

DEPARTMENT OF CHICANO/LATINO STUDIES

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

There are various ways to measure the health and vitality of an academic department. We need to be offering diverse classes that are well taught to a steadily increasing number of students. Our faculty need to be conducting research and producing publications that stimulate scholarly debates. We need to secure funds to support our students and to conduct our research. The most important responsibility we have is to ensure that we recruit the best possible scholars to our faculty to guarantee that today's efforts will pay off for many years to come.



In faculty recruitment, scholars who have recently earned their doctorates offer the richest opportunity to both better meet our teaching and research commitments today and to ensure that we only get better in the future. In the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies (DCLS), we have recruited three excellent junior scholars over the past three years: Cynthia Feliciano, Deborah R. Vargas, and Michael Montoya. I will quickly review their research interests and recent publications to demonstrate what I believe will be a bright future for the Department.

Assistant Professor Cynthia Feliciano holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She joined the Departments of Chicano/Latino Studies and Sociology at UCI in 2004 after holding a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship. Her research focuses on immigration, education, and race/ethnic relations. In 2006, she saw the publication of her first book: *Unequal Origins: Immigrant Selection and the Education of the Second Generation* (LFB Scholarly Publishing). She has also published in *Demography*, the *International Migration Review*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, each of which is the leading journal in its field.

Assistant Professor Deborah R. Vargas was part of the same class of U.C. President's Postdoctoral Fellows as Assistant Professor Feliciano. She began her fellowship after completing a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of

California, Santa Cruz. Vargas' research concentrates on cultural studies, popular culture, Chicana/Latina cultural production, and racialized sexualities. She has published in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*, the *Encyclopedia of Latina and Latino Popular Culture in the United States*, and the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinas and Latinos in the United States*. Vargas is working on a book-length manuscript on musical performance among Texas-Mexican women in the 20th Century and has recently begun a new research project on the role of radio in creating and shaping identities among Chicano/Latino immigrants.

Assistant Professor Michael Montoya joined the UCI Departments of Chicano/Latino Studies and Anthropology in 2004 after earning a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Stanford University. Montoya researches the relationship between the expansion of scholarly knowledge on complex diseases and social disparities in access to health care.

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2006 OPEN HOUSE!

On October 5, 2006, the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies celebrated its 13th Annual Open House at the Social Science Tower courtyard. In attendance were UCI students, faculty, and administrators. As usual, it was an exciting celebration for the entire UCI community! While some enjoyed the wonderful food and conversation, others danced to the music of Frank Cano's Latin Jazz Band.



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

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His dissertation included focused research on diabetes and genetic epidemiology. He has published in the *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, and the *Journal of American Studies*. He has completed a book length manuscript entitled "Genetics of Inequality: Configurations of the Mexicana/o Body in Diabetes Gene Research" that is currently under review by a scholarly press.

In the long run, our success rests on our ability to recruit and retain the best junior scholars nationally of the Chicano/Latino experience. With Feliciano, Vargas, and Montoya, we have done an excellent job.

Sincerely,

Louis DeSipio

Louis DeSipio
Chair, Department of Chicano/Latino Studies &
Associate Professor, Departments of Chicano/Latino Studies
and Political Science

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS



Gilberto Q. Conchas, Associate Professor of Education, has been awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Dr. Conchas will examine Latino middle and high school youth's experience in after school programs and other out-of-school activities for the next three years. He has also been awarded a visiting professorship from January through August 2007 at the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology.

Gilbert G. Gonzalez, Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies, was awarded a UC MEXUS grant of \$13,500 in support of his documentary entitled "Transnational Labor Contractor: The Bracero Program." The documentary explores how the Bracero Program affected the lives of Mexican male laborers, their families and communities, the economy of Mexico, as well as the fortunes of U. S. agribusiness. The film will also delve into other relatively unspoken issues such as widespread Bracero indebtedness, bribery and official corruption practiced on both sides of the border. Finally, the film will examine parallels between the Bracero Program, previous guest worker programs such as those implemented by Britain and France, and the currently discussed guest worker proposals.



UCI Department of History Chair, **Vicki L. Ruiz** and Donna Gabaccia of the University of Minnesota have co-edited an anthology entitled "American Dreaming, Global Realities: Re-Thinking U.S. Immigration History." Dr. Ruiz was also selected as the Travis-Merrick Lecturer at the University of Oklahoma and the Glasscock Lecturer at Texas A&M University this past fall.

Louis DeSipio, DCLS Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science, presented his research at several universities this past fall. He presented papers on the long-term implications of the Spring 2006 immigrant rights protests at Duquesne University and the Claremont Graduate University. He also presented research findings on the cross-generational political incorporation of immigrants and their children at a Columbia University symposium. Lastly, he presented an overview of the scholarship on immigrant political and social incorporation as part of a National Academies symposium.

Raul A. Fernandez, Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies, has established the UC-CUBA Multicampus Research Program. The program is meant to enhance mutual knowledge and exchange between the U.S. and Cuba. Additionally, the program seeks to connect the UC campuses with Cuban educational and research institutions through a variety of academic activities.



CASA CESAR CHAVEZ

On Veterans Day, the residents of Casa Cesar Chavez hosted high school students from **Century High School**. They facilitated workshops ranging from information about the A-G requirements to the Chicano Movement and the legacy of Cesar Chavez. Casa Cesar Chavez also partnered with the Global Connect program on October 18th and November 17th, welcoming AVID students from **Laguna Niguel High School** and **Estancia High School**. The residents of Casa Cesar Chavez continue to inspire many high school students' pursuit of higher education.



"Una Casa de la Comunidad, Para la Comunidad"

To learn more about Casa Cesar Chavez visit:

www.socsci.uci.edu/casachavez

RECENT EVENTS

M.E.Ch.A. de UCI celebrated its **20th Annual Open House** on October 18, 2006 before a crowd of UCI students, Department of Chicano/Latino Studies (DCLS) faculty, and campus staff. The evening's events began with a brief explanation of M.E.Ch.A.'s origins, objectives, and goals for this upcoming year. Department Chair Louis DeSipio proceeded by enthusiastically introducing DCLS to those in attendance. A keynote address was given by faculty member Deborah Vargas in which she shared her experiences with M.E.Ch.A. as an undergraduate at UT-Austin. As the crowd enjoyed the food and refreshments, they were treated to performances by Ballet Folklórico de UCI and Son del Centro, a group that explores cultural traditions, creativity and consciousness through son jarocho music.

The **Center for Research on Latinos in a Global Society** helped sponsor UCI's Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Colloquium on September 29. The event saw the participation of faculty and graduate students from four U.C. campuses and universities from Arizona, Washington, New York, and California. DCLS Associate Professor Lisa Garcia-Bedolla discussed her recently published book *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles*.

VISITING SPEAKERS



Ana E. Rosas
UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow
Dept. of History, UC Irvine

"No, No, Como Ellas!
(No, No, Not Like Them!):
Female Heads of Households,
Internal Migration, and the Effects of
Immigrant Abandonment, 1942-1964"

Gloria E. Chacon
UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow
Dept. of Literature, UC Santa Cruz



"Between Indigenismo and Indigeneity:
Chicano/Latino Writers and Mesoamerican Politics"

The Department has a new and improved
Website, please take a moment and visit the site at:
www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS



2006 was a year full of accomplishments for **Jody Agius**, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Sociology. Agius received multiple grants in support of her dissertation research focusing on the Mexican-Origin Middle Class. She received grants from the National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grant, UC Labor and Employment Research Fund, and the Graduate Student Research Fellowship with the Center for Research on Latinos in a Global Society. Lastly, in collaboration with Professor Jennifer Lee, Agius also had her first publication this past year with a piece entitled "Raising the Status of the Cashier: Latina-White Relations in an Ethnic Market."

Angelita C. Ramirez, a UCI 2006 graduate in Criminology, Law, and Society was recently hired as a staff assistant/caseworker with U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34th District).

Roberto G. Gonzales, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Sociology, has received both a UC MEXUS grant and Ford Diversity Dissertation Fellowship in support of his dissertation research entitled "Born in the Shadows: The Uncertain Futures of the Children of Mexican Unauthorized Migrants."



Juan Buriel, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Literature, was awarded a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in support of his dissertation entitled "Textual Misfits: Subaltern Narratives and Chicano Representation in an Age of Multiculturalism". Buriel also recently reviewed Salvador Plascencia's experimental novel "The People of Paper," which will appear in the Spring 2007 issue of *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*.

Hugo I. Salazar, who graduated in June 2006 with a double major in Political Science and International Studies, was selected as a 2006 Fulbright Scholar and will be analyzing the Colombian government's peace negotiations with insurgent groups in Bogota, Colombia.

Jose Solorio, a 1992 UCI graduate in Social Ecology, was elected to the California State Assembly. (69th District) on November 7, 2006.



DCLS HONORS PROGRAM

The program is designed to allow undergraduates to pursue field research and write an honors thesis on topics of their choice under the guidance of a CLS faculty member. Research projects typically involve a combination of library and field research. The program is open to all senior CLS majors with an overall GPA of 3.3 or above and a 3.5 in at least five CLS courses. To find out more please contact Ramon Muñoz at rrmunoz@uci.edu.

WINTER 2007 CALENDAR

January 18: Helena Maria Viramontes, Cross Cultural Center, 4:30pm, Author of *Under the Feet of Jesus*.

January 30: Arlene Davila, Professor of Anthropology and American Studies, New York University.

February 28: Department of Chicano/Latino Studies Inauguration Ceremony. Festivities will take place from 5:00-7:00pm at the University Club Library.

February 28: "Regional Equity and Smart Growth" Manuel Pastor, Executive Director Center for Justice, Tolerance and Community, UC Santa Cruz. The lecture will take place from 7:00-8:30pm at the University Club.

For more information call (949) 824-1424

DEADLINES FOR STUDENTS

**Harvard University Galbraith Scholars Program*
(Late March-Early April 2007)

**Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship* (March 1, 2007)

**UCDC Fall 2007 & Winter 2008* (April 9, 2007)

**Summer Academic Enrichment Program, UCI*
(March 2007)

**Summer Undergraduate Research Program, UCI*
(April 23, 2007)

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