



STUDENTS RISING ABOVE

PO Box 192492 . San Francisco, CA 94119
www.studentsrisingabove.org

Rising Star

FALL 2019 Newsletter

Meet Jan Cox Golovich, One of SRA's Dedicated Advisors

by Jan Cox Golovich, SRA Advisor

“My journey with Students Rising Above began in the summer of 2014 when the program expanded to include Solano County for the first time and I was hired as an advisor. I had been on board only a week when the next thing I knew, I was driving a big van with seven high school seniors over the San Mateo hills to the annual SRA new student weekend retreat. We all met in the Target parking lot in Vallejo and didn't know each other. By the end of the weekend, we were as close as any family could ever be. We knew that we would always love and support each other through good times and bad. That is the magic of Students Rising Above.

As a native and a former high school teacher from Vallejo, I am well-acquainted with the obstacles low-income, first-generation students face getting to college in general and also the unique challenges Solano County poses due to a lack of public transportation, job and internship opportunities, as compared to other parts of the Bay Area.

What Solano County lacks, the students make up for in enthusiasm, drive, and determination. My first year

with SRA and my high school seniors flew by with the college application process, SAT testing, financial aid determination, and college acceptances. No sooner had I waved good-bye to my first group as they went off to their selected colleges, but it was time to ramp

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SRA Moments

Made Possible by Donors Like You



Being the first in my family to go to college and having funds so I can purchase a cap and gown



Having the funds to pay for the SAT test fee and having someone to take me to test day and wait for me to finish



Setting up my very first bank account and my own credit card



Attending my very first Giant's Game after having lived in the Bay Area my whole life



Having my SRA advisor help me navigate housing issues and find a safe and welcoming place to live



Getting a ride to and from a doctor's appointment and having support paying for services



Having a stipend during the holiday break when I stayed on campus



Finding out SRA would help cover transportation costs so I could attend a family member's funeral



Having my SRA advisor come help me for 5 hours when I had issues at the DMV



Getting DACA renewal fees covered and having my SRA advisor come to my citizenship ceremony to celebrate



inside:

Jan Cox Golovich . Annual Giving . Nina Stone . Career Insight Days (and more)



FROM LEFT: Brijeanae Foster, SRA Scholar and UC Merced senior and Jan Cox Golovich, dedicated SRA Advisor.

....Golovich continued

up for the next set of determined incoming students —the cycle repeated all over again.

And now, in 2019, I look on with joy as my first class of students graduate from college. Even though I can't take credit; they have done it themselves. I do take pride in their accomplishments. I can't begin to describe the ups and downs each and every one of my students experienced and I am dazzled by their resilience and appreciative of the unique and effective model that SRA offers to the young people in my hometown and beyond."

In Memory of Vicky Friedman

VICKY FRIEDMAN
1953-2019

We lost one of our dearest champions in August with the passing of long-time Students Rising Above supporter, Vicky Friedman.

Vicky was a loving mother, a lifelong Oakland resident, and a volunteer who devoted countless hours to community advocacy organizations. Her commitment to literacy and to fostering the academic potential of disadvantaged youth compelled her to become a frequent volunteer and mentor at SRA. Along the way, she developed close relationships with several SRA students and loved celebrating their successes over the years.

Vicky opened up her heart and home to SRA, frequently hosting events and meetings, as well as students who needed housing. You could always count on seeing Vicky's infectious smile at our annual fundraising gala, as well as community-building events.

Vicky's legacy shines brightly through her planned giving directive to include supporting Students Rising Above. Her gift will change the lives of Bay Area students and open the door of possibilities that many thought would never be available to them; creating a ripple effect of hope.



FROM LEFT: Vicky Friedman (receiving Volunteer of the Year award at 2013 Gala) and SRA Alum, Samantha Carter, Brown University 2012.

We will miss her exuberant enthusiasm for SRA and our students. We are so grateful for her years of support! Thank you, Vicky.

For more information about SRA's Planned Giving, please call 415.333.4222 or email info@studentsrisingabove.org.

Annual Giving Season Is Here!

This Annual Giving season, we are asking for your support of our hundreds of students served at SRA, the majority of whom are making the monumental jump from a challenging home environment to become ambitious and hopeful young adults.

Donors like you provide vital funds to support Students Rising Above's work as we help transform the lives of hundreds of young students through the power of education.

Every donation, no matter what size, makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity and investment in the future of our students and those who follow in their footsteps.

DONATE TODAY!

SRA is grateful for the continued generosity of Bassett Furniture, Students Rising Above's Premier Sponsor for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition to supporting the SRA Quarterly Newsletter, and our recent #SRASStudyHaul Campaign, Bassett is donating a portion of proceeds from their New Year's Day Sale in support of SRA's Annual Giving season. Thank you, Bassett!

Donor Corner: SRA's Scholar Society Welcomes Nina Stone

Nina and her late husband Herbert have been consistent SRA supporters since 2007! Mrs. Stone attended our annual gala in 2017, which gave her the opportunity to meet and get to know our students.

That same year, Nina became an SRA Scholar Society member. The Scholar Society program recognizes leading donors for the critical role they play in shaping the future of the next generation. Scholar Society members invest in SRA to empower students with drive and potential, connecting them to the tools, resources, and community they need to excel.

"In my opinion, I think all the resources and assistance become way more significant when I'm able to meet and build a relationship with our donors because they are the people who help put me through college and achieve my goal. It takes a village and after meeting them I feel that I can say that they are part of my village."

- Claudia De La Cruz , SRA Scholar, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Scholar Society membership is open to individuals and family foundations that make financial contributions of \$10,000 or more in a calendar year. Benefits of being a Scholar Society member include, two tickets to our annual SRA fundraising Gala, twice yearly reports offering in-depth updates about a hand-full of students as they work toward college graduation, an SRA embroidered sweatshirt, and last but not least, the opportunity to meet SRA scholars at our annual Scholar Society event.



FROM LEFT: SRA Scholar Society member, Nina Stone and Claudia De La Cruz , SRA Scholar, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

"It is such a wonderful feeling for me to help a deserving student. Actually, they do me a favor as being able to help someone go to college, makes my day!"

- Nina Stone, SRA Scholar Society member

For more information on our Scholar Society and Circles of Giving levels, please call 415.333.4222 or email info@studentsrisingabove.org.

SRA Career Insight Days



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Genentech; Atlassian; Lumentum, CEO Alan Lowe; and Rakuten.

We were thrilled to partner with top Bay Area companies on 10 Career Insight Days, providing over 150 SRA students with invaluable career exposure and networking experiences, throughout the summer.

The SRA Career Insight Days are half-day visits to the offices of a hosting company, offering a chance for students to learn about the various roles and departments within a company, see a variety of work environments, and gain hands-on leadership and professional development skills with company volunteers.

The following companies hosted SRA students in 2019: Atlassian, Genentech, JPMorgan Chase, Lumentum, Sojern, Shartsis Friese LLP, Rakuten, Rodan + Fields, Workday, and Zoom. Thank you to all of our 2019 Career Insight Day corporate partners!

SRA Career Insight Days are a crucial piece of professional and career development for hundreds of our students, hence, 78% of SRA college graduates

are in career-ladder jobs or graduate school within 12 months of graduating. The following five industries are where the majority of SRA students secure positions post-graduation:

19% TECH (NOT NECESSARILY IN TECH ROLES)

18% EDUCATION

17% SOCIAL SERVICES, NONPROFIT

12% FINANCE / BUSINESS

11% HEALTH CARE, OR BIOTECH

We're grateful to all our corporate partners, who help provide our students with exposure to various career pathways through Career Insight Days and much more!

If your company would like more information on how you can participate in SRA Career Insight Days next summer, please contact Jennifer Kockos at jkockos@studentsrisingabove.org.



STUDENTS RISING ABOVE

989

college
applications
submitted



75



financial aid budgets created
that were finalized and
approved by advisors

47

high schools
represented



MEET OUR NEW SRA RISING STARS FIRST-GEN COLLEGE FRESHMAN

Top 5 Public Universities

- UC Berkeley
- UC Merced
- UC Davis
- UC Riverside
- CSU East Bay



Top 5 Private Universities

- Macalester College
- Connecticut College
- Yale University
- Williams College
- Wesleyan College



INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Get Interactive: Jump-Starting my Career

By: Emma Ottum, SRA Scholar and UC Riverside senior

SRA Scholar Emma Ottum is a senior at UC Riverside, pursuing a major in Industrial-Organizational Psychology with a minor in Human Resources. She is passionate about Industrial-Organizational Psychology and how it intersects with business and professional development. Emma recently returned from India, where she received a highly competitive fellowship to teach for three months.

Emma enjoyed this past summer as a Learning and Development Intern with CBS Interactive. Read on to discover what she learned during her internship, the important leadership skills she gained, and her hopes for the future!

“Hi, I’m Emma Ottum! I am currently a senior at UC Riverside, majoring in Industrial-Organizational Psychology with a minor in Human Resources. I am passionate about Industrial-Organizational Psychology and Business, because I love learning about how I can grow my skills with people, while utilizing them in a business setting. I have been involved in many exciting projects in the past, and recently just returned from India, where I won a fellowship to teach for three months. During my time, I learned how to use my project management skills to teach students.

My most recent summer was spent with CBS Interactive as their Learning and Development Intern. My job duties varied on a daily basis, providing me with the opportunity to constantly learn new content.

The most surprising part of my experience was how fast it flew by! This internship was the most challenging one that I have experienced in my career path, but I nevertheless, did my best to learn everything I could, pursuing career and professional development opportunities.

The career path I would like to pursue after graduating from college is to go into a job where I can continue to discover my passion for project management and Learning and Development. My CBS Interactive internship aligned perfectly with my career goals, as it fed into my dream of helping people develop in their roles, while also building on my skills in event management.

My first internship was with 360+, where I was their social media producer and student advisor for over 15 students. This helped me develop my interest in management. I then went on to intern with San Jose Downtown Association as their marketing and promotions intern where I developed promotional marketing plans and co-spearheaded four public activation-related events with over 3,000 people. I learned how to seamlessly design an event from start to finish.

As my passion for project management grew, I decided to intern with the City of Riverside as their Economic Intern. I created financial budgets for city-wide events, analyzed \$10,000 grants, and oversaw 50+ food and



Emma Ottum, SRA Scholar and UC Riverside senior.

artisan vendor applications. I discovered that I loved teaching, applied and won a fellowship to be a music teacher in India, and went on to follow my goals. In the school, I taught over 400 children group music classes, as well as private music classes, while leading women’s leadership and professional development groups.

The minute I started college, SRA was by my side sending me internships that I would have

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never given thought to apply to. When my SRA Advisor, Allison, sent me the application for my first internship with the San Jose Downtown Association in the summer of 2016, I had low confidence in myself that I would be accepted. Not only did she encourage me to apply, but she also provided me with complete career support and advice that I needed to push myself to take that first step. I was accepted and started my first internship that would jumpstart my career.

After that summer, I had no idea which doors would open for me next. By the second year of college, I had never been more excited to receive an email than the ones sent by my SRA Advisor with the headings "you have to apply!" and "this is perfect for you." I knew that when I would open these emails, there would be amazing opportunities waiting for me. Throughout my years of college, SRA continued to push me harder and into more competitive internships at reputable companies.

One of the best parts about being in SRA is how they seemed to know me better than I know myself. My SRA Advisor never failed to send me the perfect internship opportunities. I realized that SRA could see the bigger picture of my career development at times where I couldn't. At the end of the internship, I was incredibly grateful for SRA for pushing me to apply myself and loved every moment of developing my career. SRA has also given me the opportunity to attend career development workshops, career fairs, networking events, and much more.



Emma Ottum, SRA Scholar, UC Riverside at Summer Internship at San Jose Downtown Association.

My biggest piece of advice for other students looking for internships is to never be afraid to apply. It may seem terrifying at first, but the experience is worth it in the end, it will help your career develop in ways you never imagined. My entire life before SRA was spent being scared of the unknown. I learned to apply myself and

discover what I am truly capable of. You don't want to have those "what if" moments and SRA is here to help make sure those never happen.

I recently met Jim Lanzone, CBS Interactive Chief Executive Officer, in the breakroom and it was one of the highlights of my internship!"

Visit the SRA Blog to follow more internship success stories!
<https://studentsrisingabove.org/media/#blog>



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Mark Your Calendars



17th Annual

STUDENTS RISING ABOVE

Gala 2020

Thursday, March 19th, 2020

The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco



STUDENTS
RISING ABOVE

APPLICATION
DEADLINE

MARCH 4 2020

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Only high school JUNIORS will be considered for the SRA Rising Stars Class of 2021.