



Faculty Accolades

Adela De la Torre Awarded NIH Grant To Work With Teachers

Adela de la Torre, Director of the Chicana/o Studies Program, leads a project for central valley teachers instructing English language learners

In September of 2008, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded Dr. Adela de la Torre a \$1.03 million Science Education Drug Abuse Partnership Award to launch a four-year teacher-training program in collaboration with five county offices of education. California accounts for one-third of all English Language Learner (ELL) students nationwide and a large number reside in the Central Valley. Many of those students struggle to graduate from high school because their schools are not equipped to develop their academic language skills.

Called Addiction Research and Investigation for Science Educators, the ARISE project will bring together 30 science teachers (grades 7-12) with UC scientists

and cultural competence scholars each year. The objective is to improve the teaching skills of teachers in working with ELL students and increase their knowledge in the content areas of biology, chemistry, and neurobiology. Lessons will be framed within the context of substance abuse and addiction as a means for teachers to understand concepts and teach them to their students effectively through laboratory-based activities.

Dr. de la Torre's UC Davis-based co-investigators on this project include: Dr. Nolan Zane, professor of psychology and professor and director of the Asian American Studies Program. Dr. Zane is a nationally recognized scholar specializing in Asian American mental health and the delivery of culturally appropriate care. Dr. Edward (Ted) Jones is director of the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience and the UC Davis/ UC San Diego Human



Adela De la Torre

Brain Project, also funded by NIH.

Our K-12 lead partner and architect of ARISE is Judith Wilson, director of science and special projects with the San Joaquin County Office of Education. Ms. Wilson is also co-director of the Delta Sierra Science Project, the Central Valley regional office of The California Science Project. Her extensive experience in the creation of K-12 teacher-training programs includes numerous multi-year programs funded by the NIH, U.S. Department of Education, and California Department of Education.

Inside this issue:

- Carlos Jackson & Woodland Teens Beautify Community 2
- Quarter Abroad Binational Health Program, Oaxaca '08 3
- Yvette Flores Leads Students to Costa Rica in Summer '08 4
- Chicana/o Studies Faculty Forthcoming Works 4
- Malaquias Montoya's Latest Art Productions & Exhibits 5
- Teaching Rebellion Tour at UC Davis 6

Kevin R. Johnson Named New Dean of UC Davis Law School

Johnson becomes the first Latino dean of a law school in the UC In July of 2008, Professor Kevin R. Johnson, Associate Dean, UC Davis Law School and Chicana/o Studies, was named the new Dean of the Law School. The move represents a significant gain among Latino leaders in the state. Johnson is the first Latino in the UC system to be appointed as Dean of a law school. In an interview with Dhyana Levey of the *Daily Journal*, Johnson noted that, despite his success, "he's disappointed it's taken until 2008 for the UC system to appoint its first Latino law school dean. 'There aren't many Latino

deans in the U.S., and about 200 Latinos are law professors,' he said. 'I think one reason there are so few Latino deans is because there are so few in the legal profession.'" Johnson comes to the new office with impressive credentials. The author of four single-authored books and dozens of articles, he finds time to serve on committees on campus and across the state and country. He also mentors students and junior faculty members. His latest book, *Opening the Floodgates: Why America Needs to Rethink Its Borders and Immigration Laws* (NYU, 2007), offers innovative yet not uncon-



troversial approaches to immigration and immigrants, specifically from Mexico and Latin America. Despite vigorous opponents, Johnson works hard to promote a more just and humane approach to immigration and immigrants in the U. S.

Representing the Community

Carlos Jackson's Grant Leads Coalition to Beautify Woodland

"Painting on a Hard Canvass," Daily Democrat, October 24, 2008

The Woodland Coalition for Youth, in partnership with the UC Davis Chicano Studies Department, is beautifying the Woodland community through art. Because of a \$10,000 Sierra Health Foundation grant application written by Carlos Francisco Jackson, an assistant professor in the UCD Chicano Studies program and director of the Chicano Studies Center for Art and Culture, Woodland teenagers have been learning and working with artist Maceo Montoya to paint murals on walls that have been defaced by vandalism. One of those walls is a concrete partition that runs between the Yolo Family Resource Center on Lincoln Avenue and the Carlton Club on Elm Street.

Montoya and nearly a dozen young members of the Woodland Coalition for Youth painted a mural that featured various scenes from Woodland's past as well as depictions of the area's earlier residents, including the Patwin Native Americans and settlers William Gordon and Frank S. Freeman. "The wall behind our office had been the target of weekly tagging incidents," said Lamar Heystek, coordinator of the Woodland Coalition for Youth and a YFRC employee. "Now, with the presence of a



Jackson, Montoya, & Woodland Teens Working Collectively

mural, passers-by admire and respect the wall. No one has defaced it. It makes a real difference to the people who work and live here." Heystek said that the members of the Carlton Club had been excited by the preliminary sketches presented to them and had been looking forward to having an aesthetically pleasing graffiti deterrent placed on their wall, which had to be painted over constantly. "The one thing they asked to be included in the mural was a tractor," Heystek said. "The artists were pleased to paint one." Working with the teens, Montoya, a Woodland resident and alumnus of Yale and Columbia universities, applied for a permit from the City of Woodland for the youth group's second project - a much larger mural on the side of the Taqueria Guadalajara, at the corner of West and Court streets. The Planning Commission unanimously granted

the permit last month, praising the subject, color scheme and graffiti-abating properties of the new mural. "What's most interesting for me, but especially for the students, is the daily interaction with viewers constantly passing by," said Montoya. "In a few short weeks, the youth have become experts in explaining their work, defending it, and even in deflecting the occasional critique." According to Heystek, one of the goals of the Woodland Coalition for Youth is to provide community service opportunities through which youth learn more about their community and the challenges facing it. Through these opportunities, he explained, young people develop civic pride and greater ownership of their community. . . For the entire story, see the *Daily Democrat*, October 24, 2008.



Carlos F. Jackson



The Artists-and-Teens' Collective Efforts Pay Off Big in Woodland!

Transnational Chicana/o Studies

Quarter Abroad Oaxaca Binational Health Program Fall 2008

This fall marks the 3rd year that the Chicana/o Studies Program has sponsored the U.S.-Mexico binational health program with San Francisco based Child Family Health International (CFHI). Program leader Prof. Adela de la Torre started this program to bring together pre-health professional students in UCD's biological sciences so they could increase their social awareness of how the Mexican health care delivery system and practices influences observed health disparities of U.S. Mexican immigrants. In addition, she hoped to expose students through this clinical immersion experience to the cultural context of how Mexican immigrants may manifest and interpret illness.

This year 21 students enrolled and each participated in 180 hours of clinical rotations in Oaxaca health clinics and hospitals as well as attended lectures in Spanish on clinical and cultural issues affecting patient health outcomes. This year's UC Davis faculty co-instructors included Dr. Yvette Flores, Chicana/o Studies and Dr. Joy Melnikow, Dept. Family Community Medicine with Dr. Adela de la Torre. Beyond the clinical and classroom experiences, students also have opportunities to



participate in unique cultural experiences like *Día de los Muertos*. As a result of these layered experiential, clinical, and didactic experiences students learn more about themselves and how to develop the needed clinical skills to become more attune to the unique human narratives of their future patients. As stated by Saif Baig, a current Oaxaca student: "The main point of this program is to give the premedical student a new perspective in their approach to medicine because medicine isn't just grounded in

technical skills, human physiology, and problem solving. There's a human aspect to it, and it requires diversified life experiences that can provide the motivation for true empathy and awareness of those in need. The program is meant to mature the premed student, and prepare him/her for the journey through medical school, residency, and practice." (saifbaig.blogspot.com). For more information, contact adela-torre@ucdavis.edu.



Binational Health Students Explore Monte Alban

Chicana/o Studies Faculty At Work

Yvette Flores Leads Students To Costa Rica

The Chicana/o Studies program of UC Davis offered its new Summer Abroad program, Costa Rican Communities during Summer 2008. The two courses taught during the program covered Globalization and Transnational Migrations and an Ethnographic Study of Afrocaribbean, Indigenous, Chinese and Quaker Communities. Twenty students attended lectures and traveled throughout the country with the help of the Universidad Catolica de Costa Rica and under the leadership of the Quarter Abroad Director, Professor Yvette Flores. This UC group was the first to be hosted by Universidad Catolica, who welcomed them warmly and offered staff, administrative, and logistical support to the students, including free dance classes taught by the former director of the National Dance Company. While visiting Monteverde, Puerto Viejo de Limon,

and Talamanca, the students compared and contrasted the social, cultural and familial development of long term immigrants as opposed to the original residents of the country. In addition, students learned about national policies on immigration, and the realities of more recent migrants from Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. The program was a resounding success, and as one student indicated: "I now understand better not only my place in the world, but the impact of globalization on developing nations." The university is looking forward



Quarter Abroad Students Welcomed Warmly

to hosting the program again next summer.

Students now have another option to visit Latin America with the newest Quarter Abroad program in Guatemala. The program runs from March 30 - June 4, 2009. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2008. Contact dray-flores@gmail.com.

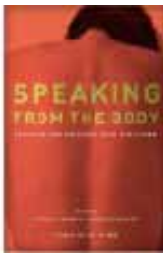
Faculty Book and Essay Publications

Angie Chabram-Dernersesian & Adela de la Torre, eds., *Speaking from the*

Body: Latinas on Health and Culture (Arizona, 2008)

In compelling first-person accounts, Latinas speak freely about dealing with serious health episodes

as patients, family caregivers, or friends. They show how the complex interweaving of gender, class, and race impacts the health status of Latinas—and how family, spirituality, and culture affect the experience of illness. *Speaking from the Body* is a trailblazing collection of personal testimonies that integrates professional and personal perspectives and shows



that our understanding of health remains incomplete if Latina cultural narratives are not included.

Miroslava Chavez-Garcia, "In Retrospect: Anthony M. Platt's *The Child Savers: The Invention of Delinquency*," introductory essay to *The Child Savers: The Invention of Delinquency*, 40th Anniversary Edition (Rutgers, 2009). This essay uses Platt's seminal work to survey the last forty years of scholarship in juvenile justice and argues that the field has yet to pay serious attention to the role of race and ethnicity as well as gender and sexuality in shaping the lives of young people who end up behind bars.

Sergio de la Mora, "Tus pinches leyes yo me las paso por los huevos: Isela Vega and Mexican Dirty Movies," in *Latsploitation, Latin America, and Exploitation Cinema*, Rutalo and Tierney, eds.,

(Routledge 2009). This anthology argues that Latin American exploitation cinema makes an important aesthetic and social contribution to the larger body of Latin American cinema – often competing with Hollywood and more mainstream national cinemas in terms of popularity.



Isela Vega

Art as Social & Political Critique

Malaquias Montoya's Book Critiques Globalization & War

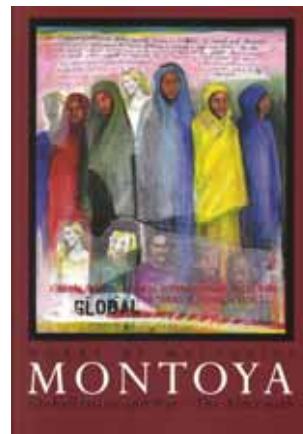
Globalization and War – The Aftermath, Works by Malaquias Montoya, Book/Exhibition Catalogue, features charcoals, collages, silkscreen images, paintings, and related research dealing with the inhumanity and the unspeakable acts of war, corporate globalization, and its resulting displacement. In this powerful collection Montoya portrays Globalization as another form of colonization and war as both its vehicle and its consequence. Each piece depicts a universal story that involves peoples of all cultures and nationalities.

This work presents a mirror for viewers to see themselves in portraits that focus on the human spirit at its most vulnerable, in

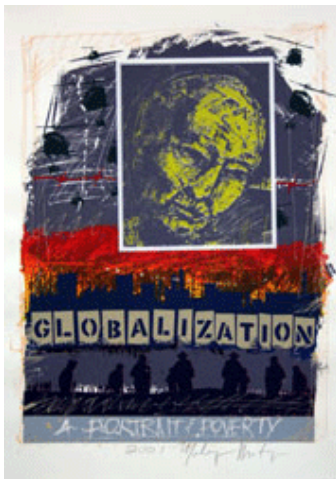
the shadows between obliteration, devastation, and survival. As Montoya states, "*My hope is that the viewer is unable to observe these images without feeling some culpability in these continued acts of violence that have been carried out in our name by our elected leaders. If we don't express opposition to these crimes, we too are maimed...*"

Malaquias Montoya is a leading figure in the West Coast political Chicano graphic arts movement, a politically and socially conscious movement that expresses itself primarily through the mass production of silk-screened posters. Montoya's works include acrylic paintings, murals, washes, and drawings, but he is primarily

known for his silkscreen prints, exhibited nationally and internationally. Cost: \$20.00; 45% of the proceeds go to organizations working on social justice globally.



Malaquias Montoya's Latest Exhibitions



In addition to producing his most recent book on *Globalization & War: The Aftermath*, Malaquias Montoya has been extremely busy with his solo and group exhibitions. In the early fall 2008, he presented his work on *Globalization & War -- The Aftermath* at Northern Illinois University. Currently it is at the Pence Gallery in Davis, Calif., and runs

through Dec. 21, 2008.

Depicting the consequences of power and conflict, Malaquias Montoya's twenty-three paintings and prints facilitate the understanding of the destruction, displacement and loss of culture brought on by man-made conflict and destruction. Each piece illustrates the human spirit in its most vulnerable state: fighting between obliteration and survival.

Nearly simultaneously, Montoya hosted *PreMeditated: Meditations on Capital Punishment* at Mesa College in San Diego, California. This project was conceived during the presidential election of 2000; President George W. Bush was then governor of Texas and the media focused its attention on the state's capital punishment practices. Montoya continued to ponder on this issue while working on a poster design for the Mumia 911 day. These experiences inspired him to express his opinions and objection to the

death penalty. Montoya asks:

"Why do we kill, what happens to our humanity and to us, as a culture?" Montoya's powerful images are rooted in the tradition of the Taller de Grafica Popular, a group of Mexican printmakers that worked during the 1920s, 30s and 40s, when Mexico was forging its national identity following the Mexican Revolution. Like the Mexican muralists, the artists of the Taller, used their art to express the need for social and political reform for the Mexican underprivileged. In some instances, Montoya combines his expressive vision with text to better communicate his message.





**CHICANA/O STUDIES PROGRAM
UC DAVIS FALL 2008**

2112 Hart Hall
UC Davis
One Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616-8559

Phone: 530.752.2124
Fax: 530.752.8814
E-mail: chistudies@ucdavis.edu



Teaching Rebellion Tour Honors Activists in Oaxaca, 2006

On October 21, 2008, Magali Rabasa and Silvia Soto, graduate students in Cultural Studies and Native American Studies, respectively, organized the Teaching Rebellion Tour in Davis, to honor those involved in the grassroots mobilization in Oaxaca two years ago. The event, sponsored in part by the Chicana/o Studies Program, was a huge success. Over 75 people attended and engaged in a dynamic discussion. A few days prior to the event, the Attorney General in Mexico charged two APPO activists with the murder of Brad Will, the NY-based Indymedia journalist who was

shot to death by paramilitaries in Oaxaca on October 27, 2006. With the two-year anniversary approaching, the Oaxacan state is under pressure to "solve" this case, stated Rabasa. "They have recklessly accused the very people who were with Brad when he was shot, and who tried to save his life," she said. This contradicts extensive investigations and reports done by the National Commission for Human Rights, the International Forensics Program of Physicians for Human Rights, and Reporters Without Borders, as well as other evidence including photographs taken at the

scene, and the video Brad filmed at the very moment he was shot. Incredibly, the Tour group was honored with the presence of Brad Will's parents and sister at the Tour event. "They have been very active in the struggle for justice for the 27 people murdered in Oaxaca in 2006," Rabasa acknowledged, "and their presence and participation at this timely event was very moving and informative." For a copy of the collection of testimonios and photos that inspired this Tour, see *Teaching Rebellion: Stories From the Grassroots Mobilization in Oaxaca*.

