

Issue #1

IPCP Newsletter

June 25, 2018

Hello All!



On the morning of June 17th, some of us jet lagged ourselves, set out to pick up the students from San Francisco International Airport. It was a day along affair, filled with a diverse range of emotions and tasks. While most students were flying in from China, we had students coming from almost all parts of the world.

The airport pickup process can be tedious - picking up a large number of students, arriving on different flights, entering through different gates etc. But every time a mentor saw a student, I could see their faces light up. I believe it was the excitement of meeting these young teenagers who we'll be spending our next eight weeks with and also that feeling of affection and protectiveness, as we're responsible for the students' safety and experience throughout this program at UC Berkeley. It was also great to see the other families reunite at the airport, people running up to their partners who just came back from travelling, grandparents who are seeing their grandkids for the first time and a whole lot of other cute emotional moments.

The students on the other hand, were mostly just tired. It was hard to find excitement on their faces. I wouldn't have the energy to be excited either if I just flew in sitting inside a plane for fifteen hours, then standing in the immigration line for one hour, and then wait for a few hours at the airport waiting for all students to arrive. But once they were back in the dorms they were finally happy and you could see that curiosity and eagerness on their faces to start the program.

All said and done, we were all glad that the whole pickup process went so smoothly and we were successful in bringing all students back to the dorms. Shout out to the coordinator and all the mentors for managing everything so well. Can't wait for the session D students to arrive and do this again! (Lol jk)

Break The Ice - One Step At A Time!

Written by Kayla Nague

During the International Pre-Collegiate Program (IPCP), high students coming from all over the world get to meet, learn, and experience UC Berkeley together. They become roommates, friends, and bond over their time here. One of the main areas we, mentors, focus on during the first week to jumpstart this process for our students is the implementation of ice-breaker games.

As a mentor, I have seen my quiet group, consisting of all boys, grow more and more comfortable with each other with each and every ice breaker that we do. The very first ice breaker that I did was "Two Truths and One Lie." This is a game in which every person in the group says three things about himself but only two are true, and the rest of the group must guess to see which one is the lie. During this game, one student began his turn by stating, "I have a girlfriend," and before he finished stating his other two statements, another student said, "That is the lie." All of the boys broke out in laughter, including the boy whose turn it was, and he admitted saying, "He's right. I don't have a girlfriend." After his turn, more of them used the statement, "I have a girlfriend," as their lie because they thought it was funny. In these moments of laughter, I saw all of the boys bonding.

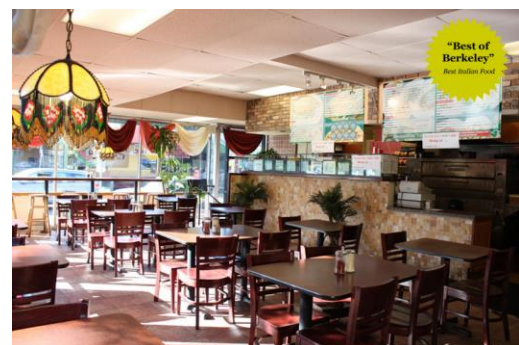


Another snippet of an ice breaker that I did was a name game. This name game was a fun way to have all the boys learn each other's names and for me to learn them as well. Before we could play the name game, I asked them to go around and say their names. One student from China noticed that the others were saying their American names, but he did not have one. I told him that his Chinese name was perfectly fine, but he wanted an American name. I thought maybe his group could give him some suggestions. Everyone went around saying their favorite American name: "Kevin, Kobe, Tom, Ray, Jason..." The student liked and chose the name "Ray" and now that is what everyone refers to him as. I saw this as another bonding moment where this student can walk away from this program with the memory that he was given this name by a group of friends he had met at his time here.

🦋 Best Food Places in Berkeley 🦋

By Javier Rodriguez

1. **Gypsies**
 - Italian Food
 - 2519 Durant Ave
 - Recommend: Crazy Alfredo Pasta
2. **Cafe Durant**
 - Authentic Mexican Food
 - 2517 Durant Ave
 - Recommend: breakfast Plates!
3. **La Burrita**
 - Comfort Mexican Food
 - 2530 Durant Ave
 - Recommend: Carne Asada Fries
4. **House of Curries**
 - Wide Assortment of Curries
 - 2520 Durant Ave
 - Recommend: Nan with Melted Cheese
5. **Yogurt Park**
 - Yogurt Parlor
 - 2433 Durant Ave
 - Recommend: Strawberry w/ Cookies & Creme
6. **Pasta Bene**
 - Italian Food
 - 2565 Telegraph Ave
 - Recommend: Chicken Alfredo Pasta
7. **Pappys Grill- 2367 Telegraph Ave**
 - American Food
 - 2367 Telegraph Ave
 - Recommend: BBQ Ribs



BIG C HIKE!!

This past Saturday two of the mentor groups went up to the Big C Hike. This hike is a pinnacle of the Berkeley area and often done by freshman arriving on campus. The hike features several look out points of Berkeley and of the Bay Area. It was a quick 1 hour hike but provided stunning views of the campus. Beginning at 10 am to beat the heat, about 20 students trekked out to conquer the Big C. There were great places to stop along the way, providing a few breathers to those less experienced hikers. One spot overlooked the campus and featured a swing that was a bit high off the ground. The group members worked together holding the swing so everyone was able to climb on and experience it. It was a great bonding experience, especially when the students worked to encourage the more timid of the group to go on the swing. We were also able to take some great pictures! By the end we were hot and tired, but happy we were all able to finish together.





A Refresher on the First Week: Friends, Classes, & Google Maps

By: Desiree Delavary

It has been about one week since the IPCP summer 2018 class has arrived here in Berkeley, and things are finally beginning to settle down. Most of the students arrived at SFO airport jet lagged, and bleary eyed last Sunday, excited to explore a new country and take in everything Berkeley had to offer.

Arriving at the dorms, the students had a short time to greet their roommates and claim their bed before going on a quick campus tour and meeting the mentors. The students were then let free to roam and navigate the colorful city of Berkeley to find the best bite to eat before our mandatory 9 pm roll call. Whether the students were buzzing with curiosity or dragging with jet lag, everyone was excited to be there. Making fast friends, it was hard to capture the students attention during our first sit down as they were all avidly discussing their class schedules and Berkeley “to-do” lists. Most of the Session C students are interested in “STEM” studies, taking intense computer science, math, chemistry, and biology courses. The first evening wrapped up with many google map directions, and fun “ice breaker” games.

Although it has only been a week since classes have started, for many it seems more like a month, even though many students are still in the process of learning how to find their classes! Much to their comfort, they learned that seasoned Berkeley students have the same struggles every semester.

With nightly game sessions, weekend hiking adventures, and fun on-campus activities, there is always so much to do. This being said, there is also a lot of work involved with these classes! Although enjoyable, students have found the classes challenging with heavy workloads, a good introduction to their future college career. With the heavier workloads comes friendly study session, tutoring opportunities, and learning more about the subject they hope to pursue in the future. IPCP provides a great opportunity for the students to gain valuable life skills such as a sense of independence, while providing a home away from home.