



UCLA César E. Chávez Department of Chicana & Chicano Studies

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MESSAGE FROM OUR DEPARTMENT CHAIR

If I borrowed my mantra last year from Gloria Gaynor’s song, “I will survive,” this year, I will summon Charles Dickens and tell you that Academic Year 2008-2009 has been both “the best of times” and the “worst of times.”

The best news is that our Graduate Program Proposal for an MA/PhD degree in Chicana/o Studies was approved by all the powers that be at UCLA. The proposal has now been sent to Systemwide for the last round of reviews. If all goes according to plan, we should be able to start advertising the program by Fall 2009 and accepting our first graduate student cohort in Fall 2010. We will be the third program in the world, and the second in the U.C. system, to offer a Ph.D. in Chicana/o Studies. The full text of the proposal with appendices may be accessed through our departmental webpage: <http://www.chavez.ucla.edu>.

Another piece of good news is that the Chávez Department worked steadily at implementing the recommendations of its very positive 8-year review and we are currently completing the restructuring and streamlining of our undergraduate curriculum into four interdisciplinary areas, or Caminos: 1) Labor, Law, Education, and Policy Studies; 2) History, Language, and Culture of the Americas; 3) Transnational and Border Studies; and 4) Arts and Community Cultural Development. The Caminos structure creates specific pathways or intellectual directions by which to navigate the undergraduate program, and it balances social sciences, humanities, and arts courses, builds on the faculty’s disciplinary expertise, and provides a more transparent understanding of interdisciplinary scholarship and methodology.

Not surprisingly, the “worst” news was the budget cuts, or shall I say, the severity of the budget cuts that this year took a huge bite out of our programming funds and nearly cost us our departmental graduation ceremony. Although the Department had planned to host an informal BBQ between the graduating seniors and the faculty and staff of the department to make up for the more formal ceremony, a large group of students came together via Facebook and strategized on how to “save the Chicana/o Studies graduation.” Volunteering to do “whatever it takes” to reinstate the celebration, the students were charged with raising \$1,000 by selling coffee-mugs displaying the department’s new logo. Within a week, the students had already gone beyond their goal, and yet, with the knowledge that budget cuts for next year look even bleaker, they continued to fundraise for next year’s graduation. I personally want to thank those students for their willingness to be part of the solution—and that, I think, is the best thing that happened this year. Thanks to their efforts and to the contributions of Acting Dean Reynaldo Macías and the Development Office, we can now enjoy the 14th César E. Chávez Departmental Graduation Celebration. *¡Si se puede!*

--Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Chair
César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o Studies &
Professor of Chicana/o Studies, English & Women’s Studies

DOLORES HUERTA & LORI DE LEÓN, CO-COMMUNITY SCHOLARS, SPRING 2009



Dolores Huerta & Lori de León, Co-Community Scholars, Spring 2009.

Dolores Huerta, founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and co-founder of (along with César E. Chávez) of the UFW and her daughter, Lori de León, who also works in the Dolores Huerta Foundation, were our community scholars this year. The Community Scholar is a cultural worker or intellectual leader from the Chicana/o and/or Latina/o community invited to teach as a visiting lecturer in Chicana/o Studies for one quarter. Dolores and Lori co-taught Chicana/o Studies 188: Picket Lines, Boycotts, and Action Plans in the Spring Quarter 2009.

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ATTENTION CHICANA/O STUDIES ALUMNS!

We would love to hear from you. Please let us know what you’ve been up to since graduation. Send us a quick note to: alumns@chavez.ucla.edu.

FACULTY HONORS, AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Chávez faculty pictured with the Chicana/o Studies Graduating Class of 2008 at the Departmental Celebration held in Covell Commons, June 2008.

Eric Avila was awarded a Faculty Development Grant for AY 2009-10 from the UCLA Center for the Study of Women for his research project titled, "Limited Access: The Gendered Politics of Highway Construction in Urban America."

Judith Baca received numerous awards, including: the Corky Gonzalez's Escuela Tlatelolco Centro de Estudios *Champion of Change Award*, Senator Oropeza *Artist of Distinction Award*, Elizabeth "Betita" Martinez *Activist Scholar Award* and Judy Chicago's *Through the Flower Award*. She participated in the dedication of the César E. Chávez Monument Arch of Dignity, Equality and Justice at SJSU and delivered the conference keynote at the Public Life National Conference. In May, she was invited to the White House for Arts, Community, Social Justice and National Recovery Briefing.

Maylei Blackwell's article, "Líderes Campesinas: Napanla Strategies and Grassroots Organizing at the Intersection of Gender and Globalization" will be published in the Fall Issue of *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. She also completed a UC MEXUS Collaborative Grant and has a forthcoming article entitled, "Remapping Gender, Justice, and Rights in the Indigenous Americas: Towards a Comparative Analysis and Collaborative Methodology," in *Desacatos: Revista de Antropología Social*.

Alicia Gaspar de Alba was selected as the 2009 College Marshal for the UCLA College Commencement Ceremony. The translation of her mystery novel on the Juárez femicides (translated by Rosario Sanmiguel) *SANGRE EN EL DESIERTO: LAS MUERTAS DE JUAREZ* was published in Fall 2008 by Arte Publico Press and received a 2009 Latino International Book Award for Spanish or Bilingual Mystery. Her story, "Shortcut to the Moon," was published in *Hit List: The Best of Latino Mystery* and "Green-Eyed Mexican Boy: Little Brother #1" and "To Your Shadow Beast: In Memoriam" were both published in *Poetic Voices Without Borders 2* (Gival Press 2009).

David Hernández was awarded the Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship and the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. He's accepted the latter and will be on leave next year. David was also awarded a research grant from UCLA's ISR.

Reynaldo F. Macías will be wrapping up his service as Acting Dean of the Division Social Sciences at the end of June.

Robert Chao Romero is completing his Ford Fellowship and will be returning to teach full time next year.

Faculty honors, awards & recognition (con't)

Otto Santa Ana's students (Lindsay Basbas, Stephanie Buelna, Andrea Bueno, Carlos Juárez, Kevin Escudero, Alberto Patricio, Wilber Prada, Kenny Ramírez, Luz del Carmen Trejo M.) from his Chicana/o Studies 168A presented their findings, which compared the public discourse on undocumented college students in two states, California and North Carolina, at the *Vox California Conference: Cultural Meanings of Linguistic Diversity*, held at UCSB on April 3. They were the only undergraduates on the program.

Abel Valenzuela, Jr. will be a Visiting Fellow this summer at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York. He is a principal investigator for two research projects: *New Entrants in the Economy: Immigration, Race, and Workforce Development* (\$204,000) from the Ford Foundation and *Car Wash Industry Worker Study* (\$15,000) from the IRLE. This year, he served another year as Vice-Chair for the Chávez Department and also as a faculty sponsor for Lilia Soto, UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow.

STUDENT HONORS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Student Honors Thesis & Senior Projects Presentations, June 2009. Pictured from (L-R): Robert Chao Romero, Kevin Escudero Lam, David Hernández, Susana Naranjo Martínez, Hulmaro Agustín, María C. Olivares, Patricia Valladolid, and Alicia Gaspar de Alba

HONORS THESIS:

María C. Olivares "Bringing It Back Home: Rasquachismo as an Improvisational Aesthetic"

Director: Alicia Gaspar de Alba; Reader: Abel Valenzuela
Awarded: **Highest Honors**

SENIOR PROJECTS:

Hulmaro Agustín "I Got Next! Oaxacan Basketball in Watts: A Critical Analysis of the Intersection of Race, Sports, and Multi-Ethnic Community Building"

Director: David M. Hernández

Kevin Escudero Lam "Asian Latinos and the 2000 United States Census"

Director: Robert Chao Romero

Susana Naranjo Martínez "Illegal Citizens: The Impact of Anti-Immigrant Policies on U. S. Citizen Children in Mixed Status Families"

Director: David M. Hernández

Patricia Valladolid "Creating Space: A Study of Four Chicana/Latina Truck Drivers in Los Angeles"

Director: Alicia Gaspar de Alba

YEAR IN REVIEW, 2008-09

September 2008

- Departmental Open House
- Barrio Service Learning Orientation for Community Partners

October 2008

- 2nd Annual NACCS Joto Caucus Conference, Cal State LA (co-sponsors)
- Alicia Gaspar de Alba is awarded the 2008 Gold Shield Faculty Prize for Academic Excellence at the Gold Shield Awards Reception and Ceremony
- Proposal for a new graduate degree program (MA/PhD) in Chicana/o Studies resubmitted with revisions to the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) of the Academic Senate

November 2008

- FEC unanimously votes to approve graduate program proposal
- Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) votes to approve the graduate program proposal



Alicia Gaspar de Alba receives Gold Shield Faculty Prize for 2008. From L-R): Olivia Díaz, Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Alma López Gaspar de Alba, Eleuteria Hernández, and Elena Mohseni at Awards Ceremony held in October 2008 @ Faculty Center. Chair & Professor Gaspar de Alba is the first Chicana and the first faculty of color to win this prestigious award.

Our New Mission Statement:

The mission of the UCLA César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o Studies is to train a new generation of scholars to research and analyze the life, history, and culture of Mexican-origin people within the United States, as well as of other Latino/a and indigenous populations in the Americas. Addressing local, national, and transnational contexts, the Chicana/o Studies curriculum at UCLA explores race, class, gender, and sexuality paradigms as they have shaped the history of the field, as well as new directions in the study of Chicana/os and Latina/os, including 1) Labor, Law, Education, and Policy Studies; 2) History, Language, and Culture of the Americas; 3) Transnational and Border Studies; and, 4) Arts and Community Cultural Development. The faculty of the César Chávez Department, situated in one of the most diverse cities in the world, utilizes Los Angeles as a laboratory for studying the social transformations taking place in California, the Southwest, and the United States. We aim to provide our students with the interdisciplinary research tools necessary to advance knowledge in the field, provide academic leadership, and serve community needs with academic resources.



Photo courtesy of the UCLA Daily Bruin. Save our Graduation Student Committee sells mugs to raise funds for our Departmental Graduation.

December 2008

- Departmental Holiday Celebration

January 2009

- Graduate Council approves proposal for a new graduate program in Chicana/o Studies by an almost unanimous vote (10-1-0)

February 2009

- Mini Faculty Retreat to discuss graduate program curriculum

March 2009

- Artist Talk & Booksigning with Yolanda M. López, *A Ver: Revisioning Art History* (co-sponsored w/ CSRC)
- Reading with Author & Poet Lucha Corpi (co-sponsored w/ CSRC)
- Talk by Alicia Gaspar de Alba, featuring presentations from students in her Chicana/o Studies M135: Bilingual Writing Workshop
- Chancellor Gene Block visits the UCLA/SPARC César Chávez Digital Mural Lab

April 2009

- A Presentation by Patricia Hernández from the Mexican Solidarity Network titled “Autonomous Education from Chiapas to Mexico City: Urban-Zapatista Links” (co-sponsored w/CSRC)
- Executive Vice-Chancellor Scott Waugh endorses proposal for a new graduate program in Chicana/o Studies and submits to Office of the President for final review and approval

May 2009

- Welcome reception for Dolores Huerta & Lori de León, Co-Community Scholars
- Department submits progress report to close out successful departmental self review for 07/08

June 2009

- Student Honors Thesis & Senior Projects Presentations
- End of the Year Potluck Tardeada
- Departmental Graduation Celebration
- Raza Graduation

ALMA LÓPEZ
REGENTS LECTURER FOR AY 2009-10
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHICANA/O STUDIES &
THE DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER, 2008-09

Faculty

Eric Avila, Assoc. Professor
 Judith F. Baca, Professor
 Rosina Becerra, Professor (Social Welfare)
 Maylei Blackwell, Asst. Professor
 Leobardo Estrada (Urban Planning)
 Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Chair & Professor
 Kris Gutierrez, Professor (Education)
 David Hernández, Asst. Professor
 Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda, Assoc. Professor
 Reynaldo F. Macías, Professor
 María C. Pons, Assoc. Professor
 Otto Santa Ana, Assoc. Professor
 Daniel Solorzano, Professor (Education)
 Robert Chao Romero, Asst. Professor
 Abel Valenzuela, Vice-Chair & Professor
 José Luis Valenzuela, Professor (Theater)

Community Scholars

Dolores Huerta & Lori de León, 2009
 Dan Guerrero, 2008
 Roberto Rodriguez & Patricia Gonzalez, 2003
 Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa, 2002
 Moctesuma Esparza, 2002
 Honorable Esteban Torres, 1999

Postdoctoral Fellow

Lilia Soto (UC Berkeley)

Affiliated Faculty

Héctor Calderón (Spanish & Portuguese)
 Norma Corral (YRL)
 Juan Gómez-Quiñones (History)
 David Hayes-Bautista (Medicine)
 Marissa K. López (English)
 Steven Loza (Ethnomusicology)
 Chon A. Noriega (Film & Television)
 Alex Ortega (ISR)
 Vilma Ortíz (Sociology)
 Rafaél Pérez-Torres (English)
 Susan Plann (Spanish & Portuguese)
 Fernando M. Torres-Gil (Social Welfare)
 Charlene Villaseñor Black (Art History)

Teaching Assistants

José M. Aguilar (Education)
 Corina Benavídez López (Education)
 Marco Durazo (Political Science)
 Doran George (World Arts & Culture)
 Elizabeth González (Education)
 Argelia Lara (Education)
 Miguel López (Education)
 Parissa Madji Clarke (Political Science)
 Albert Ponce (Education)
 Chantal Rodríguez (Theater)
 Sandra Ruíz (Spanish & Portuguese)
 Katherine Smith (World Arts & Culture)
 Mirna Troncoso (Public Health)

Lecturers & Visiting Faculty

Alejandro Covarrubias
 Carlos Haro
 Melissa Hidalgo
 Graciela Limón
 Armando X. Mejía
 Victor Narro
 Martha Ramírez-Oropeza
 Gaspar Rivera-Salgado
 Mónica Palacios
 Octavio Pescador
 Avis Ridley-Thomas
 Yvette Saavedra
 Paulina Sahagun
 Richard Verches

Administrative Staff

Olivia Díaz, Management Services Officer
 Eleuteria Hernández, Student Affairs Officer
 Elena Mohseni, Administrative Specialist
 Sally Pérez, Web Tech

Drop by to visit us in 7349 Bunche Hall.
 Also make sure to check us out on our
 departmental webpage located at:
www.chavez.ucla.edu

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