UCSB Receives INSIGHT Into Diversity 2013 Higher Education Excellence In Diversity Award

UCSB is honored to have received the 2013 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the annual HEED Award—a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion—UCSB was featured along with 55 other recipients in INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine’s November 2013 issue. This is the second year UCSB has been named as a HEED Award recipient.

“UCSB is honored to among the 55 colleges and universities nationwide to receive a HEED award for 2013,” Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy Maria Herrera-Sobek said. “Chancellor Henry T. Yang and Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas, together with faculty, students, administrators and staff, have worked diligently to diversify our campus. Much more work needs to be done, but for now we take pleasure in knowing that our efforts are begin recognized nationally.”

“We hope the HEED award serves as a way to honor those institutions of higher education that recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion as part of their everyday campus culture,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

Looking toward the future, Herrera-Sobek said, “I invite the UCSB campus community to join me in redoubling our efforts to promote and support diversity initiatives on our beautiful campus. As I said, more work needs to be done and we need a united and cooperative spirit to succeed in this challenging but ultimately gratifying endeavor.”
From the Editor’s Desk

Maria Herrera-Sobek
Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Academic Policy

I am now back from my 2012-2013 sabbatical leave and ready for the new academic year. Although I was away on sabbatical working on a book manuscript, the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Academic Policy was left in very capable hands. Professor Anna Everett from the Film and Media Studies Department served in an exemplary manner as an Acting AVC. I am very grateful for the excellent work Professor Everett did and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge her superb efforts, particularly in carrying out and implementing the UCSB Campus Climate Survey. Thank you, Anna! The work you did is greatly appreciated.

All the UC Campus Climate Surveys were completed Fall 2013. UCSB, as always, did a stellar job in getting our campus community to “answer the call” and participate in the survey. I thank the UCSB Campus Climate Survey Committee for the outstanding work they did implementing this important survey.

When I returned from my sabbatical, I learned the sad news that our much admired and beloved Executive Vice Chancellor, Gene Lucas, is stepping down and retiring! This was shocking and unexpected news for me. I was appointed the exact same day and year that EVC Lucas was, and so we began our long journey together working in our respective offices. It has been great working with Gene. I admire his leadership, his strong commitment to diversity, his unwavering pleasant manner in handling both everyday business and crises, and the important role he has played in diversifying our UCSB campus. We are all sad to see Gene step down, but we are happy for the extra time he will now have to spend with his family.

The new academic year is moving along quickly, with several diversity related conferences, meetings, and roundtables. Various UC campuses have been working on structuring acceptable parameters for granting credit for diversity-oriented work as specified in our APM 210. What Ricardo Alcaíno, from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance, and I learn at the different diversity-related conferences, we bring back to campus and then disseminate in scheduled workshops for the different chairs of our UCSB departments. I take this opportunity to thank the departments that are undertaking faculty recruitment searches for this year for accepting our request to schedule workshops with them. We thank all the departments who graciously made time during this hectic time of the year to meet with us to learn more about “best practices.”

Finally, I am pleased to report that UCSB is the proud recipient of two national diversity awards: The Minority Access, Inc. Citation for Commitment to Diversity (2013) and a 2013 HEED [Higher Education in Excellence Diversity] Award (please see cover). I thank the UCSB campus community for their dedication and commitment to diversity issues; this commitment makes it possible for UCSB to be honored nationally. Thank you!
A Message from the Chancellor

The start of the fall quarter is one of my favorite times here at UC Santa Barbara. There is a special sense of excitement on campus, full of energy and optimism, as we begin a new academic year.

We received 62,413 freshman applications for Fall 2013 – a new record for us. Within this pool we also received a record number of applications from members of underrepresented minority groups. There are many reasons for this, including the ever-increasing academic reputation of our campus, the spectacular natural setting we enjoy here, and the supportive and diverse campus environment we share. Students want to come here to learn from and do research with faculty who are the forefront of their fields, and to be part of a vibrant intellectual community with their peers.

We are proud that UC Santa Barbara is increasingly the “campus of choice” for prospective students, and we are delighted to welcome a freshman class that is highly talented, diverse, and academically prepared. We are excited about the contributions these students will make to our university, and to our world.

As we look forward to all that this year will bring, I am honored to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for endeavoring to make UC Santa Barbara a more welcoming and inclusive academic community.

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor
As I am stepping out of the job of Executive Vice Chancellor, I am also reflecting on the accomplishments we have made in various areas. Both Maria Herrera-Sobek and I started our jobs on the same day over eleven years ago, and we shared the goal of increasing our faculty diversity as we stepped in.

It’s been a great pleasure working with Maria (and with Anna Everett during her time filling in for Maria while she was on sabbatical leave). I think we succeeded in keeping diversity a high priority for the campus and certainly as a visible issue in the many interactions we have had with colleagues on campus.

This Diversity Forum newsletter is one of the many ways this has been accomplished. Of the 318 faculty we have hired since we arrived in office, over one third have been women (112), and over 40% have been people of color (22 African American, 51 Chican@/Latin@, 49 Asian, 8 American Indian). Correspondingly, our faculty diversity now is greater than it was a decade ago.

Of course, the job of diversifying the faculty is never done, and persistence will still be required. But many of the processes and programs we have put in place will continue to serve the campus in reaching for this worthy goal.

UCSB Honored for Commitment to Diversity

UC Santa Barbara was once again honored by Minority Access, Inc. for our commitment to diversity. In cooperation with the Office of Minority Health and the National Institutes of Health, the award recognizes institutions committed to increasing the pool of underrepresented scholars.

Presented at the National Role Models Conference in Washington, D.C., the award recognizes the efforts of UCSB to implement programs to improve the higher educational, professional and managerial employment of minorities.

Minority Access, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization that supports individuals, academic institutions, federal, state, and local government agencies, and various corporations to diversify campuses and work sites by improving the recruitment, retention and enhancement of minorities. They also provide technical assistance to minorities and minority-serving institutions and provide opportunities for sharing experiences and strategies for accessing, retaining, enhancing and graduating minority students, especially researchers.

This is the fourteenth year that Minority Access, Inc. has presented formal awards at their Role Models Conference, and the seventh year in a row that UCSB has been recognized.

For more information on the award or the National Role Models conference, please visit www.minorityaccess.org.
A Message from the Director of the Office of
Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance

I have commented in previous Diversity Forum newsletters, that one of the responsibilities for our Office is to assist the campus in our compliance with the various equal opportunity, affirmative action, non-discrimination, and harassment policies, guidance, rules, and laws affecting our campus.

Earlier this year, President Obama signed the reauthorization of what has become to be referred to as the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA. The reauthorization of VAWA included various sweeping changes that will take effect in March of 2014. Though VAWA was originally signed into law by President Clinton and had been reauthorized before March of this year, the changes incorporated this time appear to have a much larger impact on our campus than in the past.

The Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), is the agency that administers and oversees the implementation of VAWA; however, there is a significant overlap between aspects of the reauthorized VAWA and the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) enforcement of Title IX.

In April of 2011, the OCR issued what is known as a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL), which extensively clarified the guidelines they issued in 2001 regarding Title IX implementation and application. As you may recall from my previous postings in Diversity Forum, Title IX was passed to eliminate gender and sex discrimination in education and to allow full access to academic programs and opportunities, as well as to employment in education. The DCL detailed how educational institutions receiving federal funds had to take proactive steps to eliminate and address gender and sex discrimination, harassment, and even sexual assault on and off campus. The OCR articulated that the policies and procedures of recipient campuses needed to be updated to ensure alignment with the DCL recommendations, and that those policies include students, staff, and faculty. The DCL expansion of the application of Title IX to include sexual assault was far reaching, and we have been working to ensure application of the DCL ever since it was issued.

The VAWA, however, has now codified some aspects of the DCL, and even updates the Clery Act, regarding the reporting of crime within and around our campus. It is no longer mere guidance, but law.

Most notably, the VAWA expands sexual violence to include sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. It mandates the education and training of our campus community about sexual violence, and to maintain transparent records so that the OVW can determine the efficacy of our efforts through our crime statistics. It also calls for the development and application of a transparent and effective remedial process to address violations of our policies against sexual violence.

Since the impact of VAWA goes beyond our own campus, and since it has a system wide effect on our policies and procedures, our campus has joined a systemwide effort, called forth by President Napolitano, to update the UC Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure, as well as all other systemwide policies and procedures affected by the changes in VAWA for students, staff, and faculty.

I have been appointed our Campus Coordinator for this effort, and will be in touch with many campus decision makers and constituents over the next few months, to ensure we have an inclusive process to update our policies and procedures, and moreover, so we can meet the deadline of March 7th to enact all of the expected changes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this process. I can be reached at 893-4504 or at ricardo.alcaino@oeosh.ucsb.edu.

Ricardo Alcaíno
Under the leadership of Assistant Vice Chancellor Claudine Michel (Professor, Black Studies and Director of the Office of International Students and Scholars), Academic Initiatives in Student Affairs has launched two new programs for students this fall.

The first program is designed to serve as an entry into undergraduate research for first-generation college students. Named in honor of the late UCSB Black Studies Professor Clyde Woods, the Woods Scholars program is modeled after Professor Woods’ belief in hands-on scholarship and research. This competitive program selected 22 students who applied during the Summer Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP) and who expressed interest in graduate or professional school.

During many weekly meetings, Woods Scholars hear presentations by graduate students who talk about their research experience at UCSB. Other meetings may include workshops with study skills specialists, or conversations about university life and academic planning. This competitive program selected 22 students who applied during the Summer Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP) and who expressed interest in graduate or professional school.

One Woods Scholar writes:

“Being part of a big research university such as UCSB has its pros and cons. UCSB offers me many opportunities to do research, but because it is a large institution, standing out from the crowd can be difficult to do. By being part of the Woods Scholars Program, I know that I will get the experience and knowledge I need to start and succeed at my research career.”

Woods Scholars are further supported by dedicated liaison positions within both EOP and CLAS. EOP Counselor Joanna Hernandez has extensive experience with undergraduate research programs and helps facilitate weekly meetings. Jeff Landeck, Assistant Director of CLAS, oversees referrals to workshops and tutoring sessions. In addition, EOP Student Mentors are in contact with Woods Scholars weekly, to be sure that they are adapting well to the campus environment during their first year.

The second new program is an internship which provides opportunities for upper-division students to transform scholarship into action. Named to honor Michael D. Young, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, these interns will use their own experiences and applied academic skills to improve the campus. The internship includes a $1,500 scholarship. A few possible projects include a lecture series by health professionals, a world cultures festival, and extended

(Continued on p. 14)
Second Annual Achieve UC Event Stresses Attainable Education For All

Over a hundred college hopefuls poured into the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School on October 23, 2013 to hear UC Santa Barbara Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas and other UCSB representatives tell them that higher education is attainable — if they start now.

“We’re here to convince you that there’s a place for you at the University of California,” said Lucas. His words of encouragement were part of the second annual Achieve UC, a systemwide effort to assure California high school students that they do have access to a university education. “You do your part — study and apply yourselves — and we’ll do ours.”

The morning’s event also included an appearance from California Assemblyman Das Williams and comments from Santa Ynez Valley Union High School principal Mark Swanitz. After the assembly, breakout sessions assisted students with specific questions about their path toward a university education.

“It’s never too early to think about what you want to do,” Swanitz said. Gone are the days when newly graduated would-be college students could luck into a university education. These days students have to plan and strategize their way through a large and competitive pool of applicants to attain their higher education.

Given the state and national economies, both of which were dealt staggering blows in recent years, as well as job losses and rising costs of living, investing in a college education can be a daunting prospect. But, said assemblyman and UCSB alum Williams, it’s still one of the best bets a young Californian can make for their future.

“In California we have the best higher education system in the world,” he said. A high school dropout who worked his way through community college and eventually university, Williams offered bits of advice from his own experience as a student and also as chair of the California Assembly’s Higher Education Committee.

While the talks were aimed at all interested students, they were geared specifically toward those for whom a university education might not be an obvious option, even during better economic times: students who come from non-native English speaking homes; those with financial disadvantages and especially those who would be the first in their families to pursue a college degree. Speakers like Adrienne Arguijo-Morgan, program coordinator for the Pathways Program, offered information on academic preparation and the application process. Grades are important, as the UC system is inclined toward considering the cream of the crop when it comes to scholastic achievers. However, she said, high achievers are more the norm in an increasingly competitive pool of prospective students, so UC also seeks out those that shine outside of the classroom.

“It’s really important that you be as diverse as possible,” said Arguijo-Morgan. Extracurricular activities that demonstrate longevity and commitment make students more attractive for UC admission, as are experiences that provide perspective and depth regarding the prospective student’s life.

For those in tight financial circumstances, the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan is available. This relatively new program pays the entire tuition bill for students whose families earn less than $80,000 per year. Coupled with available scholarships, speakers said, qualified students could attend the University of California with few out of pocket expenses. On the state level, lawmakers recently added a new middle-class scholarship that would slash tuition for students from middle-income families by almost half.

“In California we have the best higher education system in the world”
-Assemblyman (and UCSB alum)
Das Williams
Los Angeles-based Chicana artist Diane Gamboa is a multi-media figurative artist who has been creating and exhibiting art for close to forty years. Finding inspiration in the urban environment, Gamboa is well-known for her photographs documenting the punk rock music scene in Hollywood and East L.A. in the 1970s and ‘80s and for her disposable “Hit and Run” fashion shows featuring paper streetwear.

This exhibition of twelve silkscreen prints, created between 1983 and 2009, explores the work of the artist as subaltern provocateur. Gamboa’s iconography challenges the viewer by drawing us into vibrant and psychically intense settings that push the boundaries of our dualistic understandings of the dominant and subordinate, male and female, human and object, and pain and pleasure. Influenced by her work with marginalized communities such as homeless youth and transvestites, the series evokes both a sense of alienation and reclamation.

All of the pieces are drawn from the Self-Help Graphics & Art Archives in the Library’s California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives (CEMA) within Special Collections. Self-Help Graphics & Art is a community arts center that was founded in Los Angeles in 1973 to be a resource for young and emerging Latino artists. Gamboa was a visiting artist in CEMA in 2011.

Altered States is presented in conjunction with Gamboa’s Regents’ Lectureship on the UCSB campus in the fall of 2013.
As part of its celebration of International Education Week, the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE) hosted a reception on November 14 for the school’s visiting scholars, international students, faculty, and campus and community friends. About seventy friends and colleagues were in attendance including Mrs. Marilyn Gevirtz (the school is named after Don and Marilyn Gevirtz) and former GGSE dean Jules Zimmer. The event featured four student speakers, as well as several faculty members who highlighted their international projects.

In appreciation, one of the graduate student participants remarked in a subsequent email to Associate Dean Ho that the event “modeled the process of recognizing and creating opportunities to learn from the wisdom of our international students, allowing them to learn and teach, building bridges across words and worlds and developing institutional intercultural competence!”

At an earlier celebration event of International Education Week, the Gevirtz School hosted a speaker luncheon on November 12 for international students and their faculty advisors featuring Dr. Isabella Lin-Roark (a licensed psychologist and campus international student specialist). Additionally, in October, the GGSE hosted a luncheon discussion for its visiting scholars and faculty sponsors.
Hsiu-Zu Ho Appointed Associate Dean of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education

Hsiu-Zu Ho, professor of education and psychology, has been appointed as Associate Dean of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE). Professor Ho’s research interests are in the areas of cross-cultural psychology and education. Her investigations explore cultural and gender variations in aspects of human development, motivation and academic achievement, and parental involvement. She has recently published work on educational systems in East Asian nations, parental involvement and student academic achievement in Asian and Asian American families and father involvement in Taiwanese society.

Professor Ho is a member of the International Network of Scholars (INET) working on topics of school, family and community partnerships as well as the European Research Network About Parents in Education. From 2004 to 2007 she served as president of the International Studies Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association. Dr. Ho was a 2012-13 Fulbright Senior Scholar in the Department of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, where she examined father involvement in the everyday lives and education of young students in Taiwanese society.

Professor Ho has been a UCSB faculty member for over 30 years and served on numerous campus committees including chairing the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (CACSW). She has been a past recipient of the Professional Women’s Association’s “Unsung Heroine” award for her campus leadership.

As the Gevirtz School’s associate dean, one of Dr. Ho’s charges includes raising the visibility of the School’s international work. Ho states, “the GGSE faculty and students are highly engaged in a variety of international projects across the globe including collaborative research, prominent lectures and workshops, teacher/student exchanges, and philanthropic projects.”

The extent of the Gevirtz School’s internationalization for the 2013-14 academic year includes 29 international students (over 8% of our graduate student population) representing 13 countries across five continents; 29 visiting scholars representing 10 countries across four continents; 11 Teacher Education Program students going abroad to Denmark, Singapore and Switzerland; and at least eight memoranda of understanding (MOUs) in institutions across four continents. Though she is still gathering information regarding the extent of the faculty’s international activities, Ho says she is “impressed that of the GGSE faculty members for whom I thus far have this type of information, the global reach of their professional activities already covers 88 countries across all seven continents.”

“I am excited,” Ho comments, “to work with the GGSE community to enhance the visibility and understanding of our strong international efforts that benefit our students’ education and our research efforts. I also look forward to having campus and larger community conversations regarding the globalization of higher education in general, and what that means to the GGSE and to UCSB, specifically.”

“I am excited to work with the GGSE community to enhance the visibility and understanding of our strong international efforts that benefit our students’ education and our research efforts.”
Graduate Division

ARC/Sally Casanova Program Brings 11 Scholars to UCSB for a Summer of Research and Resources

By Patricia Marroquin,
Graduate Division Senior Writer

As one scholar put it, “It takes a village to get a Ph.D.” UC Santa Barbara’s Graduate Division provided that village for 11 bright scholars from throughout the nation, who came to the campus for a summer of research, collaboration, and camaraderie. The Academic Research Consortium/California Pre-Doctoral Scholars (Sally Casanova) program, hosted by the Graduate Division, once again offered research experiences, mentoring, and academic support to help these scholars achieve their personal and professional goals.

The program, also known as ARC, identifies talented and motivated students who have the potential to succeed in graduate study, but who have experienced situations or conditions that have impeded their advancement. The scholars are matched individually with UCSB faculty and graduate student mentors who provide training and support during the seven-week summer program. The scholars have the opportunity to explore their discipline and gain valuable research experience. They then present that research to an audience of colleagues, mentors, family, and friends.

Students attended six workshops covering such topics as library training, presentation skills, funding, and digital reputation. They also stepped away from their studies occasionally to enjoy the Santa Barbara area with a beach barbecue, an ice cream social, and a sunset cruise.

The students came from as near as Santa Barbara, Northridge, and Long Beach, and as far as Florida and New York. There was a diverse range of research topics, including resources and relationships of gang-associated Latino youths; perceptions of beauty among Korean women; personal and professional negotiations among Latina faculty; and fostering resilience in children of incarcerated parents.

ARC scholar Alexandria Pech from Sonoma State University said she “loved that I had a whole team working to make sure I was getting everything I needed.” She said the program enabled her to improve her networking, speaking, and presentation skills, as well as make friends “who were diverse, intelligent and fun to be around.”

Education grad student Kevin Delucio was Alex’s mentor.

“As a grad mentor, it was very rewarding knowing I was able to ‘pay it forward,’ so to speak. Having been in Alex’s position not too long ago, I was happy to give her any tips and tricks I learned along the way, which hopefully make her feel more confident as she begins working on her applications. As a first-generation college and graduate student, it is difficult to navigate this process – and academia in general – alone. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share my experiences with someone of similar background in efforts to increase our presence in academe.”

Kathy Espino-Pérez, a first-generation Chicana doctoral student and a Sally Casanova scholar from Cal State Northridge, began her Ph.D. program in Social Psychology at UCSB in September.

“I look forward to being a positive example for students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds,” Kathy said. “At my undergraduate institution, only one professor in the Psychology de-

(Continued on p. 14)
Fall Diversity Lecture: Ian Haney López

On November 12, 2013, the UCSB MultiCultural Center welcomed Ian Haney López for a lively discussion about the racial implications of the current political climate.

Haney López posits that two themes dominate American politics today: at the forefront is declining economic opportunity; coursing underneath is race. In his lecture, he connected both by showing how racial pandering convinces many white voters to support policies that favor the extremely rich and betray the middle class.

The John H. Boalt Professor of Law at UC Berkeley, Haney López is the author of *White by Law* as well as *Racism on Trial*, and will soon release a new book: *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class*.

This event was co-sponsored by the Center for Black Studies Research; the Center for New Racial Studies; the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy; and the Office of Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance.

Fall Events

1. Daniel Solorzano provided an overview of the current research on racial microaggressions and discussed the implications for teaching, classroom interaction and learning in a talk titled, “Using the Critical Race Tool of Racial Microaggressions to Examine Everyday Racism.” Solorzano shared various forms of data and a working model to examine racial microaggressions, exploring the frontiers of this research and the questions yet unanswered. He engaged the students in a dialogue about how we can improve the learning environment to maximize engagement, learning and discovery for our increasingly diverse community. This event was co-sponsored by the Center for Black Studies Research; the Center for New Racial Studies; and the Department of Asian American Studies.

2. Robin Kelley’s talk, “The War On Our Youth,” explored the connections between neoliberalism to mass incarceration, punitive measures against youth of color in public schools, police repression and vigilante violence directed at young people. In addition, Kelley discussed how policies of subjugation, surveillance, and divestment extend globally. Robin Kelley is the Gary B. Nash Professor of American History at UCLA. Co-sponsored by American Cultures & Global Contexts; the Black Student Union; the Center for Black Studies Research; the Center for New Racial Studies; and the Department of Sociology.

3. With the likelihood that Congress will continue debating immigrant reform legislation this fall, the immigrant rights movement stands at the crossroads. Panelists Angelica Salas (Executive Director of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles), Roberto Lovato (Co-Founder of Presente.Org), DREAM scholar Gloria Campos, and Moderator Professor William I. Robinson (Sociology and Global and International Studies) debated the prospects of reform legislation and discussed the challenges and prospects for the immigrant rights struggle, with participation from the audience. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for New Racial Studies; the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies; the Department of Political Science; the Department of Sociology; El Congreso; Improving Dreams, Equality Access, and Success; the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center; and Radio Xicana.
Political activist Angela Davis was on campus on October 11, 2013, for a screening of the film “Free Angela and All Political Prisoners,” a documentary by Shola Lynch that chronicles Davis’s life as a young, outspoken UCLA professor who in the late 1960s and early 1970s became a symbol of the fight for social justice.

The film centers on Davis’s activism as well as her affiliation with the Communist Party and the Black Panthers, which led not only to her removal from the faculty at UCLA, but to her implication — and subsequent trial and acquittal — in the 1970 kidnapping attempt that resulted in the death of Superior Court Judge Harold Haley.

The film was followed by a question-and-answer period moderated by Gaye Theresa Johnson, associate professor of black studies at UCSB. Also participating in the discussion was the film’s co-producer, Sidra Smith.

The “Free Angela” event was brought to campus by Sol Sisters Rising, a collective recently co-founded by Johnson, UCSB colleague Ingrid Banks, associate professor in the Department of Black Studies, and Kim Bluitt, a higher education and philanthropy professional. Sol Sisters Rising is dedicated to elevating the profile of women of color in films. Their goal is to create opportunities for recognition of and support for films that draw attention to the experiences of women of color.

“We have two facets of work, one of which involves programs like this screening, which is our inaugural event,” said Johnson. “Already we’ll be programming for the Santa Barbara International Film Festival and for Image Nation, a Harlem-based cinema café organization.”

The second component of Sol Sisters Rising is a Web-based project that, according to Johnson, is the first of its kind. It consists of a complete catalog of films that in some way involve women of color, either as directors, producers or providers of content.

To gather material, Johnson, Banks and Bluitt examined the last five years of programming from the top 10 film festivals in the world, matching a set of criteria they developed against recently released films. “We’ve come up with over 2,000 films just in the last five years,” said Johnson. “And those are just the ones that have been selected. They include shorts, but they don’t include all the incredible films that never make it to Sundance or Toronto or Cannes. We’re talking about conscious content that presents women of color in their communities, and the social justice issues that affect them.”

In conjunction with the catalog, the collective offers a searchable database — also a first — that contains thousands of films that have some connection to women of color. “There’s a lot of opportunity here for us to build a sort of repository, but also to think about being an aggregator of women of color films,” Johnson noted.

The “Free Angela” screening was co-sponsored by UCSB’s Carsey-Wolf Center, Department of Black Studies, Department of Feminist Studies and Division of Student Affairs.

Davis supports the film as, among other things, a valuable teaching tool. “It’s a film about a different era, an era that young people only know through their history books or films or perhaps stories that their parents or grandparents have told them,” she said.

“It’s the story about a victory that was achieved against all possible odds,” she continued. “This was the reason I thought it might be important to record that story — not so much because it focuses on me as an individual, but rather it’s the story that in the end was victorious as a result of people coming together across all kinds of dividing lines: racial boundaries, national boundaries, ethnic, cultural. People all over the world joined the campaign to free me, and in the end, we won.”
UCSB offers me many opportunities to do research, but because it is a large institution, standing out from the crowd can be difficult to do. By being part of the Woods Scholars Program, I know that I will get the experience and knowledge I need to start and succeed at my research career.

The interns will also work closely with AVC Michel to support new Student Affairs initiatives. For example, interns will host faculty/student mixers in the dining halls. “We’re excited to bring back ‘Faculty Nights’—a program which Wellness has allowed us to transfer to our interns,” Dr. Michel says. “Collaborating with Housing to host dinners in the residence halls and other campus departments is a tremendous opportunity for interns to work through the details. As they enter professional life, having the confidence to build relationships will be a tremendous advantage.”

This first year, all five interns were selected by referrals from Student Affairs staff. In the future, students will be able to apply for the internship directly, with recommendations from faculty. This program is ideal for students in their junior year. At that point, they have enough experience with campus to see some things that could be improved and they are not caught up in the pressure of senior year.

“UCSB offers me many opportunities to do research, but because it is a large institution, standing out from the crowd can be difficult to do. By being part of the Woods Scholars Program, I know that I will get the experience and knowledge I need to start and succeed at my research career.”

(Continued from p. 6)

outreach to undocumented high school students.

“We wanted a program that would provide students with leadership experience and applied scholarship,” explains Dr. Michel. “We are giving them an opportunity to define their own projects, based on their academic interests.” The five interns selected for the program will each develop and present a proposal to define their goals for the year-long program. “The proposal process gives them an opportunity to take initiative and follow a project from concept to completion. We will help guide them, but mostly we are looking for ways to let students make decisions and experience that success on their own.”

The university made a huge impact on Bianca. “Going to UCSB for graduate school never crossed my mind. However, after participating in this summer, UCSB is my top choice. I left with a great impression of UCSB.”

(Continued from p. 11)
As Gene Lucas prepares to retire, we look back at his 11 years of extraordinary service as Executive Vice Chancellor, and at all of the ways he has supported diversity over the years. Gene, thank you for everything. We wish you the best!
Faculty Feature

Professor Ninotchka Bennahum

In her new book, “Carmen — A Gypsy Geography” (Wesleyan University Press, 2013), Ninotchka Bennahum, a professor of dance and theater at UC Santa Barbara, presents Gypsy dancer Carmen, as “an embodied historical archive, a figure through which we can consider nomadic, transnational identity and the immanence of performance as an expanded historical methodology.”

Though the character’s origins trace back to the masculine minds of French writer Prosper Mérimée and composer Georges Bizet, she has, over time, refused to be defined by those who created her. Instead, Carmen has emerged through history as a symbol of the unfettered female artist.

Bennahum traces the genealogy of the female Gypsy presence in her iconic operatic role from her genesis in the ancient Mediterranean world, her emergence as flamenco artist in the architectural spaces of Islamic Spain, her persistent manifestation in Picasso’s work and her contemporary relevance on stage.

“The book began as a history of Carmen and an archival and performative evolution of Spanish and Gypsy dance on the French Romantic stage,” said Bennahum, a dance historian and performance theorist. “But as I searched, I became intrigued by the idea of migration. It’s choreographic. I found I was really interested in migration, nomadology, homelessness and art as the receptacle of cultures that travel.”

Carmen’s story is one of liberation — a journey or path without end. “Carmen is the most-performed opera in history and the most-performed in general,” said Bennahum. “And we are in this struggle to some extent with this idea of a free woman.”

According to Bennahum, the book was an attempt to excavate and to privilege the body as a place of history. “If you understand flamenco — or hip-hop or Native American dance — you can unlock a culture’s history. You can unlock a people’s history. And you can unlock female/feminist history,” she said. “Women live very much in their biological bodies, and flamenco has managed to bring a classical line together with an intense ferocity that feels like it’s from another place and time. These geographies collide in space and time, and it’s very much a history of the world. And Carmen transcends time and space.”