



First-Generation@Scripps

Scripps College

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Edition 1, Volume 4

A Letter from the Editors

Dear readers,

Hi!

It's been so long. While we enjoyed the calm of our much-needed winter break (and we hope you did too), we missed you! We're happy to report that we're pumped and ready to go for another grand semester.

Last semester we ended on an exciting note. We wrapped up the first year of our mentor program and brought First-gen alums back to campus to interact with current students. The program even got an accolade from WASC! While we achieved many wonderful things in the fall, we are eager to establish even more programming for the continued support of all of our students in the months to come.

Now that we're all together again, let's take a moment to reflect on the strength of the

community that we have built thus far. We have come together to break bread with faculty, staff, and students from all years at Scripps. We busted the door open on the First-Gen experience at Scripps and even expanded our community to some of the other 5Cs.

While we celebrate our success, we must also take pause for unexpected change. An integral member of our family, Chris Guzaitis, has departed Scripps. As a key resource, advocate, and friend to many of us, Chris' absence will not go unnoticed. We will miss her dearly, but we know that she will continue to do wonderful things. Likewise, we know that our community in Claremont will continue to prosper.

Seeing as how this is a new year and all, we're obligated to talk about resolutions. Even though it's February, we are

officially resolving to approach this new season with fresh eyes and open minds. This is a time of rejuvenation and growth for all. We must promise ourselves to stay engaged, show commitment, and keep our motivation high. Whether it is the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning for you at Scripps, your experience is in your hands. Remember to savor every moment of it. In this issue, we share how some students keep their kettles hot!

And then we will all have tea.

All the best,
Shane and Maria



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

One Student's Story:

Leonida Radford

When I arrived to Scripps, I had an inkling of what I was getting into and the variety of people I would meet in Claremont. I knew that I was going to face challenges regarding class and race, but I did not anticipate struggling with confidence in my intelligence.



Leonida Radford,
Class of 2017

Many women here at Scripps come from boarding schools, private schools, or the top school in their region. I, on the other hand, went to a low performing, inner city public high school in San Francisco. My high school had minimal AP and honors classes and no IB program. When I came to Scripps, I couldn't help but feel inadequate compared to these intelligent women in my classes, even though I had taken the AP classes offered at my school. I felt as if I was unable to contribute to the conversations we had in Core about Genet and Foucault. It was as if my public school education meant nothing and Scripps made a mistake in accepting me into the Class of 2017.

In the beginning of the semester, I was intimidated and made to feel inferior by both the amount of material and the confidence that the other women in my classes had. I first had to get over my insecurities in order to fully take advantage of the education Scripps was able to offer.

Confidence in my intelligence is an obstacle that I must overcome in time. While I know it will not be a quick process, I am slowly making progress. As the semester progressed, I talked to multiple people about my lack of confidence. Slowly I began to gain it back. This semester, I intend to speak up more and not be afraid of what I have to say in class. What I think deserves to be heard.

While I did not receive the top education in San Francisco, I did graduate top of my class and learned material needed to contribute to conversation in classes at Scripps. With this in mind, I understand that I am able to bring multiple perspectives into the conversation amongst my classmates and recognize that this in itself holds value.

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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

How do YOU keep a fresh mind?

Tell us about how you stay focused and you might be featured in our next newsletter!

Email your details to:
firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu

Keeping the Kettle Hot:

Rejuvenating the Body and Mind for Another Semester

Every winter, my karate dojo takes a hike up a mountain in the area. We do this in order to keep with traditions that were started long ago in Japan by the founder of Shotokan, Gichin Funakoshi of Okinawa. In the cold, dark, early morning, we hike in order to rejuvenate the mind and body for another year of intense physical and mental training to come. This past winter break, I got to experience this tradition first hand.

When we decided on a date and time the week before, my mind began to plan. I didn't have hiking shoes. I don't own a pair of sweats or a water bottle that I hadn't lost the lid to. To be completely honest, I didn't even like hiking. However, I was excited to share in this experience with my fellow karate-ka (students of the martial arts) and made a mental list of friends and fellow Claremont students that I could borrow gear from. At 6:00am on the morning of, I arrived at Higginbotham Park in Claremont, borrowed trainers strapped firmly to my feet. I was ready to go.

Before the sun began to rise, we started our ascension to Joshua

Pasteur. One by one, we climbed the steep path to a clearing where we would train surrounded by the fresh mountain air. Students, both young and old, struggled up, up, and up. I'm not going to lie. It was hard. Many of us slipped and tripped on rocks and roots.

"When mountains of homework and responsibility stand before you, keep going. Never stop. What's waiting at the end just may be worth it."

-Shane Zackery '14

Hard breathing could be heard all around. Some braced their arms on their hips, stopped to rub their burning legs, and rubbed their tired backs. Many times, I felt like I was in way over my head. I couldn't quite recall why I had agreed to go hiking on one of the last days of my winter break. I could be sleeping. I could be watching bad reality television and savoring the last moments of freedom that I had. Instead, I chose this?

During my climb, I was passed by many others. One guy even came back down the mountain



Shane Zackery,
Class of 2014

and simply smiled and said "You're almost there!" before turning around and going back up. I kind of wanted to punch him. Finally, after much huffing and puffing, I made it to the top of the hill. Waiting were many smiling, encouraging faces, glad that I had made it. As I looked around, I was glad that I did. In every tired, but happy face that looked back at me, I saw motivation. I saw resolve. I saw winners.

In the winter, we climb in order to remind ourselves to keep the flame that we have for our training bright and hot. Tending to the flame keeps the water boiling. Leave the flame to its own devices and it will be blown out. With this experience in mind, I invite everyone to take the same approach to this coming semester. Even if you feel unprepared, even if you have to call on your fellow students for guidance and support, keep your water boiling hot. When mountains of homework and responsibility stand before you, keep going. Never stop. What's waiting at the end just may be worth it.

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.



HuffPost Education

[Generating First-Generation Students](#)

Dr. Robert L. Breuder, President, College of DuPage
Huffington Post

ACT has released its recent "[Condition of College and Career Readiness](#)" report, and while the news isn't unexpected, it's far from ideal. Nationally, only 26 percent of high-school graduates who took the ACT in 2013 met all four of its college-readiness benchmarks - English, reading, mathematics and science.



Susan Walsh/AP Photo

[What It's Like to Be the First Person in Your Family to Go to College](#)

Liz Riggs, The Atlantic

"I wanted to leave," a Vanderbilt student said. How mentoring programs help him and other first-generation students stay in school.



NewsTimes.com

[First generation college-bound students have supports now](#)

News Times

Now, as the Brookings Institute states, "It's time for the federal government to make college enrollment and graduation rates of students from low-income families a top priority of federal education policy."

Calendar of Events

February

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 ❖ Bagels, Lox, and dancing! Claremont Hillel, McAlister Center, 11:00am-1:00pm
2 ❖ A-Team Presents Super Bowl Sunday, Browning Rec Room, 3:00-8:00pm ❖ Remember, Rebuild, and Sustain, Garrison Theatre 12:30-5:00pm	3 ❖ Maria's Office Hours 9:00-10:00am ❖ Time Management Workshop* GJW Living room, 4:30-5:30pm	4 ❖ Humanities Institute lecture: Salamishah Tillet "Listening to Nina Simone: Myth, Meme, and the Icon of a Movement" Garrison Theatre, 7:30-9:00pm	5 ❖ Shane's Office Hours 10:00-11:00am ❖ Claremont Ballroom Dance Company Auditions, Edmunds Ballroom, 10:00pm	6 ❖ Decolonizing Education with Native American/Indigenous Studies, Rose Hills Theatre, 7:00-9:30pm	7 ❖ Disability Justice and Transformative Justice with Mia Mingus, TBA, 7:00-9:00pm ❖ Real World Trip: Chino Water Basin Conservation District, RSVP on Claremont Connect, 9:30am-12:30pm ❖ Off-Campus Study Info Session, Hum 119, 2:00pm	8
9	10 ❖ Maria's Office Hours 9:00-10:00am	11 ❖ Off-Campus Study Info Session, Hum 119, 4:15pm	12 ❖ Shane's Office Hours 10:00-11:00am	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15
16	17 ❖ Maria's Office Hours 9:00-10:00am	18	19 ❖ Shane's Office Hours 10:00-11:00am	20 ❖ Off-Campus Study Info Session, Hum 119, 2:00pm	21	22
23	24 ❖ Maria's Office Hours 9:00-10:00am	25 ❖ Humanities Institute film screening: Gerry Rogers "My Left Breast" Garrison Theatre, 7:30-9:00pm	26 ❖ Shane's Office Hours 10:00-11:00am	27 ❖ Pamela Yates, Documentary Filmmaker, Skylight Pictures, Malott Commons, 7:30pm ❖ Off-Campus Study Info Session, Hum 119, 4:15pm	28	

*First-Gen Approved Events

Parting Words

We want to say some cool stuff about the Super Bowl, but we don't know anything about that.

Also Valentine's Day?

Whatevs.



It took us a lot of shots to get this picture. Just like it please. Okay bye.

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