



## Chair Message

### Dear Friends of Chicano/Latino Studies,

These are difficult times for the nation, for California, and for the University of California system. We in Chicano/Latino Studies are doing our best to ensure that the cutbacks that we all must take are not slowing our students in their pursuit of their long-term goals (and to ensure that they are able to graduate expeditiously). I am pleased to report that, so far at least, the cuts have proved to be more of an inconvenience than an impediment for Chicano/Latino Studies students.

Like most public universities, UCI has reduced the number of classes offered which means that the classes we do offer are somewhat larger. The range of classes offered is also somewhat narrower. We have not been able to recruit new faculty members as we have been able to for the past few years and may not for several years to come. Resources to enhance the student experience outside the classroom have been reduced.

So far, UCI financial assistance for students has not been reduced, but we know that many families are struggling to continue to assist their children in funding their share of the cost of a University education. This is a particular concern for many of the students pursuing their BA in Chicano/Latino Studies.

I certainly don't mean to present too rosy a picture, but I am pleased to report that we have been able to make many cuts while still meeting our core commitments to our students. I will use this space in future newsletters to continue to keep you informed about the effects of reduced state support for higher education on Chicano/Latino Studies.

In times like these, there is often a strong desire by those who have the opportunity to do so to help others in society. To that end, I would like to suggest an opportunity to help students in the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies. The Department established a fund to support student research named in honor of Professor Jeff Garcilazo. If you would like to support Chicano/Latino Studies students through a contribution to this fund, please send a check – payable to the U.C. Regents and indicating support for the Jeff Garcilazo fund – to the Department at the address on the last page of this newsletter. We will ensure that these funds are used to prepare our students for the bright future that I know awaits them.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of Chicano/Latino Studies at UCI.

Sincerely,

Louis DeSipio

Chair, Department of Chicano/Latino Studies &

Associate Professor, Departments of Chicano/Latino Studies and Political Science



*"These are difficult times for the nation, for California, and for the University of California system."*

*"There is a strong desire by those who have the opportunity to help others in society."*

## Faculty News

### Getting to know your DCLS Faculty

*Ana Rosas, UCI Assistant Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and History, shares her personal story of her present and future academic endeavors and the importance of Chicano/Latino Studies.*



Students at the University of California, Irvine are truly inspirational. Learning more about and from their interpretation of History through our discussion of seminal activist platforms and the trajectory of immigration history has paved the way for fruitful discussions, essays, and presentations throughout my teaching of the Chicano-Latino experience. Their willingness to share their perspectives and goals with fellow students consistently expands our consideration of the stakes of immigrant identity formation and rights beyond traditional conceptualizations of the Chicano-Latino experience. Well into my second year in this department, my interactions with students enrolled in my courses are always a great way to begin and end a hard day's work-their energy, perspectives, and promise is what makes this department a wonderful community.

I would encourage students to consider their pursuit of a Chicano-Latino Studies major or minor as the perfect vehicle toward understanding the diverse immensity and dynamism of issues, policies, populations, movements, ideas, and practices orienting the opportunities, resources, and pressures confronting their generation. Our major and minor's course offerings are taught by leading experts in the fields of Anthropology, Education, Literature, Political Science, Psychology, Social Ecology, Sociology, among other fields, approaches that promise to enrich and expand their assessment and development of perspectives and goals reflective of a critical understanding of themselves and their choices, and in turn, the past, present, and future that binds us all.

## FACULTY AND AFFILIATE NEWS

**Catherine Benamou**, UCI Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies and faculty affiliate in Chicano/Latino Studies has completed book chapter: "*Con amor, tequila, y gasolina: Lola the Truck driver and Screen Resistance in Border Cinema (Cine Fronterizo)*," In *Latsploitation: Latin American Exploitation Cinemas*, eds. Victoria Ruetalo and Dolores Tierney (Routledge, in press, 2009).



**Jeanett Castellanos**, Lecturer of Social Sciences and Chicano Latino Studies and Director of the Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC), has received the 2008 Star Vega Distinguished Service Award from the National Latina/o Psychology Association. The honor, awarded every two years since 2004, recognizes her service to the Latina/o community. "Uniqueness is the most appropriate word that best describes the character and

*"What do you enjoy most about teaching for the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies at UCI?"*

*"What advice would you give to potential Chicano/Latino majors/minors?"*

*UCI Lecturer awarded 2008 Star Vega Distinguished Service Award from National Latina/o Psychology Association.*

work ethic of Dr. Castellanos," says Caesar Sereseres, Social Sciences associate dean of undergraduate studies. "She represents the best combination of a research scholar, teacher, mentor, and creative academic administrator."

Castellanos received her award at the 2008 NLPA annual conference in Costa Mesa, November 14-16,

*"Essay examines heroin addiction and overdose among Hispanos in Northern Mexico's Española Valley."*

**Angela Garcia**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, recently published an essay in the November 2008 issue of journal *Cultural Anthropology*. Her essay, entitled "The Elegiac Addict: History, Chronicity and the Melancholic Subject," examines heroin addiction and overdose among Hispanos in northern New Mexico's Española Valley, a region which has the highest rate of heroin-induced death in the United States. In addition, Dr. Garcia also published a feature article entitled, "Digging Deep: Addicts Get Back to the Land" in the December 2008 issue of *High Country News Magazine*, which describes the role and meaning of traditional agriculture practices for recovering Hispano addicts. She has begun fieldwork on a new research project, which examines the politics and processes of everyday repair for women in in-custody drug recovery programs



*UC Irvine project couples academic research with community action to combat health issues linked to poverty, poor diets.*



UC Irvine project couples academic research with community action to combat health issues linked to poverty, poor diets. Inequality, both literally and figuratively, makes many people sick, says **Michael Montoya**, UC Irvine anthropology and Chicano/Latino studies assistant professor. He, along with a group of Orange County community members and UCI undergraduate and graduate students, is doing something about it.

In a study published last year in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, **Montoya** and co-authors Yin Paradies and Malia Fullerton, found that, contrary to commonly held beliefs, factors such as poverty, housing segregation and poor diet are stronger indicators of a person's likelihood of developing diabetes than race or their ethnic gene pool (see the release at [http://today.uci.edu/news/release\\_detail.asp?key=1598](http://today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1598)).

To learn more about the project, visit <http://www.communityknowledgeproject.org/> or view their student-led video project online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpgw9XqMuKA>



*"Celebrating Latino identity!"*

**Vicki Ruiz**, UCI Dean of Humanities and Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and History, has delivered several papers at Swarthmore College, Kennesaw State, UC Davis, and Arizona State University. In September 2008, the Intercultural Center and Swarthmore's Hispanic and Latino organization ENLACE held lectures, events and performances in an effort to both talk about and celebrate Latino identity. This past September's conglomeration of Latino-centered events is known as *Latino Heritage Month*, which raises awareness, hopes to spark change. **Ruiz** spoke at Swarthmore "about Latino history as United States history." In her lecture, "she analyzed different key points in American history from the perspective of Latinos," said Marquez. For the full story, please visit <http://daily.swarthmore.edu/2008/09/26/latino-heritage-month-raises-awareness-hopes-to-spark-change/>.

Ready for PRIME  
Time: Inaugural  
class in model UCI  
medical education  
program graduates  
Spring 2009!

"Los Angeles'  
immigrants &  
children of  
immigrants topic of  
three new UCI  
studies."

## Spotlight

As part of the inaugural PRIME-LC class of 2004, Marnie Granados will become a doctor this spring. PRIME-LC is an innovative UC Irvine School of Medicine program designed to lessen Latino healthcare disparities in California. It will produce its first graduates this year. The students will move into jobs as resident physicians and it is hoped herald a revolution in healthcare for a third of the state's residents.



PRIME-LC (Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community) was developed in 2004 as the first medical education program in the country addressing the unique healthcare needs of Latinos. Since then, four other UC medical schools have launched PRIME programs targeting different underserved communities, and medical education itself is being transformed.

## Researchers Receive Russell Sage Foundation Award

UC Irvine researchers have received three awards from the Russell Sage Foundation totaling \$245,000 to take an in-depth look at how immigrants and children of immigrants - the 1.5 and second generations - in Los Angeles assimilate and incorporate into American society, titled: *Los Angeles' immigrants & children of immigrants topic of three new UCI studies. Cultural and political adaptation of the 1.5 and second generations*



Leo Chavez, UCI anthropology professor, and Louis DeSipio, UCI Chicano/Latino studies and Political Science professor have received a \$70,000 award to examine how immigrants from all seven national origin groups who migrated as children and the children of immigrants have - or haven't - acculturated into U.S. society. They are particularly interested in how legal status affects children of immigrants in terms of their language skills, religion,

engagement with the criminal justice system and voting. Preliminary data analysis - and common sense, say both Chavez and DeSipio - indicate that both legalization and citizenship play significant roles in the opportunities for the children of immigrants to increase their political and cultural involvement in the U.S. If found to be correct, their study could play a major role in the development of future policies focused on promoting opportunities for legal residency and citizenship status for undocumented immigrants. Work on each study began during summer 2008 and will run through December 2009.

## STUDENT NEWS

Michelle Garza has been selected as the House Assistant for Casa Cesar Chavez for the 2009-10 academic year. Michelle, a second year student from Rialto, California, is a triple major in Chicano/Latino Studies, International Studies, and Political Science. She is active in the Latino Business Students Association.

This past Fall 08', 4<sup>th</sup> year Chicano/Latino studies major Victoria Ramirez conducted a research study through the Field Research program in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico on the importance of Mariachi music to Jalisco's youth population. There are several

*Study opens doors to the "hole" existent in the studies about the mariachi!*

*Undergraduate Chicano/Latino major talks to family members about how to stay safe!*

*Two American Sociological Association research awards to former Chicano/Latino Studies major.*

studies about the history of the *mariachi* and the *mariachi's* importance for Mexico's culture. Even though some studies touch upon the values or identification of the *mariachi* for Mexicans, there is no evidence of what value today's youth give to the *mariachi's* music and in what form they show it, which puts us closer to the *mariachi's* representations in *Tapatio* youth. This study opens doors to the hole existent in the studies about the *mariachi*. The study used the responses of 25 interviewees, between the ages of 15 and 30, in seven events of the *XV Encuentro Internacional del Mariachi y la Charrería*. Content analysis was used to analyze the data, which was separated into four categories: beliefs, ideology, rituals, and symbolism. The results reveal that *Tapatio* youth value



**Pamela Ruiz** studies ways to end gang strangleholds in Honduras and the U.S. When UC Irvine undergraduate Pamela Ruiz decided to return to her native Honduras last fall to research gangs, like any good student, she did her homework.

She read up on gangs in textbooks and news articles. She watched documentaries. She talked to family members about how to stay safe. Her mother, who moved Ruiz and her sister to the U.S. when Ruiz was 4, told her not to attract attention, not to wear jewelry or flashy clothes, and not to use a cell phone in public. Her grandparents, who are surrounded by gangs in Honduras, told her they lock their doors and stay inside at night, not daring to look out the window if they hear trouble on the street.

Still, nothing prepared Ruiz for what she saw in neighborhoods where gangs rule.

For the complete story visit the following Website:  
[http://www.socsci.uci.edu/newsevents/news\\_item.php?nid=2091](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/newsevents/news_item.php?nid=2091)

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Glenda Flores**, who is now in her 4th year of the PhD program at USC, took her qualifying exams fall 2008. She recently won two awards from the American Sociological Association for her research entitled "The Paradox of Race at the Workplace: Latina Teachers Navigating Racial/Ethnic Tensions and Opportunities on the Job." Flores, a former substitute teacher who was born and raised in Santa Ana, Calif., designed this study to inquire about race relations at the workplace in her own community.



### **Ismael Herrera**

Ismael Herrera graduated from UCI in 2007 with a double major in Sociology and Chicano/Latino Studies. He has been awarded the 2008-2009 Richard G. Polanco Fellowship through the California Legislative Caucus Institute in the State Capital, Sacramento, Ca.

2008 Orange County Hispanic Bar Association Wally Davis Award to graduate of Chicano/Latino major.

DCLS Assistant Professor Deborah Vargas returns to UCI.

Multiethnic Community and Formation 2008-2009 Colloquia Series



Ruth Olivares (B. A. Chicano/Latino Studies and B. A. English, 2008) has been admitted to the M. A. program in Chicano Studies at California State University at Los Angeles for fall 2009. Ms. Olivares' research paper "Duality of Cultures: Mexican-American Cultural Identity in the United States" was awarded second runner up for the Jeff Garcilazo Prize in 2007.

Rosa Erandi Zamora graduated from UCI in 2007 with a double major in Political Science and Chicano@/Latin@ Studies. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa, cum laude and DCLS Honors. Currently, Zamora is finishing up her first year at Columbia Law School and plans to practice public interest law. This summer she will be working at the National Immigration Law Center in Los Angeles. She is the recipient of the "2008 Orange County Hispanic Bar Association Wally Davis Scholarship."



### UCI Alumna Jessica Tover Martinez to publish article

An article entitled "Not Mexican-American but Mexican: Shifting Ethnic Self-Identifications among Children of Mexican Immigrants" co-authored by Professor Cynthia Feliciano and UCI alumna Jessica Tovar (B.A. Political Science and Sociology, 2006) is scheduled for future publication in the *Latino Studies Journal*.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ The Department of Chicano/Latino Studies at UCI is pleased to report that Assistant Professor Deborah Vargas will be returning to the Department in July from her year at the University of Texas at Austin.
- ❖ UCI Libraries will be adding an important new document resource to the Chicano/Latino Studies Collection a 46 reel microfilm collection of the Office Files of the President of the United Farmworkers of America from years 1951-1971
- ❖ Congratulations to the University of California, Davis Department of Chicana/Chicano Studies for being awarded departmental status.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2008-2009 Colloquia Series:  
Multiethnic Community and Formation  
"Roundtable on Public Health"  
May 21, 2009  
UCI Student Center Doheny Beach 4:00 PM  
Guest speakers:

Monica Perales, University of Houston: "Lessons from Smelertown: Public Health, Lead Contamination and Collective Memory on the US Mexico Border"

Natalia Molina, University of California, San Diego: "Race, Borders, Immigrations, and Public Health throughout the Twentieth Century."

April 18, 2009 Reception for Newly Admitted Chicano/Latino (Raza) Students  
Social Science Plaza A 1100 from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m.

*CRLGS fellowship award recipients for 2008-09 present their research papers.*

Center for Research on Latinos in a Global Society  
Mini-Graduate Symposium  
May 29, 2009

Jeff Garcilazo Conference Room (SST 318)

*Each year the CRLGS awards dissertation fellowships to select graduate students conducting research on Latinos, and the award requirement is for each recipient to present their research papers and publish them on the University of California Digital Library E-Scholarship Repository.*

**Presentation Schedule**

**James D. Bachmeier (11:00 - 11:30)** Department of Sociology: *Emerging trends in Mexican migration and the socioeconomic incorporation of the Mexican-origin population in the United States*

**Brenda Carpio (11:30 - 12:00)** Department of Political Science: *Ahora Marchamos, Manana Votamos Spanish-language Media and Latino/a Political Participation*

**Daisy Reyes (12:30 - 1:00)** Department of Sociology: *Latino Student Politics: Constructing Ethnic Identities through Organizations*

**Rosaura Tafoya-Estrada (1:00 - 1:30)** Department of Sociology: *Educational Trajectories of the Mexican-origin population*

**Armando Ibarra (1:30 - 2:00)** Department of Political Science: *The Politics of Geography and Agricultural Labor in California: Economic and Political Integration and Adaptation*

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Mes de La Raza May 2009 MEChA de UCI invites you to a series of workshops, events, presentations in May surrounding this year's theme "Art and Culture "Cultivando las raíces de Resistencia" (cultivating the roots of Resistance)" For more information contact the MEChA office at (949) 824-2225.

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