



Center for Educational Partnerships

University of California, Berkeley

For Immediate Release
August 3, 2007

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Top Community College Students Test Their Wings at Cal Experience of Transfer Students Among Topics Studied

(August 3, 2007, Berkeley CA) Nine community college students selected from across California to conduct intensive summer research with UC Berkeley faculty are presenting their results in the inaugural Transfer Alliance Project Research Colloquium hosted by the University's Center for Educational Partnerships from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm on Thursday, August 9, 2007 in the Howard Room of the Faculty Club on campus.

UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau said, "I congratulate these talented students and I especially want to thank the seven UC Berkeley faculty members (including one emeritus!) who have donated their time and expertise to supervise and mentor these talented students this summer. We are delighted that 95% of this year's Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Alliance Project Scholars who applied to Cal were admitted for this fall (35 of 37).

"It is particularly important that Berkeley, as one of the world's premier universities and California's flagship public university, play a leading role in preparing students for higher education. As a historical center for social justice, we have a responsibility to give back to the community," observed Chancellor Birgeneau.

The ten stellar programs of the Center for Educational Partnerships help students overcome significant barriers to higher education. In particular, the Transfer Alliance Project (TAP) provides personalized assistance at twenty-two northern and seven southern California community colleges to prepare low-income and educationally disadvantaged students to be competitive applicants for transfer to UC Berkeley and other higher education institutions. TAP staff members use one-to-one advising to help students design individualized course plans, constantly track and monitor students' academic progress, engage in appropriate

interventions and referrals, and assist with applications for transfer admissions and financial aid.

Through the generosity of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (JKC), starting in 2006 TAP is expanding to serve an additional 500 community college students; providing summer academic enrichment opportunities at Cal; extending successful peer mentoring projects, and developing a new academic major/career pathway educational campaign for prospective students and community college staff.

The nine students conducted research on a wide range of disciplines, including the experience of transfer students at Cal (as they all hope to be). At least one student, Fadi Almachraki, will be listed as a significant contributor to their faculty mentor's next journal article, while another, Cesario Julaton III, has been invited to continue working on his research project at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab this fall.

“Please join me in honoring these students, their UCB faculty mentors and innovative program like CEP's Transfer Alliance Project,” concluded Chancellor Birgeneau. “Together we can provide even more students with the skills and help they need to flourish and thrive as leaders in our communities.”

Summer research projects were coordinated and facilitated by Patricia Y.C.E. Lin, Ph.D., TAP Research Coordinator. Students, their mentors and areas of research are listed below:

Sohir Albgal, Contra Costa College (San Pablo)
Professor Rudy Mendoza-Denton & Ms. Sereeta Alexander (Ph.D. Candidate), Psychology
Project Topic: “Methods in Quantifying Qualitative Data: Coding the Transitional Experiences of Transfer Students.” Ms. Albgal and Mr. Tran and will make a joint presentation of their research.

Fadi Almachraki, Cerritos College (Norwalk)
Dr. Koohong Chung, Transportation Safety Center/Civil Engineering
Project Topic: “Transportation Engineering: Definitions, Principles, and Alternative Methods for Safety Improvement”

Janice Ang, East Los Angeles College (Monterey Park)
Professor Robert Harris (emeritus), Business
Project Topic: “Raising Auto Fuel Excise Taxes to Combat Global Warming”

Christopher Brooks, Chabot College (Hayward)

Dr. Marshall Foletta, History

Project Topic: "The Short Life of Brook Farm: Fourierism and the Decline of a Utopian Community"

Thomas Howard Carter, Pasadena City College (Pasadena)

Professor Robert Harris (emeritus), Business

Project Topic: "Emergence of Social Networking Sites in the Internet Economy"

Daniel Duque-Estrada, Diablo Valley College (Pleasant Hill)

Professor Genaro Padilla, English

Project Topic: "Cuba and the Exile Condition: A Survey of Cuban-American Culture Through the Post-Castro Generations"

Korina Guzman, El Camino College (Torrance)

Dr. Amanda Reiman, Psychology/Social Welfare/Public Health

Project Topic: "The Co-Occurrence of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment"

Cesario Julaton III, Diablo Valley College (Pleasant Hill)

Professor Oscar Dubon & Ms. Kirstin Alberi (Ph.D. Candidate), Materials Science & Engineering and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Project Topic: "Fabrication of p-type ZnO (Zinc Oxide)"

Mikey Quang Tran, Contra Costa College (San Pablo)

Professor Rudy Mendoza-Denton & Ms. Sereeta Alexander (Ph.D. Candidate), Psychology

Project Topic: "Methods in Quantifying Qualitative Data: Coding the Transitional Experiences of Transfer Students." Mr. Tran and Ms. Albgal will make a joint presentation of their research.

About the Center for Educational Partnerships' Transfer Alliance Project:

Since its founding in 1999, the TRANSFER ALLIANCE PROJECT (TAP) has served 3,000 students. In recent years, TAP applicants to Cal have been admitted at a rate three times that of transfer applicants overall. These students have accounted for more than 20% of all under-represented transfer students at Cal during this period. TAP students have received numerous scholarships including National Science Foundation awards, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarships and UC Berkeley Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarships. For further information, contact Marsha Jaeger, Director of the Center for Educational Partnerships or Keith Schoon, Director of TAP. <http://students.berkeley.edu/apa/>

About the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation:

The JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION is a private, independent foundation established in 2000 by the estate of Jack Kent Cooke to help young people of exceptional promise reach their full potential through education. It focuses in particular on students with financial need. The Foundation's programs include scholarships to undergraduate, graduate, and high-school students and grants to organizations that serve high-achieving students with financial need. For further information contact, Matthew Quinn, Executive Director or Emily Froimson, Director, Higher Education Program. www.jackkentcookefoundation.org

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