



# SMI CONNECTIONS



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## Dedication Through Professional Growth

Throughout Fall 2010, SMI students were presented with a diverse collection of professional development opportunities to enhance their pre-teaching pathways. Their choices included national and local conferences, training workshops typically attended only by credentialed teachers, and community events promoting STEM education. Incorporating professional development into career planning is highly encouraged by SMI. Through these interactions, students discover untapped skills that further ignite their talents and interests.

Although juggling professional development activities with academic obligations is a tough act, dedicated students have managed to rise above this challenge. Members from the Tomorrow's Teachers for Science and Math (TTSM) student club and SMI & ALPHA Center Apprentice Programs are among those who have consistently displayed their passion for STEM education. These self-motivated students attended the dynamic STEP Conference presented by Dr. Pamela Clute. They also presented mini-science and mathematics lessons to K-12 students at the Dia del Niño celebration and at the NASCAR Science and Math Day.

In addition, during the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, nine of these students attended the *Road to Teaching Conference*, a forum specifically designed for future STEM teachers. Julie Bon, Stephanie Fong, Angie Garcia, Kimberly Ludwig, Yahaira Martinez-Lopez, Kim Morris, Dean Nguyen, Karina Rodriguez, and Michelle Thomas, participated in the SMI sponsored mini-road trip and proudly represented UCR-SMI at the conference. Below are some of their reflections:

*"I really enjoyed the workshops for classroom management and creative ways to help the students construct the knowledge themselves. The conference had many speakers for which I was able to take down their contact information for future reference and networking."*  
~Dean Nguyen (Biological Sciences major)

*"I had the opportunity to meet 3 inspirational speakers. I am grateful for their words of wisdom. After attending the conference, I am better prepared to provide every student with opportunities to feel like a winner. I was reminded of the value of teaching and I now know that teaching is about quality not quantity. I will never forget the words of Alyson Hoberecht (guest speaker) 'See the positive in other people and situations before the negative and balance the consequences with care.'"* ~Yahaira Martinez-Lopez (Mathematics major)

*"I enjoyed listening to all the different teachers speak about their experiences and teaching styles. I thought it was very informative and inspiring. It opened my eyes to new methods of teaching and how to connect with the students."*  
~Kim Morris (Mathematics major)

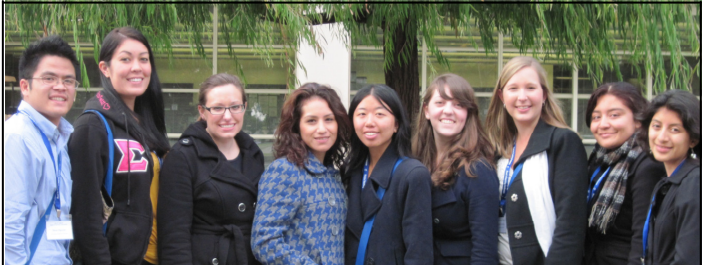
*"I had never been to a conference before, and I was surprised by how much I learned about different teaching styles and methods. Now I want to go to tons of conferences!"* ~Michelle Thomas (Chemistry major)

*The Road to Teaching Conference is a great way to kindle a student's heart in pursuing teaching as a career. Not only was the keynote speaker inspirational, but the sessions were informational. Remember, teachers can make a difference.*  
~Stephanie Fong (Mathematics major)

*"The workshop on how to get a job in a tough market...really helped me understand how the interview process went and how I can make myself the most marketable. It also taught me that it is okay to have a creative resume, but still make it professional...The whole conference was a wonderful experience."* ~Kimberly Ludwig (Biology major)

*"I had a great time going to this conference because it gave me valuable information that I can use when interviewing for a teaching position, and they gave great examples on how to teach math more creatively."* ~Julie Bon (Mathematics major)

- In this Issue**
- Dedication Through Professional Growth
  - A Finalist from UCR
  - Building Your Professional Network
  - SMI Guest Speaker Series
  - NOYCE Scholarship
  - SMI & ALPHA Center Apprentice Programs
  - Impact of SMI & Noyce Programs
  - Opportunities for Credentialed Teachers
  - Summer Institute at Berkeley
  - A Transportation Solution



From left to right: Dean Nguyen, Kim Morris, Julie Bon, Angie Garcia, Stephanie Fong, Michelle Thomas, Kimberly Ludwig, Karina Rodriguez, Yahaira Martinez-Lopez

**A Finalist from UCR!  
Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund**

According to the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, "By 2020, the percentage of teachers of color will fall to an all-time low of 5% of the total teacher force, while the percentage of students of color in the system will likely exceed 50%." In response to this projected outlook, the Foundation established the Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund Foundation (WW-RBF) for Aspiring Teachers of Color. This fellowship includes:

- a \$30,000 stipend to apply toward the cost of a master's degree
- preparation in a high-need public school
- guidance toward teaching certification
- support and mentoring throughout the three-year teaching commitment
- lifelong membership in a national network of Woodrow Wilson Fellows who are educated, intellectual leaders



As one of 45 institutions, and one of three UC campuses, identified by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation as a partner to recruit and prepare future teachers of color, UCR submitted its student nomination in October.



*Nohemi LaCombe*

By mid-November, SMI learned that its nominee, Nohemi LaCombe, was offered an in-person interview by the WW-RBF fellowship committee. Along with other finalists from institutions across the country, Nohemi flew to the University of Pennsylvania for an intense weekend to identify of potential teacher of color candidates.

According to Nohemi, "my interview had a panel of three people, two of mine were actually members of WW-RBF... They were concerned about my passion for and capability to teach students struggling in school... Over the whole trip, from connecting with other students to hearing about the great experiences and support through the program, I can see how this program is much more beneficial than for financial reasons."

The WW-RBF Teaching Fellowships competition is expected to be conducted, once again, in Fall 2011. To learn more, visit <http://www.woodrow.org/teaching-fellowships/wwrbf/>.

**SMI GUEST SPEAKER  
SERIES for WINTER 2011**

Location: INTS 1125  
Times: 4:10 to 5:30 p.m.

**January 18 (Tuesday)**  
Teaching Credential Programs  
Admissions Panel

**January 25 (Tuesday)**  
Middle School Teacher Panel

**February 1 (Tuesday)**  
High School Teacher Panel

**February 8 (Tuesday)**  
Human Resource Specialist  
Panel

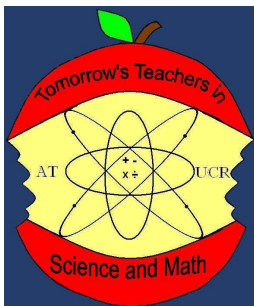
**February 22 (Tuesday)**  
K-12 Administrator Panel

To attend, please sign-up on the SMI Portal  
[\(http://www.ucop.edu/smi/\)](http://www.ucop.edu/smi/) and click on "events." Seats are limited.

*NASC 192 students (1-unit seminar) are automatically enrolled for these seminars.*

**BUILD YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK**

Tomorrow's Teachers in Science and Math (TTSM) is an on-campus club self-governed by current UCR students considering and/or pursuing science and mathematics education careers. The club's primary purposes are to create an organization where future STEM educators are able to form a community and to develop professional leadership skills.



At the TTSM general meetings last Fall Quarter, members shared knowledge and resources to develop instructional strategies for English Language Learners (ELL), prepare for the CSET exams, and to identify professional development opportunities. TTSM is also actively involved with community related events that promote STEM education, such as the NASCAR Science and Math Day, Dia del Niño Conference, and the Riverside Community College STEM summer experiences.



General meetings for Winter 2011 are scheduled on a bi-weekly basis on Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Officer positions for 2011-12 are expected to become available during elections in Winter Quarter. Build your professional network and resume. Join today!

**TTSM Membership is FREE!**

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

Bi-weekly on Thursdays  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Pierce 1315

1/13/11, 1/27/11, 2/10/11, 2/24/11, 3/10/11

View TTSM Photo Gallery at  
<http://sites.google.com/site/ttsmatucr/previousevents>

**GENERAL MEETINGS TOPICS**

- \*Interactive "Review" Game Strategies
- \*Credential students/alumni panel
- \* Developing interview skills
- \* Elections & instructional strategies
- \* Planning Meeting for Spring 2011

## CALL FOR 2011-12 NOYCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



The **UC Riverside Noyce Scholarship Program** is founded on this campus' internal partnership among the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, the Graduate School of Education, and the ALPHA Center in conjunction with the rapidly growing, under-performing Moreno Valley Unified School District to prepare exceptional science and mathematics undergraduate majors for secondary school teaching careers.

**Applications for 2011-12** are being accepted. To learn more and to download the application, please visit <http://smi.ucr.edu/noyce.html>.

### Noyce Scholarship Deadlines

Spring 2011 credential candidate cohort: 1/28/11

Fall 2011 credential candidate cohort: 3/31/11

2011-12 Juniors & Seniors: 4/22/11

### **SMI & ALPHA Center Apprentice Programs**



The SMI & ALPHA Center Apprentice Programs will begin to accept applications for the 2011-12 selection in late-Winter/early-Spring Quarter. The Apprentice Programs offer CUSP (College University School Partnership) and CMST (California Mathematics Science Teachers Initiative) year-long fellowships to become an in-class apprentice in nearby secondary-school classrooms. Fellows receive a support structure that motivates, encourages, and augments their STEM education. In addition, fellows participate in professional development opportunities to enhance pedagogical skills and professional networking. Each



apprenticeship position is expected to complete 35 to 50 field hours per quarter earning \$25 per hour. Details of minimum eligibility requirements and a downloadable application will be released in March via the SMI Listserv. To sign-up for a subscription to the SMI Listserv, please visit <http://smi.ucr.edu/files/listserv.pdf>.

### **IMPACT OF SMI & NOYCE PROGRAMS**



*Madelyn Urrutia*

My name is Madelyn Bridgette Urrutia and I am a fourth-year Biology major at UCR. In the past two years, I have found a passion in the field of teaching. I actually realized this when I was simply asked to help tutor a friend in chemistry. After looking at how much she improved, and seeing her face light up when she understood something, I knew that this was the type of rewarding profession that I wanted to enter. Everyday, I would look forward to showing her something new. The simple phrase of, "I understand!" warmed my heart in so many ways. I can't even begin to put into words how much joy she gave me in simply watching her learn. I knew that after helping her, I wanted to make a difference with other students! I realized that this profession was the most satisfying and rewarding experience I could ever have, and I was willing to do anything to become a teacher!

After coming to this realization, I decided to take part in classes at UCR that would help me to reach my career goal. Education 3 and 4 gave me even more reason to continue. The experience I gained from being in the classroom was invaluable. The interaction with the students and other teachers in the different districts that I was placed helped me to become well-rounded and knowledgeable in the field of teaching. It helped me to solidify my aspirations and opened so many roads for me that I would have otherwise missed. Being in this class, I became a part of an excellent program called the Science and Mathematics Initiative (SMI) which provided excellent advising, mentoring, and support through stressful times. By way of this program, I have set a foundation for my future, and it is almost impossible for me not to succeed. This program also helped me learn about scholarships that I didn't even know existed!

The Noyce Scholarship was one in particular that was awarded to me last year. This has assisted me not only financially, but has opened even more doors to gaining teaching experience. I am able to continue to observe [and teach] more in the Moreno Valley district, and I continue to learn about how to teach in my field. I also have the opportunity to interact with several teachers in different content areas! This has all, in essence, given me so much experience and confidence that I am eager to begin teaching my own class!

**To future science/math teachers:** My advice is to go to SMI!! They will open so many avenues and opportunities for you and will help you succeed! You will be surrounded by people that believe in you and will help you in so many ways. I feel that if I wasn't a part of this program, I would not be where I am. I am three units away from graduating and I just applied for the Integrated Credential Program in the Spring. I was able to accomplish all of this after deciding to be a teacher my junior year. Yes, it was a little stressful. But, I don't regret any of the decisions I have made thus far. If I can do it, so can you! The art of teaching is very special and heart warming. If you feel like you were meant to be a teacher, take action!! I did, and it was so worth it! I have never been happier!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREDENTIALLED TEACHERS

### Apply for \$30,000 Grants

UCR Extension is accepting proposals from K-12 teachers who are currently teaching at public, private, and independent charter schools in one of four counties: Riverside, Orange, Imperial, and San Diego for the SCRIBES (South Counties Reform Initiative Benefiting Educators and Students) Project. The purpose of the SCRIBES Project is to offer up to \$30,000 over a two-year period to teams of 3 to 5 teachers to design their own professional development opportunities and to translate that experience into a classroom or school project that ultimately will lead to school reform. Possible uses for the award include paying for conferences, instructional materials and courses, such as the more than 800 offered through UCR Extension. Proposals will be reviewed by the SCRIBES Project Leadership Team using a holistic scoring methodology. The 24 highest ranked proposals will be recommended for funding.

Completed grant proposals are due February 1, 2011. To apply, please visit <http://www.extension.ucr.edu/scribes/>. Some quick steps to get started are:

- Develop an innovative idea
- Choose a team leader
- Outline a project plan
- Submit a completed proposal - Signature Page, Project Narrative, and Budget Page

UCR Extension will announce the grant winners by April 15.



### Summer Institute at UC Berkeley

Spend the summer doing laboratory research in a paid internship, and learn more about bringing the experimental and problem-solving skills that scientists and mathematicians use in their research into the K-12 classroom! We encourage you to apply to our Summer Institute 2011, which is a 9-week program from June 13-August 12. You will work full-time (40 hours/week) under the guidance of a researcher in a science laboratory or research group on or near the UC Berkeley campus, receive a housing allowance and stipend of \$5,000, and can get college course credit for a workshop series that helps you connect the advanced research concepts you will be learning in your lab with your future classroom teaching. Lab placements will be found for you that match your major and research interests.

#### Program Highlights:

- Conduct research at internationally-known, top-rate laboratories on or near the UC Berkeley campus (full-time 40 hours/week)
- Experience hands-on, inquiry-based science and math lessons at weekly seminars (option to earn 3 units credit for UC Berkeley Summer Sessions course UGIS 189)
- Learn to bring research skills acquired during your internship into a K-12 setting
- Create and present a poster demonstrating your research accomplishments, identify a lesson plan that aligns with your research, and assemble a digital portfolio that reflects on your summer research experience and future plans to teach
- Receive a housing allowance and stipend totaling \$5,000

Please fill out the application on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CTSI2011>. If you have questions, email us at [calteach@berkeley.edu](mailto:calteach@berkeley.edu) or phone 510-643-2921.

**There is a rolling admission policy; laboratories start offering placements on February 1, 2010, and continue to offer internships until all openings are filled (at the latest, mid-March)—so apply early!**

### A Transportation Solution

#### Rental Rates

- Annual Membership = \$35
- Weekday Rate = \$8/hour or \$66/day
- Weekend Rate = \$9/hour or \$72/day

#### Rental rates include

- gas
- insurance
- up to 180 driving miles

Unlike traditional rental cars, drivers only need to be 18 years of age (rather than 21). You can access Zipcars parked right on campus. To learn more about how you can sign up for Zipcar membership, please visit

<http://www.zipcar.com/ucr/>.

