

ASUC Newsletter

by the Office of the President

Inaugural Edition

March 13, 2009

ASUC President: Roxanne Winston
OP Chief of Staff: Grace McCullough
OP Newsletter Editor: Stefan Montouth

Welcome Bears!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the ASUC Newsletter by the Office of the President. We hope that you will enjoy this and will continue to view our newsletters in the future. The vision that the Office of the President has for this newsletter is to become more transparent to our fellow students. We want to make sure that all students have access to this newsletter so they know what their student government is doing for them. Our overall goal for this newsletter is to have as many ASUC officers, senators, and student organizations as possible to join and provide information about the events and projects that they are working on.

We also would like to include some fun features to this newsletter so that it is not just words on paper (or computer screen). In this edition, we have something called the OP Playlist in which members of the Office of the President provide their favorite song of the week. More features will be added to future editions.

If you have any suggestions or comments about this newsletter we welcome them. Please email any comments or suggestions to our OP Newsletter Editor, Stefan Montouth (smontouth@berkeley.edu). We are open to making any improvements. We really hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Sincerely,
Office of the President

Table of Contents...

Page 2	Calendar of Events OP Playlist of the Week
Page 3	Mental Health Awareness Week
Page 4	The Berkeley Project Message from Senator Tara Raffi
Page 5	Message from Senator Sarah Cho Message from Senator Tu Tran
Page 6	Message from Senator Christina Oatfield
Page 7	Letter from the Editor

UC Berkeley Calendar of Events

					March 13 -First OP Newsletter	14
15	16	17 Mental Health Awareness Week (OP)	18 Mental Health Awareness Week (OP)	19 Mental Health Awareness Week (OP)	20 Last Day of School before Spring Break!	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	S	P	R	I	N	G
	B	R	E	A	K	!
29	30	31	April 1	2	3	4
					-Second OP Newsletter - Last Day to change classes from Letter grade to P/NP	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

OP Playlist of the Week...

OP-er	SONG	ARTIST
Stefan Montouth:	Let It Rock	Kevin Rudolph
Grace McCullough:	Beautiful	Christina Aguilera
Carmen Sze:	Show Me What I'm Looking For	Carolina Liar
Lean Deleon:	This is the Way I Live	Baby Boy
Krystie Mak:	Chasing Pavements	Adele
Marlena Reimer:	Twice	Little Dragon
Rachel Fryke:	DJ DJ	Zion I
Tulsi Patel	Back to the Start	Lily Allen
Romina Keshishyan	Beggin	Madcon

Presidential Project

Mental Health Awareness Week

March 17-19

Explanation of the event:

Mental Health Awareness Week was something taken on by the Office of the President as our Presidential Project. With this event we plan to raise awareness of the causes and the effects of Mental Health and how things like stress, sleep deprivation, and other things factor into the lives of a college student. We will provide resources that inform students on both causes and prevention of some of these mental health conditions. The list of events is below.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Presented by the ASUC Office of the President

March 17-19

Mission: To raise awareness of causes and effects of Mental Health Issues

**ADA accessible

Tuesday (3/17)

→ Yoga:6-7pm (TBA)

Wednesday (3/18)

→ “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” movie and Discussion (8-10:30pm @ 174 Barrows

→ Meditation: 5-6pm (283 Dwinelle)

→

Thursday (3/19)

→ Student Panel w/ Performances

(A chance to discuss factors of MHA; entertainment will be provided for mind stimulation)

→ 5:30-7:30 pm Senate Lounge (2nd Flr Eshelman)

The Berkeley Project

The Berkeley Project, a student run organization at UC Berkeley, is focused on bridging the gap between the Cal student body and the city of Berkeley through large scale community service events. Founded in 2006, The Berkeley Project has continued to build strong, sustainable partnerships with community organizations and has hosted its two annual events—Berkeley Project Day (fall) and Berkeley Project Month (spring)—for the past three years. Fully student operated and supported, The Berkeley Project not only provides assistance to the public but aims to create a lasting culture of service among its participants.

***Our ultimate goal is to create a network of service activities which serves the needs of Berkeley and its residents and creates a single community under the Cal campus and residents of Berkeley. Because the campus population is so large, Cal students have a big impact on the city of Berkeley. The Berkeley Project was created with the idea that the dynamic energy in the student body has the power to effect ongoing change in the community. ***

This Saturday (March 14), The Berkeley Project will be hosting its last service day, of three (totaling 300 volunteers), that comprise BP Month 2009. Projects spanning the three service days include (but are not limited to) landscaping, cleaning up parks, visiting libraries, and going to youth centers and homeless shelters. The Berkeley Project has been partnering and working closely with over 50 community organizations to plan this event.

In the fall The Berkeley Project is aiming to send out around 2,000 volunteers into the surrounding community for Berkeley Project Day on October 10, 2009. If you are interested in helping organize BP Day, please check our website at www.berkeleyproject.org and feel free to contact us at info@berkeleyproject.org. If you are a prospective volunteer, please check our website to for more information and registration updates.

Message from Senator Tara Raffi:

Dear UC Berkeley Students,

I would like to draw to your attention to constitutional amendments that are going to be in the ballot during the regular elections this spring. Three of these amendments aim to make the use of student money more democratic by raising the number of student signatures required to mandate the expenditure of funds on a recall election and to put an amendment or proposition on the ballot.

It is every student's privilege and responsibility to vote on such an important change in the ASUC constitution and I strongly encourage you to read the voter's guide carefully and research the issues as needed. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at tararaffi@asuc.org .

Message from Senator Sarah Cho

The Advocacy Issue Committee #2

Survey to Enhance Academic Opportunities at UC Berkeley
Help the ASUC better serve you!

The Advocacy Committee for Short and Long Range Academic Resources Improvement and Security of Employment is seeking student feedback on their academic experiences at UC Berkeley. The committee plans to implement projects and initiatives by taking into account student needs as specifically indicated in survey.

Take the survey HERE http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=f2tkkzOfOW14K1ppGu2Rfw_3d_3d and have your voice heard.

Message from Senator Tu Tran

Student Life Portal

The Student Life Portal is an effort to streamline web systems including CLL, ASUC, ASUC Auxiliary, and more into one, stop-shop, site for the students use to find out about events, connect with other student groups and initiatives, access resources, and for student group leaders to manage their organizations' logistics. As of now, the ASUC and CLL are collaborating to host a series of feedback sessions where we hope to receive student input on this project and influence the future of these systems.

Please email studentportal2009@gmail.com to get involved.

Textbook Affordability

By April 15, faculty needs to submit their book list/adoptions to the ASUC Bookstore in order to allow the bookstore to buyback books from the students and attain more used books for consumption. Please email tutran@asuc.org if you are interested in joining the textbook affordability team. The team will communicate directly with professors the need for increased adoptions while working to figure out a more permanent solution for affordable textbooks.

Bear's Lair Vendors Business Proposals

Current Bear's Lair vendors will be bidding for their space soon; these businesses could use a lot of help and support, especially from business-minded students, to write competitive proposals. If you are interested in consulting for these businesses, please help them and send your statement of interests along with a resume to yishi@asuc.org or tutran@asuc.org.

Message from Senator Christina Oatfield

Cooperative Movement Party ASUC Senator Christina Oatfield's mission is to promote the cooperative values of democracy, equality, transparency, honesty and concern for community--especially through grassroots environmental sustainability initiatives--on our campus.

Projects:

Supporting Environmental Sustainability Initiatives:

- Financially supporting environmentalist student groups
- Writing a "Green Event Toolkit" for the ASUC Grants Program to encourage the greening of student group events and provide resources for them through the process
- advocating for stronger sustainability criteria in the business contracts of the Lower Sproul area
- aiding bicycling initiatives through funding and advocacy on an administrative level

Devising a Plan for a Student Run Food Co-op on or near campus:

Supporting a "think tank" group of students who are working on a proposal for a cooperatively run natural foods cafe and grocery store in Lower Sproul, run by students and recent alumni.

Fighting Fast Food and Greenwashing in the ASUC:

Organizing against the plans to bring Panda Express to campus and promoting the implementation of the boldest and most effective sustainability policies possible

Advocating for more Oversight and Democracy in the University of California:

- Working with the ASUC Sustainability Team and Graduate Assembly on a proposal for creating a Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investment Advisory Committee that would research UC Berkeley's financial investments and make recommendations on how to handle them more ethically
- the establishment of a Department Of Energy Laboratory Oversight Commission (DOE LOC) within the ASUC to raise awareness about the research that goes on in the Department of Energy labs with which the UC is affiliated
- providing seed funding and advocating publicly for the Democratize the Regents student organization and related student initiatives to campaign for a more democratically selected UC Board of Regents

Letter from the Editor

Hello,

My name is Stefan Montouth and I will be your editor for this ASUC newsletter. As stated in the welcome note, the vision of the Office of the President is to be more transparent about the things that we are doing in our office. We thought that this newsletter would be a great outlet for the students of UC Berkeley to know exactly what their student government is doing for them. We welcome any ASUC officer, senator, or even student organizations to join us in giving Cal students a way to know what's going on. Our next edition will be the Friday after Spring Break April 3. If you wish to have something posted please email your information to me by Wednesday April 1.

We look forward to expanding our newsletter with your help.

Thanks,

Stefan Montouth

OP Newsletter Editor
Office of the President
1st Year, Political Science
smontouth@berkeley.edu

Inaugural Edition: March 13, 2009

Next Edition: April 3, 2009

Due Date for Content Postings: April 1, 2009