



Meet Grace & Calvin

Volume XI, Issue 1 April 2009



This month, our PACT advisor, Oriol Zales, has chosen to highlight two Abraham Lincoln High School students for their high academic achievement, community involvement and motivation. Each student was asked the following: 1. What careers are you interested in; 2. Name a person you look up to; 3. What are your favorite and least favorite subjects; 4. What college or university do you plan to attend; 5. Who has been a major influence for you with regard to attending a college/university; 6. What is your favorite aspect of being a part of PACT? Take a peek into Grace and Calvin's plans and inspirations:

GRACE CHIO – 12TH GRADE

1. I'm interested in becoming a doctor when I graduate high school because it's been my dream since I was a child.
2. I look up to my parents and I consider them as my role models because even though they work long hours to support my family, they still care about me and my brother.
3. My favorite subject in school is science because I have been curious about science since I was a child. My least favorite subject in school is math. I really dislike math.
4. I plan to attend UC Davis.
5. My parents have been a major influence for me to attend a university because I've learned from their past experiences that education is the key to escaping poverty.
6. My favorite aspect of being part of PACT is the fact that I can get assistance whenever I need it.



CALVIN QUOCK – 11TH GRADE

1. I am interested in three different jobs. My first choice is accounting because I really like to keep track of things, especially with numbers. My second choice is to be an architect, because I get to design all types of buildings and projects. My third choice is to be a Chinese language researcher, because I've been really interested in Chinese.
2. I had a friend from last year who graduated as part of Lincoln's class of 2008. I look up to this friend of mine because of his ability. He used to be a gang member in Chinatown but he is a very hard-working immigrant, he found his way out and graduated with straight 4.0's and got into UC Berkeley.
3. I don't have any least favorite subjects in school because I like to go to school. However, it could turn into my least favorite subject if I had a really bad teacher. My favorite subjects in school are math and Chinese because the two classes let me discover.
4. If I could, I really want to go to Stanford University. I want to get into Stanford.

PACT, Inc.

Christina Castañeda
Project Director

Annette Dennett
Programs Manager

Board of Directors

Kimberly Benton, DDS
Chair

Kimberly Brandon
Secretary

Louis Barnett
Treasurer

Everett Brandon, JD
Vice President

Henry Lucas, DDS, FAGD
President

Linda White
Educator

Contact Us:

San Francisco Office
635 Divisadero St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Tel: (415) 922-2550

Fax: (415) 922-6305

East Bay Office
1 Positive Place
Vallejo, CA 94589

Tel: (707) 556-9357

Fax: (707) 566-9436

<http://www.pactinc.org/>
info@pactinc.org

Editor: Violeta Borowski

cont'd on pg. 6



From L to R, top to bottom: Britney Venter, Jose Gonzalez, Erik Ruiz, Kwabena Omowale Tumaini, Jerome Bush, Krisal Brister, Zeyda Garcia

Check out what our tutors had to say when asked: what have you enjoyed about working with our youth?; what advice would you give to our students?; and tell us a little bit about yourself and how college has helped you?

ERIK RUIZ

I come from a family of 5, me being the oldest, and I'm the first in my immediate family to attend a 4-year university. I currently attend SFSU, majoring in communication studies. Attending college has made me believe in myself and know that I can accomplish anything I set my mind on.

I've enjoyed that our students are fun to be around with and they open up to you once they get to know you. My advice: Take advantage of the great help being offered because it will pay off in the end.

ZEYDA GARCIA

I love working with youth and once I graduate I plan to attend law school to become a juvenile lawyer. I attend SFSU and will graduate in May with a double major in sociology and Raza studies. Being in college, I have become more aware of the disadvantages that communities face in society.

I enjoy interacting with our PACT students and allowing them to feel comfortable voicing their opinions and voices to adults. My advice: I suggest they create goals for their future and learn about the history of their people in order for them to understand themselves and value their struggles.

JOSE GONZALEZ

I'm a full time student at SFSU, majoring in economics with a minor in Raza studies. College has opened my eyes to the issues facing the world, especially in our country. It has allowed me to be more responsible and hard working.

My advice: I would suggest not listen or think to what others perceive them to be but, to think for themselves and be the person they want to be. College may seem impossible to get in to, but it is not as hard when one works hard and tries to learn.

KRISTAL BRISTER

I am a graduating senior at SFSU majoring in Child and Adolescent Development. I will be the first in my family to graduate from college; I plan on opening a non-profit in the future for youth, as well as an African-centered school.

Our students? I love that they are growing into their own people and have the desire to learn and be challenged. My advice: Be the change you want to see. You have the power to change the world.

KWABENA OMOWALE TUMAINI

I am currently a student at SFSU, majoring in Africana studies. By going to college I have traveled many places and met a lot of people. College has given me the opportunity to network with many people.

Working with the students? I have learned a lot from working with these students; I have become more patient. My advice: network, network, network! Do not be afraid of meeting people and joining organizations.

BRITTNEY VENTER

I am a 2nd year student at SFSU majoring in psychology and Africana studies. I love being active on campus with the Black Student Union and I coach a 5th grade basketball team. College has given me the opportunity to create and decide my own destiny.

I've enjoyed having the chance to make an impact with at-risk youth in my community and being involved with their future. My advice: obtain more college preparation!

You've Been Accepted. Now What ???

- Be sure to fill out & return your "Intent to Register" paperwork to your college choice before **MAY 1st**
- Select Campus housing options & return necessary paperwork to your college choice
- Review & sign financial aid forms & return them with your deposit
- Be sure to have copies of official high school transcripts ready to mail by the end of **JUNE** of your senior year
- Review your student aid report (SAR) from FAFSA & make necessary corrections



DATES & DEADLINES

2009 SAT TEST DATES

	Deadline	Late Deadline*
June 6	May 5	May 15

*SAT test fee is \$45

*Late fee is \$23

2009 ACT TEST DATES

	Deadline	Late Deadline*
June 13	May 8	May 22

*ACT test fee is \$31

*Late fee is \$20



Recent Unemployment & Earnings For Workers by Education Level

Education Level Acheived	Unemployment Rate (by %)	Average Weekly Income
Doctoral Degree	2.1	\$1,349
Professional Degree	1.7	\$1,307
Master Degree	2.9	\$1,064
Bachelor Degree	3.3	\$900
Associate Degree	4.0	\$672
Some College, no degree	5.2	\$622
High School Graduate	5.5	\$554
Some High School	8.8	\$396

Source: *Movin'On 2009 Edition*



OUR PACT ADVISORS: PART I

This month, we are featuring 3 of our hard-working PACT Advisors: Oriol Zales, Shane Maldonado and Sharon Arvie. Each advisor took a moment to answer the following: What do you enjoy most about working with PACT students; What strategies do you use to encourage students to further their education; and What, do you feel, is the greatest benefit of PACT for our students. Read on to learn more about our students' advisors.

ORIOL ZALES:

1. I enjoy learning from them - about their hopes and dreams, ideas, concerns, opinions, perspectives, identities, families, friends, hobbies -and assisting them with putting things into motion, dissolving fear and stress, expressing themselves, and developing strategies and skills to move forward positively. I enjoy making connections with the youth in our community because they are the next generation and have so much potential. We are all in this together.

2. One-on-one advising is the best way for me to encourage students to pursue higher education. Meeting with them individually allows me to give the student personal attention and learn about their personality, struggles, hopes, obstacles, etc. I aim to make students feel comfortable enough to express these things, discuss what steps will be the best fit for them, identify resources and ask questions. I use a lot of handouts and resource materials with students to show them what different things mean or how they work. I try to give them tools to feel more comfortable about navigating unfamiliar and/or daunting information. Overall, my strategy is to help them help themselves while modeling kindness, respect, responsibility and a good sense of humor.

3. PACT is like extended family to many students. We are like a safe haven for students who need academic, financial and personal advising. Students are comfortable with facing change because of their relationships with us and recognize someone is there to encourage them, lean on and get information from.

SHANE MALDONADO:

1. It's the sense of accomplishment at the end of the day; knowing that if it wasn't a scholarship or college application that I handed out, that it was the conversation about what a physical therapist does, or what a social worker's workload looks like that made a difference. It's really just about getting the wheels turning for the students that could have easily lost hope in themselves.

2. My students are easily motivated when you explain how simple it is to earn a 2-year degree at City College or Skyline and transfer to a 4-year or, start work from there. Also, when these students realize that their bigger dreams of attending



From L to R: Sharon, Shane, Oriol

a UC or private school may not come quickly, I paint the picture of community college as a second chance to attend these same schools, since UC's especially, hold community college transfer students in high regard and the application process is often easier than for first time freshman, with lower GPA standards and no SAT score requirements.

3. I think the greatest benefit to my PACT students is the fact that they have a trusted friend that is here to help them in whatever endeavor they find themselves in after high school, be it a vocational school or a prestigious Ivy League university.

SHARON ARVIE:

1. I enjoy working with our PACT population; low-income and first-generation college students. It gives me joy to work with students who believe that college is not an option, but soon discover by working with their PACT advisor that college is an option.

2. I use several strategies to encourage students to further their education: 1.) Believe in yourself, 2.) There is a college that specifically suits their needs and 3.) The potential earning power of college graduates.

3. One student benefit is our PACT interpersonal advising style (one-on one advisement). Students are able to obtain a lot of information and other valuable assistance using this model. ✨



Source: <http://www.pde.state.pa.us>



COLLEGE TOUR: UC DAVIS AND DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY



The 2nd college tour of the year was held on January 20th, free of charge, for PACT students. Close to 40 high school students visited Dominican University of California, located in San Rafael, and the UC Davis campus. UC Davis provided students with a tour of the campus and library, while Dominican allowed students to obtain an overview of the school and admissions process. Both campuses have been around for over 100 years, each having a different make-up. UC Davis has a total enrollment of over 23,000 students, whereas Dominican's student population is 2,100. Dominican is an independent university with a student-faculty ratio of 11 to 1, with an average class size of 15. 75% of Dominican students are recipients of financial aid packages. At UC Davis, undergraduates can choose from over 100 programs of study and nearly 90 for graduate students. Top majors chosen at Davis include economics, psychology and biological sciences.

To learn more about either university, please visit <http://www.ucdavis.edu> for the Davis campus and <http://www.dominican.edu> for Dominican University.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

"The tours were exciting and the PACT advisors were very lively. I loved both campuses. They were diverse and very interesting. I loved this field trip! It was very informational and fun! The PACT advisors were very nice to me even though this was my first time doing something like this. I liked how the tour guides were very nice to you and how they respected your opinions. I also liked how they gave you general college tips."

- Meagan Lee, 9th Grade

"It was a well-organized trip. I learned that at Dominican priority of better dorms are given to high-grade students; also, there are scholarships available in addition to CAL Grants. The campuses have many majors to choose from, activities and club choices. Both campuses are really neat and communal. I now know that private universities and UC's have varied requirements and fewer students in private colleges mean one on one teaching and learning."

- Betty Huey, 11th Grade

What is eScrip?

We would like to introduce eScrip, a new fund raising program we have enrolled with. It is safe, easy and best of all, FREE to our supporters.

How does it work? When you sign up with eScrip (at www.escrip.com), a percentage of purchases you make at eScrip merchants will be donated to PACT. How do you know which stores participate in the eScrip program? Simply log on to www.escrip.com and click on "visit our family of merchants." Money accrued from our eScrip supporters will go directly into supporting our student services. (i.e. College tours, supplies for our tutorial program, etc.)

How do I sign up?

1. Go to www.escrip.com
2. Click on "Sign-Up – It's Free!"
*Our "Group ID" is 500020549. The "Group Name" is Plan Of Action For Challenging Times.
3. Follow the instructions to register your grocery cards and your existing credit/debit cards.

The more supporters we have, the more money we can raise to help our PACT students. Check out these statistics:

NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS	AVERAGE AMOUNT SPENT MONTHLY	POTENTIAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO PACT
50	\$400	\$12,000
100	\$400	\$24,000
200	\$400	\$120,000

For your security and privacy, eScrip is a VeriSign secure site and eScrip will not sell or rent any personal information. eScrip is free, safe and easy. Please pass along this information to all of your family, friends and neighbors. eScrip is an important part of our fund raising efforts and we hope you will help us make the grade in our fund raising goals. Thank you for your support! ✨



Calvin & Grace, cont'd from pg. 1

because if I do, I will be the first in the family to do so. Other top choices include UC Berkeley and UC Davis, which have my major of interest.

5. I think that my parents and my aunt have been a major influence for me to attend a college/university. In a way, my parents wanted me to try for Stanford so that I won't repeat their route: a lack of education. My aunt has also been an influence in helping me pave my way into UC Berkeley.

6. I think that PACT is not only a free service that gives college and career assistance but, it also serves as a friend of mine. My PACT advisor gave me a lot of tips in choosing the right courses, dealing with college and scholarship information and has been treating me as not only as a member of PACT but also, as a good friend.



Did You Know . . .

Private schools are not only for straight "A" students. Some private schools will accept students with 2.0 GPAs. Private schools tend to have smaller classes, meaning more individualized teaching styles. For more information on private schools near you visit www.californiacolleges.edu for California colleges or the web site for the private school you are interested in.

Image Source: www.trondheimanglicans.net



Want to lend a helping hand? PACT is always looking for community members to volunteer at our PACT offices. For more information, please call our San Francisco PACT office.

- If you would like to help support PACT, Inc.'s student services, please make a check payable to PACT, Inc. of San Francisco and mail to:
- **PACT, Inc.**
- **635 Divisadero St.**
- **San Francisco, CA 94117**
- Or, feel free to visit our website at:
- <http://www.pactinc.org/> and click on the
- **"Donate Now"** button located at the bottom
- of the home page.



PACT, Inc. (Plan of Action for Challenging Times)
635 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Promoting community empowerment by increasing access to higher education since 1965.