

# Berkeley Students for Life

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Berkeley Students for Life



## EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Berkeley Students for Life has many activities planned this year. Our main focus during the fall semester is on volunteering and political activity, and during the spring semester we plan to host many speakers and activities to educate students about right-to-life issues.

### OUTREACH

We successfully completed the Diaper Drive on Friday, October 21st and collected diapers, baby food, and other baby supplies for the Student-Parent Center at Cal. We set up a donation table in front of Safeway on College Avenue and gave approaching customers lists of what the student parents needed donated. Later this semester, we are going to hold a toy drive in conjunction with the Student-Parent Center.

We are also planning volunteering projects at pregnancy resource centers, women's shelters, day care centers, and individually with young families. Our primary goal this semester in terms of volunteering is to work with the student parents at Cal so that we can help them raise a family while getting an education.

### INFORMATION

We are finalizing a pamphlet containing adoption and pregnancy resources near Cal that we will hopefully be allowed to place in the University Hospital. Currently, when a student visits the Hospital, they can find abundant abortion resources and referral options, which include the morning-after pill and Planned Parenthood information, but a scarce amount of information or support for abortion alternatives.

We are also diligently campaigning to help pass Proposition 85, the Parent's Right to Know and Child Protection Act. Legislation similar to Proposition 85 has been passed in over 30 states so far, and Berkeley Students for Life agrees that these laws help reduce the number of teen pregnancies and abortions and helps protect minors being coerced into having abortions. Unfortunately, our student government (the Associated Students of UC Berkeley) has taken a public stance against Proposition 85 even though members of Berkeley Students for Life presented our pro-85 stance at a student senate meeting.

### SPRING

Next semester, we have many exciting activities planned. Our Celebrate Life Week (CLW) will occur from January 15th – 19th, before the West Coast Walk for Life. During this week, we have a “noon rally” on the steps of the Cal administration building, Sproul Hall, lectures in the evenings, a ribbon memorial that shows the number of abortions since Roe v. Wade, and we also pass out literature to students. Our noon-time rally speaker will be the Rev. Childress, who will also be at the Walk for Life that we hope you can all attend. Before the CLW, we go to San Francisco and participate in the West Coast Walk for Life.

The Celebrate Life Conference (CLC) will be held at Notre Dame de Namur University in San Francisco and will address pro-life issues and the media. The issues covered will range from how to present pro-life opinions to journalists and reporters to how to correct common misconceptions that surround abortion, stem-cell research, and Planned Parenthood. The CLC will be held on Saturday, April 21st, 2007. We hope you can attend!



*Ribbon Memorial, Celebrate Life Week 2006*



It seems to me clear as daylight that abortion would be a crime.

--Mahatmas Ghandi

Of course, abortion, from a Buddhist viewpoint, is an act of killing and is negative, generally speaking.

--Dalai Lama

Guilty? Yes. No matter what the motive, love of ease, or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent, the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed. It will burden her conscience in life, it will burden her soul in death; But oh, thrice guilty is he who drove her to the desperation which impelled her to the crime!

--Susan B. Anthony

"Yesterday they snatched the babies from our arms and sold them into slavery, today they cut them out of our womb and throw them in the garbage. Abortion, Black genocide, provided free of charge by a racist society."

--Dolores Bernadette Grier

President, Black Catholics Against Abortion

## 2006 CELEBRATE LIFE CONFERENCE: "PRO-LIFE? PRO-CHOICE? PRO-RESOURCE!"

The 2006 Celebrate Life Conference brought together students and pro-life groups from several major California campuses, including students from UC Berkeley, Stanford, UCLA, and UC Davis. Last year's theme, "Pro-Life? Pro-Choice? Pro-Resource!" focused on providing resources and informing pregnant and parenting women of alternatives to abortion on college campuses and in the community. The speakers and panels encouraged the participants to campaign for additional resources, and to invited other student groups to volunteer for student-parents.

The day began with Montez Petronelli, the President and Executive Director of the nonprofit Student Parenting Project. She informed us of her experiences as a student parent when she attended UC Berkeley's Boalt La School, and the difficulties she faced to obtain and coordinate adequate housing and childcare. She then pointed to the success that the Student Parenting Project and others have had in convincing schools to better fund and organize such resources for the 4.5 million student parents in the United States. Petronelli concluded by listing the tangible services that college campuses do not currently provide, and the importance of University support and aid for pregnant and parenting students.

Sally Winn, Vice President of Feminists for Life (FFL), then gave a workshop and Q&A session about the FFL's efforts to provide more benefits to women who have children while getting an education. She informed students about FFL's college outreach programs and how to get involved by volunteering and lobbying for resources.

After lunch, we returned for a panel discussion on resources for pregnant and parenting women. Our panel included Lynn Crook, the Director of Counseling Services for the Bay Area crisis pregnancy center First Resort, Cynthia Turner, a licensed clinical social worker with UC Berkeley Health Services, and Christyna Serrano, who is a student-parent with the Student Parent Center at UC Berkeley. The panel discussion was followed by a personal talk by Lise Faus on her experience with abortion as a student. She noted the lack of options, resources and counseling that led her to her abortion, the effects on her life, and the healing she's found with the group Project Rachel.

The Celebrate Life Conference closed with members of the group Common Ground, a former organization that promoted dialogue and collaboration between pro-life and pro-choice activists. Four participants from Iowa discussed their challenges in understanding one another and in finding areas of agreement without abandoning their opinions. The speakers called for understanding and communication between the opposite sides of the abortion issue.



## PROFILES OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS

**LIZ SAROKI:** Senior Elizabeth (Liz) Saroki, Co-President of the Berkeley Students for Life, loves making a difference in the lives of women and children. Liz enjoys spreading the word about alternatives to abortion. For Liz, one of the most rewarding parts about informing other students about the truths about abortion is when someone tells her, "I never knew that's how big a baby's feet are at 10 weeks old!" As a busy student at Cal, Liz still finds time to do research for the Goldman School of Public Policy and to be the Director for the California Students for Life. Liz loves to play soccer, swim, and studies psychology and public policy. After Liz graduates, she hopes to learn Spanish in South America and work in the Americorps. Following graduate school, Liz wants to work to implement family-friendly work policies as a way to help decrease abortions in society.

**JEN MOITOZA:** Jen Moitoza, a senior and Co-President of the Berkeley Students for Life, has loved being involved with the pro-life group since she was a freshman at Cal. Since grade school, Jen has been pro-life and has greatly enjoyed being a pro-life activist during the past three years. Not only does Jen spend her time informing students on campus about pro-life issues and planning Berkeley Students for Life events, she also volunteers at the Children's Hospital and works at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. In her free time, Jen loves to play volleyball, bake, and learn about ancient civilizations. Jen was fortunate enough to travel to Greece this summer. As for the future, Jen hopes to attend medical school in the fall of 2008.

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