



SANTA BARBARA

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Dear graduate students,

When I was earning my MA in history at the University of Michigan and, later, a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Iowa, I received invaluable assistance from my professors and the staff who worked in student services and other areas of administration. On occasion, however, the most powerful help I received was not from staff and faculty but from my fellow graduate students. That's why the Division of Student Affairs is so pleased to support the UCSB Graduate Post. We hope and expect it to become a vibrant and well-used "blog," a place for students to find resources easily and to help one another at those times when the direct assistance of a professor or staff member may not be the best path.

I hope that you will use the GradPost the way my fellow students and I used the coffee shop, the library, and the student union, as gathering places to share stories, try out ideas, and to get and give support. We laughed together, talked about our research and the good things in our university lives, and shared our aspirations as well as our fears and concerns. I have high hopes that members of our UCSB graduate student community will do these things on GradPost as well as send in story ideas, make thoughtful comments when they read a good contribution, and consider writing stories themselves as guest contributors. I am also pleased to see that GradPost has invited the participation of departments and services across the campus as a way to help answer graduate students' questions and monitor arising issues and needs among our graduate community.

Finally, if you are a prospective graduate student who has found the GradPost as you consider UCSB as a possible place for your future studies, let me welcome you and invite you to check this site often. As I hope you will discover as you explore the GradPost's videos, podcasts, images, and stories, UCSB is a diverse and welcoming campus. Yes, our graduate programs top the national rankings, but it is our community that is truly beyond measure.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Young
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs