Sierra Club ranks UCSB #10 ‘Coolest School’

Library expands 24/7 study space

Broadening Horizons

Families give advice about studying abroad

New internship program turns education into action | Student-led goal: Zero Net Energy
A new internship program is providing opportunities for motivated students to transform education into action. Named to honor Michael D. Young, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, these interns will use their own experiences and skills to enrich the campus and apply their academic skills. The internship includes a $1,500 scholarship.

Claudine Michel, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Programs, Student Academic Support Services is welcoming the first cohort of Michael D. Young Interns this fall. “We wanted a program that would provide students with leadership experience and applied scholarship,” says Dr. Michel. “We are giving them an opportunity to define their own projects, based on their academic interests.” The four interns selected for the program will each develop and present a proposal to define their goals for the year-long program. “The proposal process gives them an opportunity to take initiative and follow a project from concept to completion. We will help guide them, but mostly we are looking for ways to let students make decisions and experience that success on their own.”

The interns will also work closely with Dr. Michel to support new Student Affairs initiatives. For example, interns will host faculty/student mixers in the dining halls. “We’re excited to bring back ‘Faculty Nights’—a program which Wellness has allowed us to transfer to our interns,” Dr. Michel says. “Collaborating with Housing to host dinners in the residence halls and other campus departments is a tremendous opportunity for interns to work through the details. As they enter professional life, having the confidence to build relationships will be a tremendous advantage.”

This first year, all four interns were selected by referrals from Student Affairs staff. In the future, students will be able to apply for the internship directly, with recommendations from faculty. This program is ideal for students in their junior year. At that point, they have enough experience with campus to see some things that could be improved and they are not caught up in the pressure of senior year.

For more information about the Michael D. Young Internship Program visit www.academics.sa.ucsb.edu.
Dear UCSB Parent,

As the director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships here at UC Santa Barbara, I am often asked the question, “How can my student cut costs while in school?” As one might imagine, I have a plethora of ideas that include not bringing a car to campus, always looking for student discounts, and buying used books. Another idea I often bring up to parents is the possibility of their student spending a year abroad in an inexpensive country. I normally receive a look of surprise in return, but it is true. In some cases, spending a year abroad can actually be less expensive.

The University of California has a robust study abroad program and what most people do not realize is that several of their year-long programs can actually cost less than a year at UCSB, even with airfare. Currently, a year at UCSB living in the residence halls will cost approximately $34,177. Here is a list of programs that currently cost less than UCSB from which eligible students can choose: Barbados, Beijing (China), Cairo (Egypt), Ghana, Lyon (France), Humboldt (Germany), Hong Kong, Bologna (Italy), Korea, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Singapore, Granada (Spain), Lund (Sweden), Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey.

There are many things to consider when choosing to study abroad beyond the cost, so contact our Education Abroad Program or visit www.eap.ucsb.edu for more information.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Miller
Director, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
New Sustainability Projects Help Us Reach Our Goals

Student Affairs recognized several years ago that the increasing cost of energy combined with a fixed energy budget would eventually create a shortfall in our ability to pay for the services we provide to our students. As a result, the Division of Student Affairs and the students of UCSB have been working together to create a vision where the goal for Student Affairs is to reach Zero Net Energy for our portfolio of buildings, including the Recreation Center and its aquatic center.

Part of that vision included the creation of the Renewable Energy Initiative Governance Board. The board is led by a student majority and tasked with creating renewable energy projects almost entirely funded by a student lock-in fee proposed by students and voted on in campus elections. A clear majority of UC Santa Barbara’s students voted to create the fund and use it to help Student Affairs, and ultimately the campus, reduce its need for fossil fuel energy.

The first project from the Renewable Energy Initiative Fund is a 400kW solar array located on top of a multi-story parking structure. With an expected completion date in spring 2014 we’ll see the students’ efforts create enough clean energy to effectively take the Student Resource Building (80,000 sq. ft.) off the grid, equivalent to powering around 100 homes.

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array located on top of a multi-story parking structure. With an expected completion date in spring 2014 we’ll see the students’ efforts create enough clean energy to effectively take the Student Resource Building (80,000 sq. ft.) off the grid, equivalent to powering around 100 homes.

Combined with the Division’s focus on energy efficiency projects such as the Solid State Lighting Project at the Recreation Center (also slated for completion in spring 2014), we will see an increase in effectiveness of renewable energy projects as our electricity demand is reduced.

The Solid State Lighting Project removes fluorescent fixtures and replaces them with high efficiency LED fixtures and an advanced lighting control system. We expect this system to reduce the energy consumed by the Recreation Center for lighting by over 80%. Currently, the energy being used for lighting at the Recreation Center is about equal to what we expect to generate from the new solar array. By reducing the energy consumption for lighting at the Recreation Center to less than twenty percent of present use, we will enhance the students’ sustainability efforts and continue to provide excellent student services even as utility prices increase.
UCSB has a fully accredited health care facility offering convenient medical and psychiatric care to all registered UCSB students. Student Health is committed to helping our students stay healthy and recover from illness quickly, as their “medical home” for coordination of all health needs when they are away from family. Information is available by phone at (805) 893-5361 or on our website at http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/.

A wide range of services is available, tailored to the needs of university students, including: acne clinic, advice nurse, dental care, dermatology, eye care, health education and counseling, immunizations, laboratory, minor surgery, nutrition, orthopedics, patient advocates, pharmacy, physical therapy, primary care, psychiatry, rheumatology, social work, travel medicine, urgent care, wart removal, women’s health, and x-ray. Students can make appointments online, by phone, or just come in for urgent care or to speak to the advice nurses. All services are confidential, and students may use a secure email portal for communications with clinicians.

Flu shots are available now. Please let your student know that immunizations can help prevent lost class time due to illness. Please check our website for convenient times to obtain flu shots, both at campus locations and in the Student Health building. We encourage students to send us their immunization records by FAX at (805) 893-2758, or email at SHSImmunizationRecords@sa.ucsb.edu.

Beginning September 23, 2013, our UCSB Student Health Insurance Program changed to a new plan administered by Aetna and is now called Gaucho Health Insurance or GHI. Students can print out their insurance I.D. for medical coverage, and cards will be mailed to their local addresses in October. This comprehensive plan includes vision coverage from Anthem Blue View Vision and dental coverage through Delta Dental. All students are enrolled in GHI unless they submit an online waiver. Verification of equivalent health insurance coverage is mandated by UC Regents’ policies.

Charges for visits, labs and x-rays at Student Health are included in the GHI premiums, with small co-payments for prescriptions and procedures. Students are encouraged to come in as often as needed to stay healthy and happy at UCSB.”
UCSB requires all new undergraduate students to complete both online and in-person education on a variety of topics related to health and safety. The online portion of the mandate utilizes the highly acclaimed, interactive program AlcoholEdu in combination with Haven, a sexual assault prevention module. GauchoFYI, an in-person, interactive 90-minute workshop conducted in small group settings, is led by trained peer facilitators and supervised by professional staff.

The online AlcoholEdu and Haven courses utilize a personalized, custom approach for each student depending on their gender, attitudes, behaviors, and readiness to change their behaviors. All responses collected by the module are confidential, with the exception of a student’s name, identification number, and completion status, indicated by a passing score of 75% or higher in each section. Once the student completes AlcoholEdu, information is automatically provided about enrollment in Gaucho FYI. Last year, student feedback on both programs was overwhelmingly positive.

UCSB also offers AlcoholEdu for Parents, an online resource designed specifically for parents of students who are required to take AlcoholEdu. The course begins with an overview of AlcoholEdu and provides talking points around alcohol for parents to use in conversations with their students. To access AlcoholEdu for Parents, visit http://parents.alcoholedu.com and enter the following login ID: P110705PARENT. Parents or students who have questions about these requirements for students can call (805) 893-5975 or email shs.alcohol@sa.ucsb.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

UCSB’s pioneering work on climate change is often cited by other researchers. The Institute for Scientific Information recently measured the impact of climate change research citations over a 10-year span and ranked the campus number 7 worldwide.
They roar like wildfire through the residence halls. They have Isla Vista residents abuzz. They have property providers scrambling. And they have our office, the Community Housing Office (CHO) scratching our heads. Who are “they,” you ask? “They” are the rumors that make students think they need to find next year’s housing in Isla Vista too soon!

Parents beware! Your students will come home as soon as November talking about where to live next June! Our advice? Resist! Slow them down and talk about all the options available before they get pressured by their friends to sign!

Housing Tips from Community Housing Office

They roar like wildfire through the residence halls. They have Isla Vista residents abuzz. They have property providers scrambling. And they have our office, the Community Housing Office (CHO) scratching our heads. Who are “they,” you ask? “They” are the rumors that make students think they need to find next year’s housing in Isla Vista too soon! Parents beware! Your students will come home as soon as November talking about where to live next June! Our advice? Resist! Slow them down and talk about all the options available before they get pressured by their friends to sign!

1. DO urge your student to attend CHO housing programs around campus in mid-January to learn about all of the options. Have your student like us on FACEBOOK for dates and locations.
2. DON’T let peer pressure determine housing decisions. Students are just getting to know each other and still in the honeymoon phase of their friendships. Have them ask each other questions about preferences and expectations. We have a great questionnaire they can use.
3. DO determine the budget ahead of time. Talk with your student early on about what is affordable for housing costs, so the decision will fit the budget.
4. DON’T think that Isla Vista is the only place for students to live. University-owned residence halls, apartments, and nearby locations are also places students live. If your student is interested in a rental outside of Isla Vista, he or she only needs to look about 30-45 days before moving in. An updated listings database is available online.
5. DON’T sign a contract that isn’t thoroughly understood. We encourage students to bring their lease into CHO for our staff to review it with them. In many cases, parents are also asked to sign as a parent guarantor. It will be important to know with whom your student is signing a lease, as you will be held accountable jointly and severally for all the students on the lease!

UCSB Ranks #10 ‘Coolest School’

Sierra magazine, a publication of the Sierra Club, ranks UCSB number 10 on its seventh annual list of “Coolest Schools.” This year 162 universities and colleges were recognized for significant efforts to operate sustainably and for helping to solve climate problems. UCSB was recognized for its formidable numbers:

- 44 campus buildings are LEED certified
- 47% of academic departments offer a class about sustainability—321 classes with 217 faculty members conducting eco-research
- 50% of fresh produce served in residence halls is locally grown with over 25% organic and/or sustainably grown
- 75% of total waste is diverted from local landfills via composting and recycling
- Since the late 1990s, Gauchos have reduced electricity use by a third, water use by a quarter, and food waste by close to 35%
- 94% of students take alternative means of transportation to class—evidenced by 10,000 bicycle parking spaces and 10 miles of bike paths

For more information about the “Coolest Schools” rankings, visit www.sierraclub.org/coolschools.

Financial Aid 411

So you’ve filed the FAFSA. Your student’s Financial Aid Award Letter is ready. Your BARC balance is paid. You’ve pretty much got this Financial Aid thing figured out, right? Awesome! Well done! You deserve a round of applause. You’ve come a long way since March 2nd. Financial aid can be difficult to navigate. It’s a highly regulated industry with constantly shifting policies and programs. It’s also an incredibly hot topic both in Washington and in Sacramento, so what is true today may not necessarily be true tomorrow. Fortunately, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is here to help. Our website at www.finaid.ucsb.edu is chock-full of information for students and parents, and we strive to keep UCSB families informed of all the changes that may affect their federal, state, and university aid. Below are several means of keeping you current:

- Twitter/Facebook – Connect with us! You can follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook. We post frequent updates regarding changes to federal and state programs, tips for financial success, and reminders for those all-important deadlines.
- Tutorials – We have a library of award-winning video tutorials. These tutorials walk you through important steps in the financial aid process and offer insights into some of the more misunderstood financial aid policies such as appeals and revisions.
- Bulletins – Our Bulletins page is continually updated with brief blog posts highlighting the biggest news in financial aid. Current topics include the recent Act of Congress to keep Direct Loan interest rates down and California’s Middle Class Scholarship Program.
UCSB Library Expands Overnight Study

For many years, the UCSB Library has offered overnight study space for students in its 24-Hour Room (previously known as the Reserve Book Room). This popular space, near the main entrance to the library, boasted 140 study seats and was open 24/7.

In anticipation of having to shut down the 24-Hour Room during the Library Addition and Renovation Project, library staff took a close look at student needs and space availability and decided to offer an expanded overnight study area.

Now, the first two floors of the main Davidson Library are open in an Overnight Study service that begins when regular building hours end. The first two floors of the library provide access to computers, printers, photocopiers, scanners, Wi-Fi, the reference collection, and over 680 seats, making it a much richer and more productive environment than the previous 24-Hour Room.

Overnight Study is restricted to UCSB students, faculty, and staff—who need to swipe a campus ID to gain access to the building—and is supervised by campus safety personnel. Through the campus Community Service Organization (CSO) program, students can request a free escort back to their residences during the evening and early morning hours.

For the most part, Overnight Study is available 24/7, though hours may be limited during the summer and during UCSB holidays. Before visiting, students should check current hours on the Davidson Library website.

The UCSB Library is presently undergoing a much-anticipated construction project that will result in a renovation and 60,000 sq. ft. addition, featuring 20% more study space and bookable group study rooms, among other highlights. The library will remain open throughout the project. A grand opening is expected in January 2016. For more information and a virtual tour, visit http://www.library.ucsb.edu/building.

Hey, Night Owls!

OVERNIGHT STUDY AT THE LIBRARY!

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Commencement 2014

COMMENCEMENT PLANNING BEGINS NOW! Students must make a commencement reservation for an open and available ceremony in order to participate in commencement. Special note: Parents, please remind your student that declaring candidacy for an official degree and making a commencement reservation are two separate actions in the GOLD system. Please keep in mind that thousands of graduating seniors will be inviting family and friends to the commencement ceremonies. Students should limit their number of guests to a maximum of six to help maintain a high level of comfort and decorum. For more information, visit http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/commencement/ or contact the Office of Public Events at (805) 893-7382 or email commencement@ia.ucsb.edu. For information about accommodations, visit www.santabarbara.com. It is wise to book hotel rooms soon since space is limited, but be sure to coordinate with your student as he or she reserves a space in a particular commencement ceremony.

SCHEDULE OF CEREMONIES:

Sunday, June 8, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.
College of Creative Studies, Campbell Hall

Friday, June 13, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, Bren Courtyard

All Saturday (June 14) and Sunday (June 15) ceremonies take place on the Faculty Club Green

Saturday, June 14 – 9:00 a.m.
Sciences
Saturday, June 14 – 12:30 p.m.
Engineering and Sciences
Saturday, June 14 – 4:00 p.m.
Social Sciences I

Sunday, June 15 – 9:00 a.m.
Social Sciences II
Sunday, June 15 – 12:30 p.m.
Humanities and Arts
Sunday, June 15 – 4:00 p.m.
Graduate Division
This summer's Orientation program welcomed over 5,500 new students and their family members to the UCSB campus. The goals of UCSB’s Orientation Program are two-fold: provide students with a strong academic overview and foundation upon which to start their university experience, and foster new friendships and pride in the campus and surrounding community.

As a part of Orientation’s effort to build community, a new “Student Night In” social was offered at each freshman Orientation session. A committee of Orientation staff advisors (all UCSB undergraduate students) planned the event to incorporate a community service project into the evening's agenda. The committee decided to make fleece blankets for this summer’s project. Instructions and supplies were provided at each social event, and new students were encouraged to jump in and participate in their first civic engagement project as Gauchos. More than fifty blankets were completed during the summer program for distribution to the homeless and to shelters in the Santa Barbara area. It was inspiring to watch new students take the time to give back to their new community. Thanks to their participation and the leadership of their peers, a new tradition has been born. To learn more about UCSB Orientation Programs, please visit http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/orientation.

UCSB is committed to promoting a healthy and supportive learning environment. Parents concerned about the health or safety of their son or daughter are encouraged to take advantage of campus resources. Student Mental Health Coordination Services (805-893-3087) and Counseling and Psychological Services (805-893-4411). Additionally, UCSB provides 24-hour phone counseling (805-893-4411) for anyone concerned about a student during weekends, evenings, or holidays. If there is a potential for danger to self or others, or immediate attention is needed, please call 911 or Campus Police (805-893-3446) for an immediate response. To learn more about the Distressed Students Protocol and for links to other helpful resources, please visit http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/distressedstudentsguide/Protocol/. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Parents & Family Weekend 2013 will be held on November 1, 2, and 3 to welcome hundreds of students’ families to explore our campus and get a firsthand look at life at UCSB. Family members will have the opportunity to attend classes, hear faculty presentations, take part in campus area tours and activities, and meet UCSB faculty and administrators, including Chancellor Henry T. Yang and his wife Dilling Yang. Registration and events information can be found at http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/ParentsFamilyWeekend. If you have questions, email parent@ia.ucsb.edu or call the Office of Public Events at (805) 893-2117.
Meet the Class of 2017

68K
Number of undergraduate applications submitted to UCSB

8.7%
Percentage increase in freshman applications to UCSB this year

4.13
Average GPA for freshman applicants

38%
Percentage of this year’s freshman class who are “first-generation” — the first in their families to attend a four-year college

174K
Record number of applications received by the UC system for the 2013-2014 school year — that’s a total of 139,758 freshman and 35,009 transfer applications

When you sit on the Aloha Bench at UCSB’s Campus Point, you can see a full 360 degrees: the lagoon and mountains to the north; to the east, the coastline that leads to Santa Barbara; Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands to the south; and, if you stretch your imagination, you can see Hawai’i to the west, some 2,485 miles. In January 2013, the campus dedicated this Aloha Bench to Dr. Yonie Harris, Dean of Students Emeritus, to honor her 28 years of service to UCSB and to the community of Isla Vista. Yonie holds a special place in her heart for the Hawaiian Islands and Polynesia. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology from UCSB, conducting field research in the Cook Islands. While traveling to Hawai’i to visit family and friends, Yonie represented UCSB at college fairs, telling prospective students and their families about our university’s academic prominence and also emphasizing the aloha and ohana — the sense of community — that our campus environment offers. To celebrate her retirement, alumni and friends recently established the Aloha Scholarship Fund, hoping to provide scholarship awards to undergraduates who graduate from high school in Hawai’i.

We are pleased to announce that this fall, Aloha scholarships were awarded for the first time. Congratulations to Lisa Bevier-Sakimura, a senior from the Big Island, Island of Hawai’i, and sophomore Josephine Bergill-Gentille, whose family lives in Maui. In the spirit of aloha, we hope to build the fund and continue to provide scholarship awards. Charitable gifts of any amount to the UC Regents Aloha Scholarship Fund are welcome. For information, please contact Catherine Boyer, Student Affairs Grants and Development, catherine.boyer@sa.ucsb.edu, (805) 893-5037.
The UCSB Reads program has selected *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America* for winter 2014. Beginning in January, more than 2,500 books will be given away to UCSB students in the lobby of Davidson Library. Among the program’s stated goals are to increase awareness of ethical issues and the impacts of our behavior on others, to encourage reading and discussion of important issues across campus, to highlight academic strengths in the humanities and fine arts and other areas on campus, and to create a sense of fun and camaraderie on campus while addressing an important issue. We hope your son or daughter will be part of this exciting event, and we encourage you to read this book along with us and share in our common intellectual experience. Books will be on sale in the UCSB Bookstore during Parents & Family Weekend. More information is available on the program website at http://guides.library.ucsb.edu/ucsbreads.

Staying Connected

UCSB Campus Calendar: http://events.sa.ucsb.edu/calendar/
UCSB Home: http://www.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-8000
Campus Connection Newsletter: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/parentnewsletter
Campus Learning Assistance Services: http://www.clas.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3269
Associated Students: http://www.as.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-2566
Counseling Services: http://counseling.sa.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-4411
Career Services: http://career.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-4412
Division of Student Affairs: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3651
Educational Opportunity Program: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/eop or call (805) 893-3235
Gauchos Parents website: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/parents
Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships: http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-2432
Office of Student Life: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/osl/ or call (805) 893-4569
Office of the Registrar: http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-3592
Orientation Programs: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/orientation/ or call (805) 893-3443
Residential & Community Living: http://www.housing.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-2760
Student Health: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/studenthealth/ or call (805) 893-3371
UCSB Crime Statistics: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/Policies/CleryAct or call (805) 893-7884
UCSB Bookstore: http://www.bookstore.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-3271
UCSB Wellness Program: http://wellness.sa.ucsb.edu/

Campus Connection is published by the University of California, Santa Barbara, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, to provide news and resources to the families of UCSB students and the broader campus community. The University of California, Santa Barbara, and the Division of Student Affairs recognize the diversity of our society and the many important people who have become “parents” to our students; these include stepmoms, stepdads, uncles, aunts, grandparents, siblings, friends, and others who play a significant and supportive role in the lives and successes of UCSB students.