DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE . . . . . .

Dear Friends of Chicano/Latino Studies at UCI:

These are exciting times for the University of California, Irvine Chicano/Latino Studies Program. We are in the process of expanding our faculty. With these new faculty, we are pursuing a change in our organizational status to that of Department. Our continuing successes in building the Program are evident in student interest in our courses; we are seeing a rapid increase in the number of Chicano/Latino Studies majors.

During the next academic year, at least two new faculty will join Chicano/Latino Studies. (See “New Faculty Joining CLSP.”) The dramatic growth in our faculty over the past several years, and particularly the growth in faculty with partial appointments in the Chicano/Latino Studies Program, lays the foundation for a new stage in our development. Over the next several months, we will be seeking approval from the School of Social Sciences and the campus administration to become the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies. With departmentalization, we will be able to hire and review faculty independently of other departments on campus and develop a graduate emphasis in Chicano/Latino Studies for students at UCI. Departmentalization will assure that we are one among equals in allocations of campus resources. (continued on page 2)

NEW FACULTY JOINING CLSP

Professor Cynthia Feliciano, a recent Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, will join the Program in the Fall. Dr. Feliciano’s research focuses on the question of the effects of selectivity in immigration. In her dissertation, she examined the consequences of immigrant selectivity on the educational outcomes of the second generation. She is now expanding this project to assess the effects of neighborhood on the second generation educational outcomes.

Professor Deborah Vargas, who received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Cruz will join CLSP in the Winter. Dr. Vargas examines cultural production and cultural citizenship in Mexican-ancestry communities. Her dissertation focused on the life histories and cultural work of Texas-Mexican women singers in the 20th Century. She is currently working on a project that examines Spanish-language radio as a tool for the formation of cultural citizenship among Mexican-origin communities. Both Drs. Feliciano and Vargas will hold joint appointments with UCI’s Department of Sociology.

DELHI COMMUNITY CENTER

RIGOBERTO RODRIGUEZ, a doctoral candidate at the Department of Geography at the University of Southern California spoke at UCI on March 10, 2004 about: “Facilitating Mexican Immigrant Empowerment: Grassroots Organizations and the Local State in Santa, Ana, CA.” Mr. Rodriguez has worked with small to medium-size grassroots organizations in Orange County and with Mexican immigrants for over 10 years. He has served as a volunteer, program coordinator, board member, and for the past five years, as a capacity building consultant to community based organizations seeking to mobilize Mexican immigrants around quality of life issues, such as education. (continued on page 3)
(DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE: continued from page 1)

For anyone who has been reading these newsletters carefully over the past few years, it should be evident that we have been growing. The number of courses that we offer and the number of students we serve has surged. Perhaps most gratifying in this period of growth has been the steady increase in the number of Chicano/Latino Studies majors. The major is just two years old and we already have 36 majors. We have seen the number of majors increase by between 50 and 100 percent each year since the major was first approved.

For those of you who miss Leo Chávez’s insights in this Letter from the Director, let me assure you that he will return next Fall. He is serving as Distinguished Visiting Faculty Fellow at UC Riverside’s Center for Ideas and Society, but will return to Irvine and to Chicano/Latino Studies in the Fall.

Sincerely,

Louis DeSipio, Acting Director and Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and Political Science

Faculty News

Chicano/Latino Studies faculty participate in a multi-disciplinary research team on immigrant mobility. Frank Bean (Sociology and Chicano/Latino Studies), Leo Chávez (Anthropology and Chicano/Latino Studies) and Louis DeSipio (Chicano/Latino Studies and Political Science) are members of a seven-member research team analyzing social, economic, and political mobility among 1.5 and 2nd generation immigrants in the Los Angeles region. The project received a $1.7 million grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to fund the first phase of the project.

Professor Lisa Garcia Bedolla has been invited to present a paper at the Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C. in May of 2004. The title is “Studying Intersectionality: Uniting Theory and Method.” She also presented papers at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting in March and in the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in April.

Professor Louis DeSipio has been invited to serve on the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Hispanics in the United States and on the Board of Overseers of the General Social Survey. Professor DeSipio’s most recent analysis of Latino engagement in national politics—Muted Voices: Latino Politics in the 2000 Elections—will be published this summer.

More Faculty News

As a way of recognizing this concluding year, UCR’s Rockefeller Residency Site hosted a culminating conference bringing together the Rockefeller Fellows and Distinguished Faculty Visitors from the past three years, and visiting scholars to present short papers on topics broadly related to the themes of the Residency Site. Professor Leo Chávez participated on the “Immigration and Migration panel” Saturday March 6 in UC Riverside.

Professor Vicki L. Ruiz presented her research on Latina labor and civil rights activist Luisa Moreno at the Third Congress for the Society of Italian Women Historians in Florence Italy in November. She was co-organizer of “Mapping Memories and Migrations: Re-Thinking Latina Histories,” a national conference sponsored by the Clements Center at Southern Methodist University in Dallas held in February of this year. She also published “We Always Tell Our Children They are Americans: Mendez v. Westminster and the California Road to Brown” in The College Board Review and “Una mujer Sin Fronteras: Luisa Moreno and Latina Labor Activism” in Pacific Historical Review.

THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON LATINOS IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY (CRLGS)

The CRLGS is proud to announce their upcoming affiliation with the University of California eScholarship Repository. The eScholarship Repository offers faculty a central location for depositing any research or scholarly output deemed appropriate by their participating University of California research unit, center, or department, including working papers and pre-publication scholarship. The repository, sponsored by the California Digital Library, provides persistent access and makes the content easily discoverable. The CDL’s eScholarship program whose mission is to facilitate and support scholar-led innovations in scholarly communication, is providing this and other services in response to an expressed need for alternative publishing mechanisms. This UC Office of the President/CDL initiative stands to benefit the entire university and could profoundly affect scholarly communication and publication.
Where Are They Now?

“Katrina Shoats”
Southwestern University
School of Law

I am grateful for my background in Chicano/Latino Studies since it has allowed me to approach my law school studies with global and cultural insight that many of my peers lack. My degree is also relevant to my everyday life experiences, whether it is reading a newspaper or driving in Downtown Los Angeles, I am able to see all of the theories and issues that were discussed in my Chicano/Latino Studies courses at UCI at play in real life.”

“Ambrocia Lopez”
Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics

I finished my Masters and Arts in Teaching. I am currently the Health Policy Assistant at the Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics. I am in charge of researching all the laws that will affect our clinics and advocating to local politicians. I am happy at this job, I get to travel constantly to different conferences.”

The Dream Act

“In August 2003 Miss Luara Peralta, an Undergraduate double major in Political Science and Sociology, participated in an event called the Back to School Event in Washington, D.C. It was an effort by a nationwide coalition, “United We Dream”, to lobby for the “Dream Act”. Two students were selected to present their experience as former undocumented students and Miss Peralta was one of them. As a representative of MALDEF she met Congressman Xavier Becerra who supported them.

MEXICAN BROWN: RACE, NATIONS, AND THE UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL, 1924-2001

In 1903, W.E.B Du Bois wrote that “the problem of the twentieth-century is the problem of the color line.” Although Du Bois spoke primarily of the black/white divide that dominated racial discourses and structures within the United States, it was at the same moment that Mexican immigrants were beginning to step north of the US-Mexico border. In their passage, they trampled upon the color line that the borderline represented and stressed the black/white divides that would determine their access to jobs, wages, housing, health care, education, and suffrage. Despite the activist efforts of the Mexican American middle-class, earlier legal pronouncements of Mexican whiteness in the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the successful slide into whiteness of other off-white communities, Mexicans did not become white. Mexicans became Brown. No organization did more to produce Mexican Brown during the 20th-century than the United States Border Patrol. Dr. Kelly Lytle Hernandez is invited as a speaker for UCI /CLSP on May 6, 2004 to talk about how the US Border Patrol has cultivated and manufactured Mexican Brown as a third axis of racialization that has become aligned with persistent black/white divides to fundamentally define life chances and citizenship in the United States.
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

MATT BARRETO, graduate student, Political Science, publishes two Latino-related articles:


The JEFF GARCILAZO FUND (JGF) has been established to help current students finish their degrees at UCI and your support is needed to accomplish this goal. Please make a contribution today by sending your check payable to UC Regents and reference the JGF fund on your check. Thank you for your support!

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SPRING 2004

63 CHICANO STUDIES III
100CW CHICANO STD'S RSRCH
111A CRITIC ISSUES CHICANOS
115A LATINO MUSIC
115C AFRO-LATIN AM MUSIC
129 CHIC/LAT THRU PHOTO
147 COMP MINORITY POLI
153 X-CULT URBAN GANGS
159 CULTURAL DIVERSITY

CLSP DEAN’S HONORS

FALL 2003

61 CHICANO STUDIES I
64 MINORITY POLITICS
101 RSRC LATINO COMM
110A CHICANO LITERATURE
114 FILM/ LATINO COMMUNITY
129 BALLET FOLKLORICO I
132A CHICANA/O HIST-1900
154 LATINO METROPOLIS
159 LATINOS & 2004 ELEC
160 PERSPCT US-MEX BRDR
169 IMPERIALISM & C/ L COM
H190A HONORS RESEARCH PRE

Please refer to your UCI Schedule of Classes for complete details on courses offered per quarter, which are listed in section entitled Interdisciplinary Studies not Social Sciences.

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91

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