



First-Generation@Scripps

Scripps College

December 03, 2013

Edition 1, Volume 3

A Letter from the Editors

Dear readers,

We know that Thanksgiving/Hanukkah Break has just ended, but there is little time for pause. Winter break is upon us. With the cold season soon approaching, we wanted to say something before we are bested by runny noses, sore throats, and never-ending coughing fits. While our voices are strong and well rested, we want to say:

Thank you.

Thank you for your support, feedback, and well-wishes. We thank you for standing with us, laughing with us, and engaging in dialogs that we believe has increased the visibility of our community on campus in ways that we never imagined.

Reflecting back, we had so many hopes and dreams for this program, for our fellow students, and for Scripps. We don't mind sounding cheesy when we say that all that we

have achieved has left us stunned, humbled, and that we couldn't have done it without you.

This community is the reason that we enjoy Mondays. It has given us the opportunity to sit, talk, and reflect with so many others in our community about our experiences just for the sake of getting to know one another better, or to meet for the first time. We embrace the corny adage that moves us to say that we have become a family—more connected, more engaged, and more involved. It has been simply moving to watch our first-years create long lasting bonds with our sophomores, juniors, seniors, faculty, and staff. We applaud their success and are honored to have watched them thrive in their first semester at Scripps.

Our community has expanded exponentially, has become warmer, richer, and fiercer. And yet, we seek to identify more of our kin every day.

Please don't forget to seek us out as well. We are always so happy to see you.

This will be our last newsletter before the spring semester, but this is not the end of our journey. We will return soon. Expect us to be as bold, strong, and courageous as ever. In the mean time, take care of yourselves. Come back to us healthy, reenergized, and ready for anything. There is still much work to be done among us.

Always rooting for you (from a safe, germ-free distance away),

Shane and Maria



Shane Zackery '14
Maria Ceja Rodriguez '14
Program Co-Interns

An Interview with Sam Haynes:

Meet the Dean of Students

Recently, we sat down with Sam Haynes, Acting Dean of Students, to get to know him a little better. Sam has been at Scripps for two and a half years as part of the Student Affairs staff. Sam first joined us in 2011 as the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities, but has since become much more to the students that he coordinates, mentors, and reaches out to every day. We at First-Gen have come to know that Sam is pretty great and we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce him to you, in hopes that you can all add another name to your growing list of allies and advocates at Scripps.

Maria and Shane: Tell us about your connection to the First-Gen program or to the first-generation community.

Sam: I too am a First-Gen student by definition and have been a long standing advocate of programs like First-Gen to help students navigate and assimilate into their college communities; offering advice, resources, and direction when called upon. I believe I am also connected to the First-Gen program as I am the person who oversees the Scripps College New Student Program of which the First-Gen Summer Program is a part of.

M&S: What would you want the first-gen community to know about you that they do not already know?

Sam: I would love for the First-Gen community to know that I am a long standing Student Affairs professional; last summer I celebrated my 20th year anniversary working at colleges. I would also like the First-Gen community to know that I was once a Counselor and as such love to listen to students.

To learn more about Sam, visit him in SARLO, the Dean of Students Office, or in the Motley during Coffee with the Deans every other Monday at 4:00pm.



Sam Haynes, Acting
Dean of Students

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and Lived to Tell About It



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We Want to Hear From You!

To inspire our readers and recognize your accomplishments, we would like to feature your story in one of our upcoming newsletters. Please send us a personal article or poem depicting your experience as a first-gener to: firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu

Do You Have Any Volunteer Opportunities?

Tell us about them! Students are always looking for ways to get involved on campus. Let us help you find them.

Email your details to:
firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu

The Time We Totally Failed and Lived to Tell About It:

Lessons from Shane and Maria

At some point, we all do it.

We stay up late hunched over a textbook with tiny text that makes less and less sense with each passing moment. We read and read, review and review, hoping to absorb as much knowledge as humanly possible before we take the plunge.

Whether the big day is a week, a few days, or hours away, we study. Hard. And for a long time. At some point, we start to think that maybe we'll be okay. We've done everything we can think of to prepare. We've attended every study session in the Student Union, dedicated every free minute to looking over our notes, and went to every office hour. We go into the test feeling somewhat confident that we'll at least pass, right?

Except we don't.

We bomb.

Hard.

Maria and Shane have both been there. Whether it be an essay, quiz, midterm or even a *final*, sometimes we just completely and utterly fail. We are

heartbroken, confused, and let's just be honest, completely pissed off! We tried our best; we did what we were supposed to do. Yet, we just...came up short—really, really short.

Whether it's your first semester at Scripps or your last, no one is ever prepared for their hard work to not pay off. The first time it

"You will survive. You will seek guidance so that this happens less often or never again. And then, you will look back fondly over this experience."

happens, it's really rough. It takes a huge chunk out of your self-esteem, confidence, and even your sanity. You try to identify what went wrong and when you can't find any logical reason as to why this happened to you of all people (after all, you are smart, capable, and resourceful), there's only one thing that you really can do:

Get over it.

One less than stellar moment does not define who you are. It hurts our hearts when we see our confident, brilliant comrades be

taken down by one particularly challenging moment in what we know will turn out to be a very successful academic career at Scripps.

You are not any less intelligent than the moment that you walked through that classroom door. So please, don't torture yourself over this.

Maria and Shane will shamelessly admit that every once in a while, they totally get owned by a project that they thought that they could do in their sleep. But, here they are in their senior year, about to graduate, able to laugh about that one Econ midterm, O-Chem final, or first CORE paper.

You will survive. You will seek guidance so that this happens less often or never again. And then, you will look back fondly over this experience. One day, at the end of your Scripps career, you will sit with a fretful first-year and tell them too, that they will be okay. Because we all bomb sometimes, but live to tell the tale (and it usually makes for a pretty funny story).

The Bigger Picture:

First-Generation News in Higher Education

It is vital that we frame the work done here at Scripps within the broader context of conversations surrounding first-generation issues, initiatives, and triumphs in higher-education. The following articles showcase the work being done in our community at universities all over the nation.

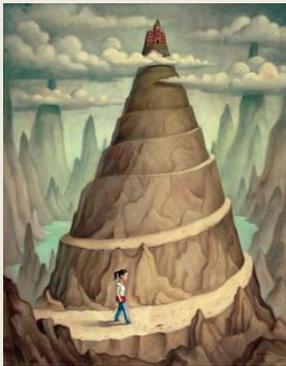


Illustration by *Chris Buzelli*

[Twice the Distance](#)

Warren Hynes, Teaching Tolerance: A Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center

Educators can help immigrant families through the college application process in a number of ways. Pulling in outside organizations is a simple solution.

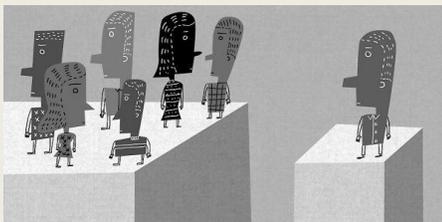


UConn student Gabe Castro's I'm First video.

[First generation college students go viral](#)

Amy Scott, Marketplace Morning Report

First Lady Michelle Obama has launched a new effort to encourage more disadvantaged students to go to college. Mrs. Obama herself was a first-generation college graduate. A new campaign aims to change graduation rates by tapping into the power of YouTube.



James Yang for The Chronicle

[Think of First-Generation Students as Pioneers, Not Problems](#)

Richard Greenwald, The Chronicle of Higher Education

Too often these days, we in higher education simply aren't doing enough to support the efforts of students who are the first in their families to attend college.

Calendar of Events

December

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 ❖ Eye of the Wikistorm: The Future of Feminist Technoculture Histories 3:00-4:00pm, Hampton Room	3	4 ❖ Scripps Tea: Commencement Committee 3:30-4:30pm, Seal Court ❖ Claremont Colleges Against Cancer Presents: The "C" word. A real talk about cancer, 7:00pm, Kravis Center	5 ❖ END OF HANUKKAH ❖ Mark Edmundson: Against Shakespeare! 12:00-1:00pm, Hampton Room, Malott Commons ❖ Mark Edmundson: The Soul of a Real Education 7:30-9:00pm, Garrison Theatre ❖ *Board of Trustees Student Dinner, 6:30pm, Field House ❖ In The Works... A Concert of Student Danceworks 8:00-10:00pm, Pendleton Dance Studio, Pomona College	6 ❖ Holiday Craft Fair 11:00am-3:00pm, Seal Court ❖ *How to Use LinkedIn, 2:00-3:30pm, Hum 102 ❖ Transvisible.; Bamby Salcedo's Story, 4:00pm, QRC ❖ Annual CORE III Film Festival 6:00-8:30pm Humanities Auditorium ❖ In The Works... A Concert of Student Danceworks 8:00-10:00pm, Pendleton Dance Studio, Pomona College	7 ❖ In The Works... A Concert of Student Danceworks 2:00-4:00pm, Pendleton Dance Studio, Pomona College ❖ Annual CORE III Film Festival 2:00-5:00pm Humanities Auditorium ❖ *Our Sound Launch Party 7:30-9:30pm Margaret Fowler Garden ❖ Mistletoe Rock!, 8:30pm-11:00am, North Quad, HMC
8	9 ❖ Dispatches from Angry Asian Americans, 7:00-8:30pm, Rose Hills Theatre, Pomona College	10 ❖ Tuesday Noon Academy: Theresa Robbins, Ceramics and Chemistry 12:00-1:00pm Hampton Room, Malott Commons ❖ *Women in Science with Muriel Poston "Underrepresented Groups in STEM: Challenges and Opportunities?" 6:45-8:00pm, Hampton Room, Malott Commons ❖ Scripps Student Recitals 7:30-8:30pm, Boone Recital Hall	11 ❖ Scripps Tea: CORE III 3:30-4:30pm, Seal Court ❖ *BeHeard: Body Positivity, 8:00pm, Student Union	12 ❖ READING DAY	13 ❖ READING DAY ❖ A Night of Stars: Black and White Ball 2013, 7:00pm, Edmunds Ballroom	14 ❖ The Claremont Concert Orchestra and The Claremont Concert Choir—Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 8:00-9:00pm Garrison Theatre
15 ❖ The Claremont Concert Orchestra and The Claremont Concert Choir—Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, 8:00-9:00pm Garrison Theatre	16	17 F I N	18 A L	19 S W	20 E E	21 K
22	23	24 ❖ CHRISTMAS EVE	25 ❖ CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28
29	30	31				

*First-Gen Approved Events

Parting Words

Shane really did bomb that Econ midterm.

And Maria really did fail that O-Chem final.

What can you do?

Eat some ice cream and be a Kangaroo.

At least, that's what we did...



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