

Expressions^{1st}

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Thrive. Connect. Transition. Evolve. Advocate.

Generation
@Scripps College

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A Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

As the semester starts winding down we want to take a moment to thank our community for being so supportive of the First-Generation Program thus far. We hope that everyone is taking the time to care for themselves as finals and winter break approach.

As first-generation students, we found ourselves in a completely new environment upon arriving at Scripps. Often times that can be a scary experience and more often than not it leaves us homesick. Through our three years at Scripps we have been able to find communities and people who make us feel supported and less homesick at Scripps. We have found different communities within Scripps that welcomed us with open arms and for that we are both thankful. This month's theme is about being *thankful for community*. We highlight some of the communities and people we have connected with that have made Scripps a place we call home.

Happy reading and best of luck in the final stretch!

Leonida Radford '17 and Vivian Yu '17
Program Co-Interns

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Cienna ('19) and Jockabeth ('19)
serendipitously matching

Community in SCORE with Yuka Ogino



Community can be and mean so many things. I often hear students say that they find or feel community at SCORE, and without any hesitation, I smile and nod in agreement. It is a pretty vague statement without further exploration – Why do you feel community? How do you feel community? What is community? (I am sure many of you are already exploring these questions in CORE). But, maybe community is just that, a place and space where you do not have to explain or justify your existence and experiences – it is a place to be accepted for all that you are and not be confined to the limitations of other people’s understanding of who you are or “what” or who you are perceived to be.

When I stop and think to understand what community means to me, I cannot help but look to those of the past whom I consider to be of my community and how they imagined their future communities to be - us. Feeling connected to the past, part of something bigger, and, in turn, honoring the spirit of those that

came before you by working for future generations, that is community. Nurturing the community that nurtured me, where you can just be – not needing to justify or explain one’s existence. Feeling the strength and warmth of people that came before me – that is community. I’m never alone. My pain, my past, my happiness, my future. Nothing is ever mine alone. These are the thoughts that help me guide how to nurture community in SCORE.

Many students have asked me how community in SCORE has changed with the Black Lives Matter movement, the protests regarding the experiences of students of color at the Claremont colleges, and finally, the recent election. The day after the election results, we held a dinner in SCORE. I didn’t plan a curriculum, prepare any talking points, or have a back-up plan in case only a few students showed up. So many of you came in one-by-one, in groups, and in-between meetings to sit, watch an old episode of House, and eat together. There were 82 of you all just laughing at the absurdities of daily life or sharing hugs with one another - you all held and shared space with and for one another. Just like many of you did and many alums did during the Black Lives Matter movement, and the protests last year. A group of students may leave every four years, but you all nurtured a community, not just for your generation but for future generations.

Repeatedly, the research shows that a large factor for the success of students from under-resourced backgrounds in college is a sense of belonging, a community. At SCORE, everyone is welcome here. Every chapter of your communities’ story is honored here. We hope that you come through our doors and find the warmth and strength of your communities’ past. We hope that you find your roots, so that no matter what the future has in store, we will always be here together for one another. We hope that you get involved in programming as an intern, a clorg leader, or as office assistants. You can join a committee or a local non-profit organization to advocate for equity. You can create art that highlights voices that are usually left unheard with Our Sound zine. There are many avenues to channel your energy at SCORE, honor your past, and work for your future communities. If there isn’t a space that you feel you belong to yet at SCORE, come talk to me, and hopefully we can create one together.

Kelly Peng and AASP

To me, AASP as a community is like my relationship with Korean tofu soup. The first time I ever had tofu soup and witnessed the bubbling goodness was as a first year with my AASP sponsor. For as long as I can remember, I've always identified as Asian American without thinking twice - I checked the Asian American box on every standardized test and every application I ever filled out. My "Asian-ness" was so obvious in my appearance that I didn't think twice about what it meant in my positionality in the world and how it shaped my perceptions and others' perceptions of me. Going to college and being paired with an AASP sponsor was cool - like tofu soup, it was a cool new thing I'd never tried before, but it was also a little scary. I didn't know what to expect and cautiously ordered no spice to avoid any spicy surprises. In AASP, I cautiously went to AASP events and only attended ones that I knew I had friends going to and avoided all other AASP events to avoid walking into events awkwardly alone.



As I got to know my AASP sponsor and my fondness for tofu soup grew, I became less scared and AASP and tofu soup began to feel like home. I applied to be an AASP sponsor and through many days of training and workshops, I began to learn more about myself and my positionality and how I too could support sponsees with warmth and love. The path to Chino Hills and Madang Tofu house where I was greeted by the same waitress and delicious tofu was like every AASP event that I attended last year as a sponsor. It felt like going home and knowing I'd be surrounded by other sponsors who loved and supported the AASP community as much as I did and having the opportunity to meet and support sponsees. Just as I knew to expect the fried yellow croaker and could dissect it into meat and bones in less than 2 minutes, I began to feel more comfortable dissecting my Asian identity and the intersectionalities of it. Over the many trips to Chino Hills, I've gotten more and more comfortable with trying all of the sides that are offered instead of flinching away at the sight of the red chili peppers. As I grew through my time as a sponsor, I became more comfortable with myself and with talking to sponsees about problems they were having and didn't shy away from the harder conversations. I've learned to dive in and take the hard questions (or bad tastes) as they come and to roll with it.

Over the past two years, tofu soup has become my favorite meal just as AASP has become one of my most valued communities. I've been to more tofu soup places and I've found more pockets of communities and friends at Scripps, but nothing compares to being back with my AASP community, or in the case of tofu soup, Madang Tofu House (now referred to as Omani).

First-Gen in Higher Ed

[The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has launched a new website to help First-Generation college students](#)



This [newly launched website](#) offers up stories written by faculty and staff at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill about their experiences being First-Generation in college. Their goal is to help first year first-gen student's transition into college and allow students to get to know their professors on a more personal level.

[California State University, East Bay pledges to focus on Diversity and Student Success](#)



CSU East Bay has received grants in the past year to further their mission to diversity and inclusivity. They have made it their mission to offer accessible and quality education to underrepresented populations. CSU East Bay strives to improve the lives and academics of those in its surrounding communities.

[First Generation Student Conquers Cancer and starts Medical Career at Colorado State University](#)



Josh Romero is a fellow first-generation student whose inspirational story speaks to the resiliency that a lot of our first-generation peers possess. His education came to an abrupt halt when he was diagnosed with cancer and the birth of his first daughter. Even after facing many of life's obstacles, he decided to go back to school to support his family and discovered a love of science that led him to medicine.

Parting Words

“Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open”

- Headmaster of Hogwarts



RECENT FIRST-GEN EVENTS:

- Mentor-Mentee Dinner
 - Tuesday, December 6th 5PM to 7PM at Bua Thai in the Village
- De-Stress Study Break
 - Wednesday, December 7th 7PM, Kimberly Living Room

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