A MESSAGE FROM THE RIORDAN SCHOLARS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROXANNE MENDEZ

We at the Riordan Programs are excited about this upcoming academic year. We would like to recognize all our alumni, donors and supporters who contributed to the Riordan Programs. We reached a number of milestones during this year, thanks to your support and contributions. Some 2014–2015 academic year highlights include a record number of alumni attending the 2015 Riordan Gala and awarding 32 college scholarships to Riordan Scholars. In its fourth year, the College to Career program increased to 60 participants from 22 undergraduate institutions across the nation. In addition, through the support of the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, we implemented an Alumni Mentor Program for College to Career Program. Finally, we hosted our first annual National Networking Night for Riordan alumni in 6 cities across the country. As we look forward to the organization’s 30th Anniversary, we hope you will join us in our efforts to continue expanding and improving our programs. We appreciate your continued support and hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Lastly, congratulations to all recent college and graduate school graduates!

2015 RIORDAN PROGRAMS GALA

By Bentley Curtis, MBA Fellow (’13)

Serving as the inaugural chair for the Riordan Programs Council and 28th Annual Gala Committee has been such a great honor. As a 2013 MBA Fellow, I was thrilled to have an opportunity to give back to an organization that enriched my life in so many ways. With a clear vision for the event in mind — and Roxanne’s blind faith — the committee was able to hold an event that would lend itself to raising unprecedented contributions, which will provide continued funding for the Riordan Programs’ services.

The goal for this year’s event was to heighten the overall experience of the Riordan Programs Gala, with the hope of reconnecting with alumni, supporters and partners while also highlighting the organization’s growth and expanding our network in time for the organization’s 30th anniversary. The gala was hosted on April 16, 2015, at the historic Millennium Biltmore Hotel located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Crystal Ballroom — once home to the Academy Awards. With the Tiffany Room as an independent space for the silent auction, and an Afro-Latin Jazz band to greet guests in the main ballroom, it was a night to remember. Guests enjoyed libations and a sumptuous three-course meal, in addition to a colorful musical performance.

However, the true highlight of the night came when we paused to recognize four individuals for their exemplary service to the Riordan Programs’ community. This year’s honorees include: California Secretary of State Alex Padilla (MBA Fellow ’97); private wealth management professional Jordan Bender (Advisory Board Member); managing editor of #EmergingUS Alejandra Campoverdi (MBA Fellow ’05); and motivational speaker and investment management professional Ramsey Jay Jr. (MBA Fellow ’02). Honorees shared memorable stories and emphasized the legacy of the organization as they called guests to continue laying the foundation for future participants in the Riordan Programs. In total the gala raised $39,258, a record for this event, to support future programming, scholarships and fellowships. Special thanks to all our attendees and sponsors. We hope to see you again next year!

To learn about planning for the 2016 gala, please contact the Riordan Programs office at riordan.programs@anderson.ucla.edu.
NATIONAL NETWORKING NIGHT
By Nathan Segal, Riordan Fellow (’15)

As I prepare to attend UCLA this fall, I am reminded of the many ways I was challenged by the Riordan Programs to step out of my comfort zone and prepare to pursue higher education. My most memorable and enriching experience was participating in the Stock Market Competition to all the winners of the 2015 Riordan Scholars Stock Market Competition. I couldn’t have been more excited to know that all our hard work had paid off. The connections built during the program continue to remain strong as the students now attend in-person seminars and spend time with the other Fellows in my class. Despite living far away from California, I have already begun to see the strength of the Riordan Community.

Last March, I attended in the Riordan Programs’ National Networking Night (NNN) in D.C. Given the distance, I was expecting to see only one or two alums at the event, but I was pleasantly surprised to see many more! There were a variety of alums from different programs and class years. While everyone had different professions and areas of interest, we all had something in common, which was a love for the Riordan Programs and a desire to connect with others with this shared experience. It was enjoyable to network with this group, and I was heartened to see so many alums who thought so fondly of their experiences with Riordan years after being a part of the program. After arriving home that evening, I checked on social media to see similar gatherings had occurred throughout the country. NNN also provided alumni in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Century City with the opportunity to network in a fun, relaxed setting on March 31, 2015. While on Facebook, I also noticed that one of my friends had attended NNN in NYC — and I didn’t even know he was an alum! Even in my short time as an alumna, I am already seeing the power of the Riordan network and am proud to be part of such a robust tradition of scholars and professionals. I look forward to more networking nights in the future and encourage everyone to take part!

STOCK MARKET COMPETITION
By Terence Adelopera, Riordan Scholar (’15)

As I prepare to attend UCLA this fall, I am reminded of the many ways I was challenged by the Riordan Programs to step out of my comfort zone and prepare to pursue a career in health care management. From the stock market competition to all the winners of the 2015 Riordan Scholars Stock Market Competition. I couldn’t have been more excited to know that all our hard work had paid off. The connections built during the program continue to remain strong as the students now attend in-person seminars and spend time with the other Fellows in my class. Despite living far away from California, I have already begun to see the strength of the Riordan Community.

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2015 FIRESIDE CHAT
By Ruth Lawanson, Riordan Fellow (’15)

On May 9, 2015, the Riordan Programs recognized the graduating Riordan Scholars and MBA Fellows at UCLA Anderson School of Management’s Korn Hall. Though bittersweet, the moment proved to be an opportunity for me to fully reflect on how the Riordan Programs had impacted me. Each year, the Riordan Programs graduation includes a fireside chat with the programs’ co-founders and other members of the Riordan Programs’ advisory board. This year, I had the pleasure of serving as the interviewer for the fireside chat, which included Riordan Programs co-founders Richard Riordan and Professor William Ouchi, along with former Ambassador to Uruguay Frank Baxter and current UCLA Anderson Professor Miguel Unzueta. To be completely honest, I was initially very unsure of my role in the chat and how I would be able to hold my own on the stage alongside such accomplished men. Nevertheless, the experience turned out to be a highlight of my time in the program and provided me with new perspectives on leadership, service and success.

From the start of the interview, it was very apparent to the audience that the interviewees were genuinely passionate about the program and the success of its participants. Mayor Riordan and Professor Ouchi shared the many challenges they faced while trying to establish the Riordan Programs and their belief that there is still much work to be done in terms of increasing diversity in business management. Ambassador Baxter discussed taking lessons from both life’s triumphs and defeats. Finally, Professor Unzueta discussed the importance of confidence and recognizing small achievements, as they lay the foundation for future successes. What amazed me most is that despite all their achievements, these men continued to believe that their true success came from mentoring and assisting the next generation of leaders. They ended with a call for us to also go out and use the talents and skills we have developed to inspire others. I was encouraged by their dedication to the mission of the Riordan Programs.

The true takeaway from this year’s fireside chat is that success is not measured merely by one’s achievement but rather by the number of people we can inspire and motivate. I am truly grateful for all the lessons I’ve learned, insights I received and amazing people I have met and who I know will undoubtedly play a significant role in my future success.

SATURDAY BUSINESS INSTITUTE
By Rejal Sanchez, Riordan Fellow (’15)

As I reflect on my experience as a Riordan MBA Fellow, I realize that I am most proud of the successes my team achieved as mentors in the Riordan Programs’ Saturday Business Institute (SBI). The SBI is a school site-based program designed to provide college prep and business exposure to 9th- and 10th-grade high school students. We had a talented group of enthusiastic students at Marc & Eva Stern Math and Science High School (STEM MASS) and, with the help of our program facilitator, Simon Linsey, we had a remarkable year.

From the beginning, my fellow mentors decided we should make it our objective to connect with our 25 students and serve as a support system for them. Our program goals revolved around individual mentorship, college preparatory programming and a curriculum that instilled financial literacy skills. We strove to create a positive and encouraging environment where each student felt comfortable participating in discussions and asking questions. One way we were able to achieve this was by breaking up the students into mentorship groups in which each MBA Fellow shared their journey from high school to college. This activity allowed the students to learn more about the college experience from different perspectives and to connect with the stories that resonated with their personal background.

As the program drew to an end, we decided to incorporate some opportunities for our students to connect with current participants in Riordan Scholars Program. We first attended the Riordan Scholars Fun Day in the park, where the students played games and ate tons of food. For our final session, our SBI program visited UCLA’s campus. The day included an overview of the Riordan Scholars Program, a college tour led by an undergraduate student organization, and an opportunity for our students to see scholars compete in the Stock Market Competition. These events allowed our students to experience a day in the life of a Scholar and encouraged them to apply for the program. The connections built during the program continue to remain strong as the students now recognize that we are dedicated to helping them attain higher education. I look forward to continuing to assist with the development and growth of the Saturday Business Institute.
Tell me about your experience in the Fellows Program. What aspect did you enjoy the most?

It was an amazing experience to be a part of the Fellows Program. I started at a time in my professional career when I had been out of school for a while. The program helped to acclimate me back to the learning process in an interactive environment with peers from diverse backgrounds. I also had the opportunity to be exposed to a number of practitioners in fields I was interested in. The program gave me insight into the MBA admission process, and helped prepare me to enter the business school environment.

Describe your experience in the Kellogg School of Management MBA program. What lessons from the MBA Fellow Program do you believe were most helpful for you while in business school?

One example is the Toyota case study we reviewed. Exercises such as this helped acclimate me to the rigorous business school and to begin thinking critically. Another is an opportunity I had to serve as the interviewer for an “Inside the Executive Office” discussion with an advisory board member from Riordan, Lewis & Haden. The experience helped me to improve my public speaking skills and to begin practicing asking thought-provoking questions; this skill carried over into the MBA admission interviews. Finally, Riordan served as my first introduction to the business school environment and how to navigate all the stimulus from jobs, companies, clubs and other opportunities.

How did you arrive at your current position and become interested in working in the tourism industry? I knew I wanted a career in which I could make the most impact. I started in the private sector doing marketing at DiAGEO and enjoyed being able to establish a brand’s vision and purpose. I embraced the opportunity and was later able to manage a large team. This opportunity then led to my taking on larger leadership roles. When a new opportunity opened up at Bonotel I accepted the challenge, as it would allow me to touch several aspects of the business.

Is there any advice you would like to give to current MBA Fellows?

Always be authentic. Don’t follow the crowd. It’s important to pick a business school and career that speaks to the things you believe in. You should be unapologetic in that aspect and ensure you’re in an environment that fosters enthusiasm.

Tell me about your experience in the Fellows Program. What aspect did you enjoy the most?

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The Riordan College to Career Program (C2C) targets first-generation college students who are interested in preparing for internships and careers in management. Its core purpose is to educate, prepare and motivate these individuals to competitively apply for and succeed in internships and careers post college. In an intensive one-week study, College to Career participants engage in various workshops, lectures and activities related to career skills training, career and academic exploration, and professional development.

“EVERY SINGLE GUEST SPEAKER gave invaluable advice that I wish to share with my family, friends and community. I have yet to find a program similar to C2C. It’s refreshing to be surrounded by peers, mentors and role models that inspire me to shine — what a great space to be in.”

Ivanna Lizano, Brown University

“THE RIORDAN COLLEGE TO CAREER is much more than simply a formal, one-week program. It has truly proven to me that anything is possible, and that there are so many diverse career fields that I can pursue. The Riordan Programs is a family that has helped me to begin unlocking my true potential.”

John Mendoza, University of Southern California

“So often we hear about a lack of diversity in business in America, which poses a real challenge to our future. After having attended the program, I know the talent is there — you just have to know how to look. And Riordan takes a hard look and continues to spot and develop talent.”

Kendall White, University of California, Los Angeles

“RIORDAN C2C REVEALS THE TRUE VALUE of pursuing a degree at the post-undergraduate level. After hearing the inspiring stories of professionals from various industries, I am more excited for what the future holds for me.”

Enrique Loyola, Wake Forest University

Undergraduate Institutions

Brown University • California State University, Dominguez Hills • California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach • California State University, Los Angeles • DePaul University
Loyola Marymount University • Middlebury College • Occidental College • San Diego State University
Tufts University • University of California, Berkeley • University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine • University of California, Los Angeles • University of California, Merced
University of California, San Diego • University of Southern California • University of Wisconsin
Virginia Tech • Wake Forest University • Whittier College

Profile

Average GPA

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MANY RIORDAN PROGRAMS ALUMNI HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE BUSINESS SCHOOLS OF THEIR DREAMS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015!

Yury Adamov
Graziadio School of Business, Pepperdine University

Sammit Adhya
Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley

George Austin
Georgetown University Law Center

Jennifer Boicic
UCLA Anderson School of Management

Tiger Cai
Johnson Business School, Cornell University

Marco Calderon
Johnson Business School, Cornell University

Daisy Carrillo
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Yee Chen
Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

Joseph Cobian
UCLA Anderson School of Management

Eli Dagiaoag
Stern School of Business, New York University

Zubin Davar
UCLA Anderson School of Management

Armando Gomez
Stern School of Business, New York University

Chasen Goudeau
Johnson Business School, Cornell University

Emma Gutierrez
Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley

Mark Hamilton
UCLA Anderson School of Management

Becky Ho
Johnson Business School, Cornell University

Guy Kampua
Harvard Business School, Harvard University

Antonio Key
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Joseph Kim
Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley

Subodh Kolla
UCLA Anderson School of Management

Jacqueline Laird
Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley

Hao Meng
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Sam Patterson
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Desiree Stolar
Harvard Business School, Harvard University

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Quynh Tran
Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Anthony Yu
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Gordon Yu
Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley

Adame Felipe
California State University, Northridge

Temidayo Adegbeme
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Curtis Bell
Arizona State University

Blake Brandon
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Isaac Camarena
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Samantha Cano
University of California, Santa Cruz

Nathand Carter
Bucknell University

Quentin Collier
Howard University

Enrico Cortes
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Erica De La Rosa
Georgetown University

Jazmin Flores
University of Southern California

Sandy Flores
University of Southern California

Julian Gomez
Loyola Marymount University

Jayzee Gonzalez
San Francisco State University

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Monica Hurtado
California State University, Long Beach

Alyah Johnson
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Amy Jones-Jelks
Marymount California University

Qiao Er Li
University of California, Berkeley

Michael Li
California State University, Long Beach

Alex Lopez
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Julio Macias
El Camino College

Ben Meeks
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Jaquelin Melendez
California State University, Los Angeles

Chelsea Moody
Marymount California University

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Soila Ramos
Loyola Marymount University

Rediet Tefere
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Ashely Williams
Lehigh University

Alejandro Zepeda
University of Arizona

Bricia Zuniga
UCLA Anderson School of Management
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www.anderson.ucla.edu/riordan

SAVE THE DATE: 
UPCOMING EVENTS

RIORDAN SCHOLARS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE TOUR  
July 26–29, 2015

RIORDAN SCHOLARS 2015 ORIENTATION  
September 26, 2015

RIORDAN MBA FELLOWS 2015 ORIENTATION  
October 2-4, 2015

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