is a pleasant room for both UC Davis undergraduates and graduates to meet with the GPP Director.