

What's UP with UgsP?



Underrepresented
Graduate
Students in
Psychology

In This Issue:

- 1) Upcoming Events 2) Past Events 3) Student Spotlight

Upcoming Events

Social: Chipotle in the garden!

When? Friday 3/16, 4:30 - 6:30pm

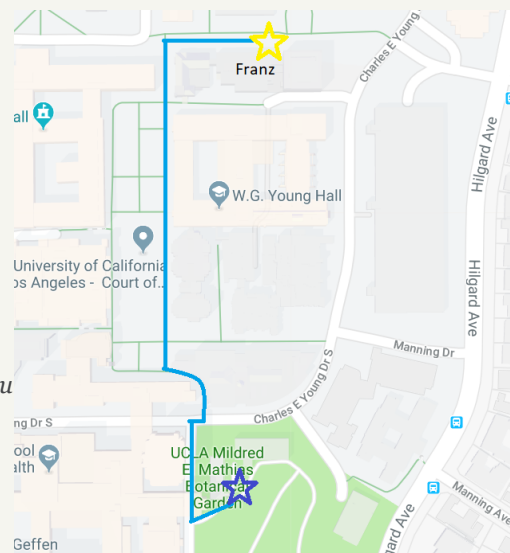
Where? Botanical Gardens Pavilion Courtyard (*see map for directions*)

What? Dinner (Chipotle), drinks, and friends!

Mental Health Brown Bag

Spring Quarter, Date TBD

We will be hosting a mental health panel this Spring! *If you have ideas for speakers or topics for this panel, please email us at ucla.ugsp@gmail.com!*



What's UGSP Been Up To?

Events this Quarter

1/23: Brown Bag: Navigating Community-Based Research in the Learning Sciences

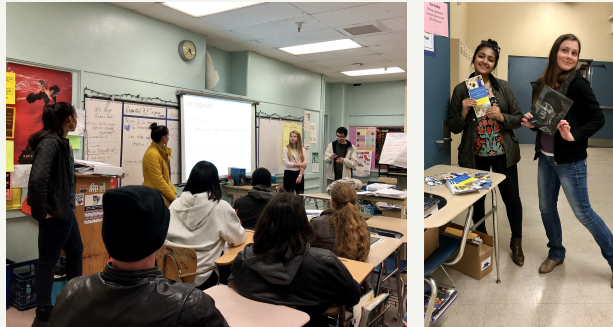
Dr. Ananda Marin, a professor from the School of Education, met with students to discuss community-based research. Dr. Marin studies culture, STEM education and how children and families reason and build knowledge about the natural world.

2/9: Black History Month Film Screening: I Am Not Your Negro

UGSP hosted a film screening and discussion of *I Am Not Your Negro* in commemoration of Black History Month. This was a great space for students to explore their identities, reflect on history, and discuss current social issues. *If you have suggestions for future film screenings, please email us at ucla.ugsp@gmail.com!*

2/21: High School Outreach at Venice High School

Our February outreach event at Venice High School was a huge success! In three breakout sessions, UGSP members presented tips for college planning to around 30 juniors and their parents. Thanks to all those who organized (ahem, Danny!), participated, and helped to carry out the UGSP mission. We're busy planning the spring outreach event; stay tuned for updates!



2/22: Brown Bag: Everything you always wanted to know about diversity in academia (but were afraid to ask!)

Dr. Yuen Huo, Professor in Social Psychology and the Chair of the Psychology Department's Diversity Issues Committee, shared her experiences going through the academic ladder as a woman of color and then facilitated a discussion for students to talk about their priorities for promoting diversity in the department and in the field of Psychology.

2/23: CV Workshop for Undergraduates in the Psychology Department

The Undergraduate Outreach Committee hosted a didactic seminar for undergraduate students regarding mechanics of CV writing. Afterwards, students were paired with a mentor who provided feedback on their CVs.



Blanche Wright

**2nd Year, Clinical Area, Diversity Issues Committee Student Representative, UGSP
Undergrad Outreach Committee Co-Chair**

Blanche Wright is a Los Angeles native and first-gen college graduate (UCLA), who has observed the lack of attention to mental health in her Latinx culture. Through the lens of Dissemination and Implementation Science, she works alongside Dr. Anna Lau to examine disparities that may exist in the quality of publicly-funded mental health care for Latinx youth and their parents. Facilitated by the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS)** program, Blanche has recently been matched with a career coach, Dr. Margarita Alegría (Massachusetts General Hospital; Harvard), who is a renowned disparities expert. In HPRS, Blanche is gaining leadership skills and didactic training in Public Health; she hopes to utilize her growing knowledge base in applied work that focuses on closing the research to policy gaps, improving the quality of care for Latinx families and ultimately, contributing to the progress of achieving mental health care equity. In the department, Blanche co-chairs **UGSP's Undergraduate Outreach Committee**, and feels honored to develop and host events for the undergraduate population that she once was a part of. She also is a student representative on the **Diversity Issues Committee**; currently, she is working with a small group of students to create a safe space to address the sociopolitical climate's growing impact. Next year, Blanche is excited to serve as a bilingual community therapist at **Children's Institute Inc.** and to give back to her hometown in a small albeit valuable way.



Gerald Higginbotham

2nd Year, Social Area, Diversity Issues Student Representative, UGSP Treasurer

I was born and raised in St. Louis, MO, but since high school, I have lived primarily in California. I've lived as far north as the Bay for undergrad to Long Beach for the two years I worked between undergrad and grad school. I am now a second-year in the Social area working with Dr. Tiffany Brannon. Broadly, I am interested in how cultural representations (e.g., in media, history) shape self and identity from an intragroup perspective and can shape perceptions of others from an intergroup perspective, with a particular focus on educational contexts.

I would argue that my focus on representation and its relevance to identity is linked to my mentorship experiences. Throughout undergrad and graduate school, I have done my best to share my path and help illuminate the educational and career possibilities for younger students. Last summer, I had the great opportunity to collaborate with a **UCLA Vice Provost initiative program** that focuses on increasing Black and Latino high school students' exposure and access to college. I was able to talk to the high school scholars about how psychology research can be used to

understand issues they are passionate about and that they view as relevant to their communities. Now, in terms of my interest in the intergroup aspects of representation, I can point to the specific origin. I had very early experiences in my undergraduate education that illustrated why representation matters. Coming from a majority Black community in St. Louis, I was surprised that many of my new undergrad peers had few, if any, Black friends at home. Most shocking to me at the time however, was that my peers had well-(mis)informed ideas about “what Black people are like,” rooted in the representations to which they had been exposed (e.g., media) or not exposed (e.g., Black history).

Thus, I do think it is vital to consider and seek to understand what representation means for both in-group and out-group members, as well as the implications for intergroup interactions. In collaboration with my advisor, I am excited to continue exploring these ideas in my primary projects, such as my work related to Black male achievement.

Recent relevant articles:

From backlash to inclusion for all: Instituting diversity efforts to maximize benefits across group lines. (2018). *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 12(1), 57-90.

Selves in contact: How integrating perspectives on sociocultural selves and intergroup contact can inform theory and application on reducing inequality. (2017). *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 11(7).

*Have you or a student in the department done something in line with diversity or support for underrepresented student? Wrote an article? Won an award?
Participated in a program or event? Whatever it is,
**Send in suggestions for our next Student Spotlight! Send submissions to
ucla.ugsp@gmail.com***



FACEBOOK



WEBSITE

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