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Alpha Gamma Sigma

OMEGA CHAPTER



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back to our second newsletter! In this issue, you would have a chance to look at some of the different experiences from past Alpha Gamma Sigma officers during their time at AGS and check out some of their valuable advices for students who plan on transferring to a four-year university.

Our past officers in this edition transferred to schools such as UCLA and UC Berkeley. Dive deeper by learning how being part of AGS has helped them develop certain skills, read about the fun memories that they still cherish till this day, and take a peek at any challenges that they may have faced and how they conquered it. Thank you so much for reading and I hope you enjoy!

Interview with Avery Biskup

by Lucy Tu
Special Thanks to Avery

Avery Biskup was a former student at the City College of San Francisco and held the position of a Community Service Coordinator for Alpha Gamma Sigma back in 2019 to 2020. Being a Community Service Coordinator is similar to being a bookkeeper, except it records are for service hours. But a Community Service Coordinator is more than just keeping track of every individual's service hours. It's also about giving back to the community through charitable acts of kindness out of the goodness of one's heart.

During Avery's time at Alpha Gamma Sigma, his favorite memories are working at all the volunteering events. He said, "these events bring you and your fellow members together more than anything school-related. As a previous Community Service Coordinator, it was so nice to hear how thankful the non-profits that we volunteered for were. One of the most fun moments though, was serving Japanese food at an event in Japan Town. At the end, there was plenty of leftovers that all the AGS Members got to enjoy.



Avery Biskup

Another fun event that Avery enjoyed was the Chess event at the airport. He said that seeing all the geniuses playing chess was really fun!

Looking back at his time with Alpha Gamma Sigma, the most valuable skill Avery learned was communication. He emphasized that it's especially important to maintain a constant communication channel within a team, and beyond that is getting to know your team. In addition, he also expressed that it's a lot more fun to be part of something when you think of your collaborators as friends.

Life seems great for Avery as he is currently a senior at the University of California, Los Angeles. His major is computer science, which is something he is very passionate about. Avery is also excited that he will be graduating this Winter.

And for students who plan on transferring to a four-year university, Avery's advice is, "It's sort of a dull answer unfortunately, but I'd say getting a very high GPA is imperative. If you want to attend one of the more selective schools (UCs) this is very important, but if you don't care for that sort of thing, I'd say spend more time on making lasting connections while at CC (community college)."

One last thing before ending this interview, Avery would like to say to the current officers at AGS, "Get to know the other officers as well as possible!"

Who Is Julissa Martinez-Salinas?

*by Lucy Siu
Special Thanks to Jullie*

Julissa Martinez-Salinas was the former President of Alpha Gamma Sigma from 2021-2022. As a former President of Alpha Gamma Sigma, Julissa a.k.a Jullie, chaired all the meetings and was the glue to holding the pieces (team) together so that the officer team was working well. During her term at Alpha Gamma Sigma, meetings were held remotely, so communication among the team members were limited via virtually. Although attending virtual events was a barrier to meeting each other face-to-face, Jullie's favorite event that she enjoyed doing with her team was playing Jeopardy in their retreats.

Before ending her last term as the President of Alpha Gamma Sigma in the Spring of 2022, Jullie's favorite moment was getting to meet every one of her officer team members in-person for the first time. The officer team went out to have a meal together at a Korean BBQ place to celebrate the work that they've put into Alpha Gamma Sigma and to say one last goodbye before each of them part ways into their new journey in life.

On the fall of 2022, Jullie transferred and started her studies in Economics and Data Science at the University of California, Berkeley as a junior standing student. Besides working hard towards her academic goals, she still makes time trying out different clubs on campus which she describes as "cool" like BridgeUSA. And she also joined a sorority.



One piece of advice she left for students who plans on transferring to a four-year university to continue pursuing their higher education is that, "Don't dwell on having the best grades and make sure your essays highlight who you are, and what your goals are! Be yourself!"

Reflecting back on her experience at Alpha Gamma Sigma, Jullie said, "I learned some amazing leadership skills, being able to lead a team and execute projects together is a difficult thing, but it was easier because I had a group of amazing officers!"

Lastly, Jullie wants the current officer team to know that, "Alpha Gamma Sigma helped me get to where I am now, I hope you all are working hard and building friendships at the same time. A lot of the officers and I still talk and we hang out at Berkley so please be open!"



Meet Cristian Ruiz

by Lucy Tu

Special Thanks to Cristian

Cristian Ruiz was the former President of Alpha Gamma Sigma serving the term from 2020-2021. Before we get to the good part, I want to thank Cristian Ruiz for taking some time out of his busy schedule for this little interview. I appreciate it very much and hope that his words speaks to you as much as it did to me in a meaningful and insightful way.

Let's begin!

What are you currently up to? Are you still continuing your studies in higher education or in the pursuit of any profession?

I am currently in my fourth year at UCLA, and being a full-time student in my fourth year, academics take up most of my time. That being said, I still find time to participate in extracurricular activities within my school and I am actually in two student jobs this year. As for my educational path, I am majoring in English and minoring in Education with the hopes of pursuing a career in higher education.

Did you learn anything valuable from AGS that you'll like to share with us?

The most valuable lesson learned during my time as President would have to be the true importance of great leadership. Without a great leader, the organization could have not been as successful. I also in no way claim all efforts to be mine. I was so grateful for the team I had as well as our advisor. I also learned that although many may be a part of AGS to improve their admission rate, a group like CCSF's AGS is more than a resume buff, but rather an actual community everlasting beyond an educational trajectory. Simply put, we ended up being friends.

What was it like being the President of Alpha Gamma Sigma? Tell us a bit about your role and were there any ups and downs?

My role as President was to serve as a facilitator during both general body and officer meetings. I feel my most significant responsibility was the retention and delegation of my officers within their specific titles and roles. I also tried my best to be a resource and go-to person for general members for anything relating to the general honors society. I became AGS President by the end of my first year at CCSF and served until I transferred. Highlights included the leadership experience, the long-term contribution to CCSF, and the networking with my fellow transferred peers. Some laws during the position would have to deal with time management, stress, and even burnout. I don't think student leaders talk enough about the downside to these heavy positions but I was lucky enough to persist and achieve my goals, nonetheless, I'd be more than happy to dive deeper into the trials and tribulations it takes to be a student leader in many spaces.

Are there any favorite moments or memories you have about AGS?

Some of my favorite memories occurred during the AGS Officer Cabinet meetings. I felt that we had a well-built cohort of student leaders that individually contributed to the success of our AGS Chapter. Aside from conducting business, our officer team partook in group bonding activities such as weekend retreats or secret Santa gift exchanges during the holidays. Speaking of holidays, another favorite memory of mine is our GB Halloween meeting where everyone dressed up at home or created virtual spooky backgrounds. The entirety of my presidency was during the pandemic, therefore, restricted us from every meeting in person, but even then, I am extremely proud of the retention and engagement we maintained throughout the year! Lastly, how can I not mention Dr. Reyes when talking about my favorite aspects of AGS, our advisor Dr. Reyes was a great mentor and I was lucky enough to have had a few in-person discussions during my time at CCSF. Our chapter was a community of support and encouragement, we celebrated one another's accomplishments and served a purpose to the greater CCSF community.

And how about events? Is there any events you enjoyed doing with your AGS team?

Since our team was virtual, I'd have to say I enjoyed any social, retreat, or non-business related meetings we had where we simply just got to know each other better. It was honestly a fulfilling time at the end of the year after admissions came out and we all knew where we were going. I was extremely proud of every single officer and I'm glad we did secret Santa because it gave me the opportunity to meet everyone in person for the first time, even if it was for no more than ten seconds!

As a transfer student yourself, what advice do you have for students who plan on transferring to a 4-year university?

In my experience, I truly believe that 4-year university admissions seek out students who they believe will be a beneficial asset to their institution. This means they are analyzing beyond the "well-rounded" student. Admission officers want to be able to envision you as an enrolled -----

---student that will continue to grow and contribute to the 'community' in whichever intersection you may offer. My advice would be to check all the boxes but at the same time do not forget about individuality and the unique perspective only you can offer. This is another topic I would not hesitate to assist with if anyone wanted to reach out but one last piece of advice I do want students to keep in mind is, do not to stress. Do not jeopardize your mental health in these competitive, quick pace and cutthroat environments. "This will all be worth it" only applies if you are well enough to finish. Once again, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or just want to hear more about my advice.

What major did you pursue after transferring to UCLA and any minors? And did you continue to participate in extracurricular activities after transferring?

I am majoring in English, Education Studies Minor. I have been a part of many extracurricular activities after transferring. Many have to relate to my cultural identity, such as MEChA de UCLA, a social and political organization that serves a great body of Latinx students. Grupo Folklorico is a traditional dance group that showcases all regions of Mexican folk dance. Some of my academia-based clubs include The Bruin Polyglot society, an organization that hosts multilingual students from all backgrounds and majors. Lastly, the California Community College Partnership at UCLA is a scholarship program that assists California Community College students in Southern California with their transfer process to UC.

Lastly, what would you like to say to the current officers at AGS?

Good luck! Don't forget to make something of your time at CCSF. I know many of you just want to transfer but this time spent at community college is still a part of your college experience! Go to that one club, eat at the cafeteria, go to Unity Day but most importantly tell Dr. Reyes I said "Hi" and also GO BRUINS!

Catch Up with Kristin Tam

*by Lucy Tu with help from Michelle Ho
Special Thanks to Kristin*

Meet Kristin Tam, who was one of the community service coordinator for Alpha Gamma Sigma during the academic year of 2021-2022. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma for three semesters at the City College of San Francisco. Kristin transferred to UC Davis majoring in biological sciences and also hope to minor in wildlife, fish, and conservation biology.

We asked Kristin why should you join AGS, so here's why:

I joined AGS because I was looking for a community to be a part of. It was a great way to feel connected to CCSF and students as well as make friends. I'm so thankful that I joined AGS and made some really great friends. AGS also has community service and workshops to help with transferring. So if any of these interests you, I definitely recommend joining AGS!

What was your favorite memory of Alpha Gamma Sigma at CCSF?

My favorite memory of AGS was when we played jeopardy in one of our general meetings last spring. It was fun to see groups working together and showing their competitiveness. We had many laughs and had a great time.

How was your experience after transferring to UC Davis?

My experience after transferring was really smooth! I know that I was worried about the transition from the semester to the quarter system but like many others, I actually really like it so far! It is definitely a change of pace but it's a good one. We get midterms about every 3 weeks and it can really sneak up on you if you fall behind. I also met a lot of friends within the same major during orientation and we've been friends since. People at Davis are really friendly (one of the main factors why I chose Davis) and the college town vibe here is great.

Do you have any advice for students who plan on transferring to a four-year university?

You've probably heard this many times but make sure to meet with counselors! I met with them at least once every semester to make sure that I was still on track to transfer. I also found meetings with transfer counselors from the schools you are interested in to be really helpful. They can tell you about specific requirements that their school may have.

If you can, I really recommend visiting the campuses you are interested in or doing research online. When I visited the campuses, I discovered that they all had different environments and feels to them. This was one of the major factors I considered when deciding where I wanted to transfer to.

Also, don't forget to take care of yourself and take all the time you need. You got this!

