

The Story of CGPACS: A Participatory Exhibition

In this exhibit we tell the story of a small organization – Global Peace and Conflict Studies (GPACS – later CGPACS) at the University of California, Irvine. The history of CGPACS encapsulates a much broader tale about the growth of UCI; the relation of the UCs to the Nuclear Weapons Labs at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore; the Cold War; and changing understandings of global conflict, peace, and security.

This is also a story of organizational growth and transformation on an expanding campus at UCI, and of the ways scientists, artists, scholars, policy makers and donors acted on a sense of historic responsibility to confront the dangers of nuclear weapons and potential benefits of science to society.

1984-6 A diverse body of scholars at UCI gather to promote global peace and arms control. Among early members: Julius Margolis (Economics), Riley Newman (Physics), John Whiteley (Social Ecology), Frank Long (Chemistry), Karl Hubbauer (History), Larry Howard (Psychology), Keith Nelson (History), Peter Bowler (Biology), Frederick Reines (Physics), and F. Sherwood Rowland (Chemistry).

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The Nuclear Arms Race
Conversation with Herbert York
Director, Program in Science, Technology, and Public Affairs
Professor of Physics, U.C. San Diego
by Harry Kessler, with John Holdren
April 26, 1982

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1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s 2010s

The Backstory → WORLD EVENTS WORLD EVENTS WORLD EVENTS

1942 Los Alamos National Laboratory established in New Mexico to develop the first nuclear weapons. UC becomes "operating contractor" in 1943.

1945 Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

1949 Formation of NATO and first Soviet nuclear test.

1952 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory established at the University of California Radiation Laboratory at Livermore. Edward Teller and Ernest Lawrence cofounders.

1954 US explodes "H-Bomb", 1000 times bigger than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

1957 Sputnik I successfully launched by Soviet Union.

1958 National Aeronautics and Space Act is signed by Eisenhower; NASA is created, with elements existing government agencies.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis Expectations.

1969 Apollo Moon Landing by US.

1970-74 US détente with the USSR.

1974 "Fall of Saigon".

1979 3-Mile Island Accident Clean-up.

1981-3 Reagan strengthens military and champions Strategic Defense Initiative ("Star Wars").

1985 Gorbachev is elected General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

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