Dear Prospective Students:

Thank you for your interest in UC Santa Barbara! This is an exciting time for you to be thinking about your future, and we are glad you are considering our campus as the next step in your education. You will find that the roads to growth and personal fulfillment take you far beyond intellectual pursuits. With that in mind, I invite you to get acquainted with our vibrant campus life.

This Black Student Resource Guide provides information on a wonderful variety of student clubs, programs, organizations, cultural events, activities, and campus services available to you, should you choose to become part of our UCSB family. I encourage you to browse through this guide and familiarize yourself with our community, including our African diasporic Cultural Resource Center (AdCRC). This center is one of many academic and personal support systems created with students like you in mind. Our campus also has on hand counselors with expertise in African American history and culture, another way through which we can encourage our students along the journey of learning and discovery.

At UC Santa Barbara, our community encompasses a rich and diverse mix of cultures, backgrounds, talents, and perspectives. This diversity is an essential part of our academic excellence. For example, our campus is one of 62 elected members of the prestigious Association of American Universities, placing us among the top 2% of all public and private universities in the United States and Canada. Our university is proud to offer a Black Studies Department, a MultiCultural Center, and a Center for Black Studies Research – one of the oldest centers of its kind in the country.

Many exciting opportunities and rewarding experiences lie ahead for you at UC Santa Barbara, and we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming you to our beautiful campus in the fall. In the meantime, I offer you my sincerest best wishes for your continued success.

HENRY T. YANG
Chancellor
University of California, Santa Barbara

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the UCSB Black Student Community Resource Guide. This guide will provide a great introduction to the Black community at UCSB and will be a great tool for students with as they take their first step into the University of California. As diversity interns and current UCSB students, we can offer first-hand experience and advice about all aspects of the campus. Our goal is to enlighten prospective high school students with helpful information and guidance on the UC application process. We are always more than happy to provide incoming students with insight on what makes our campus so special as well as the different services available here at UCSB. If you are interested in visiting UCSB, we would love to set up an individual meeting or tour with you and your family to show you what our beautiful campus has to offer in person.

Sincerely,

Office of Admissions interns Alejandra Melgoza, Drake Shead, Imara Wilson, Marquel Carnell and Will Trammell
WHAT DOES THE BLACK COMMUNITY AT UCSB MEAN TO YOU?

For thirty-five years, UCSB’s Black community has been my home and my anchor. I originally came to UCSB from Haiti (the first Black independent country of the Western hemisphere) to study International Education with a specialty on Africa, the Caribbean and Black America. In 1985, I joined the faculty as the first Black woman professor hired by this university. The history of education in this country compels us to counter past inequities by ensuring that our Black students succeed and excel in their studies, by exposing them to top research opportunities and encouraging them to pursue meaningful careers paths. I can assure you that the Black community and the UCSB network of faculty, staff and students will work to keep you healthy, balanced and focused, becoming your family away from home and offering you a world-class education.

HOW DO YOU INTERACT WITH STUDENTS?

The presence of our Black students at UCSB enriches our campus in significant ways. In the classroom, I emphasize critical thinking, collaboration and civic responsibility. I remind our students that we carry a powerful historical legacy as the knowledge bearers of extraordinary civilizations that have contributed greatly to society. As a Black Studies professor, I continue to engage students in understanding historical struggles, gains and those movements and radical traditions that have helped transform the world. I mentor both graduate and undergraduate students outside the classroom and I am always eager to speak to Black students about their academic experiences and community networks. In Student Affairs, I collaborated with others to found programs for first-generation and underrepresented students, such as the Clyde Woods Scholars, the Gene and Susan Lucas Scholars and Promise Scholars. I also work closely with the MCC, EOP, the Black Student Union and the Black Resource Committee—a research and advocacy group made up of faculty, staff and students dedicated to ensuring the success of Black students at UCSB. Hope to see you in our classes, and I encourage you to join these exciting programs and organizations!

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR UCSB STUDENTS?

A UC education exposes students to various intellectual traditions and cutting-edge research. I tell my Black students to take full advantage of these opportunities. This means: staying on track, completing class assignments, seeking help from professors and teaching assistants, meeting with college advisors and counselors and participating in research and internship opportunities. This also means staying healthy, eating well, getting sleep, exercising, socializing in healthy ways, joining organizations whose goals you support, getting work experience and doing community service. This will bring meaning to your studies and reinvigorate you to embrace your major with passion and determination. Next thing you know, you will be a UCSB GRADUATE!

18:1 student-to-faculty with a strong focus on undergraduate education

73% of undergraduate classes have fewer than 30 students

50% of UCSB students collaborate with faculty on original research projects
OUTSTANDING STUDENT COMMUNITY

IMARA WILSON  Film and Media Studies / Black Studies, Class of 2018

WHY UCSB? When I visited the campus, I was amazed at the huge amount of student leaders. I knew it was the perfect fit for me because I truly saw an enriching and uplifting opportunity to not only become a better student but a better leader.

HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED AT UCSB? I am currently a Diversity Intern for the Office of Admissions and a Gaucho Tour Guide. I also am a member of the Black Student Union on campus.

I WISH I HAD KNOWN... Going to college is a big transition and although it may feel weird at first, just be open minded and try new things. You never know what hidden passions you might have!

COMMUNITY AT UCSB The Black community at UCSB has truly become my family away from home. They have supported me all throughout college during both the good times and the bad. Although we are only a small portion of the total student body, we are a very strong community.

DRAKE SHEAD  Communication, Class of 2017

WHY UCSB? The friendly and welcoming environment at UCSB influenced my initial interest. I found that I could thrive academically and socially. With stellar campus resources, different ways to get involved and an academic prestige that is nationally recognized, UCSB was the perfect place for me.

HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED AT UCSB? Currently I’m on the executive board within the Black Student Union as the Transfer Representative.

COMMUNITY AT UCSB The Black community at UCSB is very tight knit and we like to base the bond of our community on unity. As a transfer, the Black community quickly welcomed and encouraged me.

NADIA TALLEY  Theater, Class of 2017

COMMUNITY AT UCSB The Black community here at UCSB is extremely diverse. Each one of us are unique in interests, appearance and beliefs. That fact is one that I value most. Our community has found ways to each keep our own individual identity but, when together, we form a cohesive unit. Our unity is unconditional. There are no prerequisites of Blackness to be a part of our community.

I WISH I HAD KNOWN... One thing I wish I had known or recognized sooner about UCSB is the art, both performance and visual, that is so bountiful on campus and in the neighborhoods that surround UCSB. If one were to walk through the streets of Isla Vista during the day, they are likely to encounter a plethora of art. They might come upon some murals on the side of buildings, students perfecting their moves or plays for a talent show or class, or a variety of musical performances that explore every genre.

WILL TRAMMELL  Environmental Studies, Class of 2018

WHY UCSB? Aside from the beautiful campus, perfect weather and wonderful beaches, I chose UCSB because of the different ways the university provides support. Whether it be mental support, physical support or academic support, there are many opportunities for students to reach out and receive the assistance they need.

HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED AT UCSB? I am one of five Diversity Interns in the Office of Admissions. We focus on helping incoming students get viable information about the campus to help them make their decision of what college to attend.

COMMUNITY AT UCSB The Black community at UCSB is very welcoming. Our Black Student Union does an excellent job at publicizing different events for the Black community that give everyone an opportunity to meet each other and strengthen the unity of the Black community on campus.
ENGAGING ORGANIZATIONS

BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS A-Z

UCSB has more than 500 student organizations including academic, cultural, faith-based, Greek, political, service-based, social and more. For a complete list of campus organizations at UCSB, please visit http://osl.sa.ucsb.edu.

» Akanke
» Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Nu Nu Chapter
» Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. – Mu Kappa Chapter
» Black Business Association
» Black Graduation Committee
» Black pioneer Renaissance Organization (BPRO)
» Black Quare
» Blackwatch
» Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
» Impact
» The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated (NPHC)
» National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

9,000 students volunteer in the local community
500 student organizations
18,000+ students live on or within a mile of campus

SPOTLIGHT: BLACK STUDENT UNION

The Black Student Union (BSU) is a UCSB student organization that was created to establish a safe, supportive and empowering space for members within the Black community. BSU hosts weekly meetings for all students to increase awareness of current social, cultural and political movements. By fostering an inclusive space comprised of diverse members across the Afrikan diaspora, BSU hopes to unify students through cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. As Black students afforded the opportunity to obtain a UC education, members of BSU challenge their fellow members to “lift as they climb” by advocating for the advancement of Black communities.

http://bsuatucsb.weebly.com
DYNAMIC CENTERS, PROGRAMS & ACADEMICS

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP)
EOP services all students while focusing on low-income and first-generation undergraduates. EOP provides mentorship, social and cultural programming, one-on-one counseling and advising, campus student support service referrals and academic programs. EOP helps motivate students to enhance their preparation for the job market or graduate school admission.
www.sa.ucsb.edu/EOP | EOP@sa.ucsb.edu | (805) 893-4758

AFRICAN DIASPORIC CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER (AdCRC)
The AdCRC supports the communities of the African diaspora at UCSB and aids in the overall retention and graduation rates of Black students at UCSB. AdCRC staff strive to create and maintain a welcoming atmosphere for all to acquire knowledge in relation to the diversity of cultures within the African diaspora.
www.sa.ucsb.edu/eop/AdCRC

BLACK STUDIES AT UCSB

DEPARTMENT OF BLACK STUDIES
UCSB offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Black Studies and a minor in Black Studies. Students who graduate with a degree in Black Studies work in the fields of education, social work or politics, and many pursue graduate degrees in law and medicine among other disciplines. The Black Studies faculty is available to students who are pursuing graduate degrees in other departments on topics related to Black Studies.
www.blackstudies.ucsb.edu

CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH
The UCSB Center for Black Studies Research is one of the oldest centers of its kind in the country. It organizes and administers interdisciplinary research among faculty and students on the histories and cultures of Africans and their descendants. The Center offers opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to get involved in research activities. Students are invited to attend events and colloquia or join the center's staff and faculty on new, exciting research.
www.research.ucsb.edu/cbs

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM
The McNair Scholars Program is a two-year program that offers seminars, graduate school preparation and faculty-mentored undergraduate research designed to encourage talented eligible undergraduates who are first-generation and/or low-income to pursue Ph.D. programs.
www.mcnair.ucsb.edu | mcnair@mcnair.ucsb.edu | (805) 893-3615
STUDY ABROAD
The Education Abroad Program (EAP) allows UCSB students to study in places like Ghana, Barbados, Brazil, Tanzania, Spain and the United Kingdom while earning course credit. Students can select from a list of over 40 countries around the world. There are opportunities for students in every major, and programs range in length from one quarter to one year. http://eap.ucsb.edu

ATTEND CULTURAL EVENTS
The UCSB MultiCultural Center presents more than 20 events each quarter—including lectures, films and videos, panel discussions, readings, art exhibitions, and music, dance and dramatic performances—to increase cultural awareness. The MultiCultural Center lounge is a great space to study, read newspapers or magazines, relax or meet with friends. Every Wednesday, the MCC hosts “Cup of Culture,” a weekly coffee house and movie night. During Dead Week and Finals the MCC is a quiet and comfortable place to study. Most events are free! http://mcc.sa.ucsb.edu

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
UCSB students have many options for campus jobs and internships. GauchoLink is the official site for jobs, internships and on-campus interviews (http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/students/gaucholink). Student positions on campus are also offered through Arts & Lectures, Associated Students, Career Services, Student Affairs, Housing & Residential Services, Intercollegiate Athletics, the UCSB Library, Recreational and Intramural Sports, Student Media and the University Center.

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOLARS HALL
The Black Scholars Hall is an inclusive Living-Learning Community dedicated for students within the Afrikan diaspora. This floor provides mentorship which fosters a community-building environment. Residents have the opportunity to participate in bonding events organized by current Resident Assistant, allowing students to create friendships that will last a lifetime. www.housing.ucsb.edu/residence-halls/living-learning-communities
EXPLORE UC SANTA BARBARA

COMMUNITY EVENTS
› African Culture show
› Akanke’s Black Womxn’s Appreciation Dinner
› B-Pro’s Black Men’s Appreciation Dinner
› Black Excellence Dinner
› Black Leadership Dinner
› Black Leadership Retreat
› Black Unity Dinner
› Black Wednesday
› BSU Black Hxstory Month Black Party
› BSU Week of Education
› BSU Outreach Program
› Student of Color Conference
› Zeta Phi Beta’s “Herstory” Brunch

VISIT UCSB OR CONNECT VIRTUALLY
For information on scheduling a campus tour, visit the Office of Admissions website at www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/tours. Can’t visit in person? Stay connected to UCSB with virtual college fairs, online advising opportunities and webinars. To learn more, visit www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/webinars.

SPRING INSIGHT OPEN HOUSE
Visit UCSB for Spring Insight, an open house for admitted students, future applicants and their families held annually in April. Meet with campus clubs and organizations, take a tour, attend lectures and hear about all the exciting opportunities available to UCSB students. Learn more at www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/open-house.

CONNECT WITH UCSB ADMISSIONS
UCSBadmissions
UCSantaBarbara
UCSB4Me
www.youvisit.com/tour/ucsb
www.admissions.ucsb.edu/mailing-list

Cover art by UCSB student Trevor Coopersmith