UC Santa Barbara has been selected to receive a $2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for Opening New Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS), a new Title V program. The five-year grant is awarded under the education department’s Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program, which assists Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in expanding educational opportunities for Hispanic students. HSIs are defined as colleges or universities in which Hispanic enrollment comprises a minimum of 25 percent of the total enrollment of undergraduate and graduate students, both full- and part-time.

UCSB was named a Hispanic-Serving Institution in January by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and is the only HSI that is also a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. “This year has been a milestone in receiving recognition for our campus’s diversity – the result of decades of hard work and tireless dedication by our entire UC Santa Barbara community,” said Chancellor Henry T. Yang. “During this journey, I have had the privilege of seeing our Hispanic student population grow from 11 percent to 26 percent, along with many other splendid achievements.

“Our selection as a recipient of this significant Department of Education grant, which follows our HSI designation in January, is a reflection of our strong and shared commitment to our academic excellence and diversity,” Yang continued, “and it will allow us to further enhance programs and services for all students as well as provide new professional development opportunities for faculty.”

The ONDAS program is designed to address challenges facing the university’s underrepresented and low-income students, including higher-than-average rates of academic probation in certain majors and lower-than-average first-year retention rates. “The first year is a critical time because, among the total number of students who drop out of UCSB, the majority do so during their first year and in the summer immediately following,” said Barbara Endemaño Walker, director of research development for the social sciences, humanities and fine arts in the Office of Research at UCSB.

To strengthen the success and retention of undergraduates, the grant will focus on two main areas of activity: first-year experiences and faculty professional development. “We identified the 10 majors and 41 courses in which these students are more likely to have difficulties that lead them to probation status,” Walker said.

Administered through the Division of Undergraduate Education, the grant is not focused on any particular department or college but is designed to have far-reaching effects on campus.

To read more, please visit www.news.ucsb.edu
The new academic year, 2015-2016, welcomes the campus community with some excellent news: UCSB is the fortunate recipient of a five-year 2.6 million grant. The grant was received from the U.S. Department of Education and was the result of extensive ground work done by a small committee under the leadership of Interim Dean of Undergraduate Education, Carl Gutiérrez-Jones and Barbara Walker from the Office of Research. Gutiérrez-Jones and Walker were the principal investigators and wrote the grant. UCSB became eligible for this type of grant due to its new status as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Our campus is the first member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU) to hold this designation having achieved more than 25% Hispanic/Latino undergraduate students enrolled.

We are delighted with the support Chancellor Henry T. Yang, Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall, and Vice Chancellor of Research, Michael Witherell, have given to this endeavor throughout the years. The grant will be used to improve various programs for our students on campus. We are grateful for our student involvement in the yearly recruitment process as well as the outreach activities faculty and staff undertake each year; all this work has made this achievement possible.

I am pleased to report that UCSB continues to be considered a role model among its peers regarding diversity issues. This year, as in past years, we received the 2015 Minority Access Inc. Citation Award for Commitment to Excellence in Diversity (our 9th award) and the 2015 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award (our 4th award) from the Insight into Diversity national magazine.

With respect to our progress in the hiring of faculty, our numbers reflect the diligent work our faculty and staff do. Our hiring numbers vis-à-vis faculty continue to hold steady for women and there was a slight uptick for minorities. There were a total of 45 faculty members hired this year. The breakdown in numbers is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Minority</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our campus is a vibrant, intellectually rigorous, and welcoming one. I thank the staff, faculty, administrators and students who help make UCSB a great campus to work, study, and to live in. I wish everybody a productive and joyful new academic year.
A Message from the Chancellor

Welcome to the 2015-16 academic year. Each fall, I have the pleasure of greeting our new students and welcoming them to our campus community – thousands of unique individuals who are now members of our UC Santa Barbara family. We can all take pride in the fact that this year’s freshman class is the most diverse and the highest achieving in our history. Of significant note is that for the first time in our history, the average GPA for enrolling freshman has crossed the 4.0 threshold!

The average high school GPA of our new freshman class is 4.02, up from 3.98 last year and 3.76 a decade ago. Chicano, Latino, African American, and American Indian students comprise 35 percent of our new freshman class. This compares to 31 percent last year and 25 percent a decade ago. Among all 10 UC campuses, UC Santa Barbara has the highest number of American Indian freshman this year and the third-highest number of African American first-year students. Our sustained commitment to increasing diversity and academic excellence is reflected not only in these numbers, but by the recognition we have received from various organizations.

Minority Access Inc., a nonprofit organization committed to increasing diversity, decreasing disparities, and reducing environmental injustices, recently named our campus as a recipient of its Diversity Award. A representative from our university received this award in September during the Minority Access 16th Annual Conference in Baltimore, a gathering of, among others, institutions that have been exemplary in producing minority researchers.

For the fourth consecutive year, our campus has been named a recipient of the INSIGHT into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. This honor recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

A recent example of this commitment is our North Hall exhibition, “A Vision of Change,” which was completed in June. This exhibit highlights and documents the influence of our students and faculty during the 1968 North Hall sit-in, which was a catalyst for the formation of our Department of Black Studies the following year. More broadly, it recognizes the many contributions made by our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and administrators in the interest of diversity over the past 50 years.

Our campus is also establishing a cluster of endowed North Hall Professorships in order to recruit tenured professors whose research and teaching interests and areas of expertise include the “knowledge and traditions of the Black World,” and who have a demonstrated commitment to supporting and developing scholarship among undergraduate students.

Another important component in keeping up our momentum is through the dedication and inspiration of our campus leadership. In September, Dr. Margaret Klawunn joined us as our new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. She came to us from Brown University, where she served as Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services. Among the many roles she held on that campus, Dr. Klawunn served as a member of the Diversity Advisory Board. We welcome the tremendous depth of experience and knowledge – particularly in the areas of campus life and student services – that she brings to our university.

Equally as important are the individual and collaborative efforts of each and every member of our campus community. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for making UC Santa Barbara and our surrounding neighborhood welcoming and inclusive. In the year ahead, I look forward to working with our students, staff, faculty, and alumni with strong dedication and commitment to continue to strengthen our diverse academic community in the year ahead.
I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Barbara Walker has joined the EVC’s office on a part-time assignment as Special Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Diversity Initiatives. She will work with the Executive Vice Chancellor’s Office, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Academic Policy, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel, and the Vice Chancellor for Research, as well as others on campus.

Dr. Walker will help identify and catalyze extramural funding opportunities, including those from federal, state, corporate, foundation, and community partners, for diversity initiatives and research, and arrange new training opportunities for faculty and staff related to serving underrepresented groups, diversity in undergraduate and graduate education, and faculty diversity at UCSB. Dr. Walker will serve as Principal Investigator and/or Project Director on grants and awards related to Hispanic Serving Institutions, Minority Serving Institutions, and other extramural opportunities. Currently the Director of Research Development for the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Fine Arts in the Office of Research, she will continue in that position in a part-time capacity. I am very grateful to Vice Chancellor Witherell for his support and cooperation.

Dr. Walker holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Geography from UC Berkeley and a B.A. in Anthropology and minor in African Studies from UCLA. She has been involved in several initiatives to promote broader participation in higher education. She is currently the lead Principal Investigator on two interrelated grants – an NSF ADVANCE (Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers) award and an Elsevier New Scholars Grant— to investigate and catalyze diversity in team science in the UC system and California. She is also the Project Director of UCSB’s new $2.6 million Department of Education Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions grant. We already have benefited from her excellent work in the conceptual development and writing of this successful proposal.

Associate Vice Chancellor Herrera-Sobek and I are very pleased to welcome Barbara Walker and to work with her on new initiatives and programs as we pursue the new opportunities open to us as an Hispanic Serving Intuition.
In this installment of the Diversity Forum, I would like to provide some quick tips for all Faculty, Supervisors, and otherwise Responsible Employees to observe when confronted with a student who may present you with what seems to be concerns related to sexual violence. This information is excerpted from the guide for Faculty and Supervisors on Responding to Student Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Harassment, produced by the Campus’ CARE: Advocate Office for Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Sexual Misconduct Program and Women’s Center.

If a student discloses to you:

1. Tell the student that you are not a confidential resource and that you have a responsibility to report allegations of policy violations. If the student decides at that point they do not wish to continue with their disclosure, you may jump to step #4 below.

2. Listen with empathy. Listening is the most important thing you can do. No one deserves violence, regardless of the circumstances. Let the person know they are not to blame for the assault. You can say something simple and kind, like: “Thank you for telling me.”

3. Support them and respect their decisions. Survivors are often met with disbelief when they tell someone. Remember, you are not an investigator: you do not need to gather information or tell the student what they “should” or “must” do. Instead, try phrases like: “When you are ready, there is help available.”

4. Refer the student to CARE. You are not expected to be an expert on these issues or know all the options available to student survivors. CARE is a confidential resource for students and seeking assistance from CARE will not trigger any action by the University. You can tell the student: “CARE is a free, confidential resource on campus. I can give you their number, call them with you, or walk you over to their office.”

5. Report to Title IX. Supervisors, faculty, and other designated employees are responsible for promptly forwarding reports to the Title IX Officer (Sexual Harassment Officer) or other local official designated to review and investigate sexual harassment and sexual violence complaints. In addition to your official notice to this office, students have the right to make a Title IX report if they wish. Please call (805) 893-2701 or visit https://oeosh.ucsb.edu/sexual.harassment.and.sexual.violence/. You can tell the student: “I am obligated to submit a report to Title IX about this. You can also make a report to Title IX or ask them about your rights as a student if you wish.”

I hope the above tips help you if or when a student discloses to you that they may have been the subject of sexual violence. For more information about sexual violence, you may visit the campus sexual violence website at http://sexualviolence.ucsb.edu/.

If you have questions please contact our Office general number at (805) 893-2701 or send me a message at Ricardo.alcaino@oeosh.ucsb.edu.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Alcaíno
In June 2015, three faculty members, five undergraduate students, three graduate students and two videographers went on a field research trip to Haiti as part of the Carrefour-Feuilles Neighborhood Redevelopment Project (CNRP) spearheaded by Nadege T. Clitandre, Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Studies. The five undergraduate students who participated were all required to be part of Clitandre’s Haiti classes and to complete a research paper prior to the trip.

The goal of the project, which began in 2013 and was made possible by initial funding support from the Cluster Initiative at the Orfalea Center, is to investigate the short term and long term development prospects in the Haiti earthquake devastated community of Carrefour-Feuilles, located in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The project involves a collaborative of faculty and students at UCSB who met throughout the year to discuss UCSB’s relationship with Carrefour-Feuilles through Bibliothèque du Soleil, a community library that receives institutional support from the Center for Black Studies Research at UCSB. The CNRP is both a part of the Center’s Haiti Projects developed under the direction of past center director Professor Claudine Michel and a New Engaged Scholarship Initiative created by Professor Diane Fujino, the current director. The Center has partnered with the Department of Global Studies to develop this research-based project.

The specific objective of the trip to Haiti in June was to organize a workshop that brought scholars at UCSB to one specific community in Haiti to engage with community leaders and residents, Haitian faculty and students, grassroots organizations, and Nongovernmental International organizations working in Carrefour-Feuilles. The main goals of the workshop were to evaluate community needs and UCSB’s contribution to one community’s development. The trip also offered an opportunity for faculty and students to explore social, cultural, and economic nuances relative to questions of global development, and to assess the gap between local grassroots community initiatives and international development efforts.

A cross-cultural research and community-based exchange trip to a post-earthquake Haiti that is still recovering from the seismic disaster of January 12, 2010, was no small feat. Indeed it took two years to organize this trip effectively. In the end, the collaborative met all its objectives and exceeded expectations. The exchange was co-transformative for both the UCSB students and the students in Haiti that participated in the workshop. It was also co-transformative for the participating UCSB research units as well as the community of Carrefour-Feuilles. A co-authored article on the experience was published in the latest issue of the Journal of Haitian Studies http://www.research.ucsb.edu/cbs/publications/johs/.

The Carrefour-Feuilles Neighborhood Redevelopment Project exemplifies the changing face of education in an increasingly global and interconnected world. In the twenty-first century, students at universities are participating in cross-cultural service learning programs in ways that are elevating the international dimensions of civic engagement and solidifying the transformative aspects of education. Students at UCSB recognize that education-abroad opportunities at the university level that are research-focused engender the type of global citizenship they seek, one that offers a more sophisticated and nuanced view of the world around them. The eight students who attended the trip, Ashley Baker, Maria Boyd, Nikita Carney, Jamella Gow, Andrew Neiman, Nathalie Pierre, Sean Tanabe, and Unique Vance, came back transformed.

Photo of the Group at Memorial Park Photo Credit: Daisha S. Jimenez
Feminist Studies New Hire
By Laury Oaks

The Department of Feminist Studies has hired Jennifer Tyburczy as Assistant Professor and Director of the LGBTQ Minor. Dr. Tyburczy (Ph.D. Performance Studies, Northwestern University) joins Feminist Studies after previously teaching at the University of Texas, Austin, Columbia College Chicago, Northwestern University, Rice University (where she held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality), and the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Tyburczy’s research examines the display of visual, popular, and material culture in museums and the global flow of sexual objects across mapped and symbolic borders, particularly throughout North America, Latin America, and Western Europe. Her first book, *Sex Museums: The Politics and Performance of Display*, is forthcoming with the University of Chicago Press in December 2015. From February to May 2015, Tyburczy’s exhibition based on her book and titled Irreverent: A Celebration of Censorship showed at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art.

New Feminist Studies Student Awards

Paulette Poujol Oriol Undergraduate Global Feminist Research Award

This award was generously established by Claudine Michel, Professor of Black Studies and Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at UC Santa Barbara, in memory of her mother, Paulette Poujol Oriol. An award-winning author, actress, playwright, and activist, Poujol Oriol was a feminist leader who advocated for Haitian women’s rights in all of her work. She was a renaissance woman, having lived in France as a young child, later studying in Port-au-Prince and Jamaica and having fluency in French, Kreyòl, and Spanish with advanced knowledge of English, Italian and German. Poujol Oriol was a member and president of the Ligue Feminine D’Action Sociale (Women’s League for Social Action) and a founding member of the umbrella organization for over 50 groups, L’Alliance des Femmes Haïtiennes (The Alliance of Haitian Women). The purpose of this research award is to support undergraduate student travel funding to conduct research on topics related to feminism and social justice with a global framing. Each Spring, eligible students may apply: Feminist Studies majors/minors and LGBTQ minors.

Spring 2015 awardees: Marina Quintanilla and Sally Baker

Women, Gender, and Social Justice: Intersectional and Global Research Award

The Department of Feminist Studies is offering a new UCSB graduate student award! This award was created by Janet Afary, Duncan and Suzanne Mellichamp Chair and Professor of Religious Studies and Feminist Studies and Eileen Boris, Hull Chair and Professor of Feminist Studies. The purpose of the WGSJ research award is to support graduate students who need travel funding to conduct ethnographic or archival research on topics related to women, gender, and social justice with an intersectional and/or global framing. Each Spring, graduate students in Feminist Studies and Religious Studies, and Feminist Studies doctoral emphasis students, are eligible to apply.

Spring 2015 awardees: Karen Hanna and Shawn Warner-Garcia
On Exhibit: ‘Weary Blues: Poetry and Jazz from Langston Hughes’

With his ebony hands on each ivory key/ He made that poor piano moan with melody./ O Blues! —Langston Hughes, “The Weary Blues,” 1926.
UCSB Library invites the campus community to view “Weary Blues: Poetry and Jazz from Langston Hughes,” an exhibition on display in the Music Library.

Hughes (1902-1967) is known as the leader of the Harlem Renaissance, which spanned the 1920s. He is also considered the father of jazz poetry, which burgeoned into the beat movement of the 1950s.

The exhibition was inspired by The Langston Hughes Project, a multimedia presentation of Hughes’ epic poem Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz in January 2015 at UCSB’s Multicultural Center under the direction of Dr. Ron McCurdy. It was performed as the poet imagined it: with jazz musicians playing along to the words. “Weary Blues” features a CD recording of a 2013 performance of The Langston Hughes Project CD along with UCSB Library materials from the Music, Art, Black Studies, and Special Research Collections that showcase and honor Hughes’ lasting contributions to American culture. “Many of the materials marry diverse artistic disciplines in such a way that it is hard to tell where the visual imagery, music, and poetry begin and end,” said exhibition curator Kyra Folk-Farber, Assistant Music Librarian and Evolving Workforce Resident at UCSB Library.

Items on display include artwork by Hughes’ African American contemporaries Archibald Motley, Beauford Delaney and Bob Thompson. Other materials, such as Moment’s Notice: Jazz in Poetry & Prose, edited by Art Lange and Nathaniel Mackey, provide academic analyses of interdisciplinary artistic works. Also displayed is the 1955 book The Sweet Flypaper of Life, a collaboration between Hughes and photographer Roy DeCarava. A listening station features tracks from CDs that are available at the Music Library, including jazz, spoken word, art song, and opera stemming from Hughes’ poetry. Hughes’ “long, deeply influential career stems from being a voice of the people,” Folk-Farber said. His “impact goes beyond beautiful poetry; his work reflects the common experience of black America for over four decades.”

“Weary Blues: Poetry and Jazz from Langston Hughes” is on display through Dec. 11 in the Music Library. For Music Library hours and information, visit http://www.library.ucsb.edu/music.
The UC Santa Barbara–Florida A&M University Partnership hosted four students for the 2015 UCSB–FAMU Summer Institute in Educational Research and Policy

By Hsiu-Zu Ho


A rigorous student selection process identified these FAMU students for the 4-week Summer Program. Each student had an individualized research plan as well as a team of mentors to address his/her specific academic and professional interests. Hinton recently graduated in spring 2015 and will be in a MA program in Community Psychology, while the other three students will be entering their senior year at FAMU this fall.

For the program, each FAMU student was paired with a Department of Education doctoral student and a faculty mentor. The faculty mentors were Sharon Conley, Jason Duque, Rebeca Mireles-Rios, and Karen Nylund-Gibson. The doctoral students were Lois Harmon, Justin McClinton, Jay Plasman, and Charles Williams. Both Harmon and Williams took part in a previous version of the summer program before choosing to attend UC Santa Barbara. While working with numerous members of the Gevirtz School, the FAMU students collaborated with Dr. Judith Green and her Ph.D. students Ethny Stewart and Jenna (Eun) Joo in the Center for Education Research on Language, Literacies, Learning & Inquiry in Networking Communities (L3INC) lab and Jacob Kirksey, one of Dr. Gottfried’s Ph.D. students, has been the TA for research and policy courses.

The University of California’s reputation as a premier research and teaching institution rests on its capacity to serve the State of California, and nation, at the highest levels. This requires attracting and graduating scholars who reflect the communities of the world. At the graduate level African Americans/Blacks are extremely under-represented in UC graduate and professional programs. The five-year average (2008-2012) for enrollment of African Americans in UC academic doctoral programs is 2.6%.

The UC-HBCU Initiative seeks to improve the representation of this population in UC graduate programs, particularly Ph.D. programs, by investing in relationships and efforts between UC faculty and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The University of California recognizes the unique and important contributions that Historically Black Colleges and Universities make to the academy, our nation and the world. Through the UC-HBCU Initiative, the Office of the President encourages UC faculty to actively engage in collaboration and cooperation with faculty and students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Such efforts will serve to strengthen and enrich our mission of teaching, research and public service.
The Department of Asian American Studies was founded in 1995 by Sucheng Chan, now Professor Emeritus. This year, we hosted a 20th Anniversary Conference, “Asian American Studies at a Crossroads,” on March 5 and 6, at UC Santa Barbara’s Loma Pelona Center, and this event drew leading scholars from across the United States.

In the past twenty years, scholars in Asian American Studies have continued to examine the histories, experiences, and policies significant to Asian Americans, and yet they have also profoundly influenced the traditional disciplines, across all of the humanities and social sciences. They’ve provided critical insights in literary theory, immigration studies, and social movements, and they’ve shared these findings in leading publications as well as in the classes that they teach on campus every year. We work to provide opportunities for the next generation of students to engage the challenges of living in a multicultural world.

Our conference welcomed faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduates, and we were so pleased to share the latest and most exciting research in our field, much of it now conducted on our campus, in our Department. This was a special occasion to highlight our achievements, but still more importantly, this great gathering showed how vibrant the field has become, and how it has a terrific future ahead of it, especially on this campus.

“We work to provide opportunities for the next generation of students to engage the challenges of living in a multicultural world.”
Graduate Division Hosts Scholars for 2015 Summer Research Program

By Charles Williams, Graduate Division Diversity & Outreach Peer Advisor

From June 22 to August 14, the Graduate Division held its annual Academic Research Consortium (ARC)/California Pre-Doctoral Sally Casanova (SC)/UC LEADS Scholars Program. The annual program hosts college undergraduates from across the country for eight weeks in an effort to simulate the graduate school experience and encourage participants to consider applying for graduate school at UC Santa Barbara. Scholars were selected in a competitive application process. The program centers on individual research projects under the supervision of a faculty member and a graduate student mentor, and culminates in each student presenting in a public forum.

In addition to research, students also participate in Graduate Record Examination (GRE) preparation workshops, professional development sessions, and social activities designed to engage students with the surrounding Santa Barbara community.

After completion, students raved about how the program exposed them to the possibilities associated with graduate school. They felt increased self-confidence, not only in preparing to apply to graduate school but also in succeeding as graduate students.

ARC Scholar Diana Chagolla commented on the program’s impact. “Prior to participating in UCSB’s ARC summer program, I was slightly intimidated by the graduate school application process,” she said. “After having participated, I feel qualified to proceed on the path of applying for graduate school and obtaining a Ph.D. in Education.”

“My research experience at UCSB was an unforgettable one,” added UC LEADS Scholar Markus Walker. “Being able to work so closely with my faculty and graduate student mentors was truly an honor. Not only that, but the people in the program made the experience that much more worthwhile.”

For the first time, the program partnered with the Office of Undergraduate Research to have the scholars blog about their research and summer experiences. Read the students’ summer blogs here:

ARC Scholar Blog: https://undergrad.research.ucsb.edu/category/arc/
UC LEADS (Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees) Scholar Blog: https://undergrad.research.ucsb.edu/category/uc-leads/

The program would not have been a success without the assistance of key Graduate Division personnel: Dean Carol Genetti; Assistant Dean Christian Villasenor; Director of Admissions and Outreach Walter Boggan; Assistant Director of Admissions and Outreach Haley Orton; Outreach Assistant Director Roxanna Van Norman; and Diversity and Outreach Peer Charles Williams.

A special thanks goes to Van Norman, who has been with the program since its inception in 2012, but has recently transitioned to a new position on campus. Her leadership made the summer research program an enjoyable experience for all students and her professionalism contributed greatly to the program’s success over the last four years.
The UCSB MultiCultural Center is proud to present educational and consciousness-raising performances, artwork, lectures, and films in thought-provoking ways. Since 1987, the MCC has been chartered by students to provide a space for underrepresented students while also serving as a bridge to the entire campus community. The MCC strives to support student activism and maintain a mutually supportive relationship with student users as they work together in pursuit of a more just society.

An Evening with Tavis Smiley: Race, Religion and Violence
Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Along with the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Academic Policy and the Office of Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance, the MCC was thrilled to present Tavis Smiley as the Diversity Lecture speaker at UCSB for Fall 2015.

“Smiley is one of the most important political voices of his generation.” – The Philadelphia Inquirer
“One of the most dynamic, outside-the-lines voices in American journalism.” – Austin American-Statesman
“My role on television is one of helping people reexamine the assumptions that they hold.” – Tavis Smiley

From his conversations with world figures to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, broadcaster, author, advocate and philanthropist Tavis Smiley continues to be a voice for change. On PBS, he hosts his show Tavis Smiley and on Public Radio International, The Tavis Smiley Show. He has authored 18 books including Covenant with Black America that reached #1 on The New York Times bestseller list. Smiley is also the creative force behind America I AM: The African American Imprint—a traveling museum exhibition celebrating the impact of African American contributions to the world. In 2007, Smiley moderated two live presidential candidate forums, and in 2009, TIME magazine named him to their list of “The World’s 100 Most Influential People.”

Fall Events

1. Research shows that foreign-born Latino/as are among those least likely to participate in political activism. Yet during the spring of 2006, up to five million immigrants and their allies took part in a historic national protest wave. Utilizing the case of Fort Myers, Florida, Dr. Chris Zepeda-Millán examined why and how anti-immigrant legislation can motivate unconventional protest participants (soccer players, nannies, agricultural workers) to take action and utilize pre-existing community resources for the purpose of mass mobilization in his talk, Weapons of the [Not So] Weak: Immigrant Mass Mobilization in the U.S. South. Dr. Chris Zepeda-Millán is Professor of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley.

2. Tracing the evolution of an “Asian American” identity, Dr. Dina Okamoto examined the social conditions that encouraged Asian ethnic groups to develop a panethnic political identity during the post-Civil Rights era in her lecture on Asian American Panethnicity. She explored panethnicity as a deliberate social achievement negotiated by group members and illustrated ways in which ethnic and immigrant groups create new forms of community, identity, and challenges to racial categories. Dr. Okamoto is a Professor of Sociology at Indiana University.

3. In his lecture on Sikhism, Dr. Pashaura Singh explored the social and religious processes through which Sikhism has evolved over the past five centuries. He focused on teachings of the founder, Guru Nanak, and major doctrinal developments under subsequent Gurus. He also explored Sikh traditions beyond the Indian subcontinent – particularly the Sikh presence in America – and addressed stereotypes held by many people unfamiliar with Sikhism. Dr. Singh is Professor of Sikh & Punjabi Studies at UC Riverside.

For more information about available resources, support, and events, please visit: http://mcc.sa.ucsb.edu/
The Chicano Generation

New book by UCSB’s Mario García explores the Chicano civil rights struggle in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 1970s

The Chicano movement of the late 1960s and 1970s was the largest and most widespread civil rights and empowerment movement by Mexican-Americans in U.S. history. But without strong and dedicated leadership, it might not have happened.

A new book by UC Santa Barbara Chicano civil rights scholar Mario T. García provides a rare glimpse into the lives and struggles of three key activists, exploring how their leadership affected the movement in Los Angeles, and how the movement impacted them.

“The Chicano Generation: Testimonios of the Movement” (UC Press, 2015) illuminates the lives of Raul Ruiz, Gloria Arellanes, and Rosalio Muñoz. García highlights their family histories and widely divergent backgrounds; the events surrounding their growing consciousness as Chicanos; the sexism encountered by Arellanes; and the aftermath of their political histories.

Weaving the Chicano movement against a backdrop of historic Mexican-American activism from the 1930s to the 1960s and the contemporary black power and black civil rights movement, García contextualizes the activism of the Chicano generation in Los Angeles. Four main themes run through the book, all coming back to the idea of leadership. “Leadership does not evolve out of thin air but has much to do with early family socialization and coming-of-age experiences, and that is true of these three activists,” García commented. “That’s one of the main themes in the book.”

“I hope the oral histories — or ‘testimonios’ — of these three activists will inspire and educate a younger generation today to pick up the challenge of improving conditions and opportunities for Chicanos and Latinos — both men and women — and other Americans who wish to expand democracy,” said García. “The struggle continues.”

Migrant Longing, Courtship, and Gendered Identity in the Borderlands

By Professor Miroslava Chávez-García

Miroslava Chávez-García, a historian and Professor in the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department, is currently writing an intimate portrait of her family’s history across the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. In “Migrant Longing, Courtship, and Gendered Identity in the Borderlands,” which forms a core of her new book project, Professor Chávez-García recreates the personal, emotional, and creative world of a thirty-year-old single male migrant farm worker in the Imperial Valley as told through the correspondence of José Chávez Esparza, her father, to María Concepción Alvarado, or “Conchita,” her mother. Relying on nearly eighty letters written between José and Conchita from 1963 to 1971, the essay explores migrant longing, courtship, and gendered identity across the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Oral histories, photographs, music, radio programming, newspapers, and family memorabilia are also used to sketch the broader social, political, economic, and cultural contexts in which they crafted and exchanged the letters. Interpreted as tools of courtship (with all of their manipulations), and read closely as emotionally restorative, confessions of the heart (with all their sincerity and vulnerability), the letters nurtured and, in some instances, constituted the relationship. The correspondence, though expressly limited to courtship, allowed José to disclose his innermost desires and to craft a gendered identity as a hard-working male migrant, loving husband, and sophisticated, urbane Mexican man residing in the borderlands.

The correspondence indicates that José reinvented his gendered identity as a relatively poor, rural, and solitary migrant male laborer to one of a sensitive, sophisticated, and urbane man to convince Conchita of the marriage proposal. And, while Conchita did finally go through with the matrimony, her decision was not exclusively a result of his creative courtship rituals. Instead, her limited educational and economic opportunities and her family’s increasing impoverishment convinced her to tie the knot and relocate with José to la frontera. With one less mouth to feed, she hoped to lessen her family’s financial burden and set them on a path to economic security. The essay will appear in the Western Historical Quarterly in May of 2016.
This summer the Office of Education Partnerships teamed up with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute to host 20 community college and UC students for the UCSB-Smithsonian Scholars Week. This week-long pilot program offered first-generation college students the chance to use groundbreaking research techniques in Smithsonian facilities while exploring multidisciplinary approaches to biodiversity conservation. Selected students were first-generation college goers or came from low-income and/or underrepresented minority backgrounds. With majors ranging from microbiology and chemistry to engineering and physics, students represented a variety of STEM fields.

From July 25-August 1, the faculty at the newly opened Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation in Front Royal, Virginia, provided classroom, field, and lab-based activities specifically geared to engage students in applied conservation science and research. This pilot program was a full immersion into the field of conservation biology and conservation research. Along with giving the students an opportunity to participate in field research, UCSB-Smithsonian Scholars Program was able to get students to expand their exploration of career paths in the field — paths that students from underrepresented minority backgrounds may not have previously considered.

By working with a range of professionals—from staff scientists to research bureau directors to mammalian curators—students made meaningful connections with world-class scholars and researchers and were able to engage in deep conversations about conservation research and pathways from education to career. One of the more frequent questions the students were asking professionals was how they got to where they are now. Students found solace in the fact that these researchers often had humble beginnings themselves, and were able to overcome many obstacles and hiccups on their way to success. When these professionals shared their background stories, the students were reassured of themselves and opened up to other possibilities for their future.

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity is committed to ensuring that the experiences and needs of transgender and gender expansive students are valued and addressed in order to create a safe, affirming and welcoming environment for all. Through the ongoing programming, outreach and education efforts of the RCSGD and its campus partners, UCSB is working towards creating and sustaining a campus culture that meets the needs and celebrates the identities of the transgender student population. This Fall 2015, we are hosting our “Trans Revolution Series,” that will feature noted transgender activists of color who will share with the campus their work towards awareness, empathy, action, equality and equity for transgender and gender expansive people along with those seeking allyship. A couple of the events are highlighted below:

Trans Revolution Series: An Evening with Shane Ortega
October 6, 2015

Shane Ortega is an American soldier U.S. Army Sergeant serving at Wheeler Airfield in Oahu, Hawaii as a helicopter crew chief in the Army’s 25th Infantry Division, and is the first openly trans soldier in the U.S. Military. Ortega has served three combat tours, two in Iraq, one in Afghanistan, and has been on over 400 combat missions. This year he stepped into the national spotlight in a Washington Post article on the U.S. military’s continued policy against service by transgender people, becoming the institution’s most publicly visible active-duty trans soldier. He has lobbied nationally for the now removed ban on transgender military service, and works nationwide with noted LGBTQ activist organizations, and has been featured in The Advocate, The Huffington Post and CNN for his expertise and visibility in this field.

Trans Revolution Series: An Evening with CeCe McDonald

CeCe McDonald is an African American transgender woman and LGBTQ activist from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She came to national attention in June 2012 for defending herself from a racist and transphobic attack, resulting in her own imprisonment in a men’s correctional facility. CeCe has been speaking nationwide since her release and has received a variety of LGBTQ-focused accolades from worldwide organizations. She has also received support from transgender activist and actress Laverne Cox, star of Orange Is the New Black which includes story lines about trans women of color and hate crimes. FREE CeCe, a documentary about McDonald’s experiences told through interviews by Laverne Cox, is in production since December 2013.
The students of the UCSB McNair Scholars Program completed an 8-week intensive summer research program in August at UCSB or at universities across the country. The McNair Scholars who attended research programs elsewhere included: Gisella Diaz (Psychology and Anthropology, at the University of Rochester); Jorge Dominguez (Economics and Mathematics, at the AEA program located on the University of New Mexico campus); Jamelia Harris (Sociology and Black Studies, at the University of Wisconsin); Jacqueline Lepe (Sociology and Spanish and minor in Feminist Studies, at the University of Maryland); Bertin Solis (Sociology and minor in Education, at UC, San Diego); Scott Susi (Biopsychology, also at UC San Diego); and Paola Villegas (History of Public Policy and minors in Spatial and Labor Studies, at Northwestern University).

Scholars work diligently over the summer blazing new research paths and, in some cases, contributing to journal submissions with their faculty mentors in the humanities, social sciences and physical sciences. The mission of our program is to prepare first-generation, low-income, and students underrepresented at the graduate level to enter doctoral programs in a variety of fields. Our students’ goals are to be equipped to enter a doctoral program, which they are one step closer to achieving after completing their summer research experiences. The ten junior and six senior scholars who conducted research with UCSB faculty members this summer created a poster presented at the UCSB Summer Undergraduate and Graduate Research Colloquium, delivered an oral presentation at the 2015 UCSB McNair Summer Research Symposium, and produced a final research paper. Junior scholar Akira McDaniels won a best poster award for her work titled: “The Effects of Emerging Epidemics on Disease Management in West Africa.”

In the photo to the left, find some of the McNair Scholars who participated in the Summer Colloquium and their majors (top row, left to right): (Arash Assar, Psychology); Anibal Lopez (Political Science); Imani Burris (Psychology and Communications); Christian Rodriguez (Physics); (next row, left to right) Adriana Sanchez (Psychology); Joshua Hudson (Sociology and Global Studies); Victoria Melgarejo (Spanish and Linguistics); Akira McDaniels (Chemistry); (next row, left to right) Ema Angeles (Anthropology); Sylvia Garcia (English and Geography); (bottom row, left to right) Daniel Cha (Mathematics) Eugenie Guzelian (Psychology); Patricia Martin (Sociology) Olubukayo Akinyemi (Biopsychology).

Chancellor Henry T. Yang and his wife, Dilling, joined members of the Systemwide Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (SACSW) at their Winter 2015 meeting which was held on Friday, February 6th, 2015 at UCSB. Representatives from all campuses came together to discuss issues relating to women. Presenters at the meeting included AVC for Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy, Dr. Maria Herrera-Sobek, and Dr. Barbara Walker. Representing UCSB were Dr. Hziu-Zu Ho, Chair of SACS W, Dr. Elizabeth Belding, Chair of UCSB’s CACSW and UCSB faculty representative for SACS W, and Carol Sauceda, UCSB Staff Representative.

For more information about this committee, please visit: http://sacsw.
Faculty Feature

Professor Beth Schneider

Beth Schneider is Professor of Sociology and Director of the UCSB McNair Scholars Program. She has been at Santa Barbara since 1981. During that time, she contributed to the development of the feminist studies specialization in the Sociology Department and was a founding mother of the UCSB Women’s Studies Program (now Feminist Studies Department), in which she is affiliated faculty. Her primary research areas include sexuality and gender studies, political and social movements, and health. Her books include *The Social Context of AIDS* (with Joan Huber), *Women Resisting AIDS: Feminist Strategies of Empowerment* (with Nancy Stoller), and *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* (with Peter Nardi). Recently, Professor Schneider completed an edited volume, *The Reaches of Heteronormativity*, for the journal *Gender & Society*, one of the top journals in gender and women’s studies. She served twice as the chair of the Sexualities Section of the American Sociological Association. Among the classes she teaches are “Theories of Sexuality,” “Contemporary Feminist Movements,” “Global Health and HIV/AIDS,” and “Sexual Politics.”

Dr. Schneider has been a leader in shaping the UCSB diversity efforts in several ways: Most prominently, she continues to serve as the Director of the McNair Scholars Program and previously was the Principal Investigator for UC-DIGSSS (Diversity in Graduate Studies in the Social Sciences), a project serving U.S. underrepresented graduate students in the Division of Social Sciences funded by the National Science Foundation. As Director of McNair and with the support of a dedicated staff, she has worked with and mentored close to 100 UCSB low-income, first-generation and/or underrepresented students who undertook faculty-mentored research and applied to graduate training.

Currently, she is serving her second two-year term as the Chair of the Academic Senate Committee on Diversity and Equity, requiring her membership on the system-wide University Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (UCAAD). She represented the UCSB campus for 3 years on UC President Yudof’s Council on Climate, Culture, and Inclusion, co-chairing the local version with Chancellor Yang, and last year, she served on President Napolitano’s Council on LGBTQ Faculty, Staff and Students. For several years, Dr. Schneider has been a member of the Campus Climate Survey Team, recently chairing the sub-committee on LGBT and Marginalized Minorities. In the local community, she is a long-standing member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee.

Interested in submitting material for a future issue?
Please send your information to diversity@evc.ucsb.edu

For a PDF version of the Diversity Forum newsletter, please visit:
http://diversity.evc.ucsb.edu/newsletters