OSC staff and collaborators at the inaugural FirstGen Scholars Welcome.
About the Center

The ONDAS Student Center promotes the success and retention of first-generation college students with an emphasis on the first year transition and underrepresented student experience. We provide mentoring and academic support in a learning-centered space for students to connect with faculty, staff, and peers in order to grow personally and excel academically.

The 2017-2018 academic year marks the first full year of operation for the Center since opening our doors in 2016. During this time, the ONDAS Student Center expanded our programming options as well as the number of collaborations with faculty, academic departments, and campus services to best serve our student population. The Center and the resources we make available have been promoted widely across different campus communities.

Location: Kerr Hall 1150

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm

2017-2018 Staff

Director: Malaphone Phommasa

Student Activities Coordinators: Stephanie Ramos, Yasmine Dominguez-Whitehead

Undergraduate Programs Assistant: Francesca Palermino

Graduate Student Mentors: Ana Guerrero, Mario Espinoza, Natasha Moore, Sruthi Swami

Peer Mentors: Sergio Conde, Gabrielle Felder, Alissa Gomez, Sergio Hernandez, Michelle Ho, Nina Masjedi, Christina Padilla, Cassidy Pyle, Kennady Reason, Nicole Sun

Top row: Gabrielle Felder, Sergio Hernandez, Christina Padilla, Sergio Conde, Kennady Reason, Stephanie Ramos, Alissa Gomez
Bottom row: Nina Masjedi, Nicole Sun, Michelle Ho, Malaphone Phommasa, Cassidy Pyle (Photo credit: Kate von der Lieth)
Students visited the ONDAS Student Center **5.1** times on average!

**Who’s using the Center?**

- Freshman-Admit: 76.7%
- Transfer-Admit: 22%
- Unknown: 1.4%
- Continuing-Generation: 47%
- First-Generation: 53%

**What are they using it for?**

- Study Space: 3,187
- Printing: 2,585
- Office Hours: 1,321
- Programs & Workshops: 467
- General Questions/Advice: 341
- *L&S Academic Advising: 181

*Chart indicates number of visits for each type of service.

*L&S Academic Advising in the ONDAS Student Center began Winter quarter
#FIRSTGEN SCHOLARS WELCOME

The inaugural #FirstGen Scholars Welcome was held during the Week of Welcome to celebrate UCSB’s incoming class of first-generation college students. This campus-wide celebration gathered over 150 student attendees and 40 first-gen faculty and staff mentors. The event showed students that they have a built-in first-gen community at UCSB that they can access for support during their time here.

Students benefited from the resource fair, table discussions regarding a variety of university life aspects, game cards to connect students to each other and to mentors, and free academic planners to set students up for success. The excitement was palpable.

The event was generously sponsored by the Division of Undergraduate Education, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Educational Opportunity Program, Transfer Student Center, and ONDAS Student Center.

OFFICE HOURS IN THE OSC

The ONDAS Student Center values and promotes the importance of office hours for academic support and building student-faculty relationships. This is especially important for first-generation college students who are beginning to build their understanding of higher education and post-graduate opportunities. Offering office hours in the OSC is beneficial for students who may be intimidated by the uncertainty of how office hours work, and it also offers an opportunity for students to connect with their classmates in a new study space. We offer a larger space to accommodate groups of students or the conference room for a quieter setting.

2017-2018 Participating Faculty & Teaching Assistants

Dr. Paul Atzberger
Dr. Cindy Benelli
Dr. Javier Birchenall
Dr. Maribel Bueno
Michael Dannhauser
Dr. Darby Feldwinn
Dr. Morgan Gainer
Dr. Steve Gaulin
Dr. Tamsin German
Yunuen Gomez
Dr. Lalo Gonzalez
Michelle Grue
Dr. John Hartman
Dr. Justin Kelz
Dr. Bryanna Kunkel
Dr. Georgios Koutroulakis
Alice Lepissier
Dr. Holly Moeller
Dr. Javier Read de Alaniz
Dr. Doug Thrower
Rui Wang
Dr. Lizzy Wilbanks
Dr. Mike Wilton
Table Talk dinners, which are part of our Faculty Mentoring Program, support sustained engagement between students and faculty members, allow students to access faculty mentors, and provide opportunities for students to learn more about an academic discipline. These dinners are made possible through a partnership between the ONDAS Student Center and the Educational Opportunity Program.

The program pairs one faculty member volunteer with five to seven students for a quarter-long group mentoring relationship. The groups meet over three dinners in the ONDAS Student Center and are encouraged to access the networks they have built in the years to come. Students and faculty participants have reported overwhelmingly positive experiences.

**Student experiences:**

"I was inspired by [faculty member] but also by my fellow student participants. I looked forward to each dinner and always found the topic to be of interest. In the next year, I will be working as a Research Assistant for [faculty member], which I was not at all expecting, but am extremely grateful for."

"Honestly, it has been the best experience! I really enjoyed getting insight on how to approach my major and not only that but to start getting an idea of what I want to do in the future. [Faculty member] opened my mind to the many possibilities that I had shut down before, like grad school. I also got helpful advice from the other students who were older than me so they had all gone through what I'm currently going through."

**Faculty experiences:**

"The five students were just great people. I plan to keep in touch with them all as they move forward at UCSB."

"The students were fantastic: bright, curious, eager. Speaking with them about their interests and goals was uplifting. The ONDAS space is very nice, too."

Thank you to our 2017-2018 faculty mentors!

- Dr. Tammy Afifi, Department of Communication
- Dr. Joseph Blankholm, Department of Religious Studies
- Dr. Dan Conroy-Beam, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences
- Dr. Sathya Guruswamy, Department of Physics
- Dr. Evelyne Laurent-Perrault, Department of History
- Dr. Ana Requeña-Johnson, Department of Spanish & Portuguese
- Dr. Richard Wittman, Department of History of Art & Architecture
FIRESIDE CHATS

Faculty-student interactions outside of the formal classroom create opportunities for students to learn about academia, become more comfortable interacting with faculty, and gain advice on navigating university life. Fireside Chats were created in order to foster such opportunities.

The Fireside Chats series is made possible through collaborative efforts between the ONDAS Student Center and the Residence Halls Association. The series provides a space for students and faculty members to meet over dinner and engage in lively conversation. During these encounters renowned faculty members recount stories about their educational journey and their path to becoming researchers. By sharing some of the hardships endured, lessons learned, and successful experiences, they provide realistic and inspiring stories. These informal and candid conversations were held in the residence halls in order to reach a broad group of students.

Thank you to our 2017-2018 faculty participants!

- Dr. Jeffrey Milem, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
- Dr. Hector Ceniceros, Department of Mathematics
- Dr. Cindy Benelli, Department of Economics
- Dr. Lizzy Wilbanks, Department of Ecology, Evolution, & Marine Biology

#FIRSTGEN FORUM

Building community in collaboration with the Educational Opportunity Program.

The #FirstGen Forum is a weekly gathering space for first-generation college students to connect with peers and allies in an effort to build community, help students navigate their UCSB experience, and discover shared experiences. Free coffee, tea, and snacks are provided to create a comfortable, informal environment.
The ONDAS Student Center would like to thank our campus partners for generously donating their time and efforts to support the Center and our students. The success of our programs would not be possible without our faculty and departmental partners.

Departmental Partners

- Associated Students Food Bank
- Associated Students Commission on Student Well-Being
- Campus Learning Assistance Services
- Career Services
- College of Letters & Science Academic Advising
- Counseling & Psychological Services
- Education Abroad Program
- Educational Opportunity Program
- Graduate Division
- Health & Wellness
- MultiCultural Center
- Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Office of Student Life
- Residence Halls Association
- Transfer Student Center
- UCSB Sustainability
- Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities

Faculty Partners

- Dr. Tammy Afifi, Department of Communication
- Dr. Joseph Blankholm, Department of Religious Studies
- Dr. Dan Conroy-Beam, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences
- Dr. Sathya Guruswamy, Department of Physics
- Dr. Evelyne Laurent-Perrault, Department of History
- Dr. Ana Requeña-Johnson, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
- Dr. Richard Wittman, Department of History, Art & Architecture
- Dr. Cindy Benelli, Department of Economics
- Dr. Hector Ceniceros, Department of Mathematics
- Dr. Rolf Christoffersen, Department of Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology
- Dr. Andres Consoli, Department of Counseling, Clinical, & School Psychology
- Dr. Ruth Hallier-Tinoco, Department of Music
- Dr. Jeffrey Milem, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
- Dr. Javier Read de Alaniz, Department of Chemistry
- Dr. Karen Szumlinski, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences
- Dr. Lizzy Wilbanks, Department of Ecology, Evolution, & Marine Biology
ONDAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee members include dedicated UCSB faculty, administrators, and students who are committed to supporting the work of the OSC and providing resources to first-generation college students.

- Linda Adler-Kassner, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, College of Letters & Science and Professor of Writing Studies
- Ofelia Aguirre, Director, Center for Science and Engineering Partnerships, California NanoSystems Institute
- Stephanie Batiste, Associate Professor, Department of English and Black Studies
- Dolores Inés Casillas, Associate Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies
- Andrés Consoli, Associate Professor, Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology
- Sabrina Delgado, Undergraduate Student, Department of Communication
- Miguel Eckstein, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
- Dana Mastro, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Communication
- Javier Read de Alaniz, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Associate Director of the California NanoSystems Institute
- Laura Romo, Professor, Department of Education, and Director Chicano Studies Institute
- Steven Velasco, Director, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment, Office of Budget and Planning
- Xiaojian Zhao, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education, College of Letters & Science and Professor, Asian American Studies and History

STAY CONNECTED

Visit our website and social media to view our live calendar and learn more about the programs we offer! If you are interested in receiving our ONDAS Student Center newsletter, please email ondas@ltsc.ucsb.edu to be added to the list.

Give to the ONDAS STUDENT CENTER

Help us support UCSB’s first-generation college students by sponsoring an event, a program, or providing a general donation. Please visit giving.ucsb.edu and search for ONDAS Student Center.

Thank you!

Contact us to get involved!

Questions about the ONDAS Program?
Barbara Endemaño Walker
barbara.walker@ucsb.edu

Questions about the ONDAS Faculty Seminars?
Linda Adler-Kassner
ladler@ucsb.edu

Questions about the ONDAS Student Center?
Malaphone Phommasa
mphommasa@ucsb.edu

Yasmine Dominguez-Whitehead
ywhitehead@ucsb.edu

OSC email
ondas@ltsc.ucsb.edu

OSC phone
805-893-3457