

DEPARTMENT OF CHICANO/LATINO STUDIES E-NEWSLETTER



Chair's Message

Welcome to the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies. This newsletter provides a vibrant introduction to student life at UC Irvine, particularly with regard to community engagement, professional development, and scholarly research. A special thank-you goes out to Professor Ana Rosas, our undergraduate director, who worked closely with our talented student contributors.

With nine core faculty members and two emeriti, the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies provides undergraduates with opportunities to examine the historical and contemporary experiences of Americans of Latin American birth or origin. Our curriculum spans the humanities, social sciences, education, and public health, with particular strengths in history, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, and literature. We offer a B.A. degree, a minor, a certificate program, and a graduate emphasis. With over eighty majors (including double majors), my colleagues and I take great pride in our individual mentorship of students, both undergraduates and graduates.

We welcome new faculty member Anita Casavantes Bradford, a joint appointment in Chicano/Latino Studies and History. With a PhD in History from UC San Diego, she held a coveted UC Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship during which she worked closely with our colleague Professor emeritus Raul Fernández. Her book *For the Children? Childhood, Revolution and Nation-Making in Havana and Miami, 1959-1962* will be published this spring. Professor Casavantes Bradford offers courses in immigration, Latino history, Cuban migrations, and history of childhood. In addition, she serves as the faculty advisor to UC Irvine DREAMers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my fall Chicano history class—a very special group of undergraduates who made my transition from the dean's office to the classroom rewarding and fun.

Sinceramente,

Vicki L. Ruiz
Distinguished Professor and Chair

“Excelling at UCI: Phi Lambda Rho Sorority as Pathway”

By Maritza Duran, Chicano-Latino Studies Major, Class of 2014

Phi Lambda Rho Sorority is dedicated to forming strong and empowered professional leaders by upholding: Academic Achievement, Community Service, and Cultural Awareness, all fostered within Sisterhood. Phi Lambda Rho Sorority, a national organization, is committed in supporting and retaining Latinas in higher education and inspires and encourages Latinas to reach academic excellence.

As a Latina based sorority, we recognize the beauty that all women possess and welcome women from different cultures to learn and excel as part of our sisterhood. Additionally, Phi Lambda Rho Sorority strives to promote personal and professional development for Latinas who wish to become active on campus and in their hometown communities. All these objectives epitomize the foundational values of this sisterhood, exemplifying our goal to leave an impact on the UCI campus and beyond. If you are interested in joining our sorority, please feel free to contact Maritza Duran at myduran@uci.edu.

“Mapping It Out Loud”

By Mayra Mejia, Chicano-Latino Studies Major, Class of 2009

18 yesterday. 28 today. Goals. Determination. Mentorship. Faith. I graduated from UC, Irvine in 2009 with my Latina heritage emblazoned on my sleeve and with a happiness photographs could not capture. Choosing to declare two majors was an easy choice—Chicano Latino Studies and Public Health Policy. Rushing to graduate, however, I missed capturing the details of my next goal. With a warm gesture, staff pointed north to. In Santa Ana, CA, where I gained experience and an opportunity to stay on as a policy research assistant, working to become a project coordinator and soon, project manager—leading work that gives the underserved a voice in policy discussions.

Four years later, the same objectives were well worn and I set new ones for myself. Like glossy photo paper, these goals had a bright luster—compelling me to engage in broader, countywide discussions working as the project manager for a nonprofit organization connecting people to health and human services throughout the county. Bright flash. Two years from now I will open a broad door upon receipt of my masters degree in urban planning, striving to re-map the traditional planning discourse and creating healthier spaces. 28 today. 18 yesterday. Acknowledged. Re-focus. Moving forward.

Phi Lambda Rho Sorority Mentoring Workshop, 2013



Current [Engaging, educating, and providing opportunities for civic engagement in land – use decisions]

“Coming into your own: Learning from the Community Knowledge Project”

By David Liu, Student Undergraduate Researcher, The Community Knowledge Project, Faculty Mentor
Dr. Michael Montoya

Application is key. And the key to breaking into the research world involves challenging your comfort zone. Through the Community Knowledge Project with Dr. Montoya, I am pushed to apply theory to practice through participant observation and ethnographies. The Community Knowledge Project provided me with the opportunity to see how the residents of Santa Ana refused to be silent, and spoke up against injustice. There is a constant reminder that my purpose is to bring social justice and to create a partnership between the community and the academic institution.

Moreover, the Community Knowledge Project prepared me with the skills and confidence I needed when I conducted fieldwork in Mexico. I became comfortable to conduct ethical research across international borders. The analysis of my field notes and experience became almost second nature to me. Without the Community Knowledge Project, I would still consider myself a student rather than a researcher.



The
Community
Knowledge
Project Team
2013

“Mentoring into Medical Advocacy”

By Matine Azaadian, UCI Undergraduate Student Researcher, The Community Knowledge Project, Faculty Mentor, Dr. Michael Montoya



Uganda 2013
– Charles
Drew/UCLA
Medical
Mission
Group

As a freshman interested in medicine, I began my work with Dr. Michael Montoya as a member of his Community Knowledge Project. Dr. Montoya’s research mentorship and the Community Knowledge Project continues to be an exciting and truly rewarding experience. Dr. Montoya makes time for one-on-one discussions and guidance. His passion is truly contagious. His work ethic, wealth of knowledge, and mentorship reinforce my passion for pursuing a career as a physician. With this project, I have gained an invaluable understanding of community engagement that centers on public health advocacy, especially when I participated in a last-minute medical mission trip to Uganda in June 2013.

“A Beautifully Productive Home Away from Home”

By Agueda Espinoza, CASA Cesar Chávez Resident Advisor, Class of 2014

Casa Cesar Chávez is a unique UCI residence that offers a sense of *familia, comunidad y respeto*. Throughout the year Casa Cesar Chávez residents organize and implement various events to establish lasting bonds with each other and the surrounding UCI community. Often the first in our families to pursue a college degree, Casa Cesar Chávez residents work together to host Haunted Vista, *Día de los Muertos*, and an annual *Carne Asada Luncheon* in honor of UCI’s maintenance and grounds staff. Residents also welcome UCI organizations and clubs to simply visit Casa Cesar Chávez, as we have found it most promising to invite fellow students to learn about our day-to-day life in the Casa. Students create a home away from home, one that honors the beauty of being Chicana/os/Latina/os at UCI.



UCI CASA Cesar Chavez Welcome Day,
2013

“Painting with Heart”

By Ana Mendez, President of Hermanas Unidas de UCI

Hermanas Unidas de UCI is a non-profit organization that seeks to ease the transition into a college education for Chicana/o-Latina/o undergraduate students. It serves as a support group that focuses on academics, community service, and collegiate networking. On May 17, 2010 Hermanas Unidas began their involvement with Paint Your Heart's Out 's first volunteer project in Placentia, California.

The non-profit, Paint Your Heart recruits volunteers to help low income, senior, disabled, and veteran homeowners by painting and providing needed repairs and upkeep to their homes. Hermanas Unidas take great pride in their participation and welcome fellow UCI students to the upcoming Paint Your Heart Out weekend.

The event will take place over two days in the Spring 2014 quarter, and entails the cleaning of the exterior of homes the first day and then the painting of homes on the second day. Please join this UCI student group for this fabulously productive event, as well as their meetings. Hermanas Unidas meets every Wednesday at 7pm in Humanities Hall 262.



Hermanas Unidas de UCI
Paint Your Heart Out,
2013

13th Annual HaU Conference



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“A Lifeline to STEM”

By Raul Madrigal Jr., Computer Engineering Major and Co-President of MAES



MAES – Latinos in Science and Engineering is a Latina/o based organization at UCI that focuses on the advancement of Latina/o students in the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This student organization primarily focuses on academic advancement, professionalism, community outreach, and the concept of *familia*. MAES has become more than just an organization. It serves as a home away from home for our members. We provide students with the support they need to succeed in their educational and professional careers, and to promote STEM in their local communities. Every year we host a Science Extravaganza, in which we bring together 250 middle school students from throughout southern California and their parents to learn about STEM at UCI. If you would like to join MAES, and be a part of wonderful collaborations, please contact us at: maes@uci.edu.



MAES Mixer, 2013

“Engaging Audiences in the Community”

By Patrice Amon, Graduate Student and member of the Chicano-Latino Graduate Student Collective

Brown Bag Theatre Company is an ensemble of artists and scholars who aim to produce critically engaging work that reflects, shapes, and empowers the Latino community. We create opportunities and leadership roles for Latino artists in the visual and performing arts while encouraging young women and men of a new generation to take control of their own destiny through creative discipline, and artistic excellence. Brown Bag Theatre remains firmly committed to sharing and celebrating the richness of Latino culture with both UCI and Orange County school-based audiences because we believe that the art of theatre is a cultural force with the capacity to transform the lives within our community and society at large.

Over the summer Brown Bag produced *Loa to the Divine Narcissus*, a sixteenth century play by Mexican poet Sor Juan Inés de la Cruz in the New Swan Shakespeare Festival. The drama is an allegorical telling of the colonization of the Americas. The Brown Bag undergraduate actors performed and produced the play before a packed audience.

In the upcoming year Brown Bag will continue to explore works by Latino playwrights. The theatre company will produce Federico García Lorca's *Yerma*, the story of a barren couple in the Spanish countryside.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Patrice Amon at patriceamon@gmail.com for additional information.

Culture, Health, and Relationship Laboratory Team, 2013-2014

Top Row(Left to Right): David Busse, Brian Hermosillo, Ariana Martinez, Christopher Marshburn . Middle Row(Left to Right): Julio Castillo, Emily Hooker, Gabriela Manzo, Sharon Shenhav, Javier Ramirez . Bottom Row(Left to Right): Belinda Campos, Karina Corona, Stacy Serpas, Haydee Cortes, Katie Cobian, Julienne Palbusa, Arpine Hovasapian (Lab members not pictured: Clara Moreno, Janette Hernandez, Joanna Ho, and Libier Isas)



“Researching Our Mental and Physical Health: The Promise of the Culture, Health, and the Relationship (CRH) Laboratory”

By Katie Jeannette Cobian, Culture, Health, and Relationship Research Team Member

The Culture, Health, and Relationship (CRH) Laboratory headed by Dr. Belinda Campos studies high quality relationships, positive emotions, and health in U.S. Latino, European, and East Asian background populations. The research team is currently working on analyzing and cleaning data from past data collections. One of these data collections is the Social Responses to Stress (SRS) Study. In this study, our lab used the Trier Social Stress Test (TSST), one of the most widely used laboratory stress tasks, to assess cortisol reactivity. Cortisol reactivity is an index of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA)-axis functioning. The HPA-axis is

part of the neuroendocrine system; it is activated during stressful situations and too much activation of this system has been implicated in poor mental and physical health. The CRH lab attempts to understand how cultural values and norms help people manage their social relationships and, in turn, how social relationships and the emotions experienced in relationships are linked to health.

Undergraduate research assistants working in this research lab and project have the opportunity to learn how all stages of research are conducted.

For example, students learn about the Institutional Review

Board (IRB), familiarize themselves with the process of running data collections and analyzing data, and have opportunities to participate in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) via independent projects. My primary research interests are in the role that personality factors and stress play on the overall health of Latina women. This year, my independent project will examine the association of the personality trait neuroticism on heart rate variability, an index of cardiovascular health, in Latinas. Because I am a member of the CRH lab, I will have access to the data already collected from the SRS study for my project.

“Memory Lane: A Glimpse into Jose Parla’s Neighborhood”

By Jesus Camacho, Chicano-Latino Studies Major, Class of 2013

“Breathing” is the answer Jose Parla, the Miami born (1973), Cuban American artist, gives to the question of what most influences his artwork. He describes his life as often being in a state of migration and transition, and refers to his paintings as memory documents. After migrating to the United States from Cuba, Parla’s family moved from Miami to Puerto Rico when he was a child. Later his family returned to Miami, and he ventured to New York City with his brother Rey. Inspired by Hip Hop, he moved to the Bronx in 1998 and two years later relocated to Brooklyn, where he now lives. Parla uses his art to bring these neighborhoods and the emotions they inspire audiences worldwide.

Parla’s passion can be found in his paintings that resemble the walls of the places he has visited. Aging walls reveal the beauty of the psychology of a particular neighborhood and its emotional world. The influence of neighborhood life in his work is evident in the titles of his artworks: “184th Street” (2009), “Segment of Newkirk Station” (2010), “Alleyway on La Cienega” (2011), “Scrubland Road” (2012), and “The Night of Saint Germain de Pres” (2013).

Calligraphy also figures prominently in Parla’s work. Through this form of artistic style, Parla features non-linear journal entries in his paintings. These entries concern his personal life, and illustrate his thoughts on the difficult life experiences of family separation, homelessness, melancholia, and poverty. They also address the

experiences of his family, friends, New York residents and celebrities, as well as his recollections of life in Cuba. In part, prompted by Jay Z, his Barclays Center painting, “*Diary of Brooklyn*” (2013), a painting in part prompted by Jay Z, features a series of words represent Brooklyn’s cryptic history.

Parla’s art has been shown in Canada, Hong Kong, London, Paris, Thailand, Tokyo, and throughout a maze of New York neighborhoods. His exhibition, “*The Wrinkles of the City*” (2012) involved creating murals of everyday Cuban life and emotions on neighborhood buildings in La Havana, Cuba. Already prolific, Parla continues to expand on his work, at times working on twenty paintings simultaneously.



Jose Parla, “*The Wrinkles of the City*” (2012)
Courtesy of
Bryce Wolkowit



A Must-See Movie

**By Delsy Cedillo,
Psychology Major,
Class of 2014**

Tension between police officers and the African American and Latino communities has become more prevalent since the Rodney King beating and 1992 trial as U.S. society can no longer turn a blind eye on the increasing number of police brutality cases. Media coverage urges the nation to acknowledge the insidious consequences of racism and discrimination. In 2008, Oscar Grant a loving father, husband, and son became a victim of such police brutality.

The film *Fruitvale Station* (2013) offers a heart wrenching and chronological account of Oscar Grant's last 24 hours of life before his death at the hands of law enforcement in Oakland, California.

This rendition of his day-to-day life provides audiences with a glimpse of the realities confronting men of color in working poor communities that escalate into tragedy. Director Ryan Coogler's bold decision to focus on Grant's everyday life evokes a universal, immediate connection between the audience and the character. In doing so, the film captures our common humanity.

Therefore, Grant's death, a consequence of society's failure to afford everyone opportunities, protections, and rights under the law, illuminates the fatal grip and strain of systemic inequality. *Fruitvale Station* is a must-see film experience that will move you to reflect on your approach to achieving a more humane and just society.



Review of "La Noche Mas Larga" (2013) Buck

**By Mayra Stephanie Lopez,
Chicano-Latino Studies
Major, Class of 2013**

María Concepción Balboa Buika or the artist most popularly known as Buika is

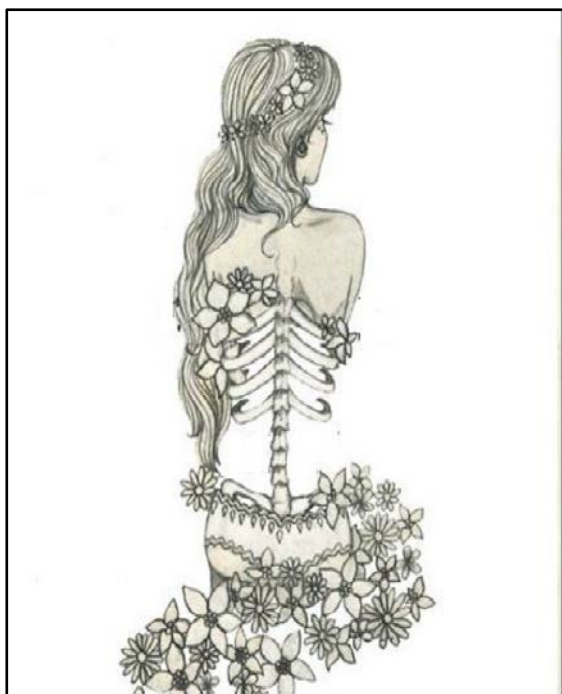
a musician with a multitude of cultural influences ranging from her birthplace in Palma de Majorca, Spain to the soul and jazz sounds of the United States.

With songs in English, Spanish, and French, her album "*La Noche Más Larga*," released in the summer of 2013, contains flamenco, copla, jazz, and soul influences. This album features her performance of popular songs, among them: "*Los Solos*," reveals her most visceral presentation of longing for the ones you love most. She also includes the song, "*Don't Explain*" by Billie Holiday. Hailed as an unparalleled artist, she brings a subtle versatility in her music combined with her endearing vocals.. Through "*La Noche Más Larga*," Buika continues to enchant through the passion she evokes in her emotionally charged lyrics, which never fail to captivate an audience. By bringing different elements together, she makes them uniquely her own, further demonstrating her unique gifts.

“Rolling Stone”

By Elaine Torres, Chicano-Latino
Studies Major, Class of 2013

Is it love?
when your voice
lingers ricocheting in
my chest
a sweet melody causing,
prompting me to confess
that I am weak at the
knees
and fragile to the touch
Is it love?
when your touch
is tattooed to my sternum
my lungs collapsing under
the weight of your
affection like you were
born to inspect
the crevices that I've laid open
Is it love?
when I long to hold your hand
and crave the impression of
your anatomy like I do the
sunlight knowing full-well that
you
will never belong to me
the way the sun belongs to
the moon
Is it love?
Is it, love?



“Can of Worms”

By Elaine Torres, Chicano-Latino
Studies Major, Class of 2013

There are monsters under the bed childlike
qualities I keep hidden from time to time
they crawl back up remind me that I'm not
really a grownup.
They treat me like a child again and even
when I refuse they convince me that I
deserve happiness.
There's an pianist playing my favorite piece
Summer of 78, ringing in my ears I feel
safe, undisturbed by the possibility of
creatures crawling in my most intimate
space hovering over my niche, inhabiting
the lands I have built.
It's a mortuary of dreams where all lost
hope is stored never to be regained by a
single soul the broken promises and torn
friendships can all be found here. It's a
resting place for the restless, for the wishes
that never came true.
There are nights, where the walls turn into
mirrors sitting up I can see my own figure
crowding around me, trying to find a sign
so I signal them their welcome and close
my eyes.
We all have monsters hiding under our beds
mine just happen to be more friendly,
than the ones living in your head.



Dr. Anita
Casavantes
Bradford

Meet Dr. Anita Casavantes Bradford

By Michelle Cifuentes, Chicano-Latino Studies Major, Class of 2014

A few days ago, I had the pleasure to meet Dr. Anita Casavantes Bradford. In the fall of 2013, Dr. Casavantes Bradford joined our UCI family as a tenure track joint appointment in the departments of History and Chicano/Latino Studies. Her interest in Chicano/Latino Studies and History began at a very young age. Growing up in Vancouver, Canada to a Cuban-Spanish father and an Irish Mother, she knew little about her father's Cuban culture. At a young age, her interest and research in Cuban culture and its history inspire her to become a teacher.

Like many undergraduate students attending UCI, Dr. Casavantes Bradford is a first generation college student. She went to community college outside of Vancouver in order to stay close to her family and become financially stable. She continued her studies at Simon Fraser University, where she earned her teaching credentials. She shared that being a teacher was one of the best things she could've done because it taught her many skills

that she still uses today. After teaching for ten years, she eventually earned her Masters and Ph.D. in history, and is currently in the process of publishing a book manuscript on the childhood of Cuban girls and boys.

Although, Dr. Casavantes Bradford is proud of having accomplished such professional goals, she is most proud of becoming a mother. Her pride inspired me to believe that her daughter, her mother's memory, and her passion to teach fuel her energy to commute from San Diego to Irvine to teach students that they should be proud of the degrees they obtain because, as she firmly attests, "... along with your degree, you learn skills to help your community... knowledge and skills for helping people is powerful. So be proud that you learn these skills at UCI." By the end of the interview, I learned to appreciate life, the struggles, my differences, and my major with a deeper sense of urgency.

Welcome to UCI Dr. Anita Casavantes Bradford and thank you for inspiring me!

“Coming Together”

By Mark Ocegueda, Graduate Student in History and
Member of the Chicana/o-Latina/o Student Collective

The Chicana/o-Latina/o Graduate Student Collective seeks to provide a supportive intellectual environment for graduate students, promote socially conscious research, and focus on the recruitment and retention of graduate students. The collective looks forward to another productive year, as we will organize workshops and events that engage faculty, undergraduates, and other graduate students. This year we will also participate with the Center for Latino Policy Research at UC Berkeley in organizing our annual graduate student research workshop.

We welcome everyone to like our [Facebook page](#) or to check our website at <http://clubs.uci.edu/clgsc/> in order to stay up to date with the club's activities and meetings. Officers of the club welcome any inquiries about the collective and we welcome ideas for future workshops and events. We will hold meetings every other Friday during the Winter quarter.



Chicana/o-Latina/o
Graduate Student
Collective, 2013

“Love and Career”

By Joselyn Ayala, Minor in Chicano-Latino Studies Major, Class of 2011

Graduating from UCI with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology and Social Behavior and a minor in Chicano-Latino Studies was the best decision I have made. It led me to earn my Masters of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT), and most recently pursue a PsyD, making it possible to begin my work in support of the mental health and wellness of ethnic minorities. My training in Chicano-Latino Studies helped me to apply my education, personal experiences, and deep-seated community commitment when treating clients struggling to achieve mental wellness.

In contributing to this newsletter, I could not help but think about the future and my past experience all at once. My goal is to open up my own clinic and serve as a motivational speaker. In my own way, I heed the advice given to me not too long ago: “find something that you really love to do as a career, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” And I did. I love seeing the progress and change that my clients accomplish through our work together. Seeing them walk out of my office happier and stronger than when they came in is priceless.

“An Energizing Experience: Facing the Hard Truths of Research”

By Alejandro Muro, Chicano-Latino Studies Major and Undergraduate Student Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Grant Recipient and Researcher, Class of 2014

Under the guidance and mentorship of Professor Ana Elizabeth Rosas, I received full funding from UCI's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) to read and learn from the papers of Chicano novelist Arturo Islas. This research program paid for my flight, room and board, train rides, and meals. So of course I was excited to travel to Northern California and to undertake a project of my own liking and interests-- even *mi ama* (mother) was excited for me.

She praised and bragged about my endeavors to our family relatives. “*Alejandro va ir a Stanford este verano*” (Alejandro will be going to Stanford this summer). This news elicited enthusiastic “Ooooo’s” and “Ahhhh’s.” As a first generation college student whose parents migrated to the United States when they were in their early twenties, attending UCI already generated a healthy outpouring of excitement among family members yet my undertaking primary research at Stanford University inspired an even greater sense of awe and *orgullo* (pride).

The reason I share these intimately energizing moments is not to reproduce the exhausted trope of “overcoming adversity.” If we are “keeping it real,” I have not actually “made it.”



Stanford University, 2013

I feel fortunate to attend a university especially when considering the many barriers that shaped my education and upbringing, but I have much more to do and share with my family and this is what is at the core of my self-portrait.



Alejandro Muro,
Stanford University,
2013

Upon taking this photograph, I pondered the many emotions and reactions that my pursuit of an intellectual identity had stirred in me and my family and friends. As I waited for the Stanford campus shuttle to take me back to my hotel, I reflected on the d prestige of Stanford and the love poems in the archive meant for the eyes of a “secret” lover.

I wondered why more people with similar narratives of struggle weren't here with me, or undertook this work as part of their undergraduate education. Such introspective thinking moved me to find solace in my promising myself to encourage others to undertake their own research in locations that would make for memorable experiences moments and reactions. . I am convinced that taking each other and our potential seriously to pursue personally meaningful avenues of intellectual engagement is integral to overcoming the silences placed on queer Chicano men and other populations. We are here, we have been here, and should be everywhere, most especially at UCI and Stanford University.

Karina
Camacho,
Chile, 2013



“Mind Blowing Travel”

By Karina Camacho, Chicano-Latino Studies Major, Class of 2015

Studying abroad is definitely a powerful experience, especially in a Latin American country like Chile. I experienced the culture shock that comes with being away from home, but I also found a sense of comfort in finding so many similarities to my life in California. With my distinct Mexican accent, I was treated as a distant cultural cousin and not a stranger. Living in a new city where I have no connections or understanding of how everything works has been quite difficult yet rewarding. Everyday I learn something new about the city, society, and myself.

There is a beauty in being away from the stress of campus as it has allowed me to focus on my life differently. I have had time to travel, read for my classes, and explore the city, all activities that make me energetic and happy. At the same time it has taught me to appreciate everything and everyone in my life. Living in a new setting has pushed me to truly question who I am and my own cultural identity. Discovering my connection to Latin American cultural

traditions has been the best part of my experience in Chile. Ultimately, this study abroad experience has challenged me on several fronts to develop my inner strength and self-confidence. I now understand why the University of California Education Abroad Program director stressed to me that students like me, first generation Latina/o college students need to study abroad in Latin America to enrich their worldview. It's truly mind blowing in the best way possible.

“A Most Personal and Productive Research Trip”

By Jennifer Botello, Chicano-Latino Studies Major, Class of 2013

I am very grateful for the opportunity to analyze archival documents housed in Stanford University's special collections. This was not only my first time traveling away from home, but as well as my first time actually immersing myself in primary research. My deep-seated investment in investigating the lives of professional Chicana women and their civic engagement during the 1970s made it possible to venture to a campus that had always been of much personal interest to me. Nonetheless, I did not take this research trip and its promise lightly. Before heading out to Stanford University, I did my best to read as much as possible and to ask as many questions as possible, so that enjoying the intellectual intensity of this experience was more accessible and productive.

After reading closely the papers of Chicana professionals formative to the inner workings of the Mexican American Legal and Defense Education Fund (MALDEF), I was very excited to discover just how

decisively crucial Chicanas were to representing the interests and rights of working class populations during a time in which they were often disenfranchised into the shadows. I highly encourage UCI undergraduates to pursue the questions that inspire them most to truly travel into perspectives and worlds that render arresting actors, activist platforms, voices, and campuses that if we don't take ourselves seriously enough can remain out of reach or forever hidden from us.



Left: Jennifer Botello, Stanford University, 2013

Right: Stanford University, 2013

Generative Experiences

As director of undergraduate studies of the department of Chicano-Latino Studies, it has been most heartening to undertake and share a series of events in anticipation of enriching the education of our students. These events have been reflective of the expressed interests of undergraduate students pursuing a major or minor in our department. Throughout the fall 2013 quarter, undergraduate students in our major and/or affiliated with Hermanas Unidas, Phi Lambda Rho sorority, CASA Cesar Chavez, MEChA, and other student groups affiliated with our campus participated in our department's *Arresting Narratives* film workshop event series. This film workshop event series provided these students with an opportunity to learn more about the strengths of pursuing and sharing a careful discussion of the film trajectory of the prominently prolific Mexican filmmaker Arturo Ripstein. During six film workshop event meetings, students discussed the consequences of hyper gender identities. We met to screen each film featured in this series, as well as to discuss the film before and after the film screening.

In pursuit of similar goals, students participated in our *Embattled Genealogies* workshop event series. Under my advisement and facilitation, this event provided students with an opportunity to learn from Angeles Mastretta's *Women with Big Eyes* (2004) and Rigoberto Gonzalez's *Red Inked Retablos* (2013). During this workshop students reflected on the generative qualities of an intellectual project that includes an intellectual genealogy steeped in the harsh realities that creative and fiction writing make most accessible to audiences intrigued by the inner-workings of their gender identity and politics. As part of this event, students also screened and discussed the independent film, "*Mosquita y Mari*" (2012).

On October 25, 2013, our department also hosted our Save Our Youth (SOY) Taller in collaboration with Phi Lambda Rho sorority and students majoring in Chicano-Latino Studies to highlight the relationship between our course offerings and the civic engagement that is urgent and possible when applying concepts driving our department's undergraduate curriculum. This taller (workshop) for Save Our Youth (SOY), an Orange County afterschool mentoring program for at risk high school students centered on the writing of applications for admission into the University of California system. Undergraduate students with a growing investment in our department volunteered to help in the undertaking of this workshop, as well as in hosting an in-depth forum on the promise and challenges of an undergraduate education for high school students in attendance. This made for a productive relationship and event as it accentuated the promise of pursuing our coursework and civic engagement as major or minors in our department.

To advance undergraduate students' understanding of the long term benefits of majoring in our field of inquiry and in turn, completing our coursework, our department hosted our FUTUROS workshop event. This gathering centered on how to pursue applying to competitive graduate programs successfully and thriving as undergraduate students invested in the pursuit of a profession. Workshop presenters were invested in areas of expressed interest to undergraduate students, and questions addressed and answered by each presenter were meant to energize and inform students on questions they had shared as most likely to fuel their confidence and goals.

In the spring quarter of this academic year I look forward to hosting two events that will afford students the opportunity to learn more about and from the historical research and creative writing of Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson and Dr. Alex Espinoza. Each of these carefully crafted conversations with these distinguished scholars will further affirm our department's investment in providing students with the opportunity to understand the relevance and potential of majoring in a field that alerts them to the formative qualities of a truly interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to pursuing and applying a top rate undergraduate education.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about these events, please feel free to contact me.

Adelante-Shine!

Ana Elizabeth Rosas



Top: UCI SOY
WORKSHOP

Bottom: FUTUROS
Workshop



Upcoming Events

April 24, 2014

Dr. Matthew Garcia,
Arizona State University

May 1, 2014

Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson,
University of California, Santa Barbara

May 21, 2014

Dr. Alex Espinoza,
California State University, Fresno