

# Department of Chicano/Latino Studies DCLS

## VICKI RUIZ NAMED DEAN OF HUMANITIES



**V**icki Ruiz's appointment as Dean of the School of Humanities was approved on March 18, 2008 at the UC Regents meeting in San Francisco. Ruiz, will lead a school renowned for its range of scholarly contributions and its commitment to innovative and interdisciplinary education. As dean, Ruiz hopes to

strengthen interdisciplinary activities across academic units and to foster cross-school initiatives involving multiethnic community engagement.

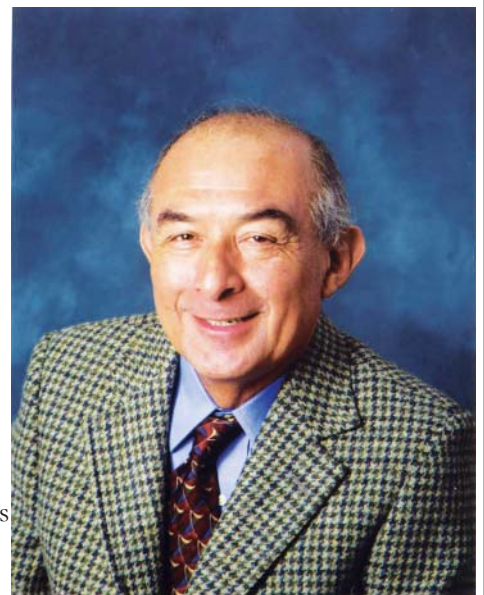
"The School of Humanities at UCI has a distinguished reputation for both its global research and community connections," Ruiz said. "I prize the diversity in excellence that characterizes the school and share with colleagues an unflagging commitment to promoting dynamic, imaginative collaborations."

A professor of History and Chicano/Latino Studies, Ruiz joined the UCI faculty in 2001. She has served as chair of the history department and as director of K-12 outreach programs Humanities Out There and the UCI History Project.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Chair's Message
- ▶ Cuba Initiative
- ▶ Faculty News
- ▶ Outstanding Career Award
- ▶ Faculty Research
- ▶ Student News
- ▶ Calendar of Events

## ALEJANDRO MORALES NAMED TO BOARD OF CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES



**A**lejandro Morales has been named to a three-year term as board member with the California Council for the Humanities. CCH sponsors programs and grants aimed at strengthening and fostering better communication among communities in California. Morales will join roughly 20

additional board members in awarding CCH grants and administering the organization's policies.

"It is an honor to be selected to the CCH Board," says Morales. "I look forward to serving and bringing together the Humanities and California's diverse community."

Considered by many a pioneer of Latino literature written in Spanish, Morales is the author of seven biographical novels in which he tells the fictional story of a character's life using historical events, bringing together his love for both history and writing. In 2007, he received the Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature from the University of California, Santa Barbara in recognition of his contributions to Chicano/Latino literature and his accomplishments as a major American writer.



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends of Chicano/Latino Studies:

As the 2007-08 school year nears its end, it is good moment to reflect on the many accomplishments of our majors. This academic year marks the seventh year for our major. Approximately 65 UCI students have graduated with Chicano/Latino Studies majors; they will be joined by approximately

twenty-five more this June. By any standard, they are an impressive group of students who are preparing themselves for careers that will speak to the needs of Chicano and Latino communities nationwide for many years to come. The largest share have gone on to higher education, including MA and Ph.D. programs and professional programs such as law school. Their training at UCI has served them well in that the list of institutions that they are attending include the nation's best, such Harvard University, Stanford University, Columbia University, and several University of California campuses.

Others have moved directly into the workforce. Interestingly, many have selected careers that offer the opportunity to ensure that younger Latinos are able to

### SAVE THE DATE

**MAY 15, 2008**

*"Why Can't We Reform Immigration?"*

**LOUIS DESIPIO**, Chair and Associate Professor, Chicano-Latino Studies and Political Science is the scheduled guest speaker for Social Sciences Dinner Club.

*For more information call 949-824-2511.*

seize the same opportunities our students did and attend four year colleges and universities. Chicano/Latino Studies alumni work as primary and secondary school teachers, work for advocacy organizations focusing on Latino health and children's services, and have taken positions in legislative offices both in California and in Washington, D.C.

With your ongoing support, Chicano/Latino Studies can continue to train the next generation to be leaders in the Latino community. If you are looking for the opportunity to support students directly, I would encourage you to consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Department's Jeff Garcilazo Scholarship Fund. You can find more information on the fund at the Department's web page: <http://www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies/>.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support.

*Louis DeSipio*

Louis DeSipio, Chair and Associate Professor  
Chicano/Latino Studies and Political Science

## CUBA INITIATIVE

**Raul Fernández**, UCI Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and Ken Janda, UCI Professor of Chemistry, provided the opening remarks for the Libraries' fall exhibit, California Universities Building Amistad: The UC-Cuba Initiative celebrating the founding of the new libraries' diverse resources supporting study and research on Cuba. The initiative was established in 2006 to bring together interested academics from all UC campuses to coordinate and develop UC-Cuba related academic activities, and to advance levels of mutual knowledge and exchange that exist between the United States and Cuba.



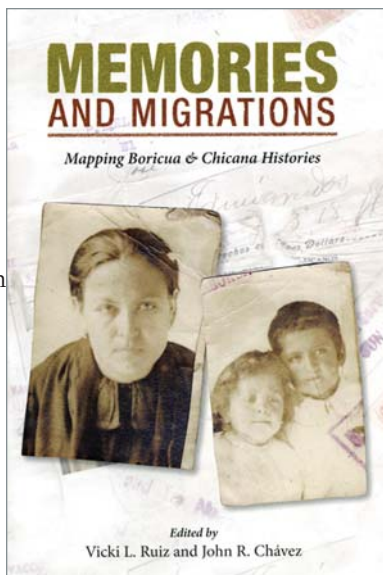
## FACULTY NEWS

**Louis DeSipio**, Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and Political Science, published a new jointly edited book in the Fall named *Researching Migration: Stories From the Field* along with Manuel Garcia y Griego and Sherri Kossoudji from the Social Science Research Council Press. In the Fall, he participated in a conference on second generation immigrant adaptation in the United States and Europe in Bellagio, Italy and on measuring ethnic diversity on social statistics in Montreal, Canada.

**Raul Fernandez**, Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and Social Sciences, lectured on the anniversary of his book, titled: *The United States-Mexico Border. A Politico-Economic Profile*, thirty years after its publication, The book remains a work of the first rank; one that is simultaneously explanatory and critical. Fernandez also discussed current debates on Mexican migration and free trade.

**Vicki Ruiz**, Dean of Humanities and Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and History published three books: *Unequal Sisters: An Inclusive Reader in US Women's History*; *The Practice of U.S. Women's History: Narratives, Intersections, Dialogues, and Memories*; and *Migrations: Mapping Boricua and Chicana Histories*. These works have an emphasis on Women's history in the United States, with a focus on the Latina/o community.

Ruiz was recently elected to a three-year term on the advisory board for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. The museum collects and studies objects that reflect the experience of Americans. Ruiz is an expert in 20th century U.S. history, specializing in Chicana/o studies, oral narratives, gender studies, labor, immigration, and California and the West. *Latinas in the United States: A*



*Historical Encyclopedia*, a three-volume set co-edited by Ruiz and published in 2006, recently won two awards: "2007 Best in Reference," by the New York Public Library, and "Outstanding Title," by the American Association of University Presses.

**Rudolfo D. Torres**, Professor of Policy, Planning and Design, was named an Adam Smith Foundation Fellow by the Faculty of Law, Business, & Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow. His campuswide Adam Smith Research Foundation talk was entitled "Latino and New American Destinies: Reflections on Class and Culture Wars in the United States." Torres holds a visiting professorship in Sociology and is a member of the Glasgow Transatlantic Working Group on Marxism, Racism and Social Exclusion at the Centre for Research on Racism, Ethnicity, and Nationalism. He also recently gave a keynote address entitled "Rethinking, Once Again, Class Analysis, Inequality, and Education in Social Policy" at the International Sociological Association Conference held in Cyprus.

**Diego Vigil**, Professor of Criminology, Law & Society, was awarded the Robert B Textor and Family Prize for Excellence in Anticipatory Anthropology. This is an annual prize given by the American Anthropological Association to encourage and reward excellent contributions in the use of anthropological perspectives, theories, models and methods in an anticipatory mode.

### COLLOQUIA 2007-08 SERIES COMMUNITY BUILDING AND PERFORMANCE IN LATINO CULTURES

#### Guest Speakers

**Gilda L. Ochoa**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies, Pomona College: *(De)Constructing 'the Gap': Asian American and Latina/o Educational Experiences at a Southern California Hight School*, October 4, 2007.

**Monika Kaup**, Associate Professor of English, University of Wisconsin, Seattle: *The Chicano Baroque and Sor Juana A Feminist Chicana Paradigm*, January 24, 2008.

**Mark Prieue**, Professor of American Studies, University of Potsdam, Germany: *El Rey del Rocanrol: El Vez and the Performance of Ethnic Identities*, February 13, 2008.

**Max Benavidez**, Resident Scholar, Chicano Studies Research Center, University of California, Los Angeles. *Before and After Asco (Nausea): The Difference between Chicano Art, the Chicano Avant-Garde, and Contemporary 21st Century Latino Art*, April 17, 2008.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 2008**, M.E.Ch.A. de UCI invites students, staff, faculty and community members to annual *Mes de la Raza* a month-long series of events, workshops and speakers on issues and topics affecting the Chican@/Latin@ community in the U.S and around the world. Our theme this year will be “ 68 vive! La lucha Sigue! 40 years and the struggle lives on.”

**May 1-31, 2008**, *Fire in the Morning*, A pictorial exhibit of the history of Mexican Americans of Orange County at the UCI Student Center lobby with reception scheduled for May 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Crystal Cove Auditorium lobby, sponsored by Vice Chancellor Manuel Gomez and the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies.

## DCLS NEWSLETTER STAFF

**Managing Editor: Stella Ginez**  
**Assistant Editor: Ramon Munoz**  
(949) 824-7180  
(949) 824-1019 FAX  
[www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/clstudies)

## CAREER AWARD



The Department of Chicano/Latino Studies represented by Ramon Munoz (right), Academic Counselor in the School of Social Sciences, presents award to Assistant Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Juan Lara award for outstanding career in supporting our Chicano/Latino community.

University of California, Irvine  
School of Social Sciences  
Department of Chicano/Latino Studies  
3151 Social Science Plaza A  
Irvine, CA 92697-5100-91  
Forwarding Service Requested