

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, &
INCLUSION COMMITTEE

UPDATE

FALL 2024
EDITION

Below are highlights from the DEI Committee during the past quarter.
Wishing you all a great end to Fall 2024!

UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING ASSISTANT (ULA) PROGRAM DR. RENEE HOUSTON



Congratulations to Dr. Houston for her outstanding work in developing the Undergraduate Learning Assistant (ULA) Program, which now supports all four pre-COMM courses.

From hiring and training 14 ULAs to developing their skills in peer support, Dr. Houston has made a lasting impact on student success!

THANK YOU, DR. HOUSTON!

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS ALTER



This was our first year showcasing a beautiful Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) altar in the Comm advising office.

The Comm department came together to celebrate this Mexican holiday that honors deceased loved ones. Kudos to the advising office for thoughtfully putting this together.

THANK YOU, SAL!

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS DR. YOUNG JI KIM

Dr. Kim partnered with the Alumni Council to establish scholarships to financially support undergraduate students who seek to pursue unpaid internships with non-profit organizations. The Council agreed to support the first undergraduate internship scholarship of \$2500, and to provide two scholarships, totaling \$5,000, in subsequent years!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, DR. KIM!

PAHL SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION BY DR. JENNIFER KAM



As the 4th awardee of the University's Pahl Center for the Study of Critical Social Issues, Dr. Kam presented findings from in-depth research with migrant families to understand the challenges they face during migration-based separation and how they collaborate to navigate its ups and downs.

Dr. Kam led a large collaborative and community-centered team effort involving several graduate and undergraduate students, as well as community stakeholders. Various policy and practical implications emergent from this research were also discussed at the symposium.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. KAM!

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SOVANNIE LEN

Our grad student Sovannie recently presented her work, "Diverse Entertainment Media for Ethnic-Racial Socialization: An Initial Guide for Families," at the Top Student Paper panel in Family Communication at NCA.

This work explores the role that ethnic-racial socialization plays in intergroup relations, and how diverse entertainment media can facilitate intergroup harmony.



CONGRATS, SOVANNIE!

UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Our annual Transfer Student Networking event, put on by the Communication Alumni Council, was a success this Fall!

This event brought together third-year Communication transfer students to connect with alumni, advisors, and peers to ease their transition into student life at UCSB.



Our undergraduate peer advisor, Gia Guerrero, recently wrote about this event in a UCSB blog post (find it [here](#))

DEI GOALS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR

- Evaluating and expanding the Buddy Program
- Finalizing the 5-year DEI Strategic Plan
- Updating the DEI resource contact list
- Initiating partnership with the undergraduate COMM Association
- Streamlining the DEI-specific details on the department website

If you have any ideas for future projects you would like the DEI Committee to take up, please contact the interim DEI Committee Chair Walid Afifi at w-afifi@ucsb.edu