

CHICANO/LATINO STUDIES PROGRAM

CLSP

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Winter 2005

Directors Message . . .

Dear Friends of Chicano/Latino Studies at UCI:

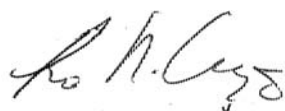
Welcome to 2005! Chicano/Latino Studies moves into the new year with a great expectations for the future. Our three new faculty members are fully on board, a number of new classes are being offered, and we now have 47 majors. It is an exciting time for faculty, students, and staff as we pursue departmental status and plan for a graduate emphasis in Chicano/Latino Studies.



We started off the year in a spectacular fashion. Our 11th annual open house was a huge success. People from across the campus joined us in the Social Science Tower Courtyard, which proved to be an intimate and pleasant setting. The music (thanks to Raul Fernandez) was excellent and set the beat for the gathering.

Chicano/Latino Studies is offering a number of exciting new courses for the first time. During Winter Quarter, Deborah Vargas is teaching Chicana Feminisms and Chicana, Chicano/Latina, Latino/a Cultural Studies, and Alexandro Gradilla (Visiting Faculty) is teaching Latinos/Latinos and Medicine. In Spring Quarter, Cynthia Feliciano will be teaching Immigration and the New Second Generation. Michael Montoya will teach Science of/and Race and Disease. We continue to work toward departmentalization. This is a time-consuming process, but we are optimistic about the outcome and its implications for the future of Chicano/Latino Studies. Departmentalization will provide a firm institutional base from which to develop the teaching and research interests of the faculty and students.

Speaking for all of us at Chicano/Latino Studies, we are looking forward to a productive and exciting year. We have an outstanding group of faculty, highly motivated students, and dedicated staff (Stella Ginez). I hope to see many of you at our events and in our classes.



ESTEVAN FLORES, Ph.D AT UCI. . .

The Center for Research on Latinos in a Global Society (CRLGS)

on December 16, 2004 at UCI's University Club presented guest speaker, **Dr. Estevan Flores**, who talked about: **"Latinos/as, Cancer, and Health Disparities."** Dr. Flores is a Pueblo, Colorado native and the Executive Director of the Latino/a Research & Policy Center at CU-Denver. He is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences at UC-D. He was an Assistant Professor of Sociology at CU-Boulder



where he was tenured in 1995. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. As Executive Director of the LRPC, Dr. Flores provides academic leadership and guidance in research and policy arenas. He currently serves on the "National Minority Advisory Committee" to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary Tommy Thompson to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. His current NCI funded project is the "Greater Denver Latino Cancer Prevention/Control Network," 2000-2005. His broader field of expertise is Latino/a health, social action and intervention research. He completed a survey on Latinos and tobacco use in Colorado for the State of Colorado Department of Public Health in 2002. Professor Flores has published articles in U.S. journals like International Migration Review, Houston Journal of International Law, Human Organization and the Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences while also publishing in Mexico in Frontera Norte and Historia y Sociedad. Three articles were published in the prestigious Journal of the National Cancer Institute (1995) and one in the Journal of Preventative Medicine (1996) which was reprinted in Biomedicina (1998).

His co-authored monograph The Migration and

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WINTER 2005 ISSUE

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An Evening with Dolores Huerta

On November 8, 2004, the Chicano/Latino Studies Program, MEChA de UCI, ASUCI and co-sponsors, welcomed community activist, lobbyist, and a former University of California Regent, Dolores Huerta onto the UCI campus. The evening gave all present a vivid depiction of the struggles and resilience of this incredible woman. Dolores engaged the crowd with her candid recount of the struggles she endured alongside fellow United Farm Worker activists.

The evening began with a presentation by Local 39, university employees seeking higher wages, and a strong endorsement by Dolores urging the university community to help the union fight for decent living wages. Dolores reminded students of the importance of working with ones hands and even quipped that if she were stranded on a deserted island she would rather take a farmer than a lawyer. The evening was filled with many of these light-hearted moments as well as several sobering moments.

Dolores described the tremendous feats that she and fellow activist had to overcome. Her stories described the violent strikes, fasting, harassment, arrestments, and abuse of fellow activist by authorities. The harsh realities of Dolores' struggles were best described by the martyrdom of five activist who gave their lives in the pursuit of "a little bit of justice," in the words of Dolores.

Throughout the evening Dolores stressed the importance of addressing racism and urged students to do more on their



(Left, Huerta begins her talk. Center, students give Huerta a standing ovation. Right, members from Local 39 ask students to support their campaign.)

part to learn the histories of minority groups by enrolling in Chicano/Latino, African-American, Asian-American, and Native-American courses.

Dolores reminded students that the struggles that she endured are not yet over. All those present were urged to continue fighting against injustices. Dolores reminded students to stay informed. Those present were also implored by Huerta to always remember the importance of mutual cooperation. She highlighted the need to give back to the community and encouraged all students to become involved. She challenged everyone in the audience to get out of their comfort zones and become active.

The evening ended with a round of "¡Vivas!" in English, Tagalog, and a South African native dialect. Vice Chancellor Gomez also presented Huerta with a gift and expressed his appreciation for the work that she continues to do, despite her 74 years of age. Vice Chancellor Gomez praised Dolores for being such an inspiration to all.



On Sunday, December 5, 2004, **Dr. Alexandro José Gradilla** was interviewed by "Around and About Orange County News" program, which airs on the Orange County Adelphia cable service. The program is part of Santa Ana College's

Television and Video Communications department. Dr. Gradilla discussed the Mexican "*dia de los muertos celebration*." According to Dr. Gradilla the holiday is a blend of both indigenous and European cultures, which demonstrates the inherent nature of hybrid and mestizo cultures. "*Dia de los muertos*" and the Virgen de Guadalupe's birthday are examples of the mixture of indigenous and Western culture. The interview also focused on the importance of the holiday/celebration for Mexican immigrant communities across the state but more in Santa Ana. This year's celebration was devoted to remembering those in the community who had died because of conditions that disproportionately impact Latino communities, such as, alcohol/tobacco, gang related and war deaths and similar causes. Dr. Gradilla commented on the political aspects of the celebration by discussing the ways in which AIDS activist and Chicano/Latino artists have used "*dia de los muertos*" as means of making a larger social critique. Fundamentally the holiday is about not forgetting our deceased loved ones and that death is inherently part of life.

Estevan Flores, Ph.D. (Continued from Page 1)

Settlement of Undocumented Immigrant Women (with Gilbert Cardenas) was published in 1986. He has also worked in the field of cultural-competency leadership training with the United Food and Commercial Worker's Union International where he trained union leaders. His work in the field of race and ethnic relations focuses on race, class, gender, labor, leadership and health issues as well as Chicano/a Studies. He continues to write opinion-editorial pieces for the popular press such as the Denver Post. Dr. Flores appeared on the Fox Channel's "O'Reilly Factor" in December of 2001 to discuss Denver Nuggets' Coach Dan Issel's racist remarks made to a Mexican fan. Professor Flores was a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow (1990-93) and served on the Colorado Board of Public Health (1994-99), the Board of the Center for Health Policy Development in San Antonio (1994-2000), the board of the Rocky Mountain Health Leadership Institute (1998-2000), and the Board on the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (1989-2000). He is currently a Trustee of the Board of Denver's "9Health Fair, Inc."

Program News

On October 14, 2004 CLSP celebrated its 11th Annual Open House at the Social Science Tower courtyard. The attendance



was overwhelming and represented a diverse cross-section of the campus, which included deans, chairs, faculty, administrators, staff, and students. The afternoon was warm and relaxing - a perfect opportunity for all to enjoy the festivities. Guests enjoyed savory "home style Mexican food" from La Chiquita Restaurant, located in Santa Ana. Many also danced to the authentic tunes provided by the Enrique Rios Quintet. Their rhythms and sounds from throughout Cuba and Latin America allowed all to relax and some to dance! The afternoon was great fun for all and a perfect opportunity to talk, eat, and just unwind!

HONORS PROGRAM

For the first time since its inception, CLSP is pleased to offer highly qualified and motivated majors the opportunity to conduct their own research under the guidance of CLSP faculty. Four students are currently working on their Honor's Thesis in CLSP and two have submitted their work for possible funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). These bright students are leading the way for other CLSP students and CLSP is proud to acknowledge their hard work:

- **Andrea Dailey** • **Brenda de la Cruz**
- **Glenda Flores** • **Ambar Ramos**

NEW AFFILIATED FACULTY

The Chicano/Latino Studies Program would like to welcome Gilbert Q. Conchas and Rodrigo Lazo as new CLSP affiliated faculty members. Both are committed educators and their expertise will be a valuable asset to both fellow faculty members as well as students.

Gilbert Q. Conchas is an assistant professor in the Department of Education and recently joined UCI from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. His work focuses on inequality with an emphasis on urban schooling systems.

Rodrigo Lazo is an assistant professor of English, with an interest in Latino Studies, particularly Cuban and Cuban American Studies. Professor Lazo is also interested in American ethnic and minority literature.

Faculty News

Louis DeSipio taught a newly designed course during the Fall on the role of Latinos in the 2004 elections. During the election season, he participated on a research team that designed and implemented a series of three surveys of Latino registered voters. These surveys were commissioned by the Washington Post and Univision and received national media attention. He recently published an essay entitled "The Pressures of Perpetual Promise: Latinos and Politics, 1960-2003" in *The Columbia History of Latinos in the United States Since 1960* (David Gutiérrez, ed.). He is serving as a panel member on a National Research Council Panel on Hispanics in the United States and on the Board of Overseers of the General Social Survey.

Vicki L. Ruiz had her article "Morena/o, Blanca/o y Café con Leche: Racial Constructions in Chicana/o Historiography," appear in *Estudios Mexicanos/Mexican Studies* 20:2 (Summer 2004). This fall she presented the keynote address at the *Mirando Adelante: Chicana/o Studies, The Community, and the Future* conference held at the University of Utah and she delivered a paper on Latina history in the 21st Century at Western History Association annual meeting.

Deborah R. Vargas was invited to lead off the Department of Women's Studies 2004-05 lecture series "The Possibilities of Women's Studies: Emerging Scholars Herald the Future" at the University of Maryland, College Park in October. The lecture series is designed to feature "some of the best and brightest new scholars in the field who are pushing the boundaries of intersectional scholarship."

PROFESSOR COLLABORATION

UCI professors **Raul Fernandez** and **Gilbert Gonzalez** of Chicano/Latino Studies and Social Sciences collaborated with Professors David Smith of Sociology, Vivian Price of Women Studies, and Linda Trinh Vo of Asian American Studies in the co-edited volume titled: Labor Versus Empire: Race, Gender and Migration (Routledge, 2004). The above professors have also co-authored the introductory chapter, "Globalization: Masking Imperialism and the Struggles from Below." The book emanated from a conference titled *Labor, Race and Empire* sponsored by the UCI Labor Studies Program held in the Spring of 2004.



Professor Alejandro Morales' novel on tuberculosis and the Chicano community entitled: The Captain of All These Men of Death has been accepted for publication by the Bilingual Review Press, Hispanic Research Center Arizona State University. The novel will be published in both hard cover and paperback and will be released in 2006. Professor Alejandro Morales' Pequena Nacion, a collection of two short stories and a novella was published by Editorial Orbiz Tempe, AZ. The book includes: "Los Jardines de Versailles," "La Penca," "Pequena Nacion." All these stories are a blend of fact and fiction

and all take place in the L.A. area. Arte Publico Press, University of Houston, is reprinting Professor Alejandro Morales' Rag Doll Plague. The novel has sold out its original publication and due to high demand is reprinting this novel.

Calendar

January 27, 2005 at 6:00 PM at UCI University Club:
Social Science Dinner Club, **Professor Leo Chavez** will deliver a talk on *Latinos in a Global Society: A Mosaic of Diversity, Influence and Social Access*.

Apply for **Casa César Chávez** (<http://casauci.net>) Housing Assistant! Priority deadline is January 14th, 2005. Applications available online: www.housing.uci.edu/employment/rahacp_info/ For more information contact Ramon Munoz at 949 824-6803.

Students, sign up for the **Chicano/Latino Leadership Seminar** winter quarter. Wednesdays 1:00-2:20 pm @ Cross Cultural Center. For more information contact Sunny Lee at sylee@uci.edu.

MEChA Nationals Conference @ CSU Northridge March 25-27. If you would more information please visit MEChA's website at <http://clubs.uci.edu/mecha/>.

MEChA Danza Azteca, interested in re-connecting with your ancestors? MEChA has weekly practices in which we learn the history, meaning and steps of Danza Azteca. For more information visit our website at <http://clubs.uci.edu/mecha/>.

Journal

The UCI Libraries collection grows daily particularly with the acquisition of three relatively new Chicano/Latino Studies journals. The three journals are available online in full-text from vol. 1, no. 1, eliminating the need to read a non-circulating copy in the library. These new journals will undoubtedly be of great assistance to both students and faculty.

- **Journal of Hispanic Higher Education** (published by Sage), 2002-present, 4 issues/year
- **Journal of Latinos and Education** (published by Lawrence Erlbaum), 2002-present, 4 issues/year.
- **Latino Studies** (published by Palgrave Macmillan) 2003-present, 3 issues/year.

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CLSP Librarian

Whenever students and faculty need extra help researching their work they can be confident in the help offered by Chicano/Latino Studies' librarian, **Christina Woo**. As a graduate of UC Berkeley, Woo is a great asset to CLSP. Students will verify Woo's commitment to the program as she is always willing to meet with individual students.

Woo is often present at many Chicano/Latino Studies lectures as well as retreats that focus on strengthening communication and coordination for the program. She is dedicated to helping the program and is particularly happy to get input from faculty regarding possible new additions to the libraries collection.

One observation that Woo has made is that of students waiting until the last minute to ask for help. She stressed the wealth of information that is available in the library as well as her commitment to helping students one-on-one. The one area that Woo stressed she cannot help students with is fines, so she reminds students to turn books in on time! Chicano/Latino Studies students and faculty are certainly gracious to the dedication that Woo brings to the Chicano/Latino Studies Program.

The **JEFF GARCILAZO FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP FUND (JGFSF)** has been established to help current students finish their degrees at UCI and your support is needed to accomplish this goal. Make your donation today by sending a check payable to UC Regents and notar for the JGFSF fund on left-hand bottom corner of your check.

Thank you for your support!

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