

Roots

"Roots are not in landscape or a country, or a people, they are inside you."

Media Spotlight: "Things I Don't Want"



Jirayut Latthi emigrated from Thailand to the United States' Bay Area when he was nine years old. Aspiring to become a medical doctor, He is a graduate from the University of California-Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in Molecular

and Cellular Biology. Throughout college, he funded his education with part-time jobs and private scholarships while staying involved in a variety of groups.

Jirayut is a seeks to remedy the barriers that low-income and immigrant families of America face in accessing healthcare. Currently, he is the first undocumented student in the medical school at the University of California, San Francisco. His hobbies include singing, cooking, and continuing to channel his thoughts through his writing; with particular interest in the psychological effects of the undocumented status and identity on an individual. He believes that sharing his story as Asian and Undocumented will encourage others to step out of the shadows within their communities.

Jirayut has released a videopoem entitled, "Things I Don't Want" discussing steps and milestones of his life and the barriers around them.

LINK: <https://vimeo.com/42186163>

Person Spotlight: Lizbeth Mateo, Esq.



Lizbeth Mateo, a Mexican-born attorney and immigrant rights activist who came to the U.S. with her parents at age 14, will serve on a committee that advises the California Student Aid Commission.

Lizbeth was born in Oaxaca and was the first in her family to go to college, graduating from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2016. She was appointed this past week to the Student Opportunity and Access Program Project (CalSOAP) Grant Advisory Committee, which seeks to increase college opportunities for low-income students, by the Senate Rules Committee in California.

It's believed to be the first time in state history that an undocumented immigrant has been put on a statewide committee. Congrats, Lizbeth!

Speaker Event: Diane Guerrero



Join ALAS and Student Union for a presentation by Diane Guerrero as part of the Trending Topics Series!

Diane Guerrero is an American actress. She is known for her roles as Maritza Ramos on

Orange Is the New Black and Lina on *Jane the Virgin*.

Diane was born to immigrant Colombian parents and raised in Boston. As the only member of her immediate family with United States citizenship, she remained in the U.S. when her parents and older brother were deported back to Colombia when she was 14 after unsuccessfully pursuing legal citizenship. Diane has since become a strong advocate for immigration reform.

This event will take place on **Wednesday, March 21st at 7pm in Graham Chapel**. Doors will open at 6:30pm

Following her presentation, there will be a book signing in the Orchid Room of the Danforth University Center.

Name Change

We have decided to remain the newsletter "Roots" based on the Isabel Allende quote, "Roots are not in landscape or a country, or a people, they are inside you."

We felt "roots" serves as a metaphor in the struggle to voice cultural and racial self-understanding, a self-understanding struggling to a large extent to challenge the current political rhetoric--a search for the roots of our identities.

Student Support Group

At the 2018 NASPA Annual Conference, colleagues from Washington State University discussed high impact practices and programs for their undocumented student population, highlighting a support group/network. Due to this, we are considering starting a similar initiative.

This will be a support group for undocumented and DACA students and allies. Students will have the opportunity to gain skills and resources to be successful in and out of the university setting while creating relationships with their peers. Info about meeting times/locations will be private.

If you're interested in joining, please email Julia at julia.macias@wustl.edu or Alejandro at amartinezjr@wustl.edu.